

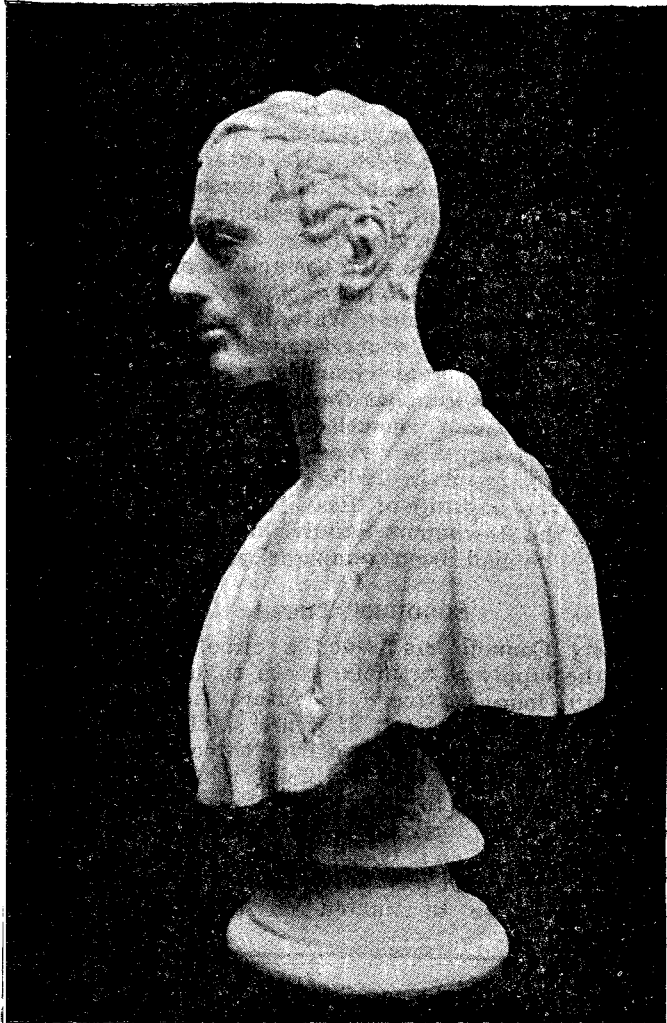
the strata of society in these centres of learning who are as yet uninfluenced by what we ought to regard as the results of some degree of academic culture. It used to be thought that "manners made men." I much fear that discipline everywhere is sadly relaxed in these days, and the proofs of this are not far to seek.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

A MEMBER OF THE COURT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
London, Nov. 19th, 1910. LIVERPOOL.

WHO IS HE?

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The Liverpool Medical Institution have in their possession a life-sized bust, a photograph of which is given below. The subject of the bust is unknown to them and they have been unable to identify it. It may be a replica of a marble bust in one of the Royal Colleges or hospitals. The



council of the institution will be very grateful to any of your readers who may be able to give them information towards establishing its identity.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
Liverpool, Nov. 19th, 1910. THOMAS BUSHBY.

ERGOT AND THE PATELLAR REFLEX.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Incidentally while seeing a patient a few weeks ago it occurred to me that the condition of the knee-jerk should be examined. The proceeding elicited the interest of an immediate relation who happened to be present and who asked if her knee-jerk also might be tested. Strange to say, it was in her case absolutely absent, though, as far as I knew, there had been no illness with nervous symptoms. But the history of the case brought to light the fact that this lady had been taking rather large doses of ergot for several years regularly for uterine fibromata and hæmorrhage.

I wondered if the ergot might have had any effect in this particular way and therefore wrote to Sir Lauder Brunton, who most kindly replied and referred me to Kobert's "Lehrbuch der Intoxikationen," Stuttgart, Encke, 1893, p. 440,

where this passage occurs: "Die Symptome der Mutterkorntabes sind von denen der gewöhnlichen Tabes nicht wesentlich verschieden; der patellarreflex kann sehr zeitig verloren gehen." From this one concludes that ergot, when it causes nervous troubles, does sometimes bring about a series of symptoms closely resembling tabes dorsalis and that a very early sign of such a condition is the loss of the patellar reflex. Dr. J. Dixon Mann in his "Forensic Medicine and Toxicology," 1908, p. 668, states with regard to chronic ergot symptoms: "Psychical disorders, as hallucinations, delirium, mania, mental enfeeblement with stupor, and exceptionally, indications of tabes—lightning pains, girdle sensation, staggering gait, and unsteadiness in the erect posture with the eyes closed, have occurred. Tuczek found sclerosis of the posterior columns of the cord, implicating the root zones as in tabes." I presume that chronic troubles in connexion with ergot, whether they affect the nervous system or whether they be of a gangrenous nature, are primarily due to the blood-supply to the parts being cut down by resulting constriction of the blood-vessels.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
Belgrave-road, S.W., Nov. 15th, 1910. J. BIRT.

INDEMNITY INSURANCE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The attention of the council of the Medical Defence Union has been called to the issue by the "Car and General Insurance Corporation, Limited," of a circular *re* benefits under an "Eclectic Policy," in which the name of the Medical Defence Union is used without our authority or consent and without any previous knowledge on our part that it was intended so to be used. I am directed to state for the benefit of members of the medical profession that the Medical Defence Union has no connexion in any way with the above company, and that it has not entered into any agreement with it whatever in respect of any such "indemnity policy," and that the only company authorised to use the name of the union in respect of any "indemnity policy" is the Yorkshire Insurance Company, Limited, Bank Buildings, Princes-street, E.C.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
Nov. 18th, 1910. A. G. BATEMAN,
General Secretary.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It has been brought to the notice of the council of the London and Counties Medical Protection Society, Limited, that indemnity insurance policies are being issued to members of the society (in respect of damages and costs of the other side in actions undertaken by this society) by the Car and General Insurance Corporation, Limited, and I am directed to inform members of the London and Counties Medical Protection Society that the Car and General Insurance Corporation has received no authority from this society, and that this society accepts no responsibility in the matter.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
31, Craven-street, Strand, London, W.C., Nov. 22nd, 1910. HUGH WOODS.

CONTINUOUS PROCTOCLYSIS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Referring to a communication from Dr. H. W. P. Young concerning the use of the "Thermos" flask for continuous proctoclysis, I may mention that Messrs. de Luca and Co. (French Flint Glass Company), 6 and 7, Long-lane, E.C., manufacture for me an apparatus of a similar nature for use with a "Thermos" bottle. As this apparatus has kindly been shown in many hospitals in London by Dr. H. G. Mackenzie of Wimbledon, I have no doubt its merits and construction are fairly well known. Probably by ordering it through a wholesale chemist and sundryman any reader can obtain the apparatus in its perfect form as invented by me. In several medical papers last November notices of my having used the "Thermos" bottle were published, and the experimental part of the work, in order to bring this to perfection, has been carried on by me for over two years.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
Folkestone, Nov. 18th, 1910. LENNOX WAINWRIGHT.

MANCHESTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Medical Students' Hostel.

It is proposed to establish a hostel for senior medical students in the immediate neighbourhood of the Manchester Royal Infirmary. "The object of the scheme is to enable students to gain experience in the management of accident and urgency cases, and in the observation of acute disease." This scheme, if carried out, as it will be, will give resident students opportunities that those living at a distance can never have. In Edinburgh, and in connexion with some of the London hospitals, such institutions have been successful and, it is said, self-supporting. The hostel will not interfere with the residential halls now existing, as it is only intended for medical students during the final period of their studentship. Such a hostel will, from its proximity to the hospital, provide opportunities for obtaining practical knowledge which will be available for students as they enter professional life, either as resident medical officers or assistants to private practitioners, or even if they venture forth at once into practice for themselves. It is proposed to start the hostel on a modest scale, providing for ten students at a weekly charge of 25s. each inclusive, and to give it a trial for three years. It will afford opportunities to students who cannot obtain resident appointments—for appointments are few and students are many—to get a much more practical knowledge of their work than if their hospital experience were limited, or nearly so, to the walk round the wards with the physician or surgeon in attendance. The scheme has the cordial support of numbers of influential people both in and out of the profession, and should be sure of success.

Typhoid Fever at Eccles.

A serious outbreak of enteric fever has occurred at Eccles, where up to last night over 90 cases had been reported. The parish church school has been closed for a fortnight, "there being 27 cases and over 100 contact exclusions." At the meeting of the education committee last night Dr. J. Orr remarked that the epidemic had assumed large proportions, but he was glad to say "the schools had been found not to be a source of infection, neither had anything been found wrong with the sanitary arrangements so far."

Surgical Aid Society.

The Manchester Surgical Aid Society held its annual meeting on Nov. 17th, the Lord Mayor (Mr. Charles Behrens) occupying the chair. Though very unobtrusive, the society does most valuable work among the poor, not only in relieving suffering but in helping discharged patients to help themselves. Last year 204 women, 138 men, and 99 children had been assisted in various ways. Appliances range from artificial limbs to belts, bandages, elastic stockings, surgical boots, leg irons, trusses, spinal supports, water-beds, and air-cushions. It may be mentioned that patients, with the help of friends, contributed £98 towards their cost. Still, as with so many charitable efforts, expenditure has exceeded income by nearly £35, though, notwithstanding the large amount of work done, the total expenditure was only £408. This society is indeed a necessary supplement and complement of hospital work, and Professor W. Thorburn was very emphatic as to the need there was for supplying surgical appliances to a great many poor patients, saying that surgery would be worse than useless if it had not the assistance of nurses and of the instrument maker. He thought that Manchester did fairly well by the hospitals and nurses, but that the citizens might do a little more for the society.

Anti-tuberculosis Fight.

It is encouraging to see that the struggle for the extermination of all the forms of tuberculosis is extending, and a step in advance was taken at Bolton on Saturday last. In connexion with the Bolton Guild of Help and the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption, a "tuberculosis exhibition" was opened by the Earl of Derby, in the Bolton Coöperative Hall. A special danger in manufacturing towns is that, working in the heated atmosphere of the mills, the operatives are hyper-sensitive to cold and chills, and so their rooms and cottages become stuffy and unhealthy from the closing, as far as possible, of every opening for ventilation. A similar state of things no doubt accounts to a large

extent for the fact that Wales suffers, in proportion, more than any other part of the country from this disease. The air outside is fresh and pure, but inside the cottages it is too often foetid and sickening.

Bolton Infirmary.

A King Edward memorial gift of £1000 has just been received by the treasurer of the Bolton Infirmary, being the fourth gift of a like amount, while several smaller sums have been sent.

Nov. 22nd.

BRISTOL AND THE WESTERN COUNTIES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

Bristol Health Committee.

Mr. Colston Wintle, L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng., has been re-elected chairman of the health committee of the Bristol city council.

Bristol General Hospital.

The treasurer of the Bristol General Hospital has received £5000 from Mrs. W. Proctor Baker. This is the second moiety of the £10,000 promised to the institution by that lady in memory of her late husband, Mr. W. Proctor Baker, who was for many years president of the charity.

The late Dr. C. W. Belfield.

Dr. Charles Wooliscroft Belfield died recently at Bristol. The deceased was formerly a student at the Bristol Medical School, where he obtained the Sanders scholarship for surgery and medicine, and the Guthrie scholarship for medicine. He qualified M.R.C.S. in 1874, and in 1875 took the L.R.C.P. of Edinburgh. In 1884 he graduated M.D. of Vienna University. For many years Dr. Belfield had a large practice in Bristol, but a few years ago his health completely broke down, and he was forced to relinquish his practice. He was 58 years of age at the time of his death and unmarried. Dr. Belfield bequeathed £5000 to the funds of the Bristol General Hospital and £100 each to the Bristol Royal Infirmary and the Bristol Eye Hospital.

The Gloucestershire Memorial to the late King.

At a large and representative meeting, held at Gloucester on Nov. 12th, it was decided that as a memorial to the late King, a fund, to be called the "King Edward VII. Memorial Fund," should be raised in Gloucestershire, for the promotion of nursing in the cities, towns, and villages of that county.

The Cornish Memorial to the late King.

At a meeting held in Truro last week, under the presidency of the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, it was decided to invite subscriptions for a "Cornwall King Edward VII. Memorial Fund." It is proposed to place a commemorative tablet in Truro Cathedral, and to invest the fund, applying the income thereof to any hospital, infirmary, sanatorium, or nursing association working in Cornwall as may be determined.

Gloucester Medical Charities.

The treasurers of the Gloucestershire Royal Infirmary and the Gloucester Children's Hospital have each received £5000 from the estate of the late Alderman George Peters, a former mayor of that city.

Nov. 22nd.

WALES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Death of Mr. George Arthur Brown, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

THE sudden death of Mr. George Arthur Brown of Tredegar, while paying a professional visit to a patient on Nov. 17th, has caused profound sorrow, not only among the inhabitants of the immediate district in which he practised, but to the entire medical profession in Monmouthshire, for he was one of the oldest and best known practitioners in the county. He received his medical education at King's College, London, and after obtaining the diplomas of the Royal College of Surgeons and the Society of Apothecaries in 1865 was appointed house surgeon to the Sheffield General Infirmary, a post which he held for three years. He then came to Tredegar