

necessary examinations, members of the recognised Indian medical profession. To attain this object the committee (consisting of the Lady Kinnaird, the Lady Macnaghten, Miss Maynard, Mrs. Percy Flemming, M.D. Lond., Miss E. Brown, M.D. Brux., the Bishop of Calcutta, Sir Charles Bernard, Dr. W. J. Smyly, Dr. E. Sargood Fry, and Mr. A. Pearce Gould) make an urgent appeal for funds. Subscriptions will be gratefully received by the Lady Macnaghten, 198, Queen's-gate, London, S.W., and Miss E. Brown, M.D. Brux., 120, St. James's-road, West Croydon, Surrey, or may be sent to the "North India School of Medicine Fund," Union Bank (Tottenham Court-road Branch).

We are, Sirs, yours faithfully,

F. A. MACNAGHTEN, } Honorary
E. BROWN, } Secretaries.

"THE CHEAP PISTOL."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Your sound common-sense annotation upon the indiscriminate manner in which cheap firearms are sold everywhere and the announced determination of the American Government to deal with the class of people from whom these assassins emerge urge me humbly to suggest that our Government should join with the Americans (and I hope all the European and peace-loving Governments) in passing a universal law that every person of every nation should not be allowed to carry any description of arm or weapon that could be used to endanger the life of any other person or animal without a permit or licence; and, further, that no person or persons should be allowed to supply or furnish to anyone else such arms or weapons unless the intended buyer was duly licensed or officially authorised. In addition, manufacturers and salespeople should be licensed to follow their avocation, all licences to be renewed annually and every change of address duly given to the proper authorities directly the change is made.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Ebury-street, S.W., Sept. 23rd, 1901. D. T. BOSTEL, sen.

"STOCKS AND CROSSMAN v. WATSON."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—THE LANCET of July 13th, containing your leading article on the above case, has just reached me. I think that from a medico-legal point of view, as well as from a purely surgical one, it is of great interest. Mr. H. H. Clutton and Mr. Victor Horsley were of opinion "that the injury to the shoulder might have predisposed it to dislocation and that an injury subsequent to the bicycle accident might have produced it." Is it not possible that this is more common than is generally supposed? When the ligaments of a joint are badly torn it should not be a very difficult matter to produce luxation subsequently, especially in the shoulder-joint, with the shallow glenoid cavity and the large head of the humerus. It has happened to me to have had under my care two cases which illustrate what I mean, though they were not in the shoulder-joint.

1. About 20 years ago I was called to see a woman, aged 30 years or thereabouts, who had fallen and injured her wrist. There was certainly no dislocation—one could scarcely be mistaken in such a case—but the joint appeared to have been severely strained. I applied a light splint and ordered a cooling lotion. A day or two afterwards I called and found that the patient had removed the splint and had been sweeping. I declined to continue in charge of the case, as my instructions were disregarded, but meeting her some time afterwards I found that there was a partial dislocation; it was easily replaced, but readily slipped out again. I wish I could remember the details more accurately, but I have no notes of it, and 20 years is a long time.

2. In November, 1899, the Sikh sergeant in command of the detachment of military police stationed at our mines was knocked down by a tramcar loaded with firewood. He had his little son, aged about two years, in his arms at the time, and in endeavouring to save him from injury, in which he was fortunately successful, paid less regard to himself. The only injury of consequence was to the knee-joint. I saw him within half an hour of the accident and there was certainly then (or while he was under my care) no dislocation. Severe inflammation followed, with a good deal of pain. He got very frightened about himself

(he is a very nervous man) and ordered a boat to take him to the station at the mouth of the river, the district headquarters. He walked to the boat, a distance of about 100 yards, though I had ordered him to be carried. When at Kuantan his nervousness only increased, and a steamer being at the dock bound for Singapore he went (ran, I was told) to it and tried to get on board. He had to be brought back by force. About two months ago I examined him with the Residency surgeon of the State. There was an undoubted lateral displacement of the bones of the leg. The articular surface of the external condyle of the femur could be distinctly felt and there was a marked curvature of the whole limb.

I do not suppose my experience is at all peculiar; doubtless many others could supply histories of similar cases.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

J. W. ROLPH,

Medical officer, Pahang Corporation, Limited.
The Mines, Sungei Lembing, Kuantan, Pahang, Malay Peninsula,
August 20th, 1901.

"A PECULIAR METHOD OF SUICIDE."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In THE LANCET of Sept. 14th, p. 744, a description is given by Mr. C. A. J. Wright of Leytonstone of a method of committing suicide, and you remark that you should think it unprecedented. If, however, you will turn to THE LANCET of June 22nd, 1889, p. 1242, you will find a description of a suicide on somewhat similar lines under the care of Mr. Hulke at the Middlesex Hospital, and another by myself in THE LANCET of Oct. 19th, 1889, p. 791.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Maryport, Sept. 23rd, 1901.

JAMES LITTLE.

"THE ELECTROLYTIC TRANSMISSION OF SULPHUR."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—My letter of August 24th seems to have given Dr. F. W. Smith the impression that I wished to belittle his valuable observations on the electrolytic deposit of sulphur from the Harrogate waters. Far be it from me to detract in any way from this new application of an old principle. Dr. Smith is in the van of progressive medicine, and I perfectly recognise the value of the investigations which he has made. But at the same time I must demur to his use of the word "discovery" in connexion with this subject. Doubtless Dr. Smith has been the first to apply the principle of cataphoresis in hydrotherapy, and I hasten to congratulate him upon the impetus which his investigations will certainly give to hydrotherapy all over the world. The principle of cataphoresis, however, which is the whole soul of the matter, has long been known. In 1858 Theodore Clemens, as a result of clinical experiments, claimed beneficial results from the electrolytic transmission of iodine through the skin. In 1859 B. W. Richardson made exhaustive experiments in the production of local anaesthesia by the cataphoretic introduction of a mixture of aconite and chloroform, by means of which he was able to perform many operations painlessly. But the profession at large was chary of adopting a method which was theoretically sound but which to the hyper-sensitive palate of prejudice might smack somewhat of charlatanism. The industrial arts, however, as Jacoby remarks, quickly recognised the value of the method. For instance, the tanning of hides by electricity became quite general when it was learned that by means of the usual tanning solution and an electric current a hide could be tanned in four days, while by ordinary methods it would require from 10 to 12 months to complete the process.

There are certainly factors which militate against the adoption of this method as a means of general medication, not the least of which is the fact that comparatively small quantities of a medicinal agent can be transmitted and these become rapidly eliminated by the emunctories. But as a method of local medication the method is more promising, especially if Morton's plan of rendering the part to which the application is to be made as far as possible anæmic beforehand be employed.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

CHARLES J. NEPEAN LONGRIDGE.

St. George's Hospital, S.W., Sept. 25th, 1901.