

bdellium, myrrh, &c., are recommended for the cure of cancer of liver, spleen, womb, and other organs.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

Harley-street, W., April 6th.

JOHN TWEEDY.

### A CASE OF EARLY PREGNANCY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As the following case appears to me to possess some interest, I am induced to call attention to it. Although there are cases of pregnancy on record as occurring in England at an earlier age than the following, yet the girl in this instance was so extremely young, and parturition proved so unexpectedly easy, that the matter seems worthy of being recorded:—

L. E— (born February 7th, 1867, daughter of a farmer) was brought to me in November last to be treated for amenorrhœa. I learned from her mother that the menstrual flow, which had made its first appearance during the preceding April, had not occurred since. Struck by the peculiar figure of the girl, I inquired of the mother whether she had any suspicion of the nature of her daughter's condition, and I then elicited that it had recently come to the knowledge of the parents that there had been an improper intimacy between her and a lad of twenty, employed as farm servant. In consequence of this I made an examination, which verified my suspicion that she was pregnant. I may here mention that the affair became subsequently the subject of criminal proceedings against the lad, who in January last was sentenced to a term of twelve months' imprisonment under the provisions of the recent Act of Parliament.

Although L. E— was more developed than are most girls of the same age, I naturally anticipated, from her extreme youth, a very tedious if not perilous labour. The sequel will show how agreeably I was disappointed.

On the morning of Feb. 26th I was sent for to visit her, and on reaching the house learned that labour had commenced the previous morning at about half-past ten o'clock. At the time of my arrival (8.30 A.M.) I found the os uteri fully dilated and the head presenting in the first position. From that point labour progressed rapidly, and in one hour and a half terminated in the birth of a healthy, well-developed male child. The mother never had a bad symptom, and both she and the child have been doing well since.

It will be seen from the above dates that L. E— was, on the birth of the infant, thirteen years and nineteen days old.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

ALBERT E. MAY, L.R.C.P. Ed., &c.

Moreton-Hampstead, March 16th, 1880.

### THE BEARER CORPS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Although it is a matter of very secondary importance to anyone as to which was the first Bearer Company in action in the late war in South Africa, yet as it appears to have been made a matter of moment by Surgeon-Major Scott in his recent letter to THE LANCET (p. 266), I may remark that a regularly-organised company of Kroomen belonging to the Naval Brigade, previously trained by Fleet Surgeon Norbury, R.N., C.B., was in action with that officer at the battle of Inyezane in January, 1879, and besides this, there was also a large number of trained Native Bearers.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

JOHN BOWDEN TRIGGS, M.B., Surgeon R.N.,  
In Medical Charge of H.M. Flag-ship *Active*  
during the late war.

Royal Naval Hospital, Cape of Good Hope, March 15th, 1880.

### HONORARY QUEEN'S CADETSHIPS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—There are a certain number of cadetships given every year at Sandhurst, called "honorary Queen's cadetships." These are not to be confounded with "Queen's cadetships." The first-mentioned are boons conferred on officers' sons whose fathers have done good service in the army, and the holders have only to "qualify," and not to "compete," for their commissions. By the warrant these

boons are limited to the sons of the so-called "combatant" officers. The sons of medical officers are excluded from them, no matter what good service their fathers may have done. This is most unjust.—Yours, &c.,

March, 1880.

I. V. R. C.

### PARIS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE proposal to create a new chair of Pathological Anatomy has met with the greatest opposition on the part of the Faculty of Medicine. The professors have all signed a report, which has been sent into the Minister; and they have concluded that the proposed innovation is unnecessary, and that it may be dangerous. It is of course true that it is not absolutely necessary to appoint a new *professor* for this purpose; a post of less importance, such as that of *chef des travaux anatomo-pathologiques*, might be sufficient, and in this manner the wounded susceptibility of the faculty would be soothed. It is also true that such a precedent might prove dangerous to the interests of the present professors, who have every reason to keep their number as restricted as possible. But as far as teaching is concerned, this report is simply a quibble; some change is greatly needed. At the present time practical morbid anatomy is not taught at all in Paris. Post-mortem examinations are only held at the caprice of the house-surgeons and physicians, and that so irregularly, that a student might pass weeks on the look-out for an autopsy. Paris is not only behind Europe in this respect, but also far behind some of the French provincial schools. At Nancy, autopsies are performed in all cases by a competent pathologist, M. Feltz, the professor of anatomy. In Lyons, similar functions are performed by M. Pierret; and at Lille, by M. Kelsch. There is one reason against the new creation in Paris which, although freely whispered, has not yet been stated. The professor who was designed for the chair by the Minister of Public Instruction, M. Cornil, whose work in connexion with morbid histology is well known, happens to be a member of the Chamber of Deputies. The Faculty of Medicine affects the belief that the whole affair looks very like a job, and is afraid that it would afford a precedent for the future creation of new chairs, to suit the convenience of Ministerial favourites. It will be a great pity if the opposition of the Faculty be allowed to prevail. However the wire-pulling may have been conducted, there can be no doubt that some radical improvement is urgently required.

The Société de Médecine Publique et d'Hygiène Professionnelle are going to discuss the proposition of one of their members, Dr. Bourgeois, that the State should take measures to prevent the marriage of individuals suffering from certain hereditary diseases which are most generally transmitted to the offspring. According to Dr. Bourgeois, by the prohibition of such ill-advised alliances, phthisis, epilepsy, and mental disease would soon be exterminated. The commission appointed to examine and report upon the proposition, has, as might be anticipated, concluded against it. In the French law there is only one case in which an individual is incapable of contracting marriage, and that is in the case of an *interdit*—that is, a person interdicted on account of mental incapacity from the exercise of civil rights, and this is on legal, rather than on hygienic grounds. For a marriage to be legal consent must be given, and as an *interdit* cannot legally give a valid consent, he cannot contract marriage. Dr. Bourgeois would have every candidate for wedlock submit to medical examination, and would allow marriage to those only who had obtained a medical licence. He also thinks that a difference of twenty-five years between the ages of the two parties should constitute an absolute bar to their union when one of them is over sixty, so that a man of that age would be forbidden to marry a woman of four-and-thirty.

The *République Française* of this day relates a remarkable freak of nature which has occurred at Cherbourg, and which it copies out of the *Vigie de Cherbourg*. If the *République Française* were not always of the most respectable prosiness, one might suppose that it was trying to get off what Artemus Ward would call a "goak." The "infant phenomenon" in question is a child, six months old, and the *Vigie* seems proud that Cherbourg should be privileged to show a marvel

which "is without doubt unique since the creation of the world." This child has a spot upon its head out of which grows a feather every six days. The editor of the *Vigie* states that he has seen all the preceding feathers, and that he has assisted at the growth and fall of one of them. A pimple forms on the nape of the child's neck which soon opens and gives exit to the feather, which attains its full length of 10—12 centimetres in six days, and then falls. It has golden edges, and is of the most beautiful and varied hues. The father of this child is coming to Paris to show his interesting babe to the members of the Academy of Medicine. I leave the entire responsibility of this statement with the *République Française*, which must either have copied innocently from the *Vigie* of April 1st, or have maliciously conspired with its provincial contemporary to poke fun at a scientific body of inoffensive old gentlemen.

Paris, April 7th, 1880.

## Medical News.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.**—The following gentlemen passed the primary examination in Anatomy and Physiology at Meetings of the Board of Examiners on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday last:—

Harry Swift, W. C. Bull, Arthur D. Roe, J. B. Hurry, Henry W. Pigeon, Edward Harrison, and John C. Aldred, Cambridge and Liverpool Schools; John H. Baker, David H. Barley, Anthony Dodd, Robert H. Rowell, Henry M. Fenwick, Newcastle-on-Tyne College of Medicine; John S. Moreton, George Preston, John S. Withers, James Richmond, Thomas L. Jordan, Charles S. Chadwick, Richard Holton, John J. Berry, John M. Beverley, Alexander Wilson, Joseph Collier, Cedric Challinor, and Alfred Hall, Owens College, Manchester; Walter C. Garman, Thomas P. Lowe, G. G. Jones, and Arthur H. Wilson, Liverpool; Charles F. Coombe and Edward France, Sheffield; Arthur Bowe, George Millhouse, John Dacre, Walter Scatchard, Henry Pope, and Eustace G. Carter, Leeds; Henry Shillito, Septimus Sunderland, John H. North, James R. Polson, and William Joberns, Birmingham; Lawrence E. A. Salmon, William H. Francis, Bristol; William J. Haddock, Charing-cross Hospital; John Hosford, Cork; Francis H. Furnival and Sandford S. Lessey, St. Thomas's Hospital; F. F. Schacht, St. George's Hospital; Samuel Aspinall, St. Mary's Hospital; John T. Tibbles, Charing-cross Hospital; Wheelton Hind, Guy's Hospital; Charles E. France, Middlesex Hospital; Sidney H. C. Martin, University College; and Edwin J. Wenyon, Guy's Hospital.

**APOTHECARIES' HALL.**—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise, on April 1st:—

Adams, Joseph, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.  
Davies, Jenkin, Sidney-road, Stockwell.  
Fraser, Donald Alexander, Weston-super-Mare.  
Walters, Fredk. Rufenacht, The Waldrons, Croydon.  
Wheeler, Fredk. John, Grafton-road, Holloway.

The following gentlemen on the same day passed the Primary Professional Examination:—

Charles Rowland Ordish Garrard, Guy's Hospital; Robert Henry Rowell, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The annual Report of the Leeds General Infirmary unfortunately shows a balance due to the treasurer of £3311, with a gradual decrease of income, and an increase in the number of patients.

A SPECIAL appeal for funds has been put forth by the Finance Committee of Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. The 30th of May has been fixed as the Sunday on which collections are to be made on behalf of the institution in the different churches and chapels of the town.

**ZYMOTIC DISEASES IN DUBLIN.**—During the March quarter small-pox caused 61 deaths; measles 95; scarlatina 136; diphtheria 13; whooping-cough 106; fever 76; and diarrhoea 34.

**VACCINATION GRANTS.**—The following gentlemen have received Government grants for successful vaccination in their respective districts:—Dr. Cuolahan, of Bermondsey, £127 12s. (fourth award); Mr. W. Powell, of the Bromyard Union (second award); Mr. J. H. Hynes, of the No. 2 District, Nottingham Union, £55 14s. (second award).

**ADMIRALTY APPOINTMENTS.**—Staff-Surgeons T. C. Hickey to the *Resistance*, Septimus Evans to the *Impregnable* for service in the *Nautilus*, and Joseph Wood to the *Himalaya*; Surgeons William Tait to the *Impregnable* for service in the *Pilot*, J. Dunlop to the *Orwell*, and R. W. Williams to the Plymouth Division of the Royal Marines.

**ABERDEEN DISPENSARY.**—At the annual meeting of the friends of this charity it was announced that there had been, during the past year, an increase of 470 in the number of patients. The important part played by wholesome and nutritious food in the treatment of the sick poor was shown to be especially recognised by the medical officers in that they had recommended to the Society for the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor, eighty-two persons, of whom sixty had received food and clothing. Complaint was made—and justly—by the chairman of the meeting of the smallness of the amount of subscriptions in the past year—viz., £96—a sum certainly not creditable to the citizens of Aberdeen.

**PHYSICAL BASIS OF LIFE.**—On Monday evening, at a Meeting of the Victoria Institute, held at 7, Adelphi-terrace, a paper by Professor H. Alleyne Nicholson, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.E., who fills the chair of Natural History in the University of St. Andrews, was read, the subject being "Life and its Physical Basis." It discussed the physical and chemical properties of the substance known as protoplasm, which forms the common basis of all organic bodies; the phenomena exhibited by simple masses of protoplasm in a living condition (such as the monera, the amœba, and the yeast plant); the distinctions between dead protoplasm and living protoplasm; the nature of vitality; and the essential character of the temporary connexion which subsists between protoplasm and life. A communication bearing on the latest researches in this recondite branch of natural history, from Professor G. G. Stokes, F.R.S., of Cambridge, was also read, and a discussion followed.

**BEQUESTS ETC. TO MEDICAL CHARITIES.**—Mr. Thomas Wrigley, of Timberhurst, Bury, bequeathed £10,000 each to Owens College, the General Hospital for Sick Children at Pendlebury, the Royal Albert Asylum for Idiots and Imbeciles of the Northern Counties at Lancaster, and the Bury Dispensary. Mr. Duncan MacDermid, and Miss Margaret MacDermid, his sister, bequeathed £500 to the Royal Infirmary, £500 to the Western Infirmary, and £200 to the Convalescent Home, all at Glasgow, and £200 to the Institution for Imbeciles at Larbert. Sir Thomas Bernard Birch, Bart., of the Hazels, Prescott, bequeathed £300 to the Liverpool Infirmary, £200 to the Liverpool Dispensaries, £100 to the Liverpool Northern, and £100 to the Liverpool Royal Southern Hospital. Miss Mary Wasey, who recently died at Prior's Court, Chieveley, near Newbury, has bequeathed £3000 to the Royal Berkshire Hospital at Reading, £2000 to the Bath Hospital, £2000 to the Cancer Hospital at Brompton, and £2000 to the Consumption Hospital, Brompton.

## Medical Appointments.

Intimations for this column must be sent DIRECT to the Office of THE LANCET before 9 o'clock on Thursday Morning, at the latest.

BOOTH, J. M., M.B., C.M., has been appointed Medical Officer to the Aberdeen Dispensary, vice Simpson, resigned.  
BRANDER, J., M.B., C.M., has been reappointed Medical Officer to the Aberdeen Dispensary.  
CLARK, J. G., M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A.L., has been appointed Clinical Assistant to the Medical Out-patient Department of the London Hospital.  
ELLIOT, J., L.R.C.P.Ed., has been appointed Medical Officer to the First District and Workhouse of the Bellingham Union, vice Hill, resigned.  
FOWLER, J. K., M.B., has been appointed Assistant-Physician to the Middlesex Hospital.  
GANGE, F. A., M.D., has been appointed Medical Officer of Health to the Faversham Rural Sanitary Authority.  
GARDEN, R. J., M.D., C.M., has been reappointed Medical Officer to the Aberdeen Dispensary.  
GRAHAM, A., L.R.C.P. &c., has been appointed Medical Officer to the Western Division of the Bingham Union, Notts, and District Surgeon to the Midland Railway Company's Friendly Society, Nottingham and Melton Line.  
HALL, J. G., M.B., C.M., has been reappointed Medical Officer to the Aberdeen Dispensary.  
HOLDEN, J. C., M.D., L.R.C.P.Ed., has been appointed Physician to St. Leonard's Hospital, Sudbury.  
HOLDERNESS, W. B., has been appointed Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, Windsor, vice Fairbank, deceased.  
JONES, R. T., L.F.P.S.G., L.S.A.L., has been appointed Medical Officer to the Llanfihangel-y-Traethau District of the Festiniog Union.  
KNIGHT, J. T., M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A.L., has been appointed Medical Officer to the Carlton District of the Basford Union.  
LILLEY, G. H., M.D., has been appointed Assistant-Surgeon to Her Majesty's Convict Prison, Parkhurst, Isle of Wight.