

minal wound. The advantages claimed for the method are—(1) after division of the broad ligaments, and until the suture of the peritoneal flaps, all operative procedures are outside the peritoneum, and away from all sources of danger; (2) the operation is practically bloodless; (3) the peritoneal cavity is left closed and clean; (4) the stump is left unbruised by the application of any elastic ligature.

I note that in all three of Dr. Heywood Smith's cases an elastic tourniquet was used, that in two cases he had suppuration, and in the third a hæmatocele, all of which, owing to the excellence of his suture, were extra-peritoneal. In all surgical procedures I take it the first aim is to diminish, as far as possible, the introduction into the wound of noxious elements, be they germs, germ products, or germicides; the second is to injure as little as possible the tissues left behind, for in these tissues the healing process, with its extraordinary tendency to degenerate into inflammation, has to take place. The application of a tourniquet in an amputation of an extremity is attended with but little risk, partly from the facility with which it is properly applied, partly from the strong resisting power of the skin and subcutaneous tissue, and partly from the distance between the point of application and the tissues which have to heal. In the application of a tourniquet to the uterus the exactly opposite obtains, and I think the results will be rendered more perfect and the operation more bloodless by the ligature of the main trunks of the uterine arteries before removing the tumour.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Cairo, Feb. 28th, 1892.

HERBERT MILTON.

## WINTER COUGH AND NOSE OBSTRUCTION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The frequency of chronic winter cough, laryngeal catarrh, and cold in the head is unfortunately, in this country, Europe, and America, notorious. I have recently shown from the examination of over 1000 living and 5000 dried skulls that some irregularity of the nasal septum, causing more or less obstruction to nasal respiration, is a constant feature of nine out of every ten persons living in those countries. Facts are steadily accumulating, and the conviction is becoming established with many who are competent to judge "that chronic winter cough, laryngeal catarrh, and post-nasal catarrh, with all their consequences, are in the majority of cases the direct result of breathing unfiltered, cold, and dry air that has not passed through the proper respiratory gate." This proposition can only be refuted by evidence to the contrary, and established by showing that every person suffering from winter cough or laryngeal catarrh, or a great majority of these, has some marked obstruction in the nose. This investigation is now proceeding at several centres, and it is with the object of still further directing attention to the subject that I write this letter, and subscribe myself

Your faithful servant,

MAYO COLLIER, M.S. Lond., F.R.C.S. Eng.

New Cavendish-street, W., March 24th, 1892.

## MR. BARFORD AND WELLINGTON COLLEGE.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Mr. Barford appeals to me in your columns with respect to three cases of sore-throat which occurred some years ago in my own family, and which were attended by him in the course of private practice. Will you allow me to answer his appeal by one question? If he considered them at the time to be cases of diphtheria, as he now thinks that he did, why did he not advise any quarantine or measures of disinfection? There were three young children in the house, and boys of the school were constantly in and out of it.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

Malvern, March 28th, 1892.

E. C. WICKHAM.

## BIRMINGHAM.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

### The Queen's Hospital.

THE fifty-first annual meeting of this institution was held on the 28th ult., the president, Lord Leigh, in the chair. It was stated that the report was both gratifying and encouraging. There had been a large increase of

patients, the sanitary condition of the hospital was eminently satisfactory, while the nursing scheme had proved to be very valuable and useful. The report further stated that the average residence of in-patients was 21.1 days, while the death-rate was exceptionally low, and the management very complete and well organised. The usual votes of thanks were passed, and the Earl of Dudley was elected president for the ensuing year.

### The Ingleby Lectures.

Dr. Foxwell, the Ingleby lecturer for the year, gave the first of a series of lectures at Queen's College on the 29th ult. The subject taken was "The Condition and Treatment of the Vascular System in Chlorosis and other Debilitated States." After sketching the life of the founder and the origin of the lectures, Dr. Foxwell delivered an interesting lecture to an appreciative audience. The practice of living at a pressure beyond the strength of the individual capacity was dwelt upon and the evils pointed out. The errors of pressure in child life, before development is complete, received attention, and condemnation was expressed at the common practice of returning to work too quickly after a severe illness. Two more lectures will complete the series.

### The Medical Institute.

The annual report has just been issued and is considered to be satisfactory. The register established last year for the registration of locum tenens, dispensers, and nurses has not been a success owing to the small number of names sent in. The financial statement shows a deficit of £29 8s.; £12 more than last year has been expended in books, and in the course of the year 1216 volumes were issued to 125 borrowers.

### Assize Cases.

Two cases of some importance to the public were tried at the local assizes recently, both of which have had considerable local interest. At the Staffordshire assizes John Goodall was sentenced to two years' imprisonment with hard labour for indecently assaulting Mrs. Siddalls in a railway carriage near Tamworth. The points emphasised were the want of separate compartments for ladies travelling alone, of adequate means of communication with the guard in cases of necessity, and of communication with the adjoining compartment. Two medical students who were travelling in the next compartment when the victim fell from the foot-board were the principal witnesses for the prosecution. The second case is still a mystery. A boy was sent with his father's breakfast, never returned, and his body was found, stripped of clothes, in the canal. The two prisoners escaped the more serious charge, but pleaded guilty to stealing the boy's clothes, which they say they fished out of the canal. How the boy came to be without his clothes and how he got into the canal are questions which remain undecided.

March 30th.

## NORTHERN COUNTIES NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

### Strikes and their Effects.

THE effects of the present unfortunate strike of engineers, which has now gone on about seven weeks, are now being very severely felt in Newcastle and district. In Newcastle and Gateshead alone the *Newcastle Chronicle* computes that not fewer than 2000 people are actively engaged in the alleviation of poverty, and the amount contributed for its relief has now reached £200 a day. This does not take into account private benefactions and an immense amount of aid in many ways which is not published. At South Hetton, and many other colliery villages, the people are suffering from a scarcity of water which, it is feared, may lead to much illness before long. This scarcity may be termed entirely artificial—that is, there is abundant water, but the strike leaders refuse to allow any of the hands to work the pumps at the collieries whence the water is supplied; hence, as regards water, their families may be said to be starving in the midst of plenty from this self-imposed "famine." Another matter affecting the sanitary condition of many of the Durham colliery villages is the neglected state of the ashpits and privies. It appears that all cleansing operations are in abeyance owing to the withdrawal of the horses and carters, so that the usual receptacles for dirt and rubbish