

Correspondence.

PARIS LETTER.

An Improved System of Incubators.—The latest attraction of the Paris boulevards is an exhibition of an improved system of incubators which have recently been introduced to the capital, after a trial of several years by a philanthropic society of Nice. The premises occupied by this new hospital for premature infants consist of a shop on the ground floor, and its dependencies and the public are admitted on the payment of a small fee, which goes towards paying the general expenses. The inventor of *The Couveuses* in question, Mons. Lion, states that 130,000 of the children born annually in France die within the first few days because they are premature, and he claims that three-fourths of the number, at least 100,000, might be saved by proper management. There are ten incubators at the Boulevard Poissoniere, and since the place has been open five or six weeks ago no deaths have taken place, although they have been occupied by infants in all periods of premature viability. The *Couveuse* consists of a cage of glass and metal with sides half a yard in width and three-quarters of a yard high. The chief point of interest consists of an automatic heating apparatus, which by means of a metallic thermometer and arrangements of levers cuts off partially the supply of warm air when the temperature exceeds a fixed degree and allows a free entrance when the normal has been restored. The same metallic displacements can be made to ring an electric bell to call the attention of the attendants, but the automatic regulation of the temperature has been found so perfectly reliable that the complementary precaution has been found practically unnecessary. The greatest care is paid to antiseptics, the air being brought from the outside of the building by a pipe and filtered through cotton wool. When the children are fed they are taken into the back room which is separated by a glass partition from the main *Salle* and maintained at the higher temperature. There are three wet-nurses (for eight infants), and the breast is supplemented by the bottle and by nasal alimentation.

A very common fact is noticeable in the statistical report published concerning the operation of this incubator at Nice, showing what a great difference a few ounces of extra weight make in the

chances of life. Of the 185 cases treated, with 137 successful results, the weight in entrance varying from 800 grammes to 2 kilogrammes, 900 grammes, no child survived who weighed less than a kilogramme. There were three between 800 and 900 grammes, five between 900 and 1,000 (a kilogramme); all of these died. But of the four that weighed between 1,000 and 1,100, only one died. This was, however, a lucky series, for the next two classes, 1,100, 1,200, and 1,200, 1,300 show more deaths than recoveries, 2-4 and 4-5, respectively. From 1,300 upwards the successes constantly exceed the failures, and from 1,900 grammes until the end of the classification at 2,900 there are only 4 deaths in 80.

"Methode des Congeneres" in the Treatment of Tuberculosis in Children.—Dr. Maurice Block is contributing a series of papers to the *Revue Medicale* on the Treatment of Acquired Tuberculosis in Children, by the injection of blood from a healthy brother or sister of the patient. The method is termed the *Methode des Congénères*, and is based on the possibility of communicating a presumed immunity from the one to the other. Whatever may be the rationale of the treatment, the cases are interesting. In the last issue there are notes of three :

(1) A child ten years old, no phthisis in the family except maternal grandmother ; two of the other children have died of tuberculosis. The diagnosis confirmed by Mons. Quenu was attenuated fungous arthritis. The arm was fixed at a right angle, and there was periarticular fluctuation and *empalement*. A cubic centimetre of blood, taken from a sister thirteen years of age, was injected. Three weeks later the arm had recovered an almost normal direction, the articular disorders, after some oscillations had disappeared, and the child had increased in weight and strength.

(2) The brother of the preceding now 16 months old; diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis after broncho-pneumonia confirmed by Dr. Jules Simon ; loss of flesh, poly-microadenie, persistent cough, diffuse bronchitis, weight 7 kilos 110 grammes at the age of six months.

On the 2nd of April half a centimetre of blood was injected, on the 9th the weight was 7,300, on the 11th 7,500, the 23d 7,700. At the present time he is perfectly well, some relapses of bronchitis during teething having yielded to ordinary treatment. There has been no cough for four months (a second injection was made of 1 centimetre on the 16th May).

(3) A child of six months, in which the diagnosis of tubercular