

called rest, opium, and starvation treatment." That is precisely my view of the matter, while at the same time giving Mr. Thomas every credit for pointing out certain improvements in diet, and for protesting against mechanical remedies when ignorantly and excessively employed. Mr. Thomas says that "between Sydenham and himself a void exists." This is not unlikely, but it fails to convince me that they are the only two persons who have ever known anything about intestinal obstruction. Mr. Steele describes himself as a young practitioner. With increase of years and experience I feel sure that he will discover that to rigidly apply one uniform and restricted method of treatment (to the exclusion of all others) to a disease under which are classed pathological conditions as widely asunder as the poles is neither logical nor in accordance with the principles which govern medical science in other instances.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Liverpool, Jan. 13th, 1885.

W. MITCHELL BANKS.

TREATMENT OF FUNCTIONAL AMENORRHEA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you allow me to draw the attention of the profession to a remedy for functional amenorrhœa which has been very successful in my hands. It consists in the persevering use of an infusion of the bog- or buck-bean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), taken hot every morning half an hour before breakfast, for some weeks if necessary. The rough mode of making this infusion is by half filling a tumbler with the dried plant, and pouring upon it five or six ounces of boiling water over night. This makes one dose, or in some cases two. In order to avoid the inconvenience of this process, Mr. Martindale has kindly made a liquid extract of the drug, the dose of which would be a tablespoonful in half a tumbler of hot water, I am induced to send you this letter in the hope that others will try this remedy and report upon it.

I am Sir, yours faithfully,

Harley-street, W., Jan. 14th, 1885.

JULIUS POLLOCK.

THE M.D. EXAMINATION AT THE LONDON UNIVERSITY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The published results of the recent M.D. examination of the University of London have occasioned much comment in professional circles, and at the present juncture such comment may not be without influence on the side of those who are agitating for a teaching university in London, unless, as we are informed is likely to be the case, a special committee of the Senate be appointed to inquire into the circumstances.

The examiners in logic and psychology alone rejected 51·7 per cent. of the candidates, including those who presented themselves in both medicine and logic together, and those who entered for the latter subject only. Seventeen candidates entered for the whole examination: of this number eleven passed; six, although passing "a highly creditable examination in medicine," were rejected in logic; and three were rejected in medicine. Now, the most apparent absurdity of this result is the fact that examiners in logic and psychology should be the means of compelling these six legally qualified medical men, who pass "a highly creditable examination in medicine at the M.D.," to be re-examined, not only in their own subject, but also in medicine. This fact must have been painfully apparent to the medical examiners when assembled in conclave to decide the results.

Dr. Inflammation: "Candidate A.B. displays a highly creditable knowledge of medicine." Professor Abstract: "Indeed! He has failed to reach the necessary standard in logic and psychology, and it will be necessary for him to be re-examined in medicine again also." Why should this be? The examiners in medicine have no power to compel a candidate to appear again in logic, &c., if he passes in logic and failed in medicine.

Might I be allowed to appeal to your readers to explain away by some obscure (or simple if possible) "logical" method the absurdity of these facts.

I remain, yours faithfully,

December, 1884.

MEDICUS.

LIVERPOOL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

DEATHS IN LIVERPOOL FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES IN 1884.

At the last meeting of the Health Committee some interesting statistics, compiled by Dr. J. Stopford Taylor, the medical officer of health, respecting the death-rate during the past year, were read. The deaths from zymotic causes amounted to 2973, of which the following details are given:—

Disease.	Deaths during 1884.	Average for previous ten years.
Small-pox	106	82
Measles	611	441
Scarlatina	197	620
Whooping-cough	546	466
Diarrhœa	841	704
Diphtheria	80	53
Fever	205	402

The deaths from fever and diarrhœa were much lower than had ever been known before, a circumstance which may be fairly attributed to the many sanitary improvements which have been lately effected in the city.

HOSPITAL SUNDAY.

Sunday, the 11th inst., being the second Sunday in the year, was observed as Hospital Sunday in Liverpool, collections being made in all the churches, chapels, and other places of worship in the city and suburbs. Unfortunately the weather was most unfavourable, being wet and very boisterous during the whole of the morning; hence a falling off in the amount of the collections has been observed; a circumstance which is much to be regretted, as all the local hospitals and dispensaries are greatly in need of increased support. The total amount advised to the treasurer up till the 14th inst. amounted to £3299.

CONCERTS AT THE ROYAL INFIRMARY.

At the Royal Infirmary a concert was given on the 3rd inst. in one of the wards, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion. The performers were members of the resident medical and nursing staff, aided by friends; among the audience were members of the committee and of the honorary medical staff, with their wives, families, nurses and patients. An excellent programme was gone through, the various songs being extremely well rendered. The audience showed their appreciation by frequent applause, in several cases an encore being demanded, and a most enjoyable evening was spent by the visitors.

DANGERS OF STONE-THROWING.

An inquest was held last week on the body of a boy aged eleven by the borough coroner. It appeared from the evidence that on New Year's Day the deceased was running away from a lad who had used threatening language to him, when he was struck on the back of the head by a stone, which his assailant was seen by a witness to throw at him. The deceased expired on Saturday night from concussion of the brain, and a verdict of manslaughter was returned against the boy who threw the stone, who was only fourteen years of age, and admitted his guilt after being duly cautioned. This dangerous practice prevails to a very considerable extent in Liverpool.

MANCHESTER.

(From our own Correspondent.)

CHEAP DINNERS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

ONE, and by no means the least, of the results following the agitation on over-pressure in our elementary schools has been the prominence given to the fact that many of the children attending these are sent in a half-starved condition, often, indeed, commencing their day's work on an almost empty stomach, and as a remedy for which cheap dinners for those who cannot obtain the necessary food at home have been established. This experiment, commenced in London, has been also put upon trial here, chiefly through the instrumentality of Mr. Alexander Forrest, whose works