

adjusted, and a splint was applied on the upper surface, and retained by a few turns of a roller. A Petit's tourniquet was then applied, through which was run a long piece of webbing pierced at the required lengths, and passed over the stud at the lower part of the splint, the separated surfaces previously having been brought as close as possible. A bed-rest was placed behind the patient, in order to incline the pelvis a little forward and relax the extensor muscles. A few turns of the screw daily brought the parts into close apposition, and retained them in their place, until perfect union was established. The man returned to his duty with an useful limb, and without any deformity, having been fifty days under treatment. When the splints were removed, a starched bandage was applied. This was the only case which Dr. O'Malley recollected, during his long service, of a seaman not being invalidated after receiving a similar injury.

Partial Paralysis of Arm.—Dr. AXFORD showed a patient with partial loss of power in one arm, following an injury of the musculospinal nerve.

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH: GENERAL MEETING.

A GENERAL meeting of the New South Wales Branch of the British Medical Association was held on August 7th, at the Royal Society's Rooms, Elizabeth Street, Sydney. Dr. O'REILLY occupied the chair. A paper was read by Mr. HANKINS on "A Case of Suppression of Urine, following an Operation for Stricture."

Cucaine in Surgery of the Larynx.—Dr. HOFF read a memoir on this subject. In the discussion which followed, Dr. KNAGGS remarked that it acted most rapidly on the conjunctiva and mucous membrane. It did not act fully for ten minutes when applied to the skin. He believed, however, that, as an anæsthetic, it would create a greater revolution in the medical world than even chloroform.—Dr. MATHER described the effects of the drug when applied to his own eye, the cornea and conjunctiva becoming insensible to feeling. He thought, however, that if it caused coagulation of the blood it would interfere, in cases of cataract, with the removal of the anterior capsule and the soft matter.—The CHAIRMAN stated that the solution would not keep for any length of time.—Mr. HANKINS said that this difficulty could be obviated by the addition of a single drop of chloroform.—Dr. CREED remarked that cucaine would be exceedingly valuable to check the dangerous convulsive spasms which resulted when any foreign body entered the larynx.

Quackery in Sydney.—Dr. CREED, honorary secretary, read a letter, which had been forwarded to the chairman by a layman, complaining of the increase of advertising "nervous debility" quacks in Sydney. This led to a discussion on the unsatisfactory condition of laws concerning medical qualifications in the colony. In one case a man had been convicted and sentenced to be hanged on the medical evidence of an unqualified man, whose sole experience of professional work consisted in having occasionally assisted a country surgeon in making a necropsy.

Council.—Mr. Hankins was elected to fill a vacancy in the Council, caused by the death of Dr. Fortescue.

pathological condition of the nasal mucous membrane. Summer-asthma, or hay-fever, is often in connection with a nasal affection, but it may be perfectly independent of it. M. Cartaz reports a case in which exploring the nasal fossæ produced contracture of the upper and lower limbs, the eyes became filled with tears, and the face extremely pale. This condition lasted a quarter of an hour; on a subsequent occasion, the mucous membrane was painted over with a 10 per cent. solution of cucaïne, and these symptoms did not reappear. Another patient, a boy, who, during three months, suffered from violent fits of coughing at a certain hour in the morning, was completely relieved from them after removal of a nasal polypus. Constant and repeated sneezing was temporarily relieved in another patient by applying cucaïne; this remedy acts frequently as a palliative, and also serves, when it does not cure, to establish the possible connection between a nasal affection and a neurosis. Most generally, the nasal membrane has to be cauterised with the thermic cautery, which generally modifies the existing hypertrophy; sometimes excision is inevitable. Coryza and other lesions are generally combated by applying to the membrane weak solutions of chromic acid or nitrate of silver.

M. Molard publishes, in the *Recueil d'Ophthalmologie*, a case of amaurosis. Its etiology was traced with difficulty, but the presence of tæniæ seems to have been a pathogenic factor. A man was seized with sunstroke, after working some hours in the sun; subsequently he exhibited symptoms of cerebral congestion, accompanied by amaurosis. This condition disappeared for a time and then returned. The muscles of the neck were stiff; pharyngeal spasm appeared; he became insensible, delirious, and presented amblyopia with dilated pupils. It was then ascertained that the patient was subject to frequent cerebral attacks of a similar character, and that each attack coincided with the expulsion of fragments of tæniæ. The bark of pomegranate root was administered, the worm was expelled, the patient's condition improved, and he was finally cured.

The Minister of the Interior has written to the Académie de Médecine, that he places at the disposal of that body a sum of 2,000 francs (£80) annually, to be awarded to the writers of the best works on the mortality of new-born children.

At a recent meeting of the Société de Médecine Publique et d'Hygiène Professionnelle de Paris, M. Ch. Girard read a note on the falsification of alcohol, and the necessity of instituting a strict investigation concerning the influence of falsified alcohols on the increase of insanity. Alcohols have toxic properties which increase with their atomic weight. Brandy would be dangerous if it contained alcohol belonging to a higher series than ethylic alcohol. Brandy, cognac, etc., are manufactured; the aroma is given to them by using an article of German manufacture, excessively injurious to health. The essential oil of lees of wine is obtained from Germany, and is invariably used in manufactured alcohols.

M. Toussaint read, at the same meeting, the result of his researches on milk from cows fed on brewers' grains. Some years ago, M. Girard drew attention to the fact that milk from cows fed on grains is injurious. Later on, M. Pellé, and also a number of veterinary surgeons, opposed M. Girard's belief. M. Pellé and Bréard argued that, according to analysis, the milk was good, and therefore it was wholesome; but M. Toussaint maintains milk may be chemically good, and yet not digestible. The author examined the death-register of Argenteuil, and he ascertained that deaths from gastro-enteritis, and from intestinal affections, were more frequent among bottle-fed children since a large distillery had been established there. Milk from cows to which the malt-refuse from the distillery is given is acid, and is not digested by children.

De Barbillon, in the *Revue des Maladies de l'Enfance*, publishes the results obtained by Dr. Labric, by painting over the isthmus of the fauces with a solution of cucaïne in whooping-cough. The first application produces a fit of coughing, but not the subsequent ones; two or three applications are made within twenty-four hours, according to the condition of the patient. This treatment has reduced fifteen or twenty fits of coughing in one day to five or six; vomiting after eating also disappears under the influence of cucaïne. The proportion is 50 centigrammes of chlorhydrate of cucaïne, and 10 grammes of water. Dr. Græffner, in the *Gazette des Sciences Médicales de Bordeaux*, publishes a case of whooping-cough successfully treated by vapour, holding hydrochlorate of cucaïne in suspension. These inhalations are repeated twice a day. The solution contained from six centigrammes to one gramme of hydrochlorate of cucaïne, according to the age of the patient, 45 grammes of distilled water, and five centigrammes of chlorate of potash. Dr. Græffner also recommends painting over the throat with a 3 per cent. solution of cucaïne for nervous cough in hysterical women.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Reflex Neuroses of Nasal Origin.—*Amaurosis in connection with Tæniæ.*

Gift of the Minister of the Interior to the Académie de Médecine.

The Influence of Falsified Alcohol on the Increase of Madness.

Infant Mortality from Milk when the Cows are fed on Malt.—*Treatment of Whooping-Cough by Cucaine.*—*General News.*

DR. CARTAZ, in an article in the *France Médicale*, describes the varieties of nervous disturbance which may proceed from nasal affections. There is a special form of asthma due to the presence of nasal polypus; irritation of the nasal mucous membrane produces the same condition. Spasmodic cough, sneezing fits, vertigo, different kinds of neurosis, may result from hyperæsthesia of the nasal mucous membrane. The special cough called nasal cough is only exhibited when an exploring instrument is passed up the nasal fossæ. Coughing is most intense when the instrument is in contact with the deepest part of the fossæ. The region whence proceeds this reflex action is very limited. Patients tormented with a violent cough, utterly unexplained by the condition of their respiratory organs, have been cured by treating a nasal affection. According to Hack, of Freiburg, various nervous affections, migraine, neuralgia, vaso-motor neuroses, result from a

M. Bourgeois, an army surgeon, has invented a new vaccinating lancet. The excisions can be made as deep as desired with this instrument. The length is generally a millimètre. The operation is painless and almost bloodless. By means of a glass tube, a small drop of vaccine-fluid is poured on to each incision, and inoculation is thus assured.

Professor Jaccoud stated, before the Académie de Médecine, that his researches on thalline and antipyrine lead him to conclude that these substances are by no means valuable therapeutic agents. They undoubtedly lower the temperature, but produce nervous distress.

Dr. Lauraud publishes, in the *Journal des Sciences Médicales de Lille*, cases which indicate that antipyrine in epistaxis is a powerful hæmstatic. A solution of 1 in 30 was used.

Cochin Hospital will soon be laicised. It appears that this hospital was founded in 1782, by a legacy from Abbé Jean Denys Cochin, under the express condition that sisters, not lay nurses, should attend the patients. When the hospital was built and organised, sisters of charity were the sole nurses. The administration argue that there is not any clause in the Abbe's will prohibiting lay nurses doing the work, and the presence of the sisters of charity when the hospital was organised does not prevent their being replaced by lay nurses. The Conseil de Surveillance de l'Assistance Publique, on April 23rd last, endorsed this view. M. Cochin, a municipal councillor, is the Abbé's heir. He intends to dispute this decision, and to proceed against the prefect of the Seine.

BERLIN.

[FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

The Vacation-Courses for Medical Practitioners.

THESE courses, which have been in existence for a few years, have now really established themselves as a fixed institution, and are becoming appreciated as they deserve. They are conducted by able physicians and surgeons, some of whom are well known and occupy important positions. This year a large number of medical men took advantage of the practical instruction; and although the great majority were German practitioners, a number were from America and a few from England and Scotland.

The courses began on September 25th, and continued till the end of October. A number of them were held at the Royal Charité, the oldest and largest hospital in Berlin. It was founded in the year 1710, and has now accommodation for about 1,800 patients. Its wards are low roofed and badly ventilated; they appear rather small and overcrowded. At the head of each bed is fixed, at a considerable height, a small black board, on which is chalked, in very admirable calligraphy, the name of the patient, his occupation, age, etc. A schedule is also placed there, in which are entered the particulars of the case. Male nurses attend the men. Two university teachers, Fränkel and Litten, each conduct a course on general medicine in the Charité. Both these teachers devote special attention to auscultation and percussion, in addition to the other means of diagnosis. A vacation-course on midwifery and gynecology was held in the Charité by Dr. Wyder. At the Pathological Institute, connected with this great hospital, two classes in the course met for practical demonstrations in pathology and histology.

A little north of the Charité is situated the more modern Augusta Hospital, where Professor Kuster and Dr. Schmid held practical courses in modern surgery and the application of surgical appliances. Dr. Guttman, well known by his work on *Physical Diagnosis*, a translation of which is published by the Sydenham Society, had a class for clinical medicine, meeting in the Stadt Krankenhaus or Touris Hospital at Moabit, a suburb of Berlin. The doctor occupies the post of Director of this institution, and is, therefore, in a position to utilise the enormous material at his command for teaching purposes. A stranger is struck by the free way in which German teachers use this word in speaking of the patients under their charge, whom they regard very much as a means of instructing their students. The Krankenhaus at Moabit is a well appointed hospital, and is beautifully situated quite in the country, amidst abundant vegetation. It is constructed of detached one-storied buildings, and has accommodation for all kinds of disease. Dr. Guttman is a very systematic and lucid demonstrator, and is much appreciated by the practitioners attending his courses.

At the other town's hospital, in the Friedrichshain, classes met in connection with the vacation-course for practical instruction in clinical medicine and surgery. This hospital is quite modern, having been

completed in 1874. Like the hospital at Moabit, it is constructed on the "pavilion" system. It is a large institution, providing accommodation for 600 patients. It is a beautiful place, and is furnished with all the latest improvements. Its two Directors, Dr. Hahn and Dr. Riess, gave practical demonstrations—the former in surgery, and the latter in medicine—to the student-practitioners attending their classes. It is not to be understood that these Towns Hospitals are only for paupers, as the patients are required to pay, and this they are enabled to do by reason of the benefit-societies, of which nearly all the working population of Berlin are members.

One of the outstanding features of the city of Berlin is the large number of monuments erected everywhere to the memory of distinguished warriors. There are very few to be seen commemorating the peaceful achievements of workers in literature, art, and science. However, there is one very beautiful memorial, of a man distinguished in a special branch of medical science, which must commend universal admiration. At the south end of the garden in which the Charité is situated, but facing the street, is placed a very elegant statue, by Siemering, of Professor von Gräfe, embellished on each side by splendidly coloured mosaics representing sufferers before and after treatment at the hands of the great oculist. The special department of surgery which he did so much to advance has still a number of worthy representatives in Berlin; and in this autumn's vacation-courses two classes were held for practical demonstrations in ophthalmology, one of them being conducted by Professor Hirschberg. For the study of diseases of the ear, Dr. L. Jacobson, assistant to Dr. Lucae, the professor of otology in Berlin University, had a large class of medical men which met in the premises of the Royal University Ear Clinic. Dr. Jacobson took the greatest pains to demonstrate the diagnosis of each case brought before his students. He attached a sheet of paper to each patient, on which the diagnosis was written, accompanied with a sketch of the appearances seen on inspection with the mirror and speculum. He also gave demonstrations of modes of catheterising the Eustachian tube, and delivered a theoretical course of lectures on separate days. At various polyclinics, other courses for the teaching of this branch of surgery were conducted. One of the best known was that of Dr. Arthur Hartmann, who, although not included in the vacation-course, had a class of surgeons in practice studying the ear and nose. Dr. Hartmann has long been identified in a very distinguished manner with aural surgery, by reason of his frequent contributions to the literature of the subject, by his well-known book on *Deaf-Mutism*, translated by the late Dr. James Patterson Cassells, and by his work on *Ear-Disease and its Treatment*, a third edition of which has just been published. Dr. Hartmann is associated in the same polyclinic with Professor Köhner for diseases of the skin, and Dr. Krause for diseases of the throat, both of whom have classes for the study of these special branches in connection with the vacation-courses of this autumn. We were refused admission to Dr. Krause's class, because he already had more students than he had accommodation for; and for this reason he had to decline to enrol a number of others in addition to ourselves. This may serve as an illustration of how these courses are being appreciated. Another class, for diseases of the throat, nose, and nasopharynx, was held by Dr. Lublinski, in the Royal University Polyclinic, where a large number of patients were examined and treated by the students three times a week, one of these days being Sunday, when a theoretical lecture is given. Other special departments of medicine and surgery received their due share of attention in the vacation-courses. Among these should be mentioned the course on gynecology by Dr. Martin, well known in this department. His class met in his own clinic or hospital for diseases of women, a large and splendidly equipped establishment. He is a most careful and daring operator, and has a major operation on hand almost every second day, amongst these, figuring very prominently, the operation of ovariectomy, in which he has achieved distinguished success. There were some courses for diseases of children held at public polyclinics throughout the city, where all kinds of cases in this most important branch of medicine receive treatment. At one of these we saw, at one sitting, cases of scarlet fever, measles, and whooping-cough, along with many other interesting cases. The other special departments of medicine and surgery represented in the Berlin vacation-courses included psychiatry and brain-disease, nerve-diseases and electro-therapeutics, dentistry and diseases of the mouth. Similar short courses are held during the rest of the year by some of the foregoing teachers, the winter semester commencing in the beginning of November.

We are inclined to regard the medical school in Berlin as a worthy rival of that in Vienna, the latter of which has hitherto been more widely known. The merits of medical teaching in Berlin are yearly gaining a more extensive circle of appreciation; and, from personal

experience of them, we have great pleasure in recommending the above courses to all who can find it convenient to take advantage of them.

CAIRO.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Reorganisation of the Egyptian Sanitary Service.

In a previous letter, I referred to the fact that Surgeon-Major Greene was now virtually the head of the Sanitary Service, the native Director having resigned, and his office being held in abeyance. It is still undecided whether another Director will be placed over Dr. Greene; the latter, however, has been accorded the title of Inspector-General of the Sanitary Service, and his influence and authority are now firmly established. Notwithstanding that passive obstruction in which native officials are such adepts, Dr. Greene's quiet, but firm, persistence has succeeded in introducing a thorough reorganisation of the Sanitary Service. Many of the reforms introduced have been described on previous occasions. I will now only mention those changes which have occurred quite recently, or will come into force at the commencement of the year.

There were originally two chief clerks at the Central Bureau, one European and one native. The latter was a type of the corruptible Egyptian official, and had many and powerful friends. These gentlemen are to be replaced by one chief clerk, who will be proficient in Arabic and French. This change will save money and facilitate business. Mr. Colvin, the late European chief clerk, who has done valuable service to the administration during fifteen years, will be appointed secretary and finance director to the Khedivial Laboratory, in succession to Mr. Ismalun, whose appointment, opposed by Dr. Grant Bey, was one of the scandals of a former "Conseil Sanitaire." Mr. Ismalun is to be made Director of Government Exhibitions. The Khedivial Laboratory will be placed under the Sanitary Service.

In future, questions of discipline, instead of being referred to the Comité Sanitaire, which is independent of the Directorate, will be decided by the head of the Service in consultation with the senior inspectors.

The Budget for 1886 will be entirely under the control of the Administration, and not entrusted partially to governors of towns and mudirs of provinces, as was formerly the case.

The sum of £7,000 has been set apart by the Public Works Department for new constructions, such as hospitals, abattoirs, etc., to be undertaken next year. The sum originally named was only £4,000, but Dr. Greene's representations obtained its increase to £7,000.

The provincial hospitals have been equipped with instruments, and are periodically provided with medicines according to scale.

The central medical store dépôt, which is situated at the Cairo Hospital, and is under the control of Dr. Milton, has been divided into three sections of medicine, instruments, and surgical dressing materials. A standard *Pharmacopœia* has been introduced.

The management of fairs has been relegated to the Sanitary Department, and special grants of money are made for the purpose. The favourable result obtained in the case of Fantah Fair, under Mr. Hooker's direction, I have previously described. The sheikhs of mosques in the towns, where fairs thus controlled have taken place, have expressed themselves as much pleased with the measures adopted.

Owing to the acknowledged incapacity of the existing veterinary surgeons, the chief part of them have been released from the service of the Government; only those are to be retained who can satisfy a board of examiners, consisting partly of Englishmen. Qualified veterinarians from Europe will be obtained for the vacant posts.

In future, all the chief medical men at provincial hospitals are to reside at their hospitals. Dr. Varenhorst, the late chief medical man at the Alexandria Hospital, to whom I referred in a previous letter, has, in consequence of this rule, ceased to act as doctor of the hospital, but retains his salary with the title of consulting physician.

Port Said Hospital has been much improved under the able management of Dr. Robertson.

In order to improve the provincial hospitals, it is ordered that the medical officers in charge shall attend at Kasr-el-Ain Hospital, in batches of four, to undergo a period of three months' instruction.

A sanitary engineer is to be appointed at a salary of £480 a year, rising gradually to £600; also a lady doctor, in order to introduce sanitation into the harems.

LIVERPOOL.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Charge of Manslaughter against an Unqualified Practitioner.—Hospital Sunday and Saturday.—Financial Condition of the Hospitals.—The Municipal and School-Board Elections.—Proposed Foundling Hospital.—The Artisans' Dwellings, Victoria Square.—The Mayor of Bootle.—Hospital Sunday in Bootle.

IN THE JOURNAL for February 21st of this year, I referred to an action for libel brought against a surgeon by an unqualified practitioner, in which a verdict was recorded for the defendant. The plaintiff in this case, whose name is De Tomanzie, has again come prominently before the public. On October 31st, an inquest was held on the body of a woman, who, it was alleged, had died in consequence of an operation to procure abortion having been performed by De Tomanzie. After a full investigation, in the course of which Dr. T. W. O. Pughe and Mr. Paul, of Liverpool, and Dr. Miller, of Birkenhead, gave evidence, the jury brought in a verdict that "death was the result of an operation performed on her by Dr. De Tomanzie." This the coroner pointed out amounted to manslaughter. The case will be tried at the Chester assizes.

The usual annual meeting of the Hospital Sunday Committee was held on November 7th, the mayor presiding. Last year there was a considerable falling-off in the receipts, but this year the deficiency amounts to £841, more than double that of the previous year. On the other hand, the Hospital Saturday Collection shows an increase of £43. The total receipts for the year amount to £9,216 15s. 3d., including £6,537 from collections at places of worship, and £2,603 from the Saturday boxes. Grants to the medical charities have been made to the extent of £8,880. A very gratifying feature of the work of the year has been the formation of a committee by working men for the purpose of looking after Hospital Saturday collections.

Several of our hospitals have been seriously affected by the falling off of subscriptions, in consequence, presumably, of the general depression of trade. Special efforts have therefore to be made, in order to clear off debts, or to meet the working expenses of the year. It is announced that a concert will shortly be held in aid of the Hospital for Women; and, during the first three days of December, a bazaar, in the interests of the Ladies' Charity and Lying-in Hospital, is to be opened in St. George's Hall. In the latter case, unfortunately, the general election will be going on about the same time. Political feeling runs high in this city; and it is to be feared that the sale of work will be lost sight of amidst the excitement of the election.

It is a most unusual circumstance for three elections to take place so near one another in point of time. Two of them—the municipal and the school-board—are over. In the first of these, much interest was taken in the candidature of Dr. John Bligh for one of the wards, but he was unfortunately defeated. This is to be regretted for many reasons; but especially because at the present juncture, when hospital matters are absorbing so much attention in the Council, another medical representative would have been a valuable addition to the ranks of the city councillors. Dr. Bligh and Dr. Canavan, members of the late School Board, did not seek re-election this time; but the latter has become a member of the recently constituted School Board at Bootle.

Several months ago, it was proposed to establish a foundling-hospital here; and, on the 4th of this month, a public meeting was held in support of the project. It is intended to raise the sum of £400 at first, which it is believed will cover the expense of maintaining about fifteen children. There is no doubt that such an institution is greatly needed; but, up to the present, the scheme has not enlisted much active sympathy or support. The meeting was very badly attended, and only £200 have as yet been subscribed.

The artisans' dwellings on the Nash Grove site, which were recently opened by the Home Secretary, are likely to be rapidly occupied. The group of buildings, which have been named Victoria Square, contain 86 tenements of three rooms each, 164 of two rooms each, and 21 of single rooms; and the rents are from 5s. to 5s. 6d., 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d., and 2s. a week respectively, inclusive of gas, water, and taxes. The buildings are most admirably constructed, all the workmanship is solid and good, and the tenements and the buildings generally are roomy and cheerful, with plenty of space for the free circulation of fresh air. The site upon which the dwellings have been erected is bounded on every side by streets, and contains 9,195 superficial yards, of which 3,924 yards are occupied by buildings, and 5,271 yards in approaches and in a large quadrangular open space.

The total estimated cost, including the full market value of the land, is under £70,000. Before the area was cleared, under the Artisans' and Labourers' Dwellings Act of 1875, a population of 1,310 lived in the low streets by which it was covered. The number of people living here, under the worst possible sanitary conditions, was at the rate of 282 per acre.

Last week, Dr. Hill was unanimously elected Mayor of Bootle. He has been a member of the council for some years.

The Hospital Sunday collections were made in Bootle last Sunday. The proceeds go to the Borough Hospital, which this year shows a deficiency of £500 on its working expenses. This deficit appears to be mainly due to increased expenditure resulting from a marked increase in the number of patients.

GLASGOW.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Pulsating Tumour of the Orbit.—Outbreak of Small-Pox.—Liquid Fuel.—Western Infirmary Museum Catalogue.—Pathological Society.—Discussion on Malignant Tumours.

LIGATION of the carotid artery was performed last week at the Royal Infirmary by Mr. H. E. Clark for a pulsating tumour of the orbit. The patient was a female, and the orbital affection had followed an injury to the head. The case was brought recently before the Pathological Society, and the general opinion then was that the affection arose from some communication between the internal carotid artery and the venous channel in the cavernous sinus. The operation was done some days ago, and the result so far has been very satisfactory. Another of Mr. Clark's operations last week at the same hospital was that of gastrostomy for malignant disease of the œsophagus, but I understand that the case has followed the usual course of these cases, and had a fatal issue.

We seem at present to be threatened with an outbreak of small-pox in our midst, notwithstanding the unceasing vigilance of our sanitary staff. Since the beginning of the month, about twenty cases have occurred, a larger number than has been registered since April of last year. The one satisfactory feature about this sudden extension of the disease is that a connection has been more or less traced between all the cases, and they can mostly be referred to that of a girl who suffered from what was clearly an attack of modified small-pox, in which, however, no medical man saw her, and consequently no precautions were taken to prevent her becoming the source of infection to others. Our death-rate for the last week has been 24 per 1,000, which is below that for the corresponding period of previous years. The sudden access of cold and frosty weather that has taken place this week, seeing that it is accompanied with dense fog, is likely to make itself felt injuriously on the very old and young by an increase in pulmonary affections.

The question of liquid fuel for our steamers, and for the machinery in our large works, is a matter of scientific interest that is at present exciting some attention here. Creasote-oil is the substance that has been very extensively experimented with, and recent trials seem to point to its suitability as a substitute for coal, especially in the case of steamers, the heat from the flame being quite equal to that obtained from coal, and enabling steam to be raised very rapidly. No doubt the subject is being pushed forwards on economical grounds, but one very great recommendation connected with the use of this liquid fuel is the absence of smoke accompanying its employment. In fact, it causes little or no smoke; so that it is not difficult to see that, if its use become general in connection with the machinery employed in our large manufacturing towns, the amenity and healthiness of cities would be much increased by the substitution of a clear and agreeable atmosphere for the present dense murky one that often envelopes them. I may say that it has been decided to put the matter to a practical test on one of our river-steamers.

I understand that a somewhat laborious but very useful piece of work has just been accomplished, in the preparation of a very complete catalogue of the specimens in the pathological museum of our Western Infirmary. Although not yet published, it is out of the printer's hands, and will shortly be issued. Our Western Infirmary is, so to speak, a comparatively recent hospital; but already there has been brought together in the museum a large number of interesting and instructive specimens, and the work which has just been completed by Dr. Coats and those assisting him must materially add to their value and usefulness for the purpose of study and the teaching of pathology.

At the last meeting of the Pathological Society, a boy suffering from pseudo-hypertrophic paralysis was shown by Dr. Donald Mac-

phail. Dr. Newman brought forward two patients suffering from tumours of the larynx, the case of one of them being interesting from tracheotomy having been performed painlessly after the subcutaneous injection of cocaine. It has been decided to hold a discussion in connection with the Society on the 20th of January next, the subject to be malignant tumours. The points to be specially considered are, their origin and mode of extension, their recurrence, their hereditary tendency, and how they cause death apart from involving vital organs. A demonstration of specimens and microscopic preparations will be held during the previous week, and there can be no doubt that a most interesting and profitable discussion should follow on such a topic.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE COLLEGES AND THE M.D. DEGREE.

SIR,—May I venture to put before your readers one or two considerations with regard to the proposal to obtain for the Colleges of Surgeons and Physicians in London, the power to confer the title of Doctor of Medicine?

1. The title will be of no value to its possessors, excepting in so far as it may convey the false belief to an unenquiring public, that the possessor has acquired the M.D. degree of an university. The significance of an university degree in medicine is simply this, that it is conferred as the result of the compliance with a curriculum or tests, approved not by a special professional body, but by an academical body representing science and learning of all kinds.

That the representatives of the once highly esteemed and venerated medical corporations of London should be dissatisfied with the honourable titles which they have so long been wont to confer, and should desire to confer a title which is at the present moment the exclusive property of the universities and the Archbishop of Canterbury, is a matter for deep regret; especially when it is obvious (although it is impossible to suppose that those who advocate the demand perceive this to be the case), that it will lead to a grievous deception and confusion in the public mind.

2. Whether it is possible that, by a side-wind, the power to confer an electro-plate university degree may be attained by the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, it is certain that, in fair and open discussion, the universities of Great Britain would be able to show conclusively that, for the Crown to delegate this power to any corporation not having an academical constitution, would be a serious wrong to the duly organised bodies which have accepted the privilege, and have carried on their business accordingly. It would, morally, amount to a breach of contract. That existing universities may need correction and reform, and that new universities should come into existence, and receive the some privileges which have been accorded to others, in the manner and on the conditions which have been approved in most European States, one can admit, whilst one must regard as an absolute crime the destruction of the distinctive significance of the letters implying an university degree; the privilege of conferring which has been granted by the Crown, hitherto with the express purpose of inducing the youth of the country to seek the higher and more extended courses of study rather than the lower; and never for the purpose of enabling professional corporations to pretend to an academical character which they do not possess. This, indeed, they cannot claim without showing a strange want of appreciation of the time-honoured and dignified position won for them by past generations of their own body.

3. Lastly, I would ask those interested in medical education in London whether, apart from the above considerations, they consider that it is desirable that the future M.D. degree of London should be in the hands of two corporations, which, however excellent for the functions hitherto discharged by them, are not so constructed as to represent the interests of medical education in London. The Colleges represent, in a more or less efficient way, the interests of the medical profession in England; but are the teachers in the London hospitals and schools satisfied that, whilst the examining body in Burlington Gardens appears to them in this matter of medical degrees as King Log, the conjoint colleges will not prove a King Stork?

Surely it will be better to have still some patience, and not to hastily assent to the undignified proposition that the conjoint colleges shall usurp the functions of an university. Let us rather endeavour to construct a real university in London, with Faculties of History, Science, Law, and Medicine, in the latter of which the profession of Medicine will not be represented as such, but the special