

Police, whose floating station was near at hand, and I was succeeded by the then divisional surgeon, Mr. Mills, of Southampton-street, Strand. I now, with much pleasure, inclose you a “return” from the superintendent of the Thames Police, showing the excellent work the station has done during the years it has been established. Having regard to the great number of suicidal and accidental drownings annually occurring in other parts of the Thames—notably Battersea, Putney, Hammersmith, &c.—I would ask you to urge the further provision of similar institutions at other parts of the river in the metropolitan area.—I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

ARCHER FARR. L.R.U.P., L.S.A., &c.,
Late Medical Officer of Health, Lambeth,
Dip. Pub. Health (retired).

High-street, Putney, S.W., Feb. 21st, 1901.

[INCLOSURE.]

THAMES DIVISION.

Return of the Number of Cases Treated at Waterloo Pier Station during the Years 1897-8-9 (Vide Corr. No. 322034).

Year.	1 No. of persons accidentally immersed and brought to the station for treatment.	2 No. of persons who attempted suicide and were brought to the station for treatment.	3 No. of persons who were brought to the station and in each case life was pronounced extinct.	4 Total number of cases brought to the station for treatment.	5 No. of persons apparently drowned and restored to life by artificial means.
1897	8	22	10	40	1
1898	8	16	5	29	—
1899	7	13	16	36	—
Totals for three years	23	51	31	105	1

In a number of cases which cannot be included in column 5, “apparently drowned and restored to life,” as there were evident signs of vitality, the sufferer would probably have succumbed to shock and immersion but for the prompt treatment by police. It is not possible to give the number of these cases from the records with accuracy.—WM. C. ROBINSON, Superintendent.

“CONCERNING CERTAIN APPARENTLY INJURIOUS CONSTITUENTS OF POTABLE SPIRITS.”

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS.—In an article by us in THE LANCET of Dec. 8th, 1900, p. 1643, under the above title the statement occurs that “we made experiments upon cats, dogs, and rabbits.” This statement we wish to correct in that our own experiments were only made upon cats and dogs. At the time of writing we had really in our minds not only our own experiments but those of a previous worker—viz., Cohn.¹ Our paper was intended only as a preliminary communication and experimental details will be given fully and compared with the results of others in a subsequent paper.

We are, Sirs, yours faithfully,

LAUDER BRUNTON.
F. W. TUNNICLIFFE.

Devonshire-street, Portland-place, W., Feb. 25th, 1901.

THE COVENTRY DISPENSARY.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS.—In THE LANCET of Feb. 2nd, p. 353, under the head of “The Battle of the Clubs,” there are some remarks concerning the Coventry Dispensary which the staff will be glad if you will allow them to correct. It is untrue that the reply which the staff received to their memorial was that “if they were not satisfied with their position another staff could be procured to take their places.” Nothing whatever was said in the reply which could be thus construed. It is also untrue that the committee do “not hand over all the

¹ Archiv für Experimentelle Pathologie und Pharmakologie, vol. xxxi., p. 40.

money received and thus exploited them” (the staff). All the money is divided amongst the staff after the working expenses have been paid. The number present at the meeting was 108, not 160, and so far from being unanimous there was a very large proportion who refrained from voting either for or against the resolution.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
W. J. PICKUP,

For the Staff of the Coventry Dispensary.
Swanswell, Coventry, Feb. 23rd, 1901.

MEMORIAL TO THE LATE PROFESSOR TOM JONES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS.—It is proposed to establish some memorial of Professor T. Jones in the Owens College, and it is thought that his personal friends, and perhaps others, may wish to take part in providing the necessary funds.

No appeal will be made, but the treasurer or secretaries will be glad to receive contributions from those who desire to honour Professor Jones’s memory.

The exact form the memorial will take necessarily cannot be settled till the amount of the fund is known, but it has been suggested that an exhibition or prize would be a suitable record of Mr. Jones’s work.

It is not desired to limit in any way the amount of individual subscriptions, and it is hoped that those who may see this letter will bring it to the notice of other friends.

Subscriptions may be sent to either the honorary treasurer or the honorary secretaries.

Among the amounts already promised are the following:—

		£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.
D. Lloyd Roberts...	...	25	0	0	R. Bowen Hogg (New Zealand)...	...	5	5	0
Walter Whitehead...	...	25	0	0	W. Thorburn ...	...	5	5	0
G. A. Wright ...	...	25	0	0	Henry Ashby ...	...	5	0	0
Edward Roberts ...	...	21	0	0	Joseph Collier ...	...	5	0	0
Alfred Hopkinson...	...	10	0	0	H. R. Hutton ...	...	5	0	0
J. E. Platt...	...	10	0	0	W. P. Montgomery ...	...	1	1	0
F. A. Southam	10	0	0					

The complete total promised is over £600.

We are, Sirs, yours faithfully,

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|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| HENRY ASHBY. | D. LLOYD ROBERTS. |
| JOSEPH COLLIER. | EDWARD ROBERTS. |
| ALFRED HOPKINSON, | ALFRED SIMPSON. |
| K.C. | F. A. SOUTHAM. |
| A. MCLAREN. | W. THORBURN. |
| JOHN D. MILNE. | WALTER WHITEHEAD. |
| W. P. MONTGOMERY. | A. H. YOUNG. |
| G. A. WRIGHT, Hon. Treasurer, | |
| 16, St. John-street, Manchester. | |
| J. E. PLATT, | |
| 14, St. John-street, Manchester. | |
| F. J. H. COUTTS, | |
| Cromar, Plymouth-grove, Manchester. | Hon. Secretaries. |

January, 1901.

“THE TEACHING OF ANÆSTHETICS.”

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS.—Dr. Frederic Hewitt’s letter in THE LANCET of Jan. 19th, p. 212, in reply to that of Lieutenant-Colonel E. Lawrie in the number of Jan. 5th, p. 64, is chiefly characterised by the fact that it is in no way the answer it purports to be. If I may venture to sum up the letters it would be in some such way as this. Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrie says essentially that chloroform administered in a definite way may be given with safety by the ordinary man; while Dr. Hewitt says that chloroform as given in Britain by the ordinary man is very fatal (an undoubted fact, but scarcely an answer), and he hints that this is the effect of climate and not of the method of administration—or, at least, that is what I take his reference to “sunny Hyderabad” to mean. The intention of this letter is to lay stress on Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrie’s statement that the effect of the London teaching is to tend to make the anaesthetist incompetent through fright, for I can testify from personal experience as well as from personal observation of the terror with which many recently qualified men in London approach the administration of chloroform, believing as they do that death may occur suddenly and inexplicably from syncope. My own experience was distressing until I realised that if chloroform could be given in India and in Edinburgh with confidence and safety by using a particular