

at an end; but I have no doubt that such a Committee, if appointed, could only have arrived at the same conclusion as Dr. Lewis and myself. My communication to the Clinical Society will, however, have answered its purpose, if it be instrumental in drawing the attention of pathologists to a nicer discrimination between lesions which are at present believed to be caused by the action of one poison only.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JULIUS ALTHAUS, M.D.

48, Harley Street, Cavendish Square, W.

#### THE SOFT PALATE.

SIR,—I beg respectfully to enter a protest against Mr. Lennox Browne's assertion that "Mr. Behnke has been first among the teachers to demonstrate, at least in his published writings, that the soft palate may be educated by simple gymnastics, thereby making it tense, and enabling it to retract to a remarkable degree, facilitating the production of high tones, and increasing the resonance of the voice." Garcia wrote: "Keep the tongue relaxed and motionless, avert the base of the pillars, and render the whole throat supple." This is reproduced in my *Philosophy of Voice*. Had Mr. Browne asked anyone who had learned, he would have known that all good trainers train the elevation of the soft palate by repeated location of will-force. Cataneo—Borio's master and mine—tested the elevation by closing and opening the nostrils with the hand; if the tone changed, the palate was too loose. Professor Graham Bell tests it by closing one nostril, and pulsing against the other with a finger.

If a stranger advance hypothetical statements, common courtesy demands that he should believe some persons knew something before he appeared on the scene.—Yours respectfully, CHARLES LUNN.

P.S.—The photograph is that of a "distorted larynx," with the vocal cords twisted from the median line.

#### HOW TO MAKE SPECIALISM USEFUL.

SIR,—I am glad you have drawn the attention of the profession to Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson's important address, delivered before the Ophthalmological Society; and I hope the valuable suggestion contained in that address will not be allowed to drop until some active steps are taken to carry it out. I am distinctly of opinion that *schenata*, such as Mr. Hutchinson proposes, would be an immense boon to the profession generally and the public at large. They would also be useful to the specialists themselves, as I find that they are by no means agreed as to the treatment of the commonest diseases of the eyes. To give one instance: I find, on referring to two eminent authorities on the subject of corneal ulcerations, one recommends Pagenstecher's ointment, which Mr. Hutchinson extols so highly for this disease, and states that the strength should be from ten to twenty grains to the ounce. The other authority, in his published work, one which is much in use, does not even mention this ointment amongst the various remedies he recommends; but, in the formula at the end of his work, he gives the strength of the ointment as two to four grains to the ounce. Which of the two is right? Such a committee of the Ophthalmological Society as Mr. Hutchinson suggests would answer this question.

Mr. Hutchinson's address reminded me of what my predecessor, the late Mr. Hammerton, who was for forty years resident medical officer at St. George's Hospital, related to me, some years ago, of an incident in the life of Dr. Young, the great philosopher, and physician to that hospital. It seems that it was his habit to avoid the pupils attending the hospital by every conceivable means, and to go round the wards alone. His colleagues one day remonstrated with him on the matter, and intimated that he resorted to this practice from want of knowledge of his profession. Whereupon Dr. Young replied: "I can write on a sheet of paper all that can be positively proved as true and useful in medicine." This would not apply to medicine of the present day; but I verily believe, with Mr. Hutchinson, that much could be done in this direction in the most common and severe of eye-diseases. I trust, therefore, that the attempt will be made by the Ophthalmological Society.—Yours,

T. RIDGE JONES, M.D.

4, Chesham Place, S.W., October 27th, 1883.

#### HEALTH-MATTERS IN LIVERPOOL.

SIR,—That there is not the slightest foundation for Dr. J. Stopford Taylor's extraordinary statement, in criticising the article with the above title, that "the gentlemen who are so suddenly inspired with a desire for the sanitary well-being of our city are the accre-

ditated leaders of the opposition to compulsory notification," a single quotation from a recent leading article in one of the ablest of daily papers—the *Liverpool Daily Post*—will be sufficient to prove. It is as follows. "The fallacy set up is that the dirtiness and dissipated habits of the lower classes, and the want of notification of infectious disease, account for the excessive death-rate. The disadvantage which this and many other towns suffer from those causes is admitted; but it is ridiculous to attribute to them more than their share of mischief." Although the writer of the present letter does not in the least know who were the writers of the leading article now quoted from, and of other articles and letters in the *Liverpool press* to which he has alluded, he thinks it a fair inference that they may be reckoned among the leaders of the cause which they advocate. Yet want of notification of disease is acknowledged by one of them, as it probably would be by all, to be a disadvantage.

But there are no known leaders of an opposition to compulsory notification in Liverpool, seeing that there is no proof that such opposition has ever existed there. The great majority of the medical men of that city have objected, and probably will always do so, to being themselves constituted by law the notifiers, with an alternative of a fine in case of default; and they have given the soundest reasons for their objection. But they have never gone further than that. So far from objecting to compulsory notification *per se*, they have always advocated it.

And that Dr. Taylor's further statement that those who are now striving for an improvement of the dwellings of the poorest class are "suddenly inspired" with this desire, has no more foundation than the other statement alluded to above, a quotation or two will also prove. With regard to certain notorious fever-nests which existed before 1864, the *Liverpool Daily Post*, in its leading columns for October 24th, remarks: "The able medical men employed by the guardians notified over and over again that the scourge had its permanent abode in those places. They never ceased their notification of the fact to the medical officer of health." After a time, structural alterations were made according to their suggestions, and "the result was a success beyond expectation. The parish medical men were rewarded for their perseverance, and had the satisfaction to report that not a single case of fever occurred there after the improvements were completed." Some of those gentlemen still survive and labour in Liverpool, though not now as district medical officers; and both they and their successors in office have ever since been steady and consistent advocates of the policy thus proved to be so successful. There is no evidence of "suddenness" on their part at any rate. And with reference to a most conspicuous leader in this crusade, a member of the Health Committee, it will be sufficient to quote from a reply which he recently made to a very large deputation, constituted of men of different political parties, some of whom, as was stated by its chairman, had striven hard three years previously to keep him out of the Council, but who all now came to beg him to allow himself to be again nominated, to show that there is no such "suddenness" on his part. It was as follows: "Those who had taken the trouble to peruse remarks he made three and four years ago would certainly give him credit for having endeavoured to redeem the promises made on those occasions." To another deputation, which accompanied and remained with the first, he drew attention to the steady and prolonged difference of opinion between himself and the vice-chairman of the Health Committee as to the methods of dealing with unsanitary property; and in justification of his action, and of the resolution which he had moved requiring explicit information as to fever-stricken streets, related the following incident. "Coming from one of the committees one day, a working-man, evidently very poor, tapped him on the shoulder and said, 'Are you Mr. Stephens?' 'Yes.' 'Well, God bless you, sir, for the attempt to deal with those horrid fever-streets. I lived in one of them. I lost my wife and two dear children; and I feel I am indebted to you for doing the poor a service.'" Mr. Stephens then went on to say that he would "never leave the question undisturbed until every one of those fever-nests was removed;" and this resolution thus nobly conceived and fearlessly expressed in the interests of the poor, who are helpless in this matter of life and death to them, is characterised by Dr. Taylor as "wild talk about effectually eradicating disease."

Mr. Stephens is one of the gentlemen who, according to Dr. Taylor, "are endeavouring, by exaggerated statements, to divert the public attention from the necessity of obtaining powers for the early notification and isolation of persons suffering from infectious disease."

The spectacle presented by Liverpool is probably as unique as it is unhappy, and may help to explain much that is strange in its

sanitary history. It is that of a chief medical officer placing himself in an attitude of irritable personal conflict with those who may venture to suggest new departures in public health administration, and actually going out of his way to indulge in a poor and pitiful sneer at the earnest representations of such responsible public bodies as the Toxteth board of guardians, and such able members of his own committee as Mr. Stephens and others, all of whose protestations and appeals he conceives to be made from no worthier motive than that of a desire to divert public attention from a scheme to which he has personally attached himself. There has probably never been a more melancholy instance of the blindness which prejudice and officialism are capable of producing.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,  
 THE WRITER OF THE ARTICLE.  
 October 27th, 1883.

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

### MANCHESTER.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

*Owens College Medical Students' Debating Society*—Dr. Cullingworth's Address—*Offer to the Manchester Royal Infirmary*—*Manchester Medical Society*—*Presentation to Mr. Lund*.

THIS week and last, medical meetings have crowded thick upon us. On Monday evening Dr. Cullingworth opened the season by delivering an inaugural address, on the place of Literature in Medicine, to the Owens College Medical Students' Debating Society. In the course of a deeply interesting and thoughtful paper, he alluded to the causes which have of late years tended to the neglect of literary style in medical writings, and also drew a graphic picture of the dismay with which the student mind is struck on his first being brought face to face with the material of a large library like that of our Medical Society, for example. He then proceeded to point out the various methods by which the mental confusion caused by the *embarras de richesses* was to be removed, and gave examples how a subject should be properly worked up by systematic reference to bibliographies and dictionaries, English and foreign. His remarks were attentively listened to by a large audience.

At the last meeting of the Board of the Manchester Royal Infirmary a letter was read from the Rev. Dawson Burns, D.D., of Tooting, offering the sum of £1,000 to the board in case they should feel inclined to carry out a non-alcoholic experiment in the treatment of disease for not less than a year. The medical board have this remarkable offer under their consideration.

The President of the Medical Society has inaugurated his second year of office by a reception to the members of the Society and members of the general public known to be interested in scientific and literary pursuits. In the reading-room of the Society a large number of the bibliographical treasures (rare folios and books of plates) were exhibited, and attracted great attention. The physiological laboratories were thrown open, and a number of physiological demonstrations were made by Professor Gamgee; while those visitors whose tastes were more botanic in their nature inspected the large and varied assortment of specimens of *materia medica* displayed in Dr. Leech's department. Dr. Dreschfeld discoursed on micro-organisms; and Dr. Cullingworth read a paper (by desire) on "The Plan of Literature in Medicine," to large audiences in the medical and anatomical theatres respectively.

A brief musical interlude served as an admirable preface to the next item on the evening's programme, viz., the presentation of a testimonial to Mr. Lund by Mr. Heath, as chairman of the Lund Testimonial Fund. This fund has been subscribed largely by Mr. Lund's past pupils, but it has also been substantially increased by the unsolicited contributions of his many professional admirers and friends in this district. The testimonial has taken the form of a portrait by Mr. J. H. E. Partington and a service of plate. The presentation took place in the Chemical Theatre of the Owens College.

THE LATE DR. ROBERT SAMUEL HUDSON.—At the last meeting of the Redruth Board of Guardians, the following resolution was proposed by the Rev. Canon Chappell, and passed unanimously:—"That this Board desires to record its appreciation of the services of the late Dr. Hudson as the medical officer and vaccinator for Redruth, and to express its sincere sympathy with Mrs. Hudson in her bereavement, and that the clerk be instructed to forward to her a copy of this resolution."

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

### THE WESTMINSTER UNION.

THE course which the Westminster Guardians are pursuing in reference to their officers is one which is, to say the least, surprising. At a recent inquiry, thirteen charges were substantiated against the Master. From this result of the inquiry, they appeared at first to have taken no action, except to indicate acute hostility to Dr. Joseph Rogers, who had been called to substantiate some charges. Thereupon, the Local Government Board called their attention to the gravity of the misconduct substantiated against the Master, and stated that they only refrained from directing peremptorily that he should be dismissed, out of deference to the views of the guardians; whereupon the guardians appear to have suspended the medical officer, who was guiltless, and whose conduct appears to have been exemplary in the matter, and certainly actuated by a conscientious desire to do his duty to the sick poor under his care, and to protect them; while, on the other hand, the guardians subscribed sixty guineas as a present to the Master, and contented themselves, under the pressure of the Local Government Board, by administering to the Master what was facetiously called a reprimand, at the same time that they told him that they thought he had largely atoned for his misconduct. Proceedings such as these are calculated to bring local self-government into discredit; and it is much to be regretted that this Board should take so perverse and so dangerous a view of its duties and responsibilities.

### THE SOCIETY OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

AT the first meeting of the session, the new president, Dr. T. Orme Dudfield, Medical Officer of Health for Kensington, delivered his inaugural address. He took for his subject that one which is at present prominently before the public, viz., the sanitary administration of the metropolis. The need of unity, he urged, did not admit of question, as would be seen when it was considered that the care of the public health was committed to about forty separate authorities, deriving many of their powers from one and the same Act of Parliament, yet practically independent, each in its own district. The metropolis stood alone in this respect, for in every other populous place there was but one authority deriving powers under codified laws, and dealing with every branch of public health and sanitary administration. A comparison was then drawn by the speaker between the almost perfect system of dealing with animal infectious diseases by notification, by isolation rigidly enforced, and by disinfection; and the imperfect means at the disposal of sanitary authorities for coping with human infectious diseases. The grant of necessary powers could be attended with the best effects for the community, but such powers would never probably be given while sanitary authority was scattered and disunited. In considering "how unity might be brought about," two courses, it was said, were open: the existing sanitary authorities might be swept away and an entirely new authority created to rule over undivided London, or, the present local machinery being retained, a central board might be established to take charge of all great questions affecting the metropolis as a whole, to establish principles on which sanitary administration should be carried out, and generally to exercise a supervising control over the work intrusted to the local board. The results he looked for in a complete unity of administration were: a system of compulsory notification of infectious diseases; provision of hospital accommodation; compulsory removal of the non-isolated infectious sick; and a complete ambulance service. The president, in conclusion, gave it as his opinion that there was no necessity for any material alteration in the constitution of the vestries and the district boards. On the contrary, he affirmed that they, or some practically identical and well-organised authorities, would be found necessary for local administrative purposes, whatever the constitution of the new central authority. On the motion of Dr. Buchanan, of the Local Government Board, seconded by Dr. Tripe of Hackney, thanks were voted to Dr. Dudfield for his address.

### MEDICAL OFFICERS' PUPILS.

SIR,—Can you or any fellow-member inform me whether a board of guardians can prohibit me from sending my pupil to take temperatures and to dress wounds in the wards of the Union Infirmary to which I am medical officer. My board have refused access to the infirmary to my pupil unless he accom-