

and more competent authority their right to coerce these officers, for the sake of the very questionable assistance offered by the Government. When you have "set a beggar on horseback" it is almost too late to advise him *not* to "ride to the devil." I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

Nov. 26th, 1872.

CRITES.

HOSPITAL SUNDAY IN LONDON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I am very glad to see that there is now a prospect of the above being fairly taken in hand, as I feel sure that nothing more is required to ensure its establishment and ultimate success. This done, I think there will be little doubt that your hope of "Hospital Sunday" becoming a national institution, as expressed in THE LANCET three years ago, may be ere long realised.

You will remember that, some months subsequently to that period, while advocating the movement here, I asked for and obtained permission from you to reprint in a pamphlet form all the articles inserted in THE LANCET from that time (November, 1869) till about the middle of the following year, when the movement had spread to many towns and cities in consequence of your appeal. I found this pamphlet of great assistance, the subject, both theoretically and practically, being thoroughly explained in so clear and lucid a manner as to be quite unassailable. I have been repeatedly asked for copies; and only the other day was applied to for one by the Rev. Alex. Gordon, of Norwich, in order to enable him to forward the movement there.

I feel sure that a similar pamphlet, embracing all the articles and correspondence on the subject from the first one in Nov. 1869 to the one in your issue to-day, would be of the greatest service; and the more so as I see from a leading article in the *Standard* of Thursday that the subject is as yet but very imperfectly understood—imaginary difficulties are being raised, and mountains made of mole-hills. Moreover I see that the Bishop of London proposes to exclude dispensaries: this would be fatal to the success of the movement.

Hoping my suggestion will be acted upon, and feeling sure that, if so, all needful information will at once be in the possession of those who are labouring to bring about so excellent a means of supporting the unendowed and impoverished medical charities of London,

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

Liverpool, Nov. 23rd, 1872.

FRED. W. LOWNDES.

* * Our correspondent's suggestion coincides with representations which have reached us from other sources, and has been complied with.—ED. L.

THE MEDICAL SCHOOL AND THE PROFESSION OF LIVERPOOL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Your Liverpool Special Correspondent, in his letter of the 26th October, has indulged in remarks depreciatory of the profession in this town and of its medical school, which, although too palpably inaccurate to mislead anyone possessing local knowledge of medical matters, may nevertheless convey an erroneous impression to many of your readers, who would accept, with the implicit reliance generally accorded to THE LANCET for accuracy and impartiality, statements bearing the impress of editorial sanction.

Your correspondent announces, as "a very strong fact," that the second town in the kingdom has hitherto been provided with a medical school which, for its insignificance as compared with most of the other provincial schools, it may well blush to own. He proceeds with questionable logic to prove this inferiority by comparing Liverpool to London and Edinburgh. It has been said that "there is nothing so fallacious as facts," and surely your correspondent must either labour under some unaccountable delusion, or have been the victim of gross imposition, or he never would have published as "a very strong fact" a statement so obviously at variance with the actual state of the case.

The popularity and efficiency of the Liverpool School of Medicine are well known and universally acknowledged both here and elsewhere. It has the cordial support of the profession, who have generously responded to the appeal for funds for the extension of the buildings; the number of students has increased so rapidly during the last few years as to necessitate considerable additions to the premises, which, in their original condition, were certainly equal both in extent and accommodation to those of any other provincial school, and which, when completed, will compare favourably with any other establishment of the kind in the kingdom. Nothing, I feel sure, would afford the managers of the school greater satisfaction than that some competent person should inspect the establishment, inquire into its management, the work it has done and is doing, and publish the result to the professional world. It would then be seen that the arrangements and accommodation for the work of medical education are complete and convenient, wanting in none of the most recent and improved means and appliances for teaching every branch of medical science; that the lecturers spare no pains to utilise to the utmost these superior advantages; and that intending students do not fail to recognise them is shown by the fact that, with one exception, the Liverpool School has a larger number of students than any other provincial school and more than several of the metropolitan schools.

The profession at large would then perceive, what is already well understood here, that Liverpool is not ashamed, but is justly proud of her medical school. The sweeping assertion of your correspondent, that amongst the profession of Liverpool "there are no workers striking out new paths of research," could be shown by the records of medical science to be as unfounded in fact as it is disloyal to professional *esprit de corps*.

Your obedient servant,

A LECTURER

November 25th, 1872.

of the Liverpool School of Medicine.

TEST TYPES FOR ASTIGMATISM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The test types for astigmatism of Dr. Orestes Pray, of New York, are well known to ophthalmic surgeons as affording the readiest and most convenient means for determining the existence of the defect, and, with a close approximation, the direction of the chief meridians. These types, however, as commonly printed, are too large for use in small rooms, or wherever a long range is not to be procured; and, in some of the copies reduced by hand, exact accuracy of proportion has not been preserved. Will you allow me to say that I have lately had Dr. Pray's original sheet photographically reduced to one-fourth of its size, and that I find this reduction highly valuable in practice. Copies of the reduced sheet may be obtained from the Autotype Fine Art Company, 36, Rathbone-place, at two shillings and sixpence each.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Wimpole-street, Nov. 26th, 1872.

R. BRUDENELL CARTER.

"THE WATER-SUPPLY OF LEAMINGTON."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I regret to find that there is a grave misstatement in the first sentence of the article thus headed in THE LANCET of this day. It is stated that a "servant died forty-eight hours after her arrival (in London) of typhoid fever." Such is not the fact. The young woman alluded to left this establishment on Friday, October 11, and died *nine days after*—Sunday, the 20th. During the whole of this time she was attended by a surgeon in her own neighbourhood, who professed to understand her case, but who, without finding the characteristic rose-coloured spots or troubling himself to make a post-mortem examination, requested the coroner to hold an inquest upon the case, and allowed this inquest to be held without having the courtesy to inform me of his intention.

I deny that the poor girl had typhoid fever while here, or that her "removal" to London was "ill-advised." Dr. Yeldham and Dr. Macknight, who were present at the inquest, both state that there was no evidence "that she had

genuine enteric fever at all," while the former says that "had she been a patient of his he should not have hesitated to send her home, as in her condition he should not have apprehended any danger either to himself or to others." Their letters are given in full on pages 11, 12, 13, and 14 of the accompanying pamphlet.

I shall feel obliged by your inserting this correction in your next number.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

G. F. MABERLY, M.R.C.S.

The Arboretum, Leamington, Nov. 23rd, 1872.

REMOVAL OF CONVALESCENTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your notice of the case of *Best v. Staff*, you call attention to the statement at the trial that the children were removed by medical advice. I beg to say that my evidence was, that I distinctly objected to the removal so soon, and also expressly warned the mother of the danger of infecting other persons with whom they might be brought in contact.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

Cross-street, Islington, Nov. 24th, 1872.

N. H. CLIFTON.

* * We gladly insert Mr. Clifton's letter. His conduct in this painful case seems to have been altogether right.—
ED. L.

IRELAND.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE thirty-fifth annual meeting of the Dublin Obstetrical Society took place on Saturday, the 23rd November. An able address was delivered by the President, Dr. Kidd, in which he passed a high eulogium on two members of the Association recently deceased, Dr. Thomas E. Beatty and Sir James Simpson, and took occasion to defend the latter from the attack of an anonymous writer which lately appeared in the *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, alluding to anæsthetics, and to a statement recently made that a death occurs from chloroform weekly. He remarked that after strict inquiry he was able to discover but four deaths from chloroform in Dublin over a period of twenty-five years. Another death had occurred during an operation in which chloroform had been used, but it was to be attributed to the admission of air into the veins.

Dr. Evory Kennedy was elected president of the Society for the ensuing year.

It is believed by the profession in Dublin that a baronetcy will be conferred on Dr. Kennedy at an early date. There are several other claimants for a similar honour, and certain lay papers expatiate on the virtues of some of the candidates in a manner suggestive of inspiration. A like exacerbation occurred about a year ago, which was much deprecated by the bulk of the profession, and greatly ridiculed by the public.

The prospectus of a medical fortnightly paper, to be called *The Irish Hospital Gazette*, is just issued. It will appear on January 1st, 1873, and will be devoted to hospital reports, pathological observations, original communications, abstracts of reports of societies, &c. There is, no doubt, ample material for the production of such a journal in Ireland; but, owing perhaps to the fact that, with the exception of Dublin, Belfast, and Cork, the hospitals in Ireland are so scattered, and it is so difficult to collect material, two series of hospital reports have already died of inanition.

The first case of superannuation under Sir Dominic Corrigan's Bill of last session took place in the Tralee Union last week. Dr. Fitzmaurice received £27 12s. 8d., being two-thirds of his emoluments for registration and vaccination, or the average for three years ending 30th June, 1872, in addition to the sum of £66 13s. 4d., being two-thirds of his salary.

The Registrar-General, in his health report of Dublin for the week ending November 23rd, attributes one death to simple cholera. There was but one death from small-pox during the same week. The Small-pox Relief Association have brought their labours to a close. During the epidemic they collected close upon £5000, and assisted over 4000

families. The balance in hand, about £500, they have distributed equally amongst the five hospitals which had received cases of small-pox. The cost per case to each hospital for small-pox has been estimated at £3. The number of cases treated in the Dublin Hospital was about 5000.

The election for the Professorship of Physic at the Royal College of Surgeons will be held on the 3rd December. Six candidates are mentioned, of whom Dr. Samuel Gordon and Dr. Henry Kennedy are the seniors. Dr. McClintock, who has lately been seriously indisposed, is now convalescing.

Dublin, November, 1872.

PARIS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

NOTWITHSTANDING the great political crisis through which the National Assembly is now going, the members thereof yet find time for, and can manage to give their attention to, the discussion of questions of minor interest, but which are not the less of considerable importance, as they bear upon the public health. Yesterday the greater part of the *séance* was taken up by the discussion of an important measure of reform on the work of children in manufactories. M. Joubert, the promoter of the motion, very eloquently insisted on the necessity to society of "solid arms, honest hearts, and cultivated intellects"; the wants of industry should not exclude those of morals and intellectual cultivation; the workshop, the church, and the school should be equally taken into account, and the moral education of children as well as their physical development carefully looked after. To ensure these objects M. Joubert stated that the committee had fixed upon the age of ten years as the proper time for children to begin to work, and upon six hours as the daily space of time to be devoted to labour. Until the age of thirteen children are not to work more than six hours a day, and if at that age they have not attained the wonted degree of general knowledge, the space of six hours daily will be maintained till the age of sixteen. They are not to work during the night till the age of sixteen. Sundays and fête days are to be quite free from work. Furthermore, women and girls are to be excluded from all underground work, and from night labour in the workshops. Such are the chief features of the contemplated law, to secure the proper working of which local and general inspections (containing medical men) will be appointed.

M. Louis Blanc, in a few short remarks, did justice to the English, who had taken the lead in this question of humanity and self-preservation. He said that the law about to be adopted would be milder than the English one, since the terms were ten years instead of eight, and six hours instead of six and a half.

M. Tallon, the reporter, mentioned that at present, out of 125,000 children working in manufactories, 26,000 were not protected by the existing laws; whilst 26,000 are subjected to the bonds of apprenticeship and can get no education. He referred to the fact, that out of the 325,000 conscripts called out every year, 102,000 were sent back as unfit for military service, and that rickets, which was so prevalent among them, was mainly due to premature and excessive work.

In a few months Dr. Bazin, the celebrated teacher of dermatology at the Hôpital St. Louis, whose writings on skin diseases are so universally known and appreciated, will have attained the limit of age fixed upon for retirement by the hospital regulations, and will be compelled to give up his clinique at St. Louis. His hospital colleagues and former pupils have initiated a subscription among the profession for the purpose of placing a bust of the Professor in the lecture-hall of St. Louis. The success of the subscription has been great—for this country at least, where such proceedings are exceedingly rare—and the lists are fast filling. It must be some consolation to M. Bazin on leaving office to see how highly popular and esteemed his name is among the profession.

Somewhat in connexion with the above subject, I may mention that the Société Médicale des Hôpitaux has voted 5000 francs at one of its last sittings for assistance