

the nervous element there is in a consumptive the more hopeful is the future of the case.—I am, etc.,

Bognor, May 8th. JOHN C. THOROWGOOD, M.D., F.R.C.P.

MIDWIVES AND THEIR PUPILS.

SIR,—In the current number of *Nursing Notes*, which has chanced to come my way, I find an interesting sidelight on the midwife question. In this number, which I enclose, is a report of what seems to have been a very careful and complete lecture by Dr. Eden on hæmorrhage occurring at any time of the child-bearing period, and which is one of a series of "post-graduate" lectures to midwives delivered at the Midwives' Institute. Placentation, natural hæmorrhage with retraction and contraction, methods of arresting hæmorrhage, causes of hæmorrhage, separation of placenta, placenta prævia, concealed hæmorrhage, *post-partum* hæmorrhage, and drugs and methods of treatment were all discussed. And this to "midwives" who have obtained an L.O.S. "certificate" after, in many cases, but three months' preparation at the hands of women "qualified" at the same institution! Surely, if these women are possessed of such receptivity and power of application as this seems to imply, we are greatly mistaken in our present five years' course to medical students.

Perhaps a few weeks in the hands of the "graduates" of a society of practical bonesetters and other such societies would develop equal 'cuteness in our students, and do away with all need of anatomical, physiological, clinical, or pathological courses. The lecturer, however, finds it necessary to warn midwives of the unwisdom of undertaking the treatment of any hæmorrhage occurring during pregnancy, and counsels "sharing the responsibility with a qualified medical practitioner"—a suggestion charming for its ingenuousness.—I am, etc.,

May 6th.

F.R.C.S.

ENTERIC OR TYPHOID FEVER?

SIR,—In view of the present discussion on this question, perhaps the following clinical facts may be of some interest:

In an epidemic of typhoid at Sutton-in-Ashfield in the autumn of 1894 I happened to attend a family in which 5 undoubted cases and 1 doubtful case occurred. Taking the five undoubted cases together, these symptoms were observed in one or other of the patients—fever, diarrhoea, spots, enlargement of spleen, hæmorrhages from bowel. The diagnosis was, therefore, fairly certain. The doubtful case occurred fourth in the whole series—that is to say, there were first 3 typical cases, then 1 doubtful case, and then 2 typical cases. The doubtful case was a lad, aged 18 years. During the first two days there was nothing to suggest that his illness was different from the three members of his family who were either suffering from or convalescing from typical typhoid. On the third day, however, he complained of pain over the right tibia; he said he had received a kick on the shin five days previously while playing football. A slight contusion was present, but no abrasion. On the sixth day there was fluctuation at the point of injury and for some distance above and below that point. Free incisions gave exit to pus which had formed under the periosteum. There were no abdominal symptoms, but there was headache and epistaxis. He died comatose on the eighth day.

The most ardent advocates of the term "enteric" will hardly consider it a happy or appropriate designation for such morbid phenomena as were present in this case. And yet the surroundings of the patient and some of his symptoms suggest that the infective periostitis was the result of a slight local injury in a person already or soon after infected with the bacillus typhosus.

If that be so, then the term "typhoid" simply connoting bacillus typhosus seems quite appropriate; whereas the term "enteric," connoting a more than doubtful assumption as to the local nature of the disease, appears singularly inappropriate in this case. If "typhoid" is to give way to "enteric," why not bacillus typhosus to bacillus entericus? Perhaps certain other bacilli might feel disposed to dispute the latter title!—I am, etc.

Manchester, April 28th.

J. STAVELEY DICK, M.B.(R.U.I.).

SIR,—With reference to Dr. Cayley's communication in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of April 27th on the above question one great argument against the use of the term "typhoid" is that it is liable (at any rate by the public) to be confused with "typhus." It has been no uncommon thing for me, when I was practising in a scattered district in Buckinghamshire, to hear patients, living in isolated villages, tell me that they had suffered from typhus (or typhus, as they invariably called it!), when on making enquiries as to the symptoms from which they had suffered, one could easily diagnose that they meant typhoid.

Besides which, of course typhus fever is rarely if ever seen in country districts, but is a disease of large towns, or rather of overcrowded or congested localities. However, as an old Guy's man (1865-70) my chief argument in favour of the term "enteric" is that it was (unless I am very much mistaken) advocated, if not invented, by my old friend and teacher, Sir Samuel Wilks, who never taught us the use of any terminology unless he was sure of its scientific truth, and the echoes of whose careful and painstaking teaching are at once a pleasure to one's memory and an inspiration in one's practice.—I am, etc.,

W. L'HEUREUX BLENKARNE, L.S.A., M.R.C.S.,
Formerly Surgeon to the Leicester and Leicestershire
Provident Dispensary.

Vernon Lodge, Worthing, April 27th.

THE REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE.

A SUGGESTION.

SIR,—Now that so much is being talked of and written with regard to the contemplated reconstitution of the British Medical Association, perhaps it might be well to consider the advisability of conferring the title of Fellow on those members of the Association of ten or fifteen years' standing. Any privileges pertaining to those holding the Fellowship of the Association could be afterwards arranged for.—I am, etc.,

Cheltenham, May 7th.

ALEXANDER DUKE.

THE SAMARITAN (FREE) HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

SIR,—In common with many others, I am surprised that no reply from the authorities of the Samaritan Hospital has been forthcoming to Dr. Shaw-Mackenzie's letter which appeared in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of April 13th. As no reply has been vouchsafed, I conclude that the facts stated in his letter cannot be contradicted. Still the profession is entitled to some explanation as to why a man of Dr. Shaw-Mackenzie's position should have been treated with such obvious injustice.—I am, etc.,

Belgrave Road, S.W., May 7th.

ANDREW FAUSSET.

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL SURGEONS' DINNER.

SIR,—We have received so much support in reply to our letter published in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of April 27th that we feel justified in asking you to announce that the dinner will be held on Wednesday, June 5th, at the Hotel Cecil at 7.30. The price of the tickets will be 10s. 6d. We shall be glad to hear as soon as possible from any civil surgeons who may desire to be present.

We shall be further obliged if you will kindly publish the following list of those who intend to be present:

H. A. Ballance,	E. A. Houseman,
A. A. Bowlby,	Sir William Mac Cormac
J. Paul Bush,	(Chairman),
J. Chiene,	G. H. Makins,
E. G. Calverley,	H. T. Mursell,
J. Lenthal Cheate,	T. H. Openshaw,
W. Watson Cheyne,	F. O. Stoehr,
A. Conan Doyle,	C. Stonham,
H. W. Dudgeon,	H. J. Starling,
W. V. Eaves,	Sir W. Thomson,
A. Fripp,	H. H. Tooth,
J. F. B. Gairdner,	F. E. Walker,
A. Granville,	P. Wood.

—We are, etc ,

FRANCIS E. FREMANTLE,
C. GORDON WATSON,
Acting Secretaries.

39, Moore Street, S.W., May 7th.

THE TEACHING OF ANÆSTHETICS.

SIR,—In the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of May 4th, p. 1119, a letter on the above subject is published in which your correspondent suggests that a practical course of instruction in the administration of anæsthetics was required for qualified men. Will you allow me to inform "M.D." and any other gentlemen who may desire to attend such a course that practical instruction is given in the administration of anæsthetics at the West London Hospital to members of the Post-graduate College attached to that hospital. I shall be pleased to send particulars to anyone applying to me.—I am, etc.,

L. A. BIDWELL, Dean,
Post-graduate College, West London Hospital,
Hammersmith Road, W.

May 4th.