

Medical Diary of the Week.

Monday, Aug. 31.

ST. MARK'S HOSPITAL.—Operations, 9 A.M. and 1½ P.M.
ROYAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL, MOORFIELDS.—Operations, 10½ A.M.
METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL.—Operations, 2 P.M.

Tuesday, Sept. 1.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.—Operations, 9 A.M.
ROYAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL, MOORFIELDS.—Operations, 10½ A.M.
GUY'S HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1½ P.M.
WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL.—Operations, 2 P.M.
NATIONAL ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL.—Operations, 2 P.M.

Wednesday, Sept. 2.

ROYAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL, MOORFIELDS.—Operations, 10½ A.M.
MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1 P.M.
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1½ P.M.
ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1½ P.M.
ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1½ P.M.
GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL.—Operations, 2 P.M.
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL.—Operations, 2 P.M.
LONDON HOSPITAL.—Operations, 2 P.M.
OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL, SOUTHWARK.—Operations, 2 P.M.

Thursday, Sept. 3.

ROYAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL, MOORFIELDS.—Operations, 10½ A.M.
ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1 P.M.
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL.—Operations, 2 P.M.
WEST LONDON HOSPITAL.—Operations, 2 P.M.
ROYAL ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL.—Operations, 2 P.M.
CENTRAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL.—Operations, 2 P.M.

Friday, Sept. 4.

ROYAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL, MOORFIELDS.—Operations, 10½ A.M.
ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1½ P.M.
WESTMINSTER OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1½ P.M.
CENTRAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL.—Operations, 2 P.M.

Saturday, Sept. 5.

ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.—Operations, 9½ A.M.
ROYAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL, MOORFIELDS.—Operations, 10½ A.M.
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1½ P.M.
KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1½ P.M.
CHARING-CROSS HOSPITAL.—Operations, 2 P.M.

To Correspondents.

STREET-WATERING.

As not only the comfort, but to a certain extent the health of Londoners is affected by the present inefficient mode of watering the streets, we recur to a subject to which reference was made some time since in noticing one of Dr. Whitmore's Health Reports of Marylebone, in which it was stated that the addition of deliquescent salts to the water thrown upon the streets bid fair to keep the dust more quiescent than hitherto has appeared to be possible. A paper was read on this subject before the British Association at Norwich, in the Mechanical Section, by Mr. Cooper, in which it was stated that in Baker-street, Portman-square, the inhabitants had given their unqualified testimony to the fact that the use of deliquescent salts (chlorides of sodium and calcium chiefly), in the proportion of about half a pound of these to a gallon of water, had prevented all annoyance from the dust. It seems, too, that it has obviated the necessity of Sunday labour, improved the condition of the roads, hardening them and concreting them in such a manner that, when dry, very little, if any, dust is disturbed by the ordinary traffic; and, what is of prime consideration, the new plan can effect, it is asserted, a great saving in water. About one-sixth of the water-supply usually goes for street-watering, and by the use of deliquescent salts a saving of 75 per cent. is effected, and this at a hot season of the year when every gallon is precious. We shall hope that the new mode of street-watering will be more extensively tested, and that its asserted advantages, if they turn out to be real, may be secured to us as quickly as possible.

Lara.—A L.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P.E. is qualified to hold a union appointment.

THE MEDICAL MILLENNIUM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It has been prophesied that at no very remote period "medical men will be able to stay the ravages of tubercle, blot out fevers and inflammations, melt down morbid growths, cure cancers, and stamp out small-pox."

I have been during the greater part of a long life engaged in investigating the origin, progress, and treatment of tumours, polypi, and cancers, and have arrived at the conclusion that cancers are incurable diseases. I was rejoiced beyond expression when it was announced that morbid growths are soon to be melted down and cancers cured.

Before I go hence and be no more, I should feel infinitely indebted to any of the prophets who have foretold this millennium if they would give me a hint how a cancer of the uterus is to be cured. I am certain it cannot be done by arsenic, red-hot irons, or potassa fusa, which has often been used, and invariably failed. If I learn that there is a probability of cancer being cured, I shall die in comfort, and only regret that the secret by which this miracle is to be accomplished had not been made known to me forty years earlier.

Your obedient servant,

London, August 23rd, 1868.

SRNEX.

ST. LEONARD'S HOSPITAL, SUDBURY:

At the annual meeting of the subscribers held on Tuesday, a long discussion took place on the amendment of Dr. Williams to Bye-laws 3 and 4, which run thus:—

"3. That each medical officer shall take a week in succession for the purpose of receiving patients. All cases of accident shall be admitted and retained by the medical officer of the week.

"4. That on the admission of a patient, such patient shall be allotted to the medical attendant who at the time of such admission shall have the smallest number of patients in the hospital. In case the medical officers shall each retain the same number of patients, the patient admitted shall be allotted to the medical officer of the week."

The question at issue was whether a patient should or should not be allowed to select his own medical attendant, against the plea that jealousies would be engendered amongst the medical officers if any one of them had more patients than another. Surely in every hospital the first duty of the Committee is to study the feelings and welfare of the patients, for whose special benefit, indeed, the institution was ostensibly founded. Dr. Williams's amendment was as follows:—

"That all patients admitted during the week be allotted to the medical officer of the week, and that such medical officer shall continue his attendance upon them as long as they remain in the hospital."

Certainly nothing can be fairer to all parties, and more consistent with common sense and with a system that is found to work well in all the institutions similar to St. Leonard's Hospital. The Governors, however, did not agree with the amendment, and it was rejected by a large majority—the numbers in favour of it being 8; against, 35; proxies, 32. Ladies present voted. Dr. Williams, amidst a general expression of regret, tendered his resignation as medical officer, and strenuously demanded as a subscriber that the fact should be recorded in the minutes. The Chairman, however, at the close of the meeting declined to receive the resignation. Dr. Williams has since addressed a letter to the Chairman, and has published it in the *Suffolk and Essex Free Press*. Speaking of tendering his resignation, he says:—

"I do so with considerable regret, as I have taken a deep interest in the welfare of the institution from its commencement; but as my opinion, *unanimously* confirmed by the twelve letters I read to you yesterday from gentlemen practically connected with hospitals, and the opinion of the Editor of THE LANCET, failed to convince the meeting of the impracticability of the Bye-laws 3 and 4, I feel that, in justice to myself and my professional credit, I must not hold an appointment subject to such rules. I must remind you that, from the opening of the hospital up to the present time, I have been acting under protest, and at the solicitation of some of the members of the Managing Committee; but now that the protested point is confirmed, you must consider my resignation to date from yesterday, and you will please to make arrangements for the medical care of the patients I have hitherto attended in the hospital."

We do not see what other course was open to Dr. Williams which would be consistent or honourable.

Enquirer is informed that the hair-wash suggested in the *Spectator*, "a weak solution of acetate of iron in water with a little glycerine," is not likely to have any injurious influence upon the health.

Mr. Taylor's letter arrived too late for insertion this week.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your impression of August 15th, I read a letter from Mr. King, of Chepstow, with reference to the Gresham Insurance Company. It may not be amiss at the present time to relate a similar attempt made upon myself a few years ago.

I quote from memory. I received a form to fill up, involving a medical opinion upon the life of one of my patients. Seeing no mention of a fee, I wrote to say, if they required my opinion, my fee was a guinea. I received an answer that I was only consulted as a private friend, and not in my medical capacity. I replied that certain questions in the form they had sent to me involved a medical opinion; but as I was not applied to professionally, Mr. ——— had many friends who were as capable as myself of giving them the information they required. The Office replied that they were sorry to find that I held the opinions I did with reference to Life Assurance Companies; but finding I did so, they had no alternative but to request my patient to employ some other medical man. I responded that I was sorry the Gresham Company held the opinions they did with reference to medicals; but finding they did so, I had no alternative but to request my patient to insure in another Office,—which he has done, together with his son. To my professional brother I would say, "Do thou likewise."—Yours faithfully,

Shrewsbury, Aug. 19th, 1868. SAM. WOOD, F.R.C.S.

P.S.—May not a fee under such circumstances be recovered in the County Court?

Milnrow.—There is not the slightest blame to be attributed to Dr. Chadwick, who attended promptly. The death of the patient was due to the improper position in which she was placed immediately after labour. She fainted, and instead of being placed by the midwife in the recumbent posture, she was supported upright in a kneeling position till long after she was dead.

Dr. H. Gray.—He will be qualified, after having given proof of his capacity, to hold the appointment.

M. A. C.—The request shall be complied with.

D. D. V. will have to attend hospital practice for three winter and two summer sessions.

THE HORAMAGRAPHER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you allow me, through the medium of your columns, to inform those gentlemen I met at Oxford and others who are desirous to obtain an instrument similar to the one I exhibited for "investigating the field of vision," that Mr. Collins, of Great Titchfield-street, Oxford-street, has been here to see the instrument and have it explained. He has by this time, or soon will have, some ready for sale. I am, Sir, yours, &c.,
Maidstone, August 25th, 1868. MATTHEW A. ADAMS.

ASSISTANTS AND THE PHARMACY ACT.

As a great many communications have reached us, seeking information in regard to the clauses of the new Pharmacy Act which relate to the registration especially of assistants, we may once for all state that, as we read the new Act, no person can be registered as a chemist and druggist without passing an examination, unless he was in business on his own account as such prior to the passing of the Act. Those who were assistants to chemists and druggists before that time may be registered on passing a modified examination. Where medical practitioners have kept open shops, they have been in the eye of the law, we imagine, chemists and druggists, and presume that their assistants are in the same position as were those of chemists and druggists, properly so called, and such assistants will have to undergo an examination. The case will be altered under the new order of things as far as the profession is concerned, because no one can now be registered under the Medical Act and the Pharmacy Act also. It is specially directed that this distinction shall be made. Those of our readers who wish to register, and are in doubt as to what steps to take, should apply at the Pharmaceutical Society for the schedules which are required to be filled up on applying to be registered.

Dr. B. Gill will find the information he requires in *Murray's Handbook for the Holy Land*.

DR. LYON PLAYFAIR.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You have so consistently supported the claims of Dr. Lyon Playfair as a suitable member for the Universities of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, that I trust you will allow me a short space to contradict certain misrepresentations with regard to him, which are very assiduously propagated by his opponents.

Firstly, I have heard from more than one source that Dr. Playfair has attempted to deceive the constituency by claiming to be a medical man, when, in fact, he is not so. This is a very grave charge; but fortunately it is one without a shadow of foundation. No such claim has ever been advanced on his behalf. What his friends have claimed for him is, that his course of work and education entitle him to the support of medical men, and well qualify him to represent their interests in Parliament. If a complete medical curriculum extending over four years, a life-time spent in the study of the very questions on which our profession most requires representation, and a present position as a member of the medical faculty of the University of Edinburgh, and as a teacher of medical men, are not in themselves sufficient qualifications for the purpose, I should be at a loss to know where to look for them.

The next question on which there appears to be considerable doubt among my fellow-graduates is with regard to Dr. Playfair's politics. Not long ago it was persistently rumoured that he appeared altogether under false pretences; that, in fact, he was a strong Tory, professing to be a Liberal. This fiction having served its turn, I now hear on every side that he is an extreme Radical, whose only object is to revolutionise existing institutions. I think no one can have read his address without seeing how inconsistent with the facts are both these statements. As a moderate Liberal, without extreme views of any sort, Dr. Lyon Playfair might well have omitted any allusion to the Irish Church question, and thus possibly have secured the support of a few graduates who have strong opinions on that subject. But as this is the great test question of the day, it seemed to him fairer to express his views with regard to it—views which are also those of many Conservatives. In the original circular to the graduates, signed by leading members of our profession, the passage occurs: "We think it right to state that Dr. Lyon Playfair is a supporter of Liberal principles." In the corresponding circular of the friends of Mr. Swinton, his politics were carefully concealed. The most politic course is the true one.

Permit me to say, Sir, a word in conclusion with regard to the late appearance of my friend Dr. Richardson as a candidate. That his talents and position would make him an admirable representative of medical interests in Parliament, no one is more ready to admit than Dr. Playfair himself, who at one time was ready to withdraw in his favour, provided he had determined to contest the seat with fair prospect of success. Dr. Richardson then expressed himself as having no fixed intentions. Months elapsed without any sign on his part, and, after an active canvass, Dr. Playfair secured for himself a very large and daily increasing body of supporters. Surely it cannot reasonably be expected that he will now withdraw from a contest in which he is far ahead of every other candidate. I hope and believe that Dr. Richardson's candidature cannot now influence Dr. Playfair's prospects one way or another. The only effect it could have is to give the legal candidate hopes of success, and to put Dr. Richardson into the unenviable position of aiding one lawyer the more to mount on his back into the House of Commons.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

August, 1868.

M.D., A MEMBER OF THE LONDON COMMITTEE.

J. W.—The degree of Ph. D. is to be obtained at several British and foreign Universities. It is often honorary, but the rules for granting it vary at the different institutions.

Mr. J. J. Brigham.—The registrar can insist upon the death being registered by a person who was present at the time of the decease.

Dr. T. Joyce.—We believe it has been carried out at Croydon, Surrey.

Mr. Jos. Clarke Johnson.—The papers have been destroyed.

A CALL FOR HELP.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The appeal on behalf of Mrs. Rann and her family, widow and children of the late Mr. George Rann, Surgeon, of Dale End, in this town, made in THE LANCET of May last, has been responded to by subscriptions from yourself, Dr. Bell Fletcher, Dr. Russell, Dr. Birt Davies, and other leading members of the medical profession in Birmingham and elsewhere. But they at present fall very short of the sum needed to place Mrs. Rann in a position to earn a livelihood for herself and family. As this is a case of great urgency, satisfactorily vouched for as deserving help, may I be allowed cordially again to commend it to the notice of the wealthy and benevolent.

Subscriptions will be received by any of the following gentlemen:—Dr. Bell Fletcher, Waterloo-street; Dr. Russell, Newhall-street; Mr. Sampson Gamgee, Broad-street; Mr. Furneaux Jordan, Colmore-row; Mr. T. Swain, Newhall-street; and Messrs. Banks and Richars, High-street, who kindly act as Treasurers.

Birmingham, August, 1868.

A MEMBER OF THE PROFESSION.

THE COBRA POISON.

Dr. Marchall (Tobago) writes us in regard to the prevention of ill-effects from snake-bite:—"An intelligent farmer, living near the mountains, had a venomous snake brought to him. He had often heard that the Indians when travelling suspended round their legs several teeth of an alligator, to which they said the snake has a repugnance, and refuses to bite. To test the truth of this assertion, he threw a fowl towards the snake; it was bitten and died. He took another, and suspended round it an alligator's tooth; the snake refused to strike. The tooth was then taken off, and when again exposed to the reptile, the bird was struck and killed." Our correspondent thinks that, as the alligator's tooth becomes electric when rubbed, "galvanic discs or medals might be tried" as preventives of snake-bite.

Marie J. A. (Edinburgh) will oblige us by forwarding some of the "paper" in question.

THE MEDICAL CLUB.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As an original member of the Medical Club, I, like your other correspondents, have received a circular from the Committee, asking for an increase of subscription at the end of the present year.

I joined the Club, and induced as many of my friends to do so as possible, on the understanding that we were to be kept free from all liability for the debts incurred in the carrying out of the Club. The Committee have taken every possible precaution to ensure that provision being legally complied with, and like sensible men of business, not wishing to involve themselves in a liability of which the members cannot be called upon to bear a part, and finding the subscription of one guinea to be inadequate to meet the future expenses of the Club, they have asked for the increase in question.

No doubt many members, like myself, have never visited the Club; still it has been in existence for our convenience for two years, had we felt disposed to make use of it. I consider our best thanks are due to the Committee for the time and trouble they have devoted to the cause, and I hope at the ensuing general meeting, which I see is to be held shortly, a satisfactory resolution will be arrived at, and thereby ensure the harmony and future prosperity of the Club.

Your obedient servant,

August 24th, 1868.

AN ORIGINAL MEMBER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I quite agree with your correspondent, "A Country Member," that the proposal to treble the subscriptions of the original members is not only unfair, but a direct breach of faith, and a persistence in this course will assuredly bring about a speedy collapse of an institution otherwise destined to be of incalculable benefit to the profession. The great bulk of the country members will probably seldom or never see the Club House, but, like myself, will cheerfully pay the subscription originally agreed upon to promote so good an object. I trust, however, the country members will rise as one man to resist this attempt to treble the annual subscription.

If the Committee has gone to expenses it was not warranted in doing, or if at any time any necessary improvement is called for, I would suggest a *pro rata* contribution to wipe off the debt, rather than break faith with the original members as to the annual subscription. There may be some difficulty in ascertaining the minds of the members on this point, it is true; but, under any circumstances, it is better (if the annual income is insufficient for ordinary expenses) to induce the profession to join the Club rather than seriously to curtail the present number of members by such an unexpected call upon their purse.

Yours obediently,

August 18th, 1868.

FAIRPLAY.

A Country Subscriber may turn to THE LANCET of December 7 and 14, 1867, pp. 727 and 758, for information on the subject to which he refers.

Mr. M. A. Adams.—We shall be glad to receive the illustrated account of our correspondent's new instrument, for insertion as soon as space will permit. *Tymeside* will have to pass an examination before he can register.

CARBOLIC ACID IN THE TREATMENT OF WARTS, PITYRIASIS VERSICOLOR, AND FAVUS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me a small portion of space in your next impression to furnish your correspondent, Mr. Webb, and through him the numerous readers of your journal, with the information he is unable, from want of experience in the remedy, to supply them with in his letter addressed to you in the last number of THE LANCET on the employment of carbolic acid in the treatment of warts in man?

Some months since I treated with a strong spirituous solution of the acid a considerable crop of these growths on the head of a patient of mine with the most marked success. I have likewise found it eminently curative in the treatment of favus, pityriasis versicolor, and chronic vomiting, in which the presence of sarcinae was detected, and in several other diseases having a cryptogamic origin.

During my sojourn in Paris in the year 1865, carbolic, or, as it was then named, phenic acid, was extensively employed by several of the most eminent physicians in that city in the form of inhalation in the treatment of phthisis and chronic bronchitis, under the belief that the above diseases, if not caused, were certainly aggravated by the presence of one or other of the many parasites to which the human body is liable, as would appear from the recent investigations of the many able men who have directed their attention to the parasitic origin of disease.

From the experience I have had with carbolic acid as a remedial agent, I am inclined to estimate it as holding a very high position in our materia medica.

Liverpool, August 17th, 1868.

Yours faithfully,

P. W. H. JONES, M.D.

A CAUTION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you be good enough to insert the following in the next number of your journal.

A female, of florid complexion, corpulent, about forty years old, and five feet five inches in height, without upper canine teeth, been cupped many times on back and abdomen, of plausible address, dark eyes and hair, and giving the name of W—, widow of a late colonel in the British army, also professing to be highly connected by birth, and on intimate terms with leading medical men, and engaged by Miss B. Coult's on objects of charity, is attempting to impose on the profession and the public.—Yours, &c.,

August, 1868.

A VOTER.

A FOUR-LEGGED CHILD.

The following is the description given by Professors Jones and Paul Eve, of the University of Nashville, of the case of a monster recently born to a Mr. and Mrs. Corban, of Tennessee:—

"The infant, J. Myrtle Corban, has four legs and two distinct external female organs of generation, with two external openings of the urethra and two external openings of the double rectum. The external genito-urinary organs are as distinct as if they belonged to two separate human beings. The fæces and urine are passed (most generally simultaneously, particularly the urine) from both external urinary and intestinal openings, situated respectively between the left and right pairs of legs. The head and trunk are those of a living, well-developed, healthy, active infant of about five weeks; whilst the lower portion of the body is divided into the members of two distinct individuals, near the junction of the spinal column with the os sacrum. As far as our examination could be prosecuted in the living child, we are led to the belief that the lower portion of the spinal column is divided or cleft, and that there are two pelvic arches supporting the four limbs, which are situated upon the same plane. Photographs of this infant have been made by the advice and under the supervision of one of our number. The reality in this case surpasses expectation, and we are of the opinion that this interesting living monstrosity exceeds in its curious manifestation of the powers of nature in abnormal productions, the celebrated 'Siamese Twins.'"

THE ABYSSINIAN MEDICAL PROMOTIONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you allow me to make a few remarks in your journal on the late medical promotions for the Abyssinian expedition?

I do not desire to detract aught from the merits of the favoured few, but only to point out what appear to me to be anomalies in the promotions.

The rank of surgeon-major is one which is usually only attainable after twenty years' full-pay service. To this rank I find three surgeons have been promoted, *in causa honoris*, for "distinguished services" in Abyssinia. The senior of these gentlemen entered the service in December, 1848, and therefore without any particular service he would have attained his surgeon-major's rank in a little more than *four months*. The other two, however, wanted, the one five years, and the other six years and four months, to attain that rank in the ordinary course of things. It is therefore palpable either that the "distinguished services" of the latter gentlemen have been transcendently greater than those of their senior officer, or that their reward has been altogether out of proportion to the meed granted to the other.

But I would further observe that the value of these gentlemen's services in Abyssinia must have been peculiarly great to justify their being placed over the heads of so many their seniors. Two of these gentlemen, if I may judge from Hart's Army List, have not seen active service before, and yet they have been promoted over the heads of gentlemen who have grown grey campaigning, some of whom have earned the V.C., and some have probably seen as much active service as the distinguished hero of Magdala himself.

In a strictly military point of view, the Abyssinian campaign must be regarded as simply a monster flying column. It must yield in general importance and military strategy to Sir Hope Grant's *coup de main* in China. Yet both were campaigns of the same stamp. In both the medical service in the field was necessarily small. The sick and wounded, if any, had to be sent to the field hospitals, and thence to the hospital ships, where the proper surgery &c. of the campaign fell to the lot of the medical officers in charge of these floating hospitals. Yet, Sir, has any mention been made of these gentlemen, either by their own chief, Dr. Currie, or the Lord of Magdala in his despatches? None, and the natural conclusion is, that although there may be some reward in store for the *marching* medical officer, there is none for the *working* one. This is one of the evils of our present system, which it is expected that a unified system will rectify.

Finally, I would ask is there no way of rewarding medical officers for "distinguished services," excepting at the cost of their seniors, who have claims for "distinguished services" in the Crimea, China, India, New Zealand, and everywhere excepting Abyssinia? I think there is, and further believe that it is the duty of our medical authorities to try to protect the seniors of the department, who have already done good service, from being unjustly superseded by youngsters who have never shared in any military campaign or operation before the formation of the Magdala flying column.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

August 18th, 1868.

NESTOR.

* * We concur in the opinion that it would be better if some other way could be devised of rewarding medical officers—one which should not, for example, promote a man at the expense of his brethren. The only plan by which this could be effected would be by instituting a special list for those officers who had received promotion as the reward of some special or field service. —ED. L.

MEDICAL ETIQUETTE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your impression of the 22nd instant you completely reverse your verdict of the previous week in the matter of professional etiquette between myself and Dr. Alexander, and warrant the proceeding by stating that Dr. Alexander has assured you that the "representation" I made to you was "inaccurate." Now, Sir, I know it is said that one story remains good only till another is told; but I am at a loss to understand by what process you have arrived at the *accuracy* of my opponent's statement over my own. Will you permit me to restate my complaint for *public* perusal, and to invite Dr. Alexander's *public* reply? My truthfulness has been impeached in your columns, and I must beg through the same medium to be allowed this letter of defence. With the subjoined facts on my side, I do not fear the judgment of my professional brethren.

On the 6th instant I was called to visit James N— (who had been under my care ten days or a fortnight previously), and prescribed what I considered to be the proper remedy for his ailment. In the evening of the same day the father of the young man came to my surgery with a note from Dr. Alexander, advising different treatment, though admitting at the same time "the patient had improved since my visit in the morning, and would do well."

Now, Sir, in the first place, I deny the "urgency" of Dr. Alexander's interposition; and secondly, I have to complain of the most unjustifiable breach of etiquette on his part in visiting and prescribing for a patient of mine in my absence, and entirely without my knowledge. I may state that my residence is within a few hundred yards of the patient's house. This is a plain and truthful statement of the case. Let Dr. Alexander controvert it if he can.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Luddenden, August 25th, 1868.

THOMAS CROWTHER, M.D.

Ignoramus.—The Norwegian cooking-boxes may be obtained from the patentee, Mr. Söreeneen, whose address, we believe, is Duke-street, Manchester-square.

Students.—Army Medical Department, Whitehall.

Anxious Inquirer should put the question to his medical adviser.

THE CLIMATE OF INDIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will any of your correspondents who have lived in India kindly give me an account of the climate of those parts where they have resided—the most healthy and the most unhealthy for Europeans, especially for children. My object is to advise a patient, who has an appointment, about taking out his wife and child, aged eleven years.

August, 1868.

Yours, &c.,
W. A. R.

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