afterwards, there had been no return of hæmorrhage, and the pulse had improved. I gave one-eighth of a grain of ergotin in the evening, and the same dose next morning. On December 3rd, there was no bleeding, and everything was satisfactory. When I ordered abstinence from animal food for a day or two longer, the mother told me that she had not been able to give butcher's meat to the child for a long time. The ergotin was discontinued; and on the third day the child was in his previous state of health, but a number of fresh purpura spots had made their appearance.

The second case is that previously mentioned as being under the care of Dr. Caldwell; and I am glad that I am able to produce the patient here to-night. W. B., three years old, the child of poor patients living in Blundell Street, and moderately healthy-looking, was found by its mother to be covered with very numerous spots of purpura on January 24th. At first, there was no other symptom of illness; but, diarrhoea coming on, and the stools being much mixed with blood, the patient was taken to the South Dispensary on January 26th, where appropriate remedies were administered. The diarrhoea had decreased on the second day; but bleeding from the bowel continued, and blood trickled from the anus when the child walked about. I saw the child on the 27th; and, hearing that there was an improvement, I recommended the same treatment to be continued. Finding, on the 29th, that blood was still discharged, I ordered one-eighth of a grain of ergotin three times a day. On January 31st, the child was seen by Dr. Caldwell and myself. There was no more bleeding, and the ergotin was discontinued. The little patient was improving under a more generous diet, but a few new spots of purpura had appeared. The father of this child earns, on an average, ten or fifteen shillings per week, out of which rent and cost of maintenance of a large family have to be defrayed.

These two cases I consider as indicative of what purpura might result in, if unattended to. Dr. Neligan, in his excellent article on Purpura, says that bleeding from the gums, particularly when excessive, is, in his experience, one of the gravest symptoms, even although there may be but little eruption on the integuments. He has rarely seen a case of purpura recover, in which it was present to any extent.

A third case, that of E. S., No. 4 of the patients I am going to introduce, who has had purpura since 1872, but no other illness, will prove that this morbid state of the blood has greatly interfered with the development of the body, and has stamped the child with a sickly look.

The causes of purpura are considered by writers on the subject to be unhealthy dwellings, want of cleanliness, and insufficient animal food. The two former, I believe, have little or nothing to do with it; and, after carefully sifting all the evidence, I have come to the conviction that want of animal food is the main cause. The accusation of being dirty is too often made broadcast against the poor; whereas we all know that, with the exception of cleaner hands and faces and clean collars, the children of a better class are often not superior as regards the cleanliness of their bodies. We would, therefore, expect to find purpura amongst the better class also, which is certainly not a common occurrence. Now and then we do find purpura in a person in better position; but it is always rare, and generally traceable to different causes. The pupils of one of the public schools I have examined—the Caledonian School in Oldham Street—can compare most favourably regarding cleanliness with the pupils of any college or institute in this town, only their clothes are of inferior quality; and here I found the same conditions—namely, that the poorest of the children, belonging to widows and to men of small and uncertain incomes, were affected. About one hundred and fifty of the pupils of another school have been regularly sent to the baths every week during the summer months, without any reduction in the number of purpura cases. The habitations of the poor can have nothing to do with the production of the disease, as I found, in the courts and alleys which I visited, all the children of one, two, or three families affected, while their next-door neighbours were entirely free. I have made myself acquainted with all the facts relating to the matter, and in particular with the circumstances of some of the parents, so that I have become able to predict purpura almost to a certainty in children whom I know to be suffering from want of nutritious food. My theory has been met by the objection, that large numbers of Irish children receive throughout the year no other cooked food than potatoes. Not having seen these children, of course I cannot tell; but I believe that the same causes will produce the same effects under the same climatic influences, and that these children will be found to be also suffering from purpura. As a striking illustration of the correctness of my view, I can point to the following telling fact. I have examined a great number of children at the Kirkdale Industrial School, and I have found there only one boy suffering from purpura; and this boy had only recently returned to the institution, after a prolonged absence. You know what care the Rev. M. Lester bestows on these children, and it is most gratifying to see such results following his efforts.

As to the *treatment* of purpura, I have little to say. If, as rarely happens, the case be one of plethora, the usual remedies for that condition may be employed. If the case be one of weakness, and the circumstances permit it, change of air, less exertion of mind, tonics, and, above all, a well regulated diet, with a liberal allowance of animal food—best given in the form of scraped raw meat—will be the proper means of treatment. In cases of hæmorrhages from purpura (as well as from other causes), I have chiefly recourse to ergotin, and have had ample cause to be well satisfied with its effects. Internally, I give ergotin dissolved in tincture of cinnamon, from one-eighth of a grain to young children to a grain or two grains to an adult. In this form it will keep, whilst the watery solution soon spoils. For external application, a solution of from one to two drachms in two ounces of water is extremely useful. When poor children are affected—and it is almost entirely a disease of the poor—all we can do is to give tonics, and be ready to combat complications when they arise. But we might do something more. We might draw the attention of benevolent people to the fact that a great number of young children become or remain debilitated from want of an article of food which nature has intended for them, but which is, at the present high prices, beyond the reach of their parents; we might point out that it is bad economy to give medicine when something to eat might have obviated the necessity for drugs. However, I am aware that the consideration of the social and political significance of the fact that numbers of our growing-up generation are underfed does not come within the scope of a medical paper; but, on the other hand, I consider it not only the privilege, but also the duty, of medical men to draw attention to it.

P. S.—Since this paper was read, a number of children affected with purpura have been seen conjointly with me by Drs. Glynn, Wallace, Bruce, Heath, and Warburton; and I tender them my best thanks for the trouble they have taken.

LEAVES FROM MY DIARY DURING THE ASHANTEE WAR.

By ALBERT A. GORE, M.D., Surgeon-Major.
Late Surgeon 34th (Cumberland) Regiment.

WHEN the idea of sending a small European force to the Gold Coast was at first talked of in the pleasant month of June 1873, humanitarians were aghast with horror. The most gloomy forebodings were almost universal. In the face of this, the professional advisers of the Secretary at War were, not only from their own great experience, but from the opinions expressed by officers of long service in Africa, in a position to state positively that, with certain hygienic precautions, such an expedition could be undertaken with every prospect of success. The Government of the day put no limit to the nature of the measures to be adopted for the preservation of the health of those about to engage in penetrating for the first time under such conditions—a primeval forest devoid of all local supplies, intersected by numerous streams and rivulets, abounding in marshy levels and hollows, and impregnated with the poison of malaria. A certain amount of sickness and mortality was of course inevitable. War always demands some victims to the hardships incidental to its progress; but our latest telegrams from the Gold Coast show that this sickness and mortality are not of a nature to cause alarm, and that they have been kept within the limits that scientific teaching and practical experience had already indicated. Our troops have marched more than one hundred miles through a dense bush, fighting for five days with desperate valour against a surrounding horde of howling enemies; and the medical and engineering departments of the army may well be proud of rendering such an attempt even possible. Landing on the 1st of January of the present year, the last of our brave fellow-countrymen left the shores of Africa on the 23rd ultimo, to be met on their return with all that honour they have so deservedly won. It may not, then, be uninteresting to trace back how this happy event has been consummated, as this expedition will in many respects remain a typical one, as pointing out how malarial regions may be invaded with any prospect of success.

Cape Coast Castle, the base of the recent operations against the Ashantee power, was transferred to England by the treaty of Breda in 1672. During these 202 years, the country or people have made very little, if any, progress; and the question must soon be decided, as to what will be the future of the Gold Coast. The first attempt to hold this seaboard against an European garrison was not a fortunate one. The Royal African Corps—raised in London from the dregs of the populace, and recruited from

men who were about to undergo terms of imprisonment or receive the punishment of the lash for their offences, described as consisting of the "greatest rascals under the sun, the offscourings of the army, drunk day and night, sleeping in the dews, and drinking new rum or old palm wine, or anything they could lay their hands on"—lost no fewer than 1298 non-commissioned officers and men out of 1658, who had been sent out between the years 1822-30, from the effect of climatic causes; 387 were invalided, 17 dying on the passage home, and 157, on arrival, were found incapable of further service. Of 180 qualified for garrison duty, only 33 were ultimately fit for active duty in the ranks—a sad and melancholy history of disease and death.

In 1827, in consequence of the expenses accruing from the war carried on by Sir Charles Macarthy, the forts were given up to the merchants as factories, £4000 *per annum* being allowed for their repair; a force of one hundred men raised by the then Governor Maclean constituted the garrison. In 1844, the Crown again resumed possession; and in 1851 the Gold Coast Corps was raised. It originally consisted of 200 men and 17 officers; 120 of whom were stationed at Cape Coast Castle, a similar number at Accra, and the rest at various out-stations. Recruited from Fantees redeemed from servitude, who were granted 7d. a day as pay, it was kept up for a total cost of £20,000 *per annum*. The men were generally healthy, but the officers and European non-commissioned officers suffered much from the effect of climate at times. The regiment mutinied on October 23rd, 1862, and was shortly afterwards disbanded, two of the ringleaders being shot, and others of the most guilty being sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. A detachment of the 2nd West India Regiment succeeded them.

In the following year, 1863, commenced another Ashantee war, one in which, however, we never met the enemy. The force of native regiments on the Coast was largely increased, 51 officers and 1402 men having arrived in the shape of reinforcements between March 6th and April 9th, exclusive of officers and men of the Naval Brigade landed for the protection of the forts. Marching from Cape Coast on December 30th, 1863, the field-force arrived at Prahsu between the 26th and 30th January, 1864, in good health and spirits, having remained for a short time at Mansu on the way. In three weeks the rains set in, causing the whole camp to become a vast swamp; and fever, dysentery, and diarrhoea soon made sad ravages among the men and officers. The days were excessively hot, the nights damp and chilly, and the food indifferent, consisting principally of salt provisions. By the beginning of June, half the force was on the sick list, although previously relieved by fresh detachments from the new arrivals from the West Indies. Towards the end of the month, the expedition was abandoned, the officers and men withdrawn to Cape Coast; in August, the detachments of the 1st and 2nd West India Regiments embarking for Jamaica and Barbadoes, their respective head-quarters. The result of these operations was an increase of the ratio *per thousand per annum* of the mortality from 31.89 to 93.79, and an actual increase in sickness *per thousand per annum* as below.

Paroxysmal Fevers	735.8
Dysentery and Diarrhoea	326.4
Sore-Throat and Influenza	7.3
Rheumatism	36.7
Respiratory Affections	123.0

In consequence of these unfortunate results and constantly recurring expenses from wars in Africa, a Committee of the House of Commons came to a resolution deprecating "the needless employment of English officers and military as such on shore, as costly to the country, not only by actual mortality, but by the number invalided in body and mind, and rendered unfit for active service". This resolution largely influenced the subsequent military history of the Coast. The force of regular troops was gradually reduced to four companies, two of which were stationed at Sierra Leone and two on the Gold Coast. The military were withdrawn from the Gambia, Kulama, Accra, Therborough, and Lagos—an armed police replacing the northern garrisons; a Houssa force, originally raised from the Mahomedan tribes in the vicinity of Lagos, those withdrawn from the latter station and the Gold Coast, men loosely disciplined, simply clad and fed (each Houssa obtaining 1s. a day and 3d. to find his own subsistence), being substituted. A small number of Fantee police were also raised, clothed, and armed, bringing up the strength of the Leeward garrisons to fully what it had been in the time of the old Gold Coast Corps, who occupied the forts from 1851 to 1862, eleven years. The men of these irregular levies were rarely in hospital, preferring their own country medicines (a priest or medicine-man accompanying each detachment of Houssas) to those supplied by the colony. They were mostly married. From these and the other causes enumerated before, they were uncouth and effective; the more so, as between them and the Fantees there was little love lost—rather an advantage than otherwise, where one native tribe is re-

quired to keep another in order. These Houssa troops, although perhaps not equal to perform all that their admirers had thought they would do, yet did good service during the first phase and subsequent operations of the late war, being, with the men of the 2nd West India Regiment, the only disciplined troops to sustain the courage of our cowardly allies, who, but for them, would have frequently left their officers in the lurch. That they have pluck and more endurance than the Fantee and other allied tribes, is shown by their accompanying Captain Glover through a hostile country fourteen miles north-east of Coomassie, thus effecting a powerful diversion in the rear of the Ashantee army, then engaged with Sir Garnet Wolseley's forces southward of the goal of the expedition. Men who, under such circumstances, remain with their officers, can always be depended upon. In this instance, a small force of Yurubas accompanied, and were incorporated with, the Houssas. As a rule, Mahomedan tribes are warlike, simple in their habits, and, as having some definite ideas of a Supreme Being, more to be respected than those debased wretches who, upon being asked what they think will become of them when they cease to breathe, give a grinning reply, "Me know no". Such men can never make good soldiers, for they lack the first attributes of brave men—that sense of honour, *esprit de corps*, and simplicity, which, combined, drive out all personal considerations in the general sense of duty to one's corps, profession, or country. Such ideas never entered the minds of our Fantee allies, who were as debased and cruel, when they had the opportunity, as they were pusillanimous. Their hereditary enemies, although equally cruel to their unfortunate fellow-beings, the Donkas and prisoners, had one advantage over the more debased tribes of the Coast—courage, and a personal devotion to their country and sovereign. Their refusal to give up at the last, when beaten and humbled, hostages sacred in their eyes, shows a superior people in certain respects, which their architecture, native manufacture, sanitary precautions in war, sense of dignity in certain classes, love of colour and splendour, and debate in grand councils, also prove. It is much to be regretted that hitherto all efforts to civilise and Christianise this peculiar people have been futile. The Wesleyan Mission has been established for years in Coomassie; but, beyond impressing the inhabitants with a sense of respect for the white men, appears to have been unable to make any permanent impression, or mitigate in any way their savage customs. All native soldiers seem to differ from our countrymen in that coolness in danger which gives to the acts of the more northern and cold-blooded Caucasian race a precision and certainty which can be relied upon. A disciplined English soldier will take a quiet "pot" in the midst of the excitement of an action, when at the same time his black *confère* will waste his ammunition in a wild and reckless manner—a characteristic, unfortunately, of our Houssas and West Indian troops. It is only with the greatest difficulty that this can be prevented, the bugle sounding the "cease firing" for at least half-a-dozen times before it is attended to. As an example, I may mention the action at Dunquah, where eighty men of the 2nd West India Regiment expended 6,000 rounds of Snider ammunition in about two hours. There is another peculiarity also observed among some native soldiers—the difficulty of getting them to make a dash at the proper moment. Whether it is that they at the moment believe it impossible to advance further, or are afraid to do so, is difficult to say, but certain it is that such instances are not unfrequent. As a recent example, may be taken the case of the Houssas at Requah, where, until the Naval Brigade dashed through them, they could not be moved. Another peculiarity of these people is, that they form attachments to certain officers, only giving others a sulky obedience. By humouring such curious traits, men who would be otherwise useless may be made excellent servants of the crown.

We have here, then, examples of the two great African families: the noble race originally north African, and showing constant signs of increase—Negroid, semi-Semitic, Mulattoes, and Asiatic Ethiopian, closely allied to the Abyssinian, Gallas, Nubians, Mandingoes, Foulahs, etc.; and the second, or ignoble race, or pure breed of the aboriginal and typical African, exceptionally degraded in Guinea, with low cast, prognathous face, retreating forehead, more scalp than face, callous, lack-heeled, with broad flat feet, rank smell, crisp curling hair, and weak intellect, indicating a defective *morale* and destructive power—a race gradually giving place to the growth of El Islam, which for seven centuries has been slowly progressing from the Great Sahara southwards. It has been our fortune in this war, curiously enough, to fight on the side of the least noble of the more degraded race—a people who seem to lead a mere sensual existence, but a simple life. Upon a food almost entirely vegetable, they can support great fatigue and travel very long distances, supporting at the same time very considerable loads. Greatness is with them so mixed up with the idea of physical power, that, without the latter, any appeal to their higher feelings of humanity and honour is useless. Deprive their so-called kings of their privilege

of cutting off the heads of their subjects, and they are no longer respected. They still acknowledge a kind of nominal sovereignty, feudal in character, but entirely different from that yielded by their neighbours, the Ashantees, to their king. It is more than probable that the latter people will, now that the kingly power is broken, become not very dissimilar. Small communes, jealous of each other, and constantly at war upon the most trivial pretences, the tribes of the Gold Coast only repeat our own earlier history, when the half-naked Anglo-Saxon fought against the more disciplined and trained Roman, or, later still, the Celt ineffectually against his Anglo-Norman conquerors. We read of the same barbarous reprisals and mutilation of the dead and wounded, the latter being only preserved in the prospect of a ransom. In other words, recent African wars are only those of our own more savage periods repeated. Those who have studied the histories of the Middle Ages must be struck with the similarity of the savage customs. The long knife of the Welsh was in no way dissimilar from that of the Ashantee, or the headless trunks which in those early days were no uncommon accompaniment of war. Three hundred years since, the fear of the block in England was as potent to charm to obedience as is to-day a similar threat from the envoy of an African monarch. It may be said that the mention of these peculiar ethnological and other characteristics of the Fantee tribes is of no practical interest. It is a mistake to think so; for, until we learn and study thoroughly the habits and customs of a people, we cannot attempt to govern them with advantage, or train them into those habits of obedience so necessary to a healthy existence of their body politic. Until the great doctrines of Christianity diffuse their gentle teachings among these savage peoples, and education stirs up their better and dormant energies for good, we must hold them under subjection by the sense of our superior power and hopelessness of any attempts against it. This has been impressed upon them by the result of the late war. It behoves those in power to see that the lesson is not lost by the exhibition of subsequent weakness. Being the more lasting, such a policy is in the end the most economical and humane.

Curiously enough, we owe to the mutiny of the Gold Coast Corps in 1862 the first inklings of the fact that Europeans might for a short time, and under proper precautions, remain healthy on the shores of the Gold Coast. On that occasion, an officer and twenty-one men of the Royal Marines were landed for the purpose of garrisoning the ancient fortress whose guns frowned upon and command the filthy town which surrounds it. Confined to the precincts of the castle between the hours of 9 A.M. and 4 P.M., and carefully looked after, they only lost one man from the result of an accident. The next attempt at landing a portion of this corps was, unfortunately, not so happy; for, of one hundred and ten men and officers who arrived in the *Barracouta* in June 1863, eighty-one were invalidated by the following August to England.

From the foregoing brief preliminary remarks, it will be seen that in the climate, races, topography, and health-statistics of Western Africa, there are many professional points of interest. Several of these have been alluded to by the Special Correspondent of the JOURNAL during the continuance of the war. It may be, therefore, not uninteresting to touch upon some others hitherto not alluded to.

[To be continued.]

DR. HUGHES BENNETT'S STRICTURES ON THE "TUBERCLE" AND "PYÆMIA" DISCUSSIONS.

By LIONEL S. BEALE, M.B., F.R.S.

"IN truth, in this, as in many other discussions which take place in medical societies, accurate definitions and logical precision of language have been too frequently forgotten." Such are the words in which Dr. Bennett criticises our discussions last year on the subject of tubercle. He speaks of the speakers having "bewildered one another" and "puzzled themselves", but tells us that he thinks the confusion which prevailed upon the subject of pyæmia "may be dissipated".

Dr. Bennett tells us there is a "true pyæmia or suppuration of the blood"; and that, in a case of "hypertrophied spleen and liver", the blood was crowded with "pus-cells". As "pus existed in the blood", the case, he declares, was one of "suppuration of that fluid without inflammation". It is now, Dr. Bennett affirms, "recognised that pus-cells, lymph-cells, young mucus and epithelial cells, and the colourless cells of the blood, are identical."

I know not what other pathologists may think of Dr. Bennett's effort to dissipate the confusion which exists; but I cannot allow his paper to pass without expressing my dissent from every one of the above propositions. Dr. Bennett uses the word "pus-cell", as it seems to me, most

improperly. He has not proved that the bodies he calls pus-cells are of that nature. But to assert that pus-cells and young mucus and epithelial cells are *identical*, is certainly open to grave objection. That they are like one another to look at, that they may exhibit similar reactions when tested, that they may be alike in chemical composition, may be true; but surely things may be like one another in many particulars without being *identical*. Although the bodies referred to by Dr. Bennett are alike in many points, no two are alike in all, and each has properties peculiar to it; each has a very different life-history, and performs a different office. They may be called by the same name, but differences cannot be dissipated in that way. As Dr. Bennett says, they have been called leucocytes or "white cells"; but they are not *cells*, nor are they *white*.

Dr. Bennett is surely as much open to the charge of forgetting "accurate definitions and logical precision of language," as any of those who joined in the discussion of tubercle last year. Dr. Bennett would introduce terrible confusion by calling leucocythæmia "suppuration of the blood". For my part, I cannot imagine any phrase open to more serious objections than this; and, whatever may be the fate of *pyæmia*, I do hope neither the Pathological Society of London nor any other society will consider *pyæmia*, *suppuration of the blood*, and *leucocythæmia* identical.

SO-CALLED ICHTHYOSIS LINGUÆ, AND ITS RELATION TO ICHTHYOSIS.

By TILBURY FOX, M.D., F.R.C.P.,

Physician to the Department for Skin-Diseases in University College Hospital.

I AM anxious to be permitted to offer a few remarks upon the subject of so-called "ichthyosis linguæ", which has been under discussion in the JOURNAL; and the more so, as I was unable to be present at the meeting of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society at which Mr. Fairlie Clarke's communication upon the topic was read and discussed.

I do not accept the definition of ichthyosis of the skin which Mr. Hulke, Mr. Morris, and indeed all the speakers, with one exception (Mr. Naylor), at the recent meeting of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, approved—a definition which recognises ichthyosis of the skin as consisting in hypertrophy of its epithelium and papillæ, and perhaps subepithelial fibrous tissue, solely. Ichthyosis of the skin is much more than this; it is a congenital defect of nutrition, involving not only such organic change, but also—as an essential element of its composition—serious disturbance of the important functions of perspiration and sebaceous secretion. The skin is not only scaly, and its papillæ more or less hypertrophied, but it is harsh and dry; it rarely perspires; or, if it do so, it does so in the most scant and occasional manner. The lack of proper sebaceous secretion accounts in part for its harshness, and its inability to resist the action of external irritants like the healthy skin; whilst the altered character of the secretion explains in part the "caking" upon the surface, which is more marked in some cases, and in some places in the same subject, than in others. If such be the case, "ichthyosis" of the tongue is an impossible condition, since it entirely lacks any similarity in its parts to those functional derangements of the skin which are essential elements in ichthyosis of the skin. In a word, as a dermatologist, I decline to accept the limited definition which has been given of ichthyosis of the skin, such, for example, as that given in the very excellent paper of Mr. Morris on so-called ichthyosis of the tongue (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, Feb. 21), and which runs as follows. "True ichthyosis is primarily and fundamentally a deviation from the natural state of the epithelial structure of the skin, although in severe cases it may be associated with a hypertrophy of the epithelial sheaths of the papillæ, and in still more severe cases with an hypertrophy of the cutis vera." This definition might apply roughly to warts, corns, psoriasis, but, as I have explained, not to ichthyosis.

In the early stage and in the less severe forms of ichthyosis—viz., in what is called xeroderma—the papillary hypertrophy is by no means well marked; and the analogy, *quoad* naked-eye appearances, between so-called "ichthyosis linguæ" and ichthyosis (of the skin), is even here not striking at all. Viewed solely from a morbid anatomy point of view, no doubt there is resemblance between ichthyosis of the skin and so called ichthyosis of the tongue; but, clinically and etiologically, these two conditions are to me totally different.

Mr. Morris remarks, "that the objection (in relation to the similarity under notice), that ichthyosis of the skin is a congenital malformation, is not a strong one;" and he adds, "though often congenital, it often does not attain its greatest development till towards puberty, and it is stated on authority to appear occasionally late in life." But, under such circumstances, there are well marked evidences of the ichthyotic condition present, in the dry, harsh, more or less ill-nourished, non-