

and are typical specimens of their class; one description, therefore, will serve for all—viz.: The eyes present the well-known waving or restless condition of the muscles of the orbit, but are not so intolerant of light as in most cases. The pupils are of average diameter, and of a deep pink colour of great purity. The hair is of the softest texture, like the finest floss silk, and of the most exquisitely white and silvery colour, being luxuriant in its growth. The children, so far from exhibiting any of the mental deficiency noticed by some observers, appear to possess more than ordinary intelligence, and are well developed.

The parents are each thirty-seven years of age, and belong to the agricultural labourers; they are dark, swarthy people, and can offer no suggestion as to the cause of their children's peculiarity, there being no family history of the like on either side.

Other children not albinos have been born to them, and it is curious to note the order of succession. Thus, the first child was dark; second, albino; third, dark; fourth, albino; fifth, dark; sixth, dark; seventh, albino; eighth, albino; ninth, dark.

If any of your scientific readers would like to see them, they can be found at No. 96, Whitechapel-road.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

W. SEDGWICK SAUNDERS.

Queen-street, Cheapside, E.C., Sept. 29th, 1875.

AN AID TO THE OPERATION FOR STRANGULATED HERNIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Probably most surgeons who are familiar with the operation for the relief of strangulated hernia, in private practice, at night, have felt the want of skilled assistance in addition to that afforded by the practitioner whom they meet in consultation. This gentleman is fully occupied in the administration of an anæsthetic, whilst some friend of the patient is able at most to hold a candle. This need of additional help has been very frequently experienced by myself, and was also observed by Mr. Francis Toulmin, of Clapton, whom I met in consultation on the 19th ult. In discussing the subject we agreed that some kind of speculum, to hold apart the edges of the wound, would much avail. I have taken the most simple—i.e., the common eye speculum—as a pattern. This has been made for me, of stouter wire and of twice the ordinary size, by Messrs. Kröhne and Sesemann. I think some such device as this will prove very useful to the operator.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

C. F. MAUNDER,

Queen Anne-street, W., Sept. 21st. Surgeon to the London Hospital.

THE LATE DR. HUGHES BENNETT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The lamented death of this distinguished physician induces me to remind his numerous old pupils that a bust of him was presented in August last to the University of Edinburgh.

The committee are anxious to present a replica to the new infirmary at its opening, and for this purpose a sum of £60 or £70 is still needed. Subscriptions will be gladly received by Dr. A. P. Stewart, 75, Grosvenor-street; Dr. Andrew Clark, 16, Cavendish-square; Dr. McKendrick, of Edinburgh, or by myself.

I am, &c.,

Great Charles-street, Birmingham.

LAWSON TAIT.

WINCHESTER SCHOOL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg permission to correct some inaccuracies in that part of your Commissioner's report which refers to the dormitories and meals of the Winchester scholars. In addition to the old dormitories there are four modern ones, similar to those in the Master's boarding-houses for commoners. Only thirty-two scholars sleep in the old dormitories, some of which are no longer used as sleeping apartments. All the bedsteads are iron, the boys drink out of

tumblers and eat off plates; they have, in addition, wooden trenchers for their bread. I have known Winchester forty-five years, and never even heard of a boy drinking out of a "black-jack." I believe that specimens of "jacks" and trenchers are exhibited to visitors, hence, I presume, the error of your Commissioner.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

GODFREY B. LEE.

New College, Oxford, September 26th, 1875.

IRELAND.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE births registered in Dublin for the week ending 11th September amounted to 140, and the deaths to 144. The average numbers in the corresponding week of the previous ten years were—births 160, and deaths 155. The mortality from diarrhoea was 19; all of the fatal cases, except one, occurred in children. But two fatal cases of small-pox were registered in Dublin since 20th March last; none since 22nd May.

A good deal of objection continues to be urged in different quarters, for various reasons, against continuing to use the so-called "Dean Swift's Cabbage Garden" for interments. W. R. W. writes to the morning journals pointing out the error of calling the place in question "by the name it derived from the class of resurrectionists of former days." He states the proper name for this very ancient ecclesiastical enclosure was *Jardin des Capuchines*—the Garden of the Capuchins,—where a community of that order had an establishment. Dean Swift had no cabbage garden there, but owned an orchard, which has been alluded to in his writings, and which existed to the rear of the present Meath Hospital, in part of the locality formerly occupied by Keefe's Nursery. Many of the tombstones appear of considerable antiquity, the inscriptions being quite effaced by age. The date on one was 1685. Adjoining this graveyard, on the north, is a smaller one belonging to the descendants of the French Huguenots. There are at least two other small burial-grounds belonging to the same class in the south part of the city of Dublin. Intramural burial should be entirely forbidden; the presence of rather a severe form of autumnal diarrhoea ought to quicken a movement in this direction.

The Factory Acts Commissioners, Sir James Fergusson, Lord Frederick Cavendish, M.P., and the O'Connor Don, M.P., are at present sitting at the Shelbourne Hotel. Several witnesses made startling statements as to the existence in Dublin of the "sweating system." We have reason to believe that the pictures drawn by the witnesses are by no means over-coloured. It is to be hoped that the result of the labours of the Commissioners will tend to provide better workrooms for the many minor factories in Dublin, and that a system of compulsory education may be provided for the young. The state of the tenement houses and of the labouring classes generally in Dublin much needs improvement, without which physical and moral degradation can but progress.

A meeting of the Senate of the Queen's University was held at Dublin Castle on Wednesday, the 15th ult., at which the following examiners were appointed:—Benjamin G. McDowel, M.D., examiner in medicine; Anthony H. Corley, M.D., examiner in surgery; William Roe, M.D., examiner in midwifery; Charles F. Moore, M.D., examiner in materia medica; Matthias O'Keefe, M.A., M.D., examiner in medical jurisprudence.

Dublin, Tuesday, Sept. 21st, 1875.

DISEASED HORSES.—At the Lambeth Police-court lately a case was brought before the magistrate under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act. The landlord of a tavern in Brixton was summoned, at the instance of the Metropolitan Board of Works, for neglecting to give notice that he had in his possession a bay mare affected with glanders or farcy. It was proved that the animal never had been affected with either disease, and that the cause of its death was non-infectious fever. There was no other course left the bench than to dismiss the case.