

for any information on the subject of paralysis caused by the use of the elastic tourniquet. If he will refer to the *British Medical Journal* of Aug. 10th, 1889, and note especially the first column of page 310, he will find some details which may give him good hope, if he already needs it, and will encourage him to be patient.—I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Rodney-street, Liverpool, Oct. 9th, 1894. CHAUNCY PUZEY.

## "THE TEACHING OF CHILDREN'S DISEASES AT GENERAL HOSPITALS."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I have read with much interest the letter of Dr. Coutts under the above title in THE LANCET of the 13th inst. I am in entire agreement with him when he says that "a competent knowledge of children's diseases should be the property of every student," but I am not at all sure that this knowledge will be best acquired by the student at the out-patient department or in the wards of a general hospital. The student of to-day has assuredly enough to do at whatever general hospital he attends, when he divides his attention between the physician, the surgeon, the obstetric or gynaecological physician, with, it may be, the ophthalmic surgeon as well, without the addition of a physician for children's diseases; and to add the latter to his general hospital work would be, I think, to encumber him, with the result that all departments would suffer. Dr. Coutts proposes to remedy "the inadequate methods in vogue" by appointing to each general hospital a gentleman to treat and teach the diseases of children. In my judgment a better remedy would be for our provincial college authorities to appoint a university lecturer on diseases of children, such as exists in Edinburgh and Manchester, who would supply the theoretical part of the subject, the practical side being best acquired at a well-equipped children's hospital. If our college authorities were made acquainted with the fact that at least every other patient the young medical man will be called upon to treat will be a child or an infant, I feel sure the suggestion I have made would commend itself to them and receive suitable attention. In conclusion I desire to offer to Dr. Coutts my thanks for ventilating this subject, which I look upon as one of great importance.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Shaftesbury-square, Belfast.

JOHN MCCAWE.

## "REMUNERATION OF MEDICAL WITNESSES."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—It is gratifying to see the remarks in THE LANCET of Oct. 13th on the remuneration of medical witnesses. As a police surgeon I may be excused, perhaps, for testifying somewhat to the inadequate pay for giving evidence. In the police-court I have been kept several hours, and the fee is 10s. 6d. Again, at the assizes, either Manchester, Liverpool, or Lancaster, the amount paid is first-class railway fare and one guinea a day. With that you have to find yourself luncheon and dinner. I have had to leave my house at 8 A.M. and been unable to return until 11 P.M., owing partly to the cases being taken late, before the court rises, and the trains not fitting in for the return home. It entails keeping an assistant, for no man can possibly leave his practice for so long a time without leaving a deputy. For all the time taken up a guinea is tendered to him. I have before now had two cases heard the same day, and the fee is the same. I think that some extra pay should be given in such cases. I trust that the Home Secretary will see his way to pay medical men a just fee for the time and labour that the medical witness has to give on behalf of the Treasury.

I remain, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Blackpool, Oct. 16th, 1894.

FREDERICK A. HESLOP.

## THE PATHOLOGY OF THE FARÖE ISLANDS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In 1892 you were kind enough to publish some notes of mine on the pathology of Iceland, from which country I had just returned. Having spent this summer in the Faröe Islands, it may interest some of your readers to learn what my experience was of the pathology of these very little known

islands. It may be useful, also, in view of the possibility of these islands being more frequently visited by tourists in the future, for the public and profession to know how exceptionally healthy they are. I am publishing a small work descriptive of my experience there this summer, and, though the necessity of somewhat roughing it would prevent medical men from recommending them to very delicate people, yet to those whose disorders were due to overwork or mental strain the grandeur of the scenery, the superb sea air, giving as it does in this respect all the advantages that would be gained by a long sea voyage, and, above all, the quiet, never troubled by any storm except one caused by the elements alone, might render a stay of a few weeks there a very useful restorative. The mean annual temperature is 45° F., that of the summer is 54°, and that of July 57·1°. The temperature is thus mild and equable, and though the climate is somewhat humid, my own experience from two visits is that a visitor is as likely, or even more so, to enjoy fair weather there during July and August as in the same period in Scotland. It may be as well to observe that although the air may be moist it is the reverse of a rheumatic place, rheumatism and rheumatic fever being somewhat rare, and the latter when it occurs is seldom of a serious nature. It may be remembered as regards this malady that I made the same remarks on Iceland, which, however, being in a considerably higher latitude, though much colder has a much drier air.

One of the terrors which all nervous people may experience in taking a pleasure trip in almost any part of the Continent—that of getting typhoid fever—may be absolutely discarded as regards these islands, as here for a great many years it has been quite stamped out. This is, perhaps, rather a curious fact when one sees how very careless they are in many of the villages as to the source of their water-supply and their negligence with regard to the disposal of their refuse. No case of small-pox has occurred since the year 1856, but I must mention that vaccination is very rigorously carried out. Scarlet fever, though not unknown, is very rare and of a mild type. Syphilis is quite unknown, though gonorrhoea, unfortunately, seems to be gaining ground in the southern islands, but is quite unknown in the northern group. Though the latest scourge of civilisation, influenza, seems always to reach there—as it does, in fact, every region where man has penetrated (I was told by the whalers that even Greenland has not escaped)—it does not appear to be of so severe a type as elsewhere, and is not even mentioned there as a source of increased mortality. Amongst the natives the great sources of death are pneumonia, pleurisy, and bronchitis; and this is little surprising, considering the exposure to the weather which the calling of these islanders necessitates, and the difficulty in their small and not very commodious dwellings of properly drying their clothes. Diphtheria is very rare. No cases of leprosy have been seen since the middle of the eighteenth century. This struck me as very curious, as the diet of the natives is precisely the same as that of the Icelanders, who are great sufferers from this curse. It is also curious to note that hydatids, so prevalent in Iceland, are quite unknown in spite of the large number of sheep and dogs. Although of late years cases of tuberculosis are constantly cropping up, the doctor there feels sure that he has traced them to the importation of English and Scotch beef, yet it has seldom been known to attack the lungs, and phthisis is nearly unknown. Strumous affections are not uncommon, as would be expected when in-and-in breeding often occurs. Conjunctivitis, keratitis, and cataract in old age are very common. This is due, no doubt, to the exposure to the elements. There can be no doubt that these islands on the whole enjoy a high state of salubrity. They are, moreover, most amply provided with skilled medical attendants. Dr. Borg of Thorshaven, who resides there during the entire year, is a gentleman of unusual proficiency in every branch of his profession. His dexterity as an operating surgeon I had an opportunity of witnessing, and what he did I have never seen better done by anyone. He is thoroughly up to date in the matter of antiseptics. The hospital of Thorshaven is the only one on the islands, and though it only contains sixteen beds the doctor assures me it is sufficient for his requirements. It is prettily situated on the edge of the fiord, built of wood, and contains four wards, each holding four beds, apportioned equally between medical and surgical cases and men and women. He has a nice little operating theatre and dispensary, and a thorough equipment of surgical instruments of the best and latest description (many I observed were of London manufacture) supplied by the Danish Government, who also