

"certificates should be paid for by the State, or some local authority. It was required by the nation," said he, "and the nation should pay for it. If I were told that it would cost £60,000 per annum to give 2s. 6d. for each certificate, then I would say that was a trifle" &c.

"Look on this picture and on that." I think it would be a trifle both to the nation and to the individual certifier who discharges a duty so grave and so responsible and one charged with such penalties. Sir Spencer Wells will be thanked by all fair-minded men in and out of our profession and very warmly by the poor rank and file of it, who get more kicks than hap'orths, insults and injuries than fees, for their incessant labour the day long and often far into the night, fighting disease in his own strongholds amid scenes of human squalor, vice and wretchedness. I for one have always held that medical men should be paid by the State for death certificates.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

A. ROSS PATERSON, M.D.

Stockton-on-Tees, April 24th, 1893.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I wish, with your permission, to say a few words about midwives and certification of death by such persons. I think that many abortions and miscarriages attended by midwives could be prevented if a medical man were sent for in time. My experience of certificated midwives is that they are for the most part incompetent to judge whether miscarriage is inevitable or not, and uncertificated persons have no idea whatsoever on that point. When anything is done, except to wait, by either class it is in the direction of making miscarriage inevitable—the administration of something to "strengthen the pains." I think that the certificate of an uncertificated person should not be accepted at all, as she herself through want of skill may be the cause of a child's death; and certificates of supposed qualified persons should not be accepted for other than stillborn children or those dying before a medical man could be called in.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

St. Helen's, Lancs, April 22nd, 1893.

E. J. GILLEBAN.

DR. F. NORTON MANNING.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Permit me to correct a note in your issue of Feb. 11th, p. 315, 2nd column. You record the appointment of Professor Anderson Stuart as Medical Adviser to the Government, in succession to Dr. F. Norton Manning, *deceased*. Dr. Manning resigned his appointment as Medical Adviser, but still retains his office of Inspector-General of the Insane, which he has held since November, 1867. I may add that Professor Stuart also holds the appointments of Health and Emigration Officer for Port Jackson and President of the Board of Health.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Macquarie-street, Sydney, N.S.W.,
March 16th, 1893.

EDMUND FAGEN,
Secretary.

* * We have also received a letter from Dr. Manning himself, in which he says "I resigned the appointments of Medical Adviser to the Government of New South Wales and President of the Board of Health in that colony in order to devote more time to the office of Inspector-General of Hospitals for the Insane, which I still hold." We took the earliest opportunity of correcting the unfortunate clerical mistake in our next issue (Feb. 18th, 1893). We wish, however, to reiterate our regret that Dr. Manning should have been put to any inconvenience owing to the error into which we were inadvertently led.—ED. L.

"DISLOCATION OF THE PATELLA 'EDGEWAYS.'"

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Mr. Miller's letter in THE LANCET of April 1st on the above subject reminds me of a case which I saw some ten or twelve years ago in a lad of about sixteen. The accident occurred whilst he was wrestling with another boy. It was quite easy to diagnose the nature of the accident, but the question was which edge of the patella was wedged between the condyles. In Mr. Miller's case the articular facets seem to have given the desired in-

formation. In the case I saw the ligamentum patellæ afforded the necessary help to a diagnosis of the position, for, being twisted on itself, one of its edges was rendered prominent and gave the clue as to which edge of the patella was projecting. I think this would ordinarily be a more sure guide than the facets, which it might not always be easy to feel, whereas the patellar ligament would probably always be easily felt, and if the outer edge were prominent this would, of course, imply that the outer edge of the patella was the free edge, and the inner edge that which was wedged between the condyles, and *vice versa*. In the case I saw I found that the best position for the limb was one of slight flexion, and the lad being anaesthetised the bone was without much difficulty replaced by pressure with the palm of the hand.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Gower-street, April 4th, 1893.

AWDRY PECK.

"EPITHELIOMA OF BOTH EXTERNAL EARS."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I am obliged to Dr. Snow for his letter in your issue of this week. Later I hope to send you a short account of the further development of the case in question and will merely say now that I am of opinion that there is already malignant disease of the left ear. The ulceration is slowly extending and the thickness of the ear increasing in parts.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

W. J. ERNELY SUMPTER.

Sherringham, Norfolk, April 25th, 1893.

PROFESSOR VIRCHOW'S VISIT TO ENGLAND.

(FROM OUR BERLIN CORRESPONDENT.)

AT its meeting on the 19th inst. the Berlin Medical Society gave its President, Professor Virchow, a cordial welcome on his return from England. The hall in the Langenbeck House, in which the Society holds its meetings, was unusually full and the President's table was adorned with flowers. When Professor Virchow entered, accompanied by other officials of the Society, the members rose from their seats and welcomed him with loud applause. The Vice-President, Privy Councillor Dr. Siegmund, addressed him as follows: "Highly honoured Herr Virchow, a great nation has just shown you its esteem in a degree and with an enthusiasm far beyond what is usual in receptions accorded to men of science and learning. Some recognised in you their teacher, others their fellow-worker in the various fields of science, and the discoverer of many new regions of research. But, if we ask what has secured you this exceptional position and the esteem of men in the highest walks of science, the answer is that you are known abroad not simply as a man of science. Your endeavours to utilise every scientific discovery as a means of promoting the public good, combined with your undeviating support of all that you have recognised as right and helpful to the human race, have extended your popularity beyond the limits of our empire. No nation was better fitted to recognise your worth than the English nation, which we regard as setting the highest example in the right conduct of life. We thank this nation for the distinction it has conferred upon you; we thank you for having gained general recognition for the part played by Germany in science. We hope that the quality in which you surpass us all, the strength which Goethe so appropriately called 'the durability of the North' may long be preserved to you." Professor Virchow, in reply, said: "I must confess to you that it did not seem to me quite necessary that you should continue the too generous receptions which I have just left by giving me this cordial welcome to-day. The circumstance of my being received with unusual warmth in England is partly traceable to a certain indebtedness on my part; the learned corporations, especially the two ancient universities, had for years past expressed to me their desire to do me a special honour and to invite me to be present on the occasion. I have resisted this wish with a certain—perhaps not quite polite—perseverance. This kind of public ceremonial is not entirely to my liking, but I could not avoid it on this occasion. After the greatest corporations in England had bestowed

on me the highest honour in their gift, and that *in absentia*, which is quite unusual, I felt bound to express my gratitude. So I went to Cambridge and Oxford and was received there with all possible honour as Doctor of Sciences, of Common Law, &c. In one respect only I am very grateful to you for this reception, because you wished in this way to acknowledge to the English world of science and letters and to the English nation the honours conferred on one of your countrymen. I regarded my visit to England also as a kind of international mission, as I regarded my last year's visit to Russia. I think everyone should seek to strengthen and extend medical intercourse between nations as much as possible, and that I have succeeded in this in a higher measure than I ever ventured to hope is the highest reward I could have desired. I rejoice that you recognise this, and that you on your part also feel grateful for the reception that was accorded me. For, in honouring me, they at the same time wished to honour German work and the German nation. Gentlemen, we are all accustomed to work in the same way; perhaps like honours will one day fall also to you. So let us work on diligently. For my part, I am glad that I have brought back strength sufficient to enable me to work on with you yet a while." Both speeches were heard by the assembly standing, and were received with enthusiastic applause.

MANCHESTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The Weather.

SINCE the middle of March Manchester has been favoured with an unbroken spell of remarkably brilliant spring-like weather. According to the official returns the last six weeks have been practically rainless, the total precipitation during that time scarcely amounting to half an inch. The mean temperature has been exceptionally high for the time of year and the mean humidity of the air has been correspondingly low. Vegetation is at least a fortnight in advance of what is usual in Lancashire, and to ordinary minds everything seems to point to the likelihood of another summer like that of the year 1887. But although we in the city know how to appreciate this lovely weather, the farmers both in Lancashire and Cheshire have already begun to "croak" and to prophecy ruinously scanty crops because of the drought. The streams in this neighbourhood are certainly very small, and, for the season of the year, unusually so; and there is no doubt that much of the highly drained land about here is of such a nature as to require almost constant irrigation if average crops are to be obtained. I hear, too, that the water-supply to the city and district is about to be curtailed because of the state of the Woodhead reservoirs. Although the Thirlmere scheme is in an advanced stage it is as yet far from being finished, and it is doubtful whether Manchester will be able to count upon a supply from that source during the present year.

Local Government Board Inquiries.

During the last fortnight Mr. Samuel Smith, C.E., has held two important inquiries in this neighbourhood, on behalf of the Local Government Board, in reference to the proposal of two sanitary authorities to initiate schemes for the precipitation and filtration of their sewage. The authorities concerned are the local boards of Droylsden and Gorton, both of which are on the confines of the city. In many respects the proposals of both authorities are similar. Pressure appears to have been brought to bear upon them by the River Conservancy Joint Committee to induce them to deal in some way with the sewage of their districts, which at present finds its way into the Mersey. Accordingly, both Droylsden and Gorton propose to construct a series of precipitation tanks, so as to get rid of the suspended matters, and afterwards to pass the sewage through filters constructed of sand and "polarite," this substance being supposed to possess exceptional properties as a purifier of sewage. The effluent, after passing through the filters, is to be turned without further treatment into the watercourses, and the sludge from the precipitating tanks is to be either pressed and dried or burnt in destructors to be erected for this purpose. Neither of the authorities proposes to adopt the plan of irrigation or application of sewage to the land, the chief reason alleged against that course being the great cost of land. In the event, however, of the Local Government Board's refusal to sanction

the present proposal of the two sanitary authorities, they intimate their willingness to make arrangements for irrigation or, at any rate, for downward filtration through land. As both Droylsden and Gorton are on the boundaries of Manchester the corporation of the city was of course represented at both the inquiries, although counsel for the corporation did not actively oppose either of the schemes.

Small-pox Prevalence.

According to the returns of the medical officer of health small-pox still appears to linger about the city and its neighbourhood, twenty new cases having been removed to hospital in the course of the week ending the 15th inst. and fourteen more last week. It appears also that the disease still continues to spread in Salford, Oldham and other important towns in frequent communication with Manchester; and, having regard to the wide dissemination of infection in this neighbourhood, there is no valid ground for hoping that we have as yet approached the end of the epidemic. The city small-pox hospitals contain at the present time about 100 patients belonging to Manchester and about twelve more which have been sent to hospital from outside districts possessing no accommodation.

Chat Moss and the City Refuse.

At the last meeting of the City Council the cleansing committee brought up for confirmation a report, in which they recommend the council to purchase 2500 acres of land for the purpose of dealing with the excess of excremental refuse of the city which cannot be utilised at Carrington and is at present disposed of with difficulty elsewhere. Chat Moss is situated at a distance of about ten miles from Manchester. It has a frontage of many hundreds of yards to the Manchester Ship Canal and a turnpike frontage of at least two miles. There are also two railways running through the estate—the London and North-Western and the Cheshire lines. With the exception of about 200 acres of unreclaimed bog, the whole estate, consisting of 2500 acres, is agricultural land, and being very light is just the kind of soil that will profit by the application of the nightsoil of such a city as this. Of course there are those who believe that the price to be paid for the Chat Moss estate £200,000, is excessive considering then ature of the land and the purposes to which the corporation propose to apply it. Councillor Dr. Simpson, however, properly pointed out that "we ought not to look upon this question as one merely of pounds, shillings and pence. The land no doubt is the proper place for the disposal of the refuse of our great towns, and from a sanitary point of view especially we should hail with satisfaction the purchase of Chat Moss." This is not only the correct sanitary standpoint from which to view the proposal of our corporation, but it is a common-sense standpoint as well, and it is the one taken by the City Council, who unanimously adopted the proposal of the Cleansing Committee and resolved that application should forthwith be made to the Local Government Board for the necessary permission to borrow the money.

April 25th.

LIVERPOOL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The late Lord Derby.

BY the death of Lord Derby the medical profession has lost a sincere friend and well-wisher, a most generous contributor to University College, Liverpool, and to all the local medical charities. His name has appeared frequently in the pages of THE LANCET as having from time to time given excellent advice to medical students when presiding at the opening of the local and other medical schools, as also making wise suggestions to the managers of hospitals when attending in connexion with their support. His speeches contained such an amount of strong common sense that it was impossible to hear or to read them without benefit; and this fact was alluded to in an annotation which was published in THE LANCET on Dec. 27th, 1873, under the heading, "Lord Derby's Tonic." Lord Derby was a most regular attendant at the opening of the Medical Faculty of the Liverpool University College, and it must have been highly gratifying to him to have heard Mr. Mitchell Banks express, as he did some years ago, his obligations to a speech which the late Earl, when Lord Stanley, delivered at the University of Edinburgh shortly after Mr. Banks became a graduate. A general feeling of sorrow per-