

and 76, entitled "A Method of Destroying or Preventing the Growth of Algæ and Certain Pathogenic Bacteria in Water Supplies" (issued May 7th, 1904), and "Copper as an Algicide and Disinfectant in Water Supplies" (issued April 5th, 1905). We have very clearly shown the sterilising power of copper upon the colon bacillus and typhoid bacillus and the cholera spirillum. In the case of copper at least there can be no doubt that the toxicity of the metal or the salt is due to the ion, and in my experiments I have found carbon dioxide rather than oxygen to be an important factor limiting the destruction of bacteria. Under separate cover I am sending to you a publication entitled, "The Effect of Copper upon Water Bacteria," by Mr. T. D. Beckwith and myself, that deals with some experimental work upon this subject.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
KARL F. KELLERMAN,
Physiologist in Charge, United States Department
of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry (Soil
Bacteriology and Water Purification
Investigations).

Washington, D.C., July 12th, 1910.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—May I point out that you have omitted to include this town as one of the districts in which ophthalmia neonatorum is compulsorily notifiable? The Order of the Local Government Board came into force on May 18th last. We are, therefore, entitled to rank ourselves with Chester, Stoke-on-Trent, and the 15 States of the United States of America! Credit to whom credit is due, Mr. Editor.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
J. HEDLEY MARSH,
Medical Officer of Health.

Macclesfield, July 23rd, 1910.

GRAIN ITCH.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In an annotation in THE LANCET of July 9th an account was published of "Grain Itch," with a request to know whether the disease occurred in this country. Whilst acting as locum tenens in Somersetshire a patient of mine was employed during harvest to carry bundles of straw into a loft. This was followed the next day by a pustular eruption on the arms, which eventually subsided into congested-looking bluish spots which irritated. I did not examine the straw, so cannot furnish any further details of the case.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
County Hospital, Guildford, July 23rd, 1910. H. J. FARDON.

THE PETROL REBATE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My experience exactly tallies with that of your correspondent "8 H.P.," and it seems evident that the conditions attaching to the claim for rebate are intentionally so framed as to render its recovery impossible. The Excise officer to whom I applied pointed out, in the most courteous terms, that the form of claim supplied by his department (which I had duly filled up) contains the words "on which the full duty has been paid *to the Crown*" (my italics); and that there is more in this wording than meets the non-legal eye of the average medical motorist. It seems that proof is necessary (in the case of every tin of petrol used during the specified period of about eight months) of payment of full duty (1) by the consumer to the retailer; (2) by the retailer to the manufacturer; and (3) by the latter to the Crown; and it must be shown that this last payment by the manufacturer actually reached the national coffers!

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
TWO CYLINDER.

July 23rd, 1910.

Mr. Vaughan Grey's *matinée* in aid of Prince Francis of Teck's appeal on behalf of the Middlesex Hospital, which was to be given at the Boudoir Theatre, Pembroke-gardens, to-day, Friday, July 29th, was unavoidably postponed until Thursday, Nov. 10th. We are asked to state that all tickets issued for July 29th will be available on the latter date.

MANCHESTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Ashby Memorial Scholarship.

THE Ashby Memorial Scholarship of the Manchester University was founded as a memorial of the late Dr. Henry Ashby for the promotion of the study of the diseases of children, to which he had devoted his life's work. This year two of the aspirants have been adjudged equal, one being Hugh T. Ashby, M.B., B.C. Cantab., M.R.C.P. Lond., the son of the late Dr. Ashby, and the other C. P. Lapage, M.D. Vict., M.R.C.P. Lond., Dr. Ashby graduated at Cambridge in 1904 with honours in the Natural Sciences Tripos, and in 1908 became M.B. Dr. Lapage gained the John Henry Agnew scholarship in diseases of children in 1901, graduated in medicine in the Victoria University in 1902, and obtained the M.D. in 1905. He is now lecturer in school hygiene in the University. The Dauntsey Medical Scholarship has been awarded to Lily Allan, the Platt Biological Exhibition to R. G. Livens, and the University Prize in Medicine to A. G. Bryce.

Hope Hospital.

The Salford guardians appear to have a good deal of trouble with the hospital at Hope. At their recent meeting the report of the infirmary committee mentioned that there was a request from the medical superintendent for the addition of two more nurses and one house sister to the staff. One can understand the startling effect that this request would have on the guardians, who think of the rates as well as of the poor, and it is not perhaps surprising that a resolution was moved not to accede to the request. Happily, however, an amendment was carried adjourning the consideration of the question until the next meeting. This will give time to consider the grounds for the request. It is scarcely to be imagined that the experienced medical superintendent would ask for such a reinforcement of the nursing staff without sufficient reason, and the adjournment will give time for an appeal from guardians startled to guardians calm and properly informed. Another matter adjourned was the question of a new dietary for the inmates.

Health of Lancashire Scholars.

The recent statements made at the meeting of the Lancashire education committee at Preston on July 18th are sufficiently alarming as regards the health of the children. It is a serious matter that of the 60,000 examined 12,000 should be suffering from skin disease, while 11,000 had defective vision, many of whom were without spectacles. Whether any of the defective vision is due to small type or bad print in the school-books is not stated, but it is, of course, eminently desirable that this source of mischief should be avoided.

Hospital Sunday Fund.

It was decided at a meeting of the supporters of this Fund, the Lord Mayor, Mr. Charles Behrens, in the chair, that £4100—i.e., £700 more than last year—should be distributed among the medical charities of Manchester and Salford. The following statement shows the apportionment, and cheques for the several amounts have been issued to the respective institutions by the treasurer (Mr. John F. Haworth, J.P.): Royal Infirmary, £1264 16s. 1d.; Children's Hospital, £500 0s. 7d.; Ancoats Hospital, £331 1s. 6d.; Sick Poor and Private Nursing Institution, £328; St. Mary's Hospitals, £277 18s. 11d.; Hospital for Consumption, £258 18s. 10d.; Salford Royal Hospital, £233 2s. 11d.; Royal Eye Hospital, £210 19s. 7d.; Hospital for Incurables, £199 7s. 3d.; Northern Hospital, £134 16s. 7d.; Hospital for Skin Diseases, £104 17s. 10d.; Victoria Memorial Jewish Hospital, £104 11s.; Ear Hospital, £40 19s. 2d.; Dental Hospital of Manchester, £36 4s. 4d.; Hulme Dispensary, £21 17s. 4d.; Greengate Dispensary, £16 16s. 6d.; Chorlton-on-Medlock Dispensary, £13 9s. 1d.; Christie Hospital, £11 2s. 1d.; Lock Hospital, £9 13s. 11d.; Homœopathic Institution, £1 6s. 6d.; total £4100.

July 26th.