

wish to draw your attention to the following facts with reference to this practice. My rooms are exactly opposite the University Museum. Every day, almost without exception, I hear the piercing yells of a dog in agony. There can be no doubt that it is a dog in agony and not simply one in confinement. I have ascertained as a fact that vivisection is carried on in the museum from an official to whom I spoke on the subject when I went over on Sunday last in the morning (June 9th), after hearing these same yells. Being a keeper of dogs myself, I am in a position to know the difference between a dog in agony and one in confinement, and that it is not the latter I am perfectly confident. It is always the same, and I am convinced that it is something more than merely the beating of some dog, because that would not happen every day, whereas students' scientific classes constantly take place. I wish something could be done to put a stop to these devilish practices condoned in the name of science. To one who is a lover of animals it is perfectly excruciating to have to listen to a dumb animal being put to the torture, as I hear it every day, by these scientists who, being apparently devoid of all feelings of humanity, don't care what pain they inflict to gain their object. I should be so glad if you can suggest anything to be done. I should have thought at least they were bound to do these things in places where every sound could not be heard outside. Putting aside the fact of the inhuman cruelty which this practice necessitates, it is, to speak mildly, a public nuisance. Please use my name or letters as much as you wish.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully, HAROLD S. SHARPE." And then: "We, the undersigned, desire to state that we have also heard these yells, and wish to corroborate all Mr. Sharpe has said.—ARTHUR H. M. PEAT, OYRIL A. BONSER, ALFRED C. C. HARNEY EVANS, GEOFFREY HEALD, BASIL W. TRUMAN."

Mr. Coleridge said he at once addressed a letter "To the licensees for the performance of experiments upon living animals, the University Museum, Oxford," dated June 14th:

Gentlemen,—I have received from a correspondent, whose credibility I have no reason to doubt, an account of cries of dogs or of a dog in agony that emanate from the buildings of the Museum at Oxford. A portion of the buildings in question being a place registered (under the Act 39 and 40 Vic., c. 77) for the performance of experiments upon living animals, and, you, gentlemen, being under the same Act licensed to perform such experiments in that portion of the buildings, I beg leave to inquire whether these cries come from your laboratories, and, if so, whether you feel disposed to offer any explanation of these most distressing sounds.—Your obedient servant, STEPHEN COLERIDGE.

Then he got this letter from Mr. Francis Gotch:

Physiological Laboratory, Oxford, June 16th, 1907.—Sir,—In answer to your letter of the 14th instant, I beg to state that no vivisection experiments on dogs have been carried out in this laboratory during the present year. Four puppies were born and kept in the adjoining yard, and the shrill yelps of these animals when at play were presumably the sounds heard by your correspondent. This might have been ascertained by making appropriate inquiry.—Yours faithfully, FRANCIS GOTCH.

Mr. Coleridge said he sent this letter with his compliments to these young gentlemen, and this was the answer that they sent back to him:

Dear Sir,—I am sorry I have been away and only just returned and found your letter. Professor Gotch is a liar. A man in Kettle who is in for anatomy told Mr. Heald (one of those who signed my paper) that they did cut up rabbits, and that lately they had cut up a small dog, and this had been yelling for a week. It is perfectly absurd to say that the yells I hear are anything else than dogs, or possibly some other animal in agony. The idea of puppies is ridiculous. I have heard the puppies yelp very frequently, and I have also heard a dog scream, and I would swear to it anywhere. Mrs. Herford, writing to me to-day, says: "It is distressing to pass the museum for the yells one frequently heard." Would two people be such fools as to mistake a painful yell for a puppy's yelp? It shows that Mr. Gotch is a liar, because one dog has been out up this term. The man who told my friend (Heald) this said they did cut up rabbits. That is sufficient. Mr. Gotch says I might have ascertained the truth by making appropriate inquiries. I asked an official, as you know, and he said vivisection was practised. I would maintain, in spite of Mr. Gotch's statements, that animals have been out up this term. If a man is devil enough to be a vivisector he can easily reconcile his conscience to a lie or two, especially when Mr. Coleridge writes to him, for he knows matters might be made hot for him. [This is very youthful.] I am unable to get more facts than these: (1) One dog for certain has been vivisected this term; (2) also rabbits; (3) the cries I hear are *not* puppies.—Yours sincerely, HAROLD S. SHARPE.

That was the sort of thing that was constantly coming before him, and that was the result that he got. The Chairman said it seemed to him that the letter was about as

reasonable as if Mr. Gotch were to answer it by saying: "No such thing has happened as you say; and as to your saying you heard it, all antivivisectors are liars, and I do not believe them." It did not carry it much further. In reply to Dr. Gaskell, he said the date that Mr. Gotch gave when he asserted that no animals had been experimented upon was June 16th, 1907. "This term" meant distinctly during the time that Mr. Gotch was there and must have known. He agreed that it was not said that the dog that was cut up was alive or dead; the context rather indicated that it was alive. Asked by Sir Mackenzie Chalmers if he sent that second letter to Mr. Gotch, and got a further reply, he said, No, he left the matter there. There was a flat contradiction. It was no use carrying it any further.

(To be continued.)

LITERARY NOTES.

THE Oxford University Press will publish forthwith the Fitz-Patrick Lectures delivered before the Royal College of Physicians of London by Dr. Norman Moore, under the title *The History of the Study of Medicine in the British Isles*. The first of the lectures treats of medical study in London during the Middle Ages; the second deals with the education of physicians in London in the seventeenth century; and in the third and fourth lectures the history of the study of clinical medicine in the British Isles is told. The volume will be abundantly illustrated.

Drs. A. Blaschko of Berlin, K. Herxheimer of Frankfurt, E. Hoffmann of Berlin, v. Klingmueller of Kiel, and M. Wolters of Rostock have undertaken the editorial direction of the *Dermatologische Zeitschrift* in the room of the late Professor Lassar. The scope of the journal is to be enlarged in various directions. The principal part of the work will be in the hands of Professor Hoffmann.

In Messrs. Methuen's list of announcements of forthcoming books for the first half of 1908, are the following which may be of special interest to some of our readers:—*Early Woodcut Initials*, by Dr. Oscar Jennings of Paris; the work contains over thirteen hundred reproductions of pictorial letters of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries; and a translation of Forel's book, *The Senses of Insects*, by Mr. Macleod Yearsley. There are also in the list three volumes of "The New Library of Medicine"—namely, *Diseases of Occupation*, by Dr. Thomas Oliver; *The Causation and Prevention of Tuberculosis (Consumption)*, by Dr. Arthur Newsholme; and *Functional Nerve Diseases*, by Dr. A. T. Schofield.

We have received the first number of *Beiträge zur Anatomie, Physiologie, Pathologie, und Therapie des Ohres, der Nase, und des Kehlkopfes*, which, as its title imports, takes the whole field of otology, rhinology, and laryngology for its province. It is edited by Drs. A. Passow and K. L. Schaeffer, and published by S. Karger of Berlin. To those interested in the special provinces of practice with which it deals it will, if it fulfils the promise of its first number, be most valuable.

We have also received the first number of the *Archives of Internal Medicine*, a new monthly journal published under the auspices of the American Medical Association. The Editorial Board consists of Drs. Joseph L. Miller, of Chicago; Richard C. Cabot, of Boston; George Dock, of Ann Arbor, Michigan; David L. Edsall, of Philadelphia; Theo. C. Janeway, of New York; and W. S. Thayer, of Baltimore. Among the contents of the number are a paper on nervous affections of the heart, by Dr. F. Mueller, of Munich; one on the haemolytic reactions of the blood in dogs affected with transplantable lymphosarcoma, by Dr. R. Weil, of New York; and one on *Trichomonas hominis intestinalis*, by Dr. Hugo A. Freund, of Detroit. The subscription price of the journal, which is to be "devoted to the publication of articles relating to internal medicine which are too technical or too elaborate for a journal of general circulation," is 18s. a year.

Dr. Seymour Stritch, the Governor of the Apothecaries' Hall, writes to call attention to the fact that the credit of the discovery of the infectious nature of puerperal fever belongs to Dr. Alexander Gordon, of Aberdeen. In proof he quotes a passage from *Zoonomia, or the Laws of Organic Life*, published in 1803. The claim of Gordon to the title of pioneer in this matter was allowed by Oliver Wendell Holmes himself, as the readers of an address by Dr. Cullingworth delivered in 1905, and published in the

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, will remember. The address was afterwards published as a booklet (London: Henry J. Glalsher, 1906). A biographical sketch of Gordon is given in an appendix, taken mainly from a footnote contributed by his grandson, Professor Harvey, to *Essays on Puerperal Fever*, edited for the Sydenham Society by Dr. F. Churchill (London, 1849, pp. 445-7). Some corrections and additions were supplied to Dr. Cullingworth in a private communication (dated October 6th, 1905) by Professor W. Stephenson, of Aberdeen. It may be interesting to quote some parts of it. Dr. Gordon was born in the year 1752, not in the parish of Strachan, Kincardineshire, as stated by Professor Harvey, but in Milltown of Drum, Peterculter, Aberdeenshire. After taking the degree of M.A. at Marischal College, he studied medicine at Aberdeen and at Edinburgh. In 1780 he entered the Royal Navy as surgeon's mate, and in 1782 was advanced to the rank of surgeon. Three years afterwards, being placed on half-pay, he studied in London. Returning to Aberdeen in 1785, he obtained the degree of M.D. from Marischal College, and settled in general practice in that city. He devoted himself particularly to midwifery, in which his practice became considerable, and on which, for several years, he gave an annual course of lectures to the medical students. Soon after the publication, in 1795, of his *Treatise on the Puerperal Fever*, he was recalled to active duty by the Admiralty.

What contributed, mainly, to his resolution of again entering the navy was the circumstance (which he feelingly alludes to in several of his private papers) that his connexion with the puerperal epidemic, which he wrote an account of, and the entire burden of which seems to have fallen upon him as physician to the dispensary, and the only professed accoucheur in town, raised against him such strong prejudices in the public mind as materially to damage his professional prospects in Aberdeen.

In 1779, while on duty in the navy, he caught a severe cold, which laid the foundation of pulmonary consumption. He was invalided; and, returning to Aberdeenshire, died at the age of 47 on October 19th, 1799. Dr. Gordon left behind him a large collection of manuscript papers on various professional subjects; among others are lectures on midwifery and the diseases of women and children, which occupy three volumes, folio; and a treatise, in four volumes, quarto, on the practice of physic, which last it was his intention to publish. Professor Stephenson has placed in his classroom in the University of Aberdeen an oak tablet with the inscription:

ALEXANDER GORDON, M.D.,
First demonstrated the infectious nature of puerperal fever.
Aberdeen, 1795.

The Committee of the City of Edinburgh Charity Organization Society has decided to offer the remaining volumes of the *Report on the Physical Condition of 1,400 School Children in the City of Edinburgh, together with some Account of their Homes and Surroundings* to charitable societies and individuals interested in the welfare of children. The volume contains detailed tables of facts concerning the number of wage-earners and average earnings in each family, with information about the work of women and children, and the amount of charity received by each family when aid is given. Besides these, there are tables of heights and weights, comparing the Edinburgh children with those of other towns, and of varying social conditions. Then, after a very full medical report, follows an equally full account of the family life and budget of the 781 families to which the children belong. The following table of contents will show the nature and scope of the volume:

Foreword, by Arthur Sherwell, who supervised the investigation.

Introductory chapter, which describes in detail the methods of investigation adopted; with one "schedule" given in full.

Tabulated statement of amount of charity received by each of 449 families, along with a description of family habits.

Table of number of wage-earners in each family.

Table showing the average wage of workers in each trade for Edinburgh and district.

List of trades engaged in by women, and number in each occupation.

Account of the work, wages, and hours of labour of children at school, and children of school age.

Table giving the number of rooms inhabited by each of the 781 families.

Tables and charts comparing the heights and weights of these children with those of children of other schools, and of children examined by the Royal Commission (Scotland) in 1903.

Report of medical examination of the school children (with tables recording results in detail) which was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Leslie Mackenzie of the Local Government Board, Scotland.

Tabular summary of facts regarding the children's home-life; with information *re* housing, rent, wages, amusements, and history of each family; accompanied by the doctor's report on each child of each family that was examined.

Copies can be had on application to the general secretary, Charity Organization Society, 28, Rutland Street, Edinburgh. Price 5s. 6d., post free.

PUBLIC HEALTH OF LONDON.

III.

PHTHISIS.

THE deaths from phthisis in the administrative County of London during 1906 (52 weeks) numbered 6,775, as compared with 6,622 in the year 1905. In the year 1906 Bethnal Green (2.45) had the highest phthisis death-rate, and Hampstead (0.66) the lowest.

The death-rates in successive periods have been as follows:

Phthisis.

Period.	Death-rate per 1,000 Persons Living.	Period.	Death-rate per 1,000 Persons Living.
1851-60	2.86	1902	1.60
1861-70	2.84	1903	1.55
1871-80	2.51	1904	1.62
1881-90	2.09	1905	1.42
1891-1900	1.84	1906	1.44
1901	1.66		

The following table shows the mortality from phthisis in groups of London sanitary districts arranged in respect to the proportion of their population living more than two in a room in tenements of less than five rooms:

London, 1901-6: Phthisis Death rates in relation to Overcrowding.

Percentage of Overcrowding in each Group of Sanitary Areas.	Crude Phthisis Death-rate per 1,000 Persons Living.	Standard Death-rate.	Factor for Correction for Age and Sex Distribution.	'Corrected' Death-rate per 1,000 Persons Living.	Corrected death-rate (London, 1,000).
Under 7.5 per cent. ..	1.086	1.718	1.00391	1.097	711
7.5 to 12.5 per cent. ...	1.359	1.705	1.01761	1.383	897
12.5 to 20 per cent. ..	1.478	1.771	0.97969	1.448	939
20.0 to 27.5 per cent. ...	2.046	1.805	0.96124	1.967	1,276
Over 27.5 per cent. ...	2.047	1.651	1.05090	2.151	1,395
London	1.542	1.735	1.00000	1.542	1,000

Notification.

The annual reports of the medical officers of the metropolitan boroughs show an increase of effort to limit the prevalence of tuberculous phthisis by applying to cases of this disease the methods usually adopted for the limitation of acute infectious diseases. A system of voluntary notification of cases of phthisis has been adopted in a number of London sanitary districts, and the number of cases notified in the several areas in 1906 was as follows:

Kensington ... 252	St. Pancras ... 207	Bermondsey ... 170
Hammersmith ... 105	Islington ... 64	Lambeth ... 322
Fullham ... 148	Stoke Newington 25	Wandsworth ... 74
Chelsea ... 22	Hackney (6 months) 44	Greenwich ... 112
Westminster ... 78	Holborn ... 191	Lewisham (5 m'ths) 76
St. Marylebone ... 248	Finsbury ... 217	Woolwich ... 176
Hampstead ... 35	Southwark ... 399	

Notification is followed in the large majority of cases by visits to the home, and advice as to the precautions which should be taken by the sufferer. Disinfection is usually