

Reynolds's System of Medicine, "died upon the sea-passage, in their transit from the shore to the hospital, and soon after their admission." These Mussulmans had eaten no salt meat, and, it is scarcely necessary to add, had not tasted any form of alcoholic liquor, but they suffered very much more severely than did the English and French troops in the Crimea at the same date, who consumed both these articles of diet. The simple explanation is that the Turks were very imperfectly fed, and had not any fresh vegetable food or lime-juice.

With many others, I am looking with anxious interest for an explanation, not of the cause of the outbreak of scurvy in the sledging parties of the recent Arctic Expedition, because surely that must have arisen from the supply of fresh vegetable juice having been defective in quantity or quality, but of the circumstances under which such a disastrous failure in necessary provision occurred.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Grosvenor-street, Nov. 21st, 1876.

THOMAS BUZZARD.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Pending the publication of the Medical Report of the Arctic Expedition, there is, to my mind, nothing unsatisfactory in the particulars furnished by Captain Nares respecting the outbreak of scurvy. The fact of the heavy labour of sledge-travelling developing the scorbutic condition in men deprived of a form of food essential to the maintenance of health and vigour is obvious. A man might be filled with all the good things provided for the Arctic expedition, but, lacking one thing needful, he would be certain to be starved when he came to put forth his strength continuously; and there was nothing, or not sufficient, to supply the waste. The "one thing needful" was, as Dr. Rae has pointed out, certainly not alcohol; whether it was or was not lime-juice I shall be glad to offer my testimony towards explaining when the medical report of the expedition has appeared.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

THOS. A. ROE,

Toines, Nov. 21st, 1876. Late Med. Inspector for the Board of Trade.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Permit me to add my humble testimony to the truth of Dr. Rae's remarks in your last number on the debilitating effects of alcohol. When travelling two years ago in the upper Sikkim Himalaya, at elevations above 12,000 feet, I several times took small quantities of whisky, not above half a wineglassful at a time in about six ounces of water, to counteract, as I imagined, the wearying effects of strong exertion at high elevations and at a low temperature. Each time the consequence was the very reverse of what I anticipated; for very soon after the spirit had been taken there came on an almost overpowering sense of drowsiness and lassitude, lasting an hour or more. I very soon substituted strong cold tea, with the happiest result; for not only did it refresh one's flagging energy, but also quenched distressing thirst effectually, and produced a feeling of exhilaration and capacity for renewed efforts; and ever after my spirit-flask contained nothing but tea. My natives not only never used spirituous drinks while on the march, but very seldom drank even water, which they said weakened them and affected their wind. Sportsmen in India well know the prejudicial effects of spirits in impairing steadiness of aim and powers of endurance, and many of them therefore use tea only when in the jungle.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

Fletching, Nov. 21st, 1876.

W. J. TRENTLER, M.B. Edin.

THE LODGING-HOUSE SYSTEM AT THE UNIVERSITIES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In an article in THE LANCET of Saturday last upon the Lodging-house System at the Universities, after making comments on certain allegations of the Dean of Chichester with respect to lodging-houses at Oxford, the writer asserts that "neither at Oxford nor Cambridge do the

Lodging-House Syndicate trouble themselves about sanitary arrangements, either upstairs or downstairs," &c. It is not my intention to trouble you with any remarks on the Dean of Chichester's paper, which will be answered elsewhere; but the accusation brought against the Universities in your columns is in itself so serious, and the publication of it in your journal secures for it so wide a circulation, that I trust you will afford me space for an immediate and emphatic denial, so far as Oxford is concerned, of the whole of the charges made, generally and in detail. There is not one of the points in which negligence is alleged to exist which has not had, and does not receive, systematic and minute attention. One of the first measures adopted by the Oxford Lodging-house Delegacy, when it was appointed in 1868, was a careful inquiry into the sanitary conditions of every house then used for university lodgings. In 1871 the services of a highly qualified medical gentleman, since appointed to be a County Inspector of Nuisances, were engaged. He inspected and reported upon every house licensed, or proposed to be licensed, and continued to act as medical referee to the Delegacy until he left Oxford a few months ago. At the present time, when application is made for a licence, the house is inspected by one of the delegates, usually by myself. The drainage, water-supply, ventilation, and cleanliness are all attended to; inquiry is made as to the number of inmates, with a view to prevent overcrowding; every sink and closet is examined, and the soil-pipes of in-door closets are required to be ventilated. If an infectious disorder occurs in a house, no undergraduate is allowed to reside there until a medical certificate has been received that the premises have been properly disinfected. I enclose a leaf of my note-book, to exhibit the form in which the particulars relating to each house are recorded.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

GEO. S. WARD, M.A.,

One of the Delegates for Licensing Lodgings.

Hertford College, Oxford, Nov. 22nd, 1876.

INTRA-THORACIC CANCER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Dr. Burney Yeo, in his clinical lecture on Mediastinal Cancer, in your last week's issue, says that "the vocal cords were seen to be white and natural, and free from any thickening or ulceration; but the left vocal cord was flaccid and motionless, in a position between adduction and abduction." Further, he adds—"I am not aware that any one, in this country at least, has hitherto demonstrated a paralytic affection of the vocal cords as observed accompanying thoracic cancer."

Without claiming any particular credit for it, permit me to draw Dr. Yeo's attention to a case of intra-thoracic cancer, published by me in THE LANCET of October 24th, 1874, in which it is stated that on examination by the laryngoscope it was found "the left vocal cord was found to be paralysed, while the right was acting normally. Both were free from any visible disease, as was also the larynx and trachea, so far as could be seen."

Further cases will doubtless serve to indicate the diagnostic value of the paralysis mentioned.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Glasgow, Nov. 20th, 1876.

M. CHARTERIS.

SANITARY GYMNASTICS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My attention has been called to an interesting record, in THE LANCET of last week, by Mr. Edmund Owen, F.R.C.S., &c. &c., of a "Gunshot Injury to the Musculo-spiral Nerve" successfully treated by the Swedish system of "manual treatment," commonly called "the Movement Cure." In that record, which I hope will be widely studied, it is implied that the so-called "Swedish Institution" of Dr. Kellgreen, in Pimlico, is the only place in London where this mode of treatment can be found; and as I am a great admirer of the system, and also a lover of justice, I hope you will allow a space in your next impression for this statement, that the "Movement Cure,"