

turpentine fomentations applied, and, where these latter failed to relieve, small blisters of cantharides.

The risk of giving wine to infants is not so much from its stimulant as from its sedative effect: in large doses it will act almost like an opiate; a combination with ammonia will prevent this. Of course I do not for one moment advise the incautious or indiscriminate use of such a powerful agent as wine to young infants; but I do advocate its being fearlessly employed where the vital powers are sinking, even though inflammatory disease may be present.

I attended in her confinement Mrs. H—, aged forty-two, a woman of feeble frame and imperfect general health. She was delivered on Wednesday morning, Jan. 21st, 1863, at half-past nine A.M., of a male child. The birth was accomplished by slight expulsive pains, and there was some subsequent difficulty in inducing full uterine contraction. The child was one of the most wretched-looking infants I ever saw—literally almost skin and bone; its little wrinkled face was like that of an old man; its cry a feeble wail. I gave the usual directions to the nurse, and not being sent for I did not again see Mrs. H— until the following morning, at nine A.M. The mother was doing well; the infant was rapidly sinking. I learned that the only nourishment it had taken was a little milk and water, which it swallowed with some difficulty, and that the nurse, believing medicine necessary, had forced down its throat a teaspoonful of castor oil, from the violent purgative effects of which he was yet suffering, and the body was but half warm. I ordered the infant to be kept close to the fire, to be wrapped up in hot flannel clothes, which were to be frequently changed so as to ensure the constant application of heat, and to have in repeated doses small quantities of boiled rice-milk, with a few drops of brandy. The child swallowed with considerable difficulty, and slight spasm of the glottis accompanied the act. At one P.M. on Friday morning the purging was still unchecked. The infant had an attack of convulsions, and according to the mother's account there was "a general twitching" of the frame, and "the eyes were turned up." The legs were immediately put for a few seconds into hot water, and the brandy and milk continued. At nine A.M. I saw him. He had then just recovered from a second convulsion; the purging remained unchecked, and he was scarcely alive. Every effort to swallow was followed by spasm in the throat, which nearly threatened suffocation. I should have stated that I had tried astringents, but the difficulty of swallowing them, even in the minutest doses, was such that I gave them up, and trusted to nutriment only. I now ordered the strongest beef-tea to be prepared and carefully cleared, and this, with port-wine, to be given in such quantities as the child was able to swallow. The mother and nurse objected to this as "useless torture to the poor infant;" but I insisted, and waited until I had seen the child swallow about three drops of the mixture in as many doses. The first, though very cautiously and slowly given, brought on such a spasm as to nearly choke him. The two other drops were swallowed more easily, though yet with great difficulty. Plain milk and water caused more spasm than the beef-tea and wine. I desired a continuance of the treatment, and urgently insisted on the body being kept well warmed by the hot flannel cloths.

On the next morning (Saturday) at nine A.M. I again saw the infant; he was then much better; the diarrhoea less. He was able to swallow without difficulty, and he moved about his arms and legs with some energy; his body was thoroughly warm. He had taken since the previous morning—namely, in about twenty-four hours—six teaspoonfuls of beef-tea and three of port-wine, and no other food. The treatment was continued until seven P.M., when it was stopped, and water, arrowroot, and port-wine substituted. The child was altogether better, the diarrhoea less, and upon its being applied to the breast he for the first time attempted to suck. The child continued from this time rapidly to improve, and the diarrhoea soon entirely left. The mother had a large supply of breast-milk, and by the use of a highly nutritious diet and a good quantity of wine the quality of the milk was so improved as to form a sufficient nutriment for the infant, for whom, however, on a few occasions, when there seemed some little failing, I again had recourse to the wine in small quantities, and with the best effects. He is now a remarkably fine child, and it is difficult to believe that the full-grown beautiful boy had been the little shrivelled mannikin of two years before.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. V. M'CORMICK, M.D. Edin.,
Late Assistant-Physician to the
South-Eastern Lying-in Hospital, Dublin.

Shrewsbury Villas, Bayswater, March, 1865.

RECURRING OR RELAPSING FEVER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I think the following case just now will be interesting and instructive to your readers:—

On the 16th of February last I was called to see an infant six months old, who was suddenly seized with a kind of lethargy, hot skin, quick pulse, and stiffness of the muscles of the neck. The head was heavy and drawn on one side, and any movement occasioned pain; tongue clean; pupils natural; no strabismus; bowels regular. Several pimples appeared on the legs and body. The teeth were not the occasion of the disturbance. Ordered a warm bath, salines, stimulants, and diaphoretics. These symptoms ebbed and flowed till the 22nd, when the friends becoming anxious called in a gentleman, who "diagnosed water on the brain." He ordered a cold bath and treated homœopathically until April 1st, when I was called to the child again. The father, who is a good observer, said: "Now, doctor, according to D—, I believe we have a case of remittent fever." I found the child's symptoms somewhat different, though still in a very unsatisfactory state: the pain and soreness of the muscles not so great; the lethargy or stupor occurs every fourth day, lasting some twenty-four hours, with great heat of surface; no sweats. The mother stated that before the symptoms recurred she always noticed a "goose-flesh" appearance of the skin, doubtless indicating an imperfect development of the "cold stage." I prescribed quinine and brandy, but the stomach rejected both. I am now giving two grains of the quinine twice a day in starch as an injection. The symptoms are now abating.

On Thursday, the 6th of April, I saw a very interesting account in *The Times* of the Russian epidemic—this so-called "recurring or relapsing fever." I could not fail to recognise the same type of fever in my little patient who had given me so much anxiety. Surely coming events do sometimes cast their shadows before.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HENRY THOS. BERRY, M.R.C.S.

Amwell-street, Claremont-square, April, 1865.

THE CASE OF MARY GREEN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Your able article in last week's number of THE LANCET is a practical vindication of the character of Dr. Butler under the cruel and causeless attack which has been made on him by a daily paper in the case of Mary Green, for whose sad death he can be held in justice no way responsible. Is it not time that jurymen and journalists, who are so liberal with the professional aid of medical men, for which they take care never to pay, and so free with severe animadversions in case of any mischance, for which they deem themselves irresponsible, should be taught a wholesome lesson?—in order to prove that which never seems to occur to them as a fact, that the reputation of a medical man constitutes his very bread, and is too sacred to be causelessly assailed.

I trust the profession will aid Dr. Butler should he be advised by legal means to vindicate his character; it seems to me precisely a case in which we should stand by the interests of our order. I, for one, will gladly subscribe five guineas for this purpose.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

EDWARD YOUNG.

SMALL-POX VERSUS INSANITY; AND PREVENTION OF PITTING IN THE FORMER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—On the 27th of Jan. last I was called to Northampton, there to superintend a temporary hospital containing lunatics suffering from small-pox. And as there are one or two observations which I should like to make concerning them, you will, doubtless, find room for them in THE LANCET.

The first is, that when the patients became ill from the effects of this disease they became more rational, and, in one case, quite sane; and, again, when the small-pox left them, they returned to their former state of insanity. These changes were well marked; and I believe I am the first to describe them,—if not, let any of your readers say so.

The second subject on which I wish to speak is the prevention of pitting. This I would not say anything about did I not so often see it in my travels as blemishes which might have been prevented had only the means been applied. These means are olive oil and glycerine, which are to be applied over the surface. It has a very soothing effect and cools the part, so that there is not that desire on the part of the patient to scratch it, and, as he thinks, to relieve the part in that way. I have often applied cream with similar advantage.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
Kidderminster Infirmary, April, 1865. C. BROOM, M.R.C.S.

ASSISTANT-SURGEONS IN CHINA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg to lay the case of the regimental assistant-surgeons serving in China before you, who are labouring under far greater grievances than our Indian brethren, and hope you will kindly advocate their claims; by doing so you will confer on the eight unfortunate regimental assistant-surgeons a great boon.

1st. The regimental medical officers serving in China have been for years past on Indian pay and allowances, the assistant-surgeon receiving only £29 3s. 11d. a month, with a chance of head-money; but in consequence of the limited number of stations they were seldom in a position to draw the latter, so they had, and have still, to toil on upon the same £29 3s. 11d. a month, no matter what service they have; while the staff assistant-surgeon of six years' service, who is on what is called China pay, receives £47 a month, although he may be junior to and actually doing duty under the regimental assistant-surgeon. The difference of pay was stated to arise from the fact that the staff were on China pay and the regimental on Indian pay.

2nd. A new Warrant has come out for the Indian medical officers, and we very naturally thought that, being on Indian pay and allowances, we should receive the benefit of it; but I regret to say we have not, with the exception of one, who is an Indian assistant-surgeon. At present the assistant-surgeons in the China command are on three different scales of pay—viz., the regimental, on the old Indian scale; the Indian assistant-surgeon, on the new Indian scale; and the staff assistants, on the China scale: rank being recognised in the two latter, while it is completely ignored in the former.

This is a plain statement of our case, and by putting it before you we doubt not that you will advocate our cause as ably as you have that of the Indian service.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

CHINA.

THE INDIAN MEDICAL WARRANT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you allow me, through the medium of your paper, to call the attention of those who care that their brother medicos have fair play, as well as that of youthful aspirants to Indian honours, to the following.

The newest Medical Warrant, that of the 7th November, 1864, although no doubt intended to benefit all the members of the medical service, has done good to very few, at most to a very small majority in this "benighted" presidency, as far as the main point—pay—is concerned. I am a zillah surgeon, and of about seven years' standing (and waiting for something worth having, I might add), but I continue to draw five rupees and six annas less monthly pay than captains, even when these officers are enjoying themselves on leave, and fifty-five rupees less than they draw when performing their arduous regimental duties. Paragraph 30 of the above Warrant says our salaries will be revised with reference to Paragraph 29 (the one laying down the pay for military and administrative officers), but of course no unseemly haste has been made in doing so, and *four months* are clearly insufficient for the purpose! Meanwhile I see my juniors drawing 450 rs., or even 600 rs. while with native corps, and I, who have double the work and more than double the responsibility, draw net pay 360 rs. 12 a. 10 p.

I trust you will excuse my troubling you with this letter, but with the thermometer at 90° in the shade, the proverbial "hope deferred" makes the heart more than usually sick, at least it does that of

Yours faithfully,

Madras, March 1865.

A CONSTANT READER.

DILATATION OF CERVIX UTERI.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you allow me to note the fact that the dilator of the cervix uteri, alluded to by Dr. Gream in last week's LANCET, was invented by me, and made for me several years ago by Mr. Coxeter, and that I have often successfully used it. It was last year again introduced by Dr. Priestley, who speaks well of it.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Sloane-street, April 10th, 1865. ROBERT ELLIS, M.R.C.S.

LIVERPOOL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE mortality tables of this town present at length a much more favourable appearance. Though typhus and small-pox still keep a long way in excess, yet the total number of deaths for the week ending April 22nd is less by eight than the corrected average of the last ten years would make it. The returns of deaths from zymotic causes for the last twelve weeks are as follows (from Feb. 4th to April 22nd inclusive):—

Scarlet fever ...	49,	being 60 below the average.
Whooping-cough ...	32,	" 112 " "
Measles ...	55,	" 41 " "
Typhus ...	592,	" 433 above the average.
Small-pox ...	212,	" 173 " "

The two first named have been for some months almost in abeyance, and the mortality from them has been unprecedentedly low. Measles has been exceedingly prevalent for several weeks, perhaps as much as in any former year, when the mortality from it ranked very high; yet it has been of so mild a form this year, and so seldom accompanied with any complications, that the deaths keep considerably below the average. This may be partly owing to the greater care taken of children during the disease. The exceeding mortality from other causes that has latterly prevailed has made the poor as well as the rich more careful over their children, even with measles. The late Dr. Duncan says in his report for 1860, when 418 deaths were registered from measles, "that this large proportion was probably due to the prevalent belief amongst the working classes that measles is a disease which requires little care, and that children suffering from it may be allowed to go about as usual." The habit of giving whisky or some strong spirit to bring out the measles has fortunately fallen into disrepute, and, doubtless, helps to account for the diminished percentage of fatal cases. The deaths from typhus last week were 34, being 21 in excess; and from small-pox 14, being 10 above the average. Each week latterly the numbers have steadily declined, till the deaths from the two diseases now are but one-half what they were ten weeks ago.

Dr. Trench, in the very able Report of the Health of Liverpool during the year 1864, issued a few weeks ago, enters very fully into all the circumstances attending the great mortality of that year; and, under the heads of Indigence and Overcrowding, Filth and Drunkenness, presents a sad picture of the Liverpool masses. That there should be no less than 918 deaths in one year from violence alone is sufficiently startling; yet this is as nothing to the unobserved causes at work undermining the public health. One of them, which will serve as an illustration of what I mean, was made evident at the last meeting of the Health Committee. The Market Inspector sent in a report of the difficulties he had met with from the officials of the different railway companies, on several occasions, in his attempts to seize large quantities of unsound fish sent to this town from Lowestoft and other places on the east coast, for consumption amongst the lower orders of this and other Lancashire towns. Indeed, the weekly report of the inspectors of the amount of unwholesome meat and game, as well as fish, which they destroy, shows too plainly what a traffic goes on in these things, in spite of all inspection. The injurious effects of such food must be great on the health of those amongst the poor who habitually use it, because they cannot afford to buy any better.

Our Medical Society closed its session on the 20th ult. At its meeting on March 9th, Dr. Grimsdale related the particulars of four more cases of ovariectomy, three of which were successful. As so many of these cases have now been recorded, it is only necessary to give those leading points which are of interest to all operators. M. R.—, unmarried; tapped