

Twigg (*British Medical Journal*, July 20th, 1889, p. 127); Poisoning by "Sicherheit" Explosive, by H. J. Knight, M.R.C.S. (*Ibid.*, Aug. 3rd, 1889, p. 244)—Mr. Knight mentions that in Dr. Swaine Taylor's work a fatal case is reported; and Poisoning by "Sicherheit" (a new Explosive), by John Stokes, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S. (*THE LANCET*, Aug. 24th, 1889). Surely, Sirs, no unprejudiced observer would compare the effects of di-nitro-benzol (or roburite) with the fumes of gun-cotton, nor would they find fault with your article for stating that it is "a very poisonous compound," after considering these papers.

I am, Sirs, your obedient Servant,  
August, 1889. THE WRITER OF THE ARTICLE.

### TASTE FUNCTION OF THE GLOSSO-PHARYNGEAL NERVE.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In your otherwise accurate report of the proceedings of Sections at the Leeds meeting I notice two errors in the paragraph referring to my paper on the above subject. I am reported to have said: "There was some pain and numbness, which might be due to the interference with the blood-supply to the descending tract on that side." This should be: "The partial hemiplegia was to be accounted for by the interference with the blood-supply of the descending tract." Your report also has: "The evidence of pressure on the nerve was the loss of taste on one side of the tongue." As the object of the paper was to show that loss of taste having occurred owing to pressure on the nerve, therefore the glosso-pharyngeal must be considered to be a nerve of taste in opposition to the view held by Dr. Gowers, the concluding paragraph as reported would be a begging of the entire question, and have no bearing on the object of the paper.

As the former of these two errors represents me as having made a mistake impossible even to a beginner in neurology, I trust you will be able to find room for this correction.

I am, Sirs, yours obediently,  
Leicester, Aug. 26th, 1889. FRANK M. POPE, M.B., M.R.C.P.

### ECTOPIC PREGNANCY.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Mr. J. N. Thomas's admirably narrated case is one of the many observations which are being rapidly accumulated to prove that "clear and decided teaching on the theory and practice of extra-uterine pregnancy" has at last been arrived at. There can be no doubt that Mr. Thomas's patient had a tubal pregnancy, and that on April 23rd the tubal expansion ruptured into the cavity of the right broad ligament, forming the extra-peritoneal hæmatocele, which requires no treatment as a rule. In the cataclysm the ovum died, and the whole thing was quietly absorbed, as extra-peritoneal hæmatoceles generally are. The case, in fact, forms a perfect illustration of variety *e* of tubal pregnancy in the scheme given on page 8 of my book on "Ectopic Pregnancy and Pelvic Hæmatocele."

I am, Sirs, yours obediently,  
Birmingham, Aug. 22nd, 1889. LAWSON TAIT.

### MR. WHEELHOUSE'S ADDRESS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I hope the above address will be brought under the notice of the general public, and that the attention of members of Parliament will be especially called to those portions of it which have reference to pupilage as the best mode of commencing medical studies. The Privy Council is now medical king, and to it and not to the medical corporations must the mass of the profession look for the reform so ably advocated by Mr. Wheelhouse. Hence the necessity of putting the address in lay hands. I would suggest to Mr. Wheelhouse to republish it in pamphlet form and send a copy to each member of the Legislature and to each Privy Councillor. I would observe that in order to make pupilage a reality it should be registered from the commencement of the apprenticeship, otherwise practitioners would be found base enough to sign certificates for apprenticeships never served. There should also be some proof that the practitioner possessed opportunities for teaching, and possibly even the will and capacity to teach. The great English Colleges throw no obstacle now in the way.

It is different with their obscure Irish rivals. Intending students and candidates for diplomas would best consult their own interests by turning their faces Londonwards, as three-fourths of them ultimately will find employment outside Ireland. Let me, in conclusion, call the attention of medical members of Parliament and of the whole profession to the new Dublin Hospitals Bill, and to ask them to insist that no hospital shall under that Bill be allowed to dip its hands into the pockets of the taxpayers which does not consent to throw open its medical appointments to public competition. Is it to be tolerated that our taxes are to maintain institutions which select their staffs by the system which prevails at present in Dublin? I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Cashel, Aug. 22nd, 1889. T. LAFFAN.

### THE PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Allow me to suggest to Mr. Ritchie through the medium of your columns that he should bring in a Bill to compel every landlord, on letting his house, to produce, under a heavy penalty in default, a certificate of recent date, from one holding a recognised public health diploma, stating that the sanitary condition of the house about to be let is in every way perfect. In those cases where the rent is below a certain figure the certificate might be granted by the qualified district inspector for a certain minimum amount. The necessity for some such law may be shown by the following case. I was a short time ago called to see a gentleman suffering from diphtheria, and, after going over the possible causes of the attack, asked him as regards the sanitary condition of his London office. This, he assured me, was all right, as he had had the place inspected by a builder a short time ago. However, I was not satisfied, and requested him to have a properly qualified man to look into the matter thoroughly. To this he consented, and the result was that the house was shown to be in a wretchedly unhealthy state, and the sewer gas to be constantly pouring into the room in which he sat. Now, I ask, what good dual notification would have brought about here? The *origin* of the disease would never have been traced out by it, and several cases might have arisen in other districts by means of the persons who occupied the other equally unhealthy chambers. If Mr. Ritchie will bring in a Bill of the character suggested, he will receive the thanks of all true sanitary reformers, and I do not hesitate to assert that more good will result to the public health in consequence than will ever be brought about by the system which is being so persistently urged upon him by certain members—viz., dual notification.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,  
Surbiton, Aug. 24th, 1889. F. P. ATKINSON, M.D.

### ANTIPYRIN IN CANCER OF THE CERVIX UTERI.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I find it highly advisable, for the benefit of patients and for further experiments, to communicate to the profession the favourable result I have obtained by the use of antipyrin in a case of cancer of the cervix uteri, the pain being immediately subdued after its administration. Though this beneficial effect was of short duration, still it was of great importance and satisfaction to the patient. Being summoned to see a European lady, from Port Natal, apparently under forty years of age, I found her suffering from cancer of the cervix uteri in an advanced stage. She complained of severe lancinating pain, worse at nights, disturbing sleep, and of intense fetor of the discharge, and of many other discomforts. She also stated that, having consulted several physicians, she had obtained no relief. The characteristic severity of the pain and fetor of the discharge had reduced the patient to a pitiful condition. It occurred to me that antipyrin perhaps would do her some good, so I prescribed ten grains of it to be given at once in my presence, and great was my surprise, and still greater the satisfaction of the patient, to find the pain, which was so severe before, immediately subdued. Now I repeat the same when the pain comes on, and have observed no unpleasant symptoms arising attributable to antipyrin. I shall communicate any further results.—I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

M. V. C. MARQUIS, F.S.Sc. Lond., L.R.C.P., &c.  
Bombay, July 30th, 1889.