

competent persons been put forward as to the source of the epidemic; and, indeed, all controversy on this point has been finally brought to a close by the letter from the secretary of the Dairy Company in *The Times* of Tuesday last, in which he says:—"There is now, we regret to say, no doubt that a large percentage of the recent cases of typhoid fever in Marylebone, as well as in some other districts, has been caused by milk supplied by this Company."

It is to be hoped that the company, after the severe criticism to which their letter has been subjected, have by this time learned to appreciate the value of silence. Nobody thinks of attaching any blame to the Dairy Company for the untoward accident which has befallen them and their customers. The general feeling towards them is one of sympathy and regret that a company which has really done so much for the greatly-needed reform of the milk-trade, and which numbers among its directors so many public-spirited and upright gentlemen, should have been advised at this important crisis to pursue a course which has most certainly been remarkable for lack of wisdom.

Impressed with the importance of organising a system of continuous medical, veterinary, and chemical inspection of their dairies, they have already appointed a chief medical officer, whose duty it will be to visit all the farms and establishments of the Dairy Company at least once a quarter, and oftener if occasion should arise, and it will be further the duty of this gentleman to receive weekly reports from provincial medical officers as to the sanitary state of the farms, and the health of the *employés* and cattle. An analyst has been appointed who, though he may be unable to detect typhoid poison, should it exist, will nevertheless be able to place considerable obstacles in the way of adulteration; and lastly all the medical officers of health of the districts where their milk is sold will be invited to inspect their establishments whenever they deem it necessary to do so.

Good cometh out of evil, and it was to be expected that recent events would give considerable impetus to dairy reformation, and it may be taken as a sign of the times that a company has been set on foot entitled the Sanitary Milk Company (Limited), with a capital of £200,000, in shares of £1 each. This company, says the prospectus, "is formed to establish dairies for the supply of milk to the metropolis on a system such as will prevent adulteration, but ensure the proper sanitary supervision of the dairy, and that the cows yielding the milk shall be efficiently protected from disease." They propose to erect a large suburban dairy from plans prepared by Mr. Eassie, the well-known sanitary engineer, with the co-operation of Professor John Gamgee. Experienced veterinary surgeons will have charge of the establishment. The committee of directors will be assisted by a paid consulting medical committee, towards the formation of which many medical men of eminence have promised their assistance.

We are happy to see that during the past week several milk-vendors have been fined for watering their milk.

## Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

### MEDICAL CERTIFICATES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The granting of medical certificates is one of the important duties of our profession, and I am glad to find that you have directed attention to the subject in your last number. Of course all such certificates should be strictly honest and true; but is it necessary or proper that as a general rule the whole truth should be circumstantially stated? A short statement of the law as it obtains in Scotland will illustrate what I mean. In all our higher courts of law certificates must be granted on "soul and conscience," and when the object is to secure exemption from acting as a juryman, or appearing as a witness, the particular disease under which the person is labouring must be stated. I may mention that I have oftener than once declined to conform

to this order of court, but on being threatened with committal for contempt, thought discretion the better part of valour, and complied.

My ground of objection is simply that certificates so expressed would often be exceedingly damaging to the person on whose behalf they are granted. It must be remembered that they are read aloud in open court. Now, suppose that the certificate bore that the disease was a mental affection, syphilis, delirium tremens, or some ailment of a delicate character which no one would wish to be made public, the circumstance might be the gossip of the Exchange or the market-place in an hour, and your patient's character and reputation seriously damaged. I am therefore of opinion that the profession ought to stand out against stating the specific disease, and that such terms as "unable from sickness," or "is labouring under disease which renders him unfit," or words to convey distinctly that he is prevented by illness, without setting forth the specific disease, ought to be enough. The present system I hold to be a grievance both to the profession and the public, and one which they should unite to have remedied.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
Glasgow, August 25th, 1873.

J. G. FLEMING.

### VACCINATION AWARDS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—During the last eight years I have worked very hard to carry out the Vaccination Acts, and, under somewhat discouraging circumstances, have been able to say that for this period I have not left a child unvaccinated. When, therefore, in 1869 I was refused the gratuity for the years 1867-8, I shared the opinions of your various correspondents in the recent numbers of THE LANCET. I felt disgusted at my want of success in obtaining recognition, when I knew that I had done my duty, and more than my duty. Calmly reviewing the circumstances, I came to the conclusion that the inspector was right, and I was wrong, inasmuch as I had permitted my assistant (an excellent vaccinator, but *unqualified*) to operate. So I laid down for myself three rules—1. Strictly to act up to my contract as to time and place of vaccination. 2. Implicitly to obey the directions issued by the Board in London. 3. To be most particular in the way of keeping the registers. The result has been the award of the full gratuity for the last four years.

Your correspondents have discovered for themselves that the Board in London not only require *good* vaccination, but also *good* records. I venture to think that this is no hardship on the public vaccinator. Take a parallel case. The paymaster of a regiment may be absolutely perfect in his duties, and account for the public money to a farthing; but if he kept his books *in his own way*, and *not* in the way laid down by the War Office, he would be at once corrected and censured.

The error of your correspondents is merely clerical, and is one that can be easily rectified; and, doubtless, at their next inspection their services will receive due recognition.

In THE LANCET of the 2nd instant Mr. Manby is very severe upon poor column 8. He thinks "that anyone *pretending* to fill up this column must necessarily render doubtful and very unreliable information." I, and doubtless many others, find no difficulty in filling up this column honestly and conscientiously. I have always been able to record the sources of lymph, and for two years have kept up absolute arm-to-arm vaccination in this parish by bringing into requisition lymph from private patients. In my outlying parishes I use lymph taken within twenty-four hours. Surely Mr. Manby can secure his own lymph, thus making his entries easier. If, as he says, he is constantly receiving supplies from his neighbours, nothing can be simpler than to enter "obtained from Mr. ———," or, in case of a private patient, "from Mrs. Jones's baby." The omission of column 8 is fatal to the reception of a gratuity, and more especially as this said column is our greatest defence against the anti-vaccinator, *et hoc genus omne*.

The great fault in the present system of vaccination is in the *six months'* interval, as laid down in the contracts. It is absurd for the Act to say, "every child must be vaccinated before it is *three months* old," when no opportunity is given

for the operation for six months. With this, however, we have nothing to do. We may not vaccinate oftener in our public capacity; but if we carry out the contracts laid down by the Local Government Board, that Board will not refuse the gratuities.

Your obedient servant,  
THOMAS NEWHAM, M.D.

Winslow, Bucks, August 13th, 1873.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Four years ago the inspector of vaccination called at my house and at that of the registrar of births, without giving either of us notice of his intention, and, finding us both out, did not inspect any of the books, neither could I hear that he examined a single child's arm. After a few weeks I wrote to know if I was to receive the promised reward, well knowing that I had merited it. I received a reply that there were so many children unvaccinated that I could not have a grant. I examined the registrar's books, and found there were *not six unvaccinated*, and that all of these could be accounted for by either illness or death. I therefore again wrote stating this fact, and received a small sum for the "improvement in the results."

Two years ago my district was again examined, and this time I had operated on a few cases at their own houses, and was consequently disqualified. A few months ago the inspector came again by appointment, and examined three or four cases, with which he expressed himself as satisfied, and knowing that I had kept every appointment and only vaccinated at the stations, and that I had produced three or four good, large, foveated scars in almost every case, and, further, that the quality of the vaccinations had been proved by the importation of two cases of malignant small-pox, without the spread of the disease in either case, I naturally believed myself entitled to the grant. I did not, however, receive any tidings of it, and, therefore, after a few weeks, wrote to the medical officer to the Local Government Board to know if I was to receive it, when, to my surprise, I received an answer that I was to wait till next time, without assigning any cause of failure.

Surely, Sir, if the inspections are not carried out more efficiently, and the Government rewards granted with more justice than at present, public vaccinators will be disgusted rather than encouraged. Would it be too much to ask that at least 5 per cent. of the cases should be examined, and that the cause of failure should be pointed out, in order that the public vaccinators may know in what to improve? There certainly is now great dissatisfaction felt at the utter want of justice in the matter, and not without cause.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

August, 1873.

F. D. L.

### THE AUTUMN MANŒUVRES, CANNOCK CHASE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I shall feel obliged by your publishing the following comments on the recent report of your correspondent from this camp, as there are certain points to which I wish to refer, though cordially agreeing with him in most of his observations.

Without doubt the shako is not a perfect head-dress, but I think its defect is as much in its not protecting the back of the head from the sun as in producing "distressing pressure." I have heard officers of the Guards say that they would rather wear a bear-skin cap all day on the march than the forage cap, for this reason alone.

With regard to the accoutrements, your correspondent's remarks have evidently reference to the knapsack, which in many regiments has now been superseded by the valise, and this to a great extent obviates the constriction produced by the dragging backwards of the tunic collar by the old straps, as the weight is now thrown in a more directly vertical direction.

Then, as regards the alteration he proposes in the tunic collar, he may not be aware that it is precisely the one which was suggested to the authorities some years ago by the late Captain Ram, Scots Fusilier Guards, as I believe I have before stated in your journal; and this officer had a sample tunic made after an Austrian pattern, to be worn with an ingenious neckcloth, which I exhibited

to the Pathological Society. The combination, though excellent, was not approved of, and in 1869 I obtained permission to have a pattern tunic made at the Government Clothing Factory on a principle which would entirely obviate the present defect of the collar without exposing the neck—viz., by removing the hook-and-eye and by having no button above the sternum; and to prevent the collar gaping, one end was made to overlap the other a little. This tunic was approved of by H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, but as yet it has not been adopted, and perhaps is now "put aside."

These alterations are, however, but stepping-stones in the right direction, for until the soldier has loose clothing for active work, his health and powers of usefulness must be prejudicially affected. The infantry, *Guards excluded*, are now supplied with a loose working tunic, but, curiously enough, the collar is still made to fasten rather tightly round the neck. Perhaps this defect may in time be obviated.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Coldstream Guards' Camp, Cannock Chase, A. B. R. MYERS.  
August 26th, 1873.

### THE GROUSE DISEASE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg to forward a few memoranda of the appearances presented by grouse which died of the prevailing epidemic, and were sent to the Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh, for dissection.

The internal organs were, on the whole, healthy, although in one case there was very slight inflammation of the lungs, and in another some reddened patches in the mucous membrane of the large intestine, and a group of objects resembling ova situated anteriorly to the kidneys. On examining the tissues microscopically we found numbers of round worms, resembling trichinæ in shape, in the mucous membrane of the large intestines, and particularly in that of the cæca, the larger worms being more superficial. We found the same worms in the muscular tissue of the pectoral region; there were also numerous crystals, apparently of sodium chloride. In the substance of the brain the same worm occurred, both singly and in groups. It may be remarked here that, although tapeworm is anything but rare in grouse, we failed to find a single trace of that worm in any of the birds we examined.

The emaciation of the bird was in proportion to the development or abundance of the worms; in one case, where the bird was literally skin and bone, the worms, when the structure was prepared for the microscope, were visible to the naked eye; and the smallest worms were plainly seen under a one-inch objective.

The examination of the cysts resembling ova, above-mentioned, led to no determinate result, nor did we find worms in any other structures than those cited. There was much food in the gizzard, but not so much as to cause impaction; while the ventriculus and intestines were comparatively empty. What deductions can be drawn from these appearances?

I am Sir, yours very truly,

J. VAUGHAN,

Late Demonstrator of Anatomy, Edinburgh Veterinary College.  
Edinburgh, August 20, 1873.

### MODERN BONE-SETTING.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The recent discoveries in medicine and surgery are somewhat astounding to practitioners of forty years' standing. One of these has puzzled me greatly. I shall look for some new edition of Surgery to explain my difficulty, but, in the meantime, perhaps some of your readers may help me.

A few months ago I was called to see a young gentleman who had, in running a race, fallen and bruised his hip. He was able to walk across the room, but complained of pain about the buttock and thigh. There were no external marks of bruising, the limbs were of equal length, and the affected limb could be easily rotated by the patient. There was no sign of any displacement of the femur, and I en-