

INOCULATION WITH LEPROSY. — The letter of Archdeacon Wright to *The Times* (Nov. 19th) will have been read with painful interest. This gentleman, it may be remembered, lately called public attention to the spread of leprosy, and the evidence of its contagiousness. He now furnishes a report from the Board of Health, Honolulu, giving information of the condition of a condemned criminal at Oahu gaol who was inoculated with leprosy by Dr. Arning on Nov. 5th, 1885. Dr. Emerson, the President of the Board of Health, and Dr. Kimball examined this man on September 25th of the present year, and reported that he presented marked signs of tubercular leprosy. Archdeacon Wright thinks that this "terrible experiment" goes far to prove the contagiousness of leprosy; and there is no doubt that such an experiment is proof of its inoculability.

OPERATION FOR TORTICOLLIS. — Dr. Levrat has devised a new method of treating torticollis. Instead of operating subcutaneously, he cuts down upon the sternal tendon of the sterno-mastoid muscle, effected by a longitudinal incision two centimetres long. He clears the tendon with the forcep, passes a grooved director under it, and divides it. He then divides any tissue that may bind down the muscle at that spot, sutures the wound, and dresses it antiseptically with iodoform and gauze. Over the dressings he places the following apparatus. The head being enveloped in a cotton wool, a silicated bandage is wound horizontally around it at the level of the forehead and a similar bandage vertically over the crown and under the jaw. Where these bandages meet at the level of the mastoid process on the sound side, a small hook, with the concavity looking upwards, is inserted. Another silicated bandage is wound round the body below the axilla, and through the thickness of the bandage a hook is inserted in the middle line in front, having its concavity looking downwards. When the bandages have dried, the two hooks are connected by a band of india rubber, which assists the sterno-mastoid of the sound side to keep up a continuous traction and so correct the deformity. This apparatus and the dressings are left un-

touched for fifteen days, and the success of the operation is said to be assured.

GONORRHEAL RHEUMATISM OCCURRING AT THE AGE OF NINE YEARS. — The occurrence of acute inflammation in the metatarso-cuneiform joint of a girl so young as this patient was difficult of explanation in the absence of a history of injury; and it was the presence of such unusual tenderness and pain in the fascia mentioned in the report that induced the house surgeon to inquire as to the possibility of the presence of gonorrhœa, no mention of the vaginal complication having been made by the patient. E. P. —, a girl nine years old, was recently brought to the out-patient department of the hospital by her mother. The patient had complained of smarting pain on micturition, and a vaginal discharge of a thick purulent character had been noticed for a week. She then began to complain of aching pains down the back of the neck. This was followed by pain along the bicipital tendon of the right leg, then along the same tendon on the opposite side. These pains became less severe, but then began in the left foot, first on the inner side of the heel, then along the sole, and finally in the first metatarso-cuneiform joint. There was no history of injury and no family history of tubercle. On examination, the joint was intensely painful, red, hot, and swollen; there was extreme tenderness, both superficial and deep, extending along the plantar fascia to the inner side of the heel. No other joint was affected. There were no signs of outrage about the vulva, with the exception of the labia being swollen and the presence of a thick purulent discharge. The mother indignantly denied the possibility of the child having been tampered with. The case was treated as one of gonorrhœal rheumatism, and the foot put up in plaster-of-Paris splints. With rest all pain in the foot disappeared, and the swelling gradually subsided without any complications. During the course of attendance at the hospital the mother acknowledged that the child had been indecently assaulted on three occasions by a youth, who, it appears, had been recently treated for gonorrhœa. — *London Lancet*.