

chairman of King's College and the Royal Free Hospitals, Sir William Bowman, Sir William Gull, Sir Joseph Lister, Dr. Priestley, Professors Johnson and Wood, the Rev. Dr. Stokoe, and Mr. F. J. Gant. His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury has kindly consented to be honorary president. This committee will take into consideration the best means of commemorating the name and sacrifice of Dr. Rabbeth, at the two hospitals with which he was connected and at the University of London, of which he was a distinguished graduate. The Principal of King's College and R. Ruthven Pym, Esq., have been requested to act as treasurers. Messrs. Coutts and Co., Strand, have kindly consented to receive subscriptions to the fund.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

JOHN CURNOW, M.D.,
King's College, Nov. 5th, 1884. Dean of the Medical Faculty.

P.S.—Sir Wm. Jenner has just written me a letter expressing his sympathy with the movement, desiring that his name may be added to the committee.

SMALL-POX AND BLINDNESS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The necessity for and the great value of vaccination and revaccination have been recently brought before us in a very prominent way by the medical press. The facts which I am about to state (which are somewhat akin to those contained in Mr. Tweedy's interesting letter) are of a class not usually mentioned when dealing with this subject and are most convincing proofs of the efficacy of vaccination. The committee appointed by the Ophthalmological Society to report upon the Government scheme for the prevention of blindness from ophthalmia neonatorum, which I had proposed and which was subsequently adopted by the Society, having thought it advisable, inquiries were made to ascertain what percentage of the inmates of the institutions for the blind was due to purulent ophthalmia. With that object I examined the records of the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Institution at Belfast, and, being strongly impressed by what was there disclosed regarding small-pox, I made the following notes:—Small-pox was the cause of the blindness of 26 of the first 87 recorded blind pupils admitted from 1845 till Oct. 18th, 1859; of two of the next 31 admitted; and of not one of the remaining 98 (up till the present year). I may present the matter in a much more striking light, thus:—Of the first 98 admissions, small-pox caused 27; whilst of the last 98 admissions it did not cause a single one. This certainly does not require comment.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

DAVID MCKEOWN, M.D.
St. John-street, Manchester, Oct. 1884.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your issue of the 18th inst., Mr. Tweedy narrates a striking instance of loss of sight caused by small-pox after wilful neglect of vaccination. I can supply a similar case. I lately saw at St. Mary's Hospital a young woman who had lost her right eye from variola, and whose face was very deeply pitted and disfigured. I found that she had no vaccination scars. On inquiry, she informed me that her father, having lost a baby soon after vaccination, had refused to allow his three youngest children to be vaccinated. Some years ago the eldest of these three died rapidly of "black fever," and very soon afterwards the youngest (my patient) had a severe attack of small-pox, and lost her eye. The second of the three insisted on being vaccinated, and she entirely escaped the disease. Comment is surely needless.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

DAVID B. LEES, M.D., F.R.C.P.
Thurloe Houses, S.W., October 28th, 1884.

THE LATE PROFESSOR COHNHEIM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—A committee has been formed in Germany from amongst the friends and pupils of the late Professor Cohnheim, whose premature death a few months ago has been most deeply and widely lamented throughout the medical world, for the purpose of erecting a suitable monument over

his grave. To the profession generally Cohnheim was only known for his great scientific attainments, and uncommon originality of research; but to a large circle of friends and pupils, who came to study under him from all parts of the world, he had greatly endeared himself by the charm of his manners and the large and warm-hearted sympathy which he freely gave to all those who were, like him, striving to cultivate the fascinating field of experimental pathology.

I have been requested by Professor Wagner of Leipzig, on the part of the committee, to acquaint, through the medium of your columns, Cohnheim's friends and old pupils in England and the United States with the object of the committee; and I shall be happy to receive and transmit any contributions towards the fund which is now being raised to the treasurer, Professor His of Leipzig. The list will be closed at the end of the year, after which a statement will be forwarded to all subscribers.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JULIUS ALTHAUS, M.D.
48, Harley-street, Cavendish-square, W., Nov. 4th, 1884.

PERILS OF CHLOROFORM ADMINISTRATION IN DENTAL OPERATIONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—When a student at St. Bartholomew's Hospital I remember Dr. Brunton saying that if a patient were not thoroughly under the influence of chloroform any irritation of the fifth nerve would produce slowing of the heart's action, and finally stoppage through the pneumogastric nerve. He clearly showed us this by an experiment on a rabbit. Surely this may account for the untimely and lamentable death of Mr. Macdonald, a brother medical man, at Nottingham, and many others, from operations on the face and teeth. I have always acted on Dr. Brunton's view, and, if giving chloroform for an operation implicating the fifth pair of nerves, have pushed it until the patient is completely under its influence. I think this is a matter which, if more generally known, might save human lives.

Yours faithfully,

W. E. BUCK,
Leicester, Nov. 4th, 1884. Physician to the Leicester Infirmary.

LIVERPOOL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

HOSPITAL SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.

THE annual meeting in connexion with Hospital Sunday was held on the 3rd inst. in the Town Hall, the Mayor presiding. The Committee reported that the collections for 1884 amounted (together with the contributions on Hospital Saturday) to the sum of £10,076. Although the number of collections showed an increase of twenty-one, the sum realised was £349 less than in 1883. There was also a decline of £11 in the Hospital Saturday boxes, and the total sum realised showed a decrease of £376. The total sum divided amongst the medical charities was £9800, and the expenses amounted to a trifle over 2½ per cent. on the total amount raised. The falling off in the receipts is much less than might have been expected considering the great and long continued depression in trade and commerce, but notwithstanding this a very general feeling prevailed at the meeting that the sum of £2524 raised by the working classes on Hospital Saturday ought to be at least doubled.

THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

The number of students attending the anatomical classes shows a slight increase over that of last year. There is an ample supply of subjects, and the arrangements are so excellent that the mildness of the weather is not so unfavourable to dissection as it might have been. All the lectures are fairly well attended, and clinical lectures are given in rotation by the physicians and surgeons of the Royal Infirmary, and by the surgeons of the Lock Hospital.

MEDICAL CITY COUNCILLORS.

Mr. Robert Hamilton, Senior Surgeon to the Royal Southern Hospital, was re-elected one of the members for North Toxteth Ward by a very large majority. Dr. Cross, Mr. A. M. Bligh, and Mr. N. Marsh, surgeon, are also members of the City Council.