

Puri, is appointed to act as Civil Surgeon of Gaya until further orders from the date on which he took over the charge of those duties. Surgeon-Captain F. C. Clarkson, Officiating Civil Surgeon of Gaya, is appointed to act as Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Western Bengal Circle. Surgeon-Captain C. N. Bensley is appointed to act as Civil Surgeon of Rangpur. Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. G. Carmichael, M.D., I.M.S., Bengal Establishment, is granted the temporary rank of Surgeon-Colonel whilst officiating as Principal Medical Officer, Presidency District, consequent on the retirement of Surgeon-Colonel G. C. Chesnaye, Principal Medical Officer, Lahore District. Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel D. Wilkie, M.B., Statistical Officer to the Government of India in the Sanitary and Medical Departments, has leave for one year. Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel A. F. Dobson, M.B., I.M.S. (Madras), Residency Surgeon, Bangalore, has leave for three months.

NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICE.

Surgeon William George Kynaston Barnes, M.D., has been promoted to the rank of Staff-Surgeon in Her Majesty's Fleet. Surgeon Martin Henry Atcock, M.D., has been permitted to withdraw from Her Majesty's Naval Service, with a gratuity.

VOLUNTEER CORPS.

Artillery: 1st Dorsetshire (Southern Division Royal Artillery): Hubert Houssemayne Du Boulay, Gent., to be Surgeon-Lieutenant.—1st Ayrshire and Galloway: Samuel Archibald David Gillespie, M.B., to be Surgeon-Lieutenant — *Rifle*: The Queen's Rifle Volunteer Brigade, the Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment): James Aitken Clark, M.B., to be Surgeon-Lieutenant.—1st Volunteer Battalion, the Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire Regiment): Surgeon-Lieutenant G. D. Todd to be Surgeon-Captain.—3rd Volunteer Battalion, the Welsh Regiment: William Watkins Jones, M.B., to be Surgeon-Lieutenant.—14th Middlesex (Inns of Court): Charles Joseph Arkle, M.D., to be Surgeon-Lieutenant.—24th Middlesex: Alfred Eddowes, M.D., to be Surgeon-Lieutenant.—3rd Volunteer Battalion (Bedfordshire Regiment): Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel H. F. Holland has been nominated for Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel of the Home Counties Brigade.

ARMY RECRUITING.

According to the report just published the recruiting for the army for the past year (1893) is very satisfactory. The infantry of the line has been recruited up to its authorised establishment. The physique of the militia recruits is stated to be improving, together with that of the regular army, where, especially in the Foot Guards and cavalry of the line, there has been marked improvement. This state of things is, no doubt, attributable, to some extent, to the difficulty in obtaining employment in civil life on the part of young men, to the greater inducements held out by the army in the way of better barrack accommodation, feeding, and greater attention paid to the comfort of the soldier of late years, whilst serving actually with the colours, but most of all to the organisations which exist for providing discharged soldiers with employment. It is earnestly to be hoped that eventually Government may be able to provide all soldiers who have served twelve years with employment of some kind on their discharge from the army.

THE LADY DUFFERIN FUND.

Lady Elgin seems to have held her first central committee meeting in connexion with the above Fund soon after the arrival of the new Viceroy at Government House, Calcutta. Lieutenant-General Brackenbury, Sir A. MacDonnell, Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Franklin, and other members were present. A resolution was passed expressive of the loss which the association had sustained by the departure of the Marchioness of Lansdowne, who took great interest in the Fund and made frequent visits to its hospitals in all parts of India.

Scarlet fever is stated to have broken out at Keyham Naval College, Devonport. Some of the students have been removed to the Naval Hospital, and others have been placed under observation.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. John Lewis Owen, L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S., who for many years resided at Treherbert, has been the recipient from the miners and tradesmen of that district of an illuminated address and a valuable box of surgical instruments.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE SENTIMENT OF OBITUARY NOTICES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—At the annual meeting of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society on Thursday last, I listened with pleasure and profit to the pro-President's interesting sketch of the lives of Sir Andrew Clark and Dr. Charcot. He expressed an opinion, however, so entirely contrary to the old traditions and, as I believe, to the best interests of the society and of the profession that I venture with all respect to him to call it in question. He doubted the expediency of continuing the biographical sketches of the Fellows whose loss the society had had to deplore during the previous year on the ground of the difficulty of ascertaining facts concerning them, and also on the other ground, scarcely reconcilable with it, that sufficient mention of them appeared in the medical journals. Accordingly all but two were passed over with the bare mention of the date of their birth, that of their joining the society and of their death. I remember the names of two of our late Fellows, with neither of whom I had any acquaintance: the one died in his prime, having achieved great success, a hospital surgeon, a teacher of repute, and a respected practitioner of his art; the other, a young man just entering on life, who had done so well that all looked with confidence to his future distinction, when

"Comes the blind Fury with th' abhorred shears
And slits the thin-spun life."

Surely, to name no others, there were in these two lives themes that were well worth a moment's pause. "Alas! my brother," seems to me the least that could be said. In olden time the members of a guild followed each one who died to his grave, and gave expression to their sense of his worth and of their bereavement. Our society is a guild too, "an association," as the law defines it, "having laws and orders made by itself, in virtue of authority of the prince to that effect."

When, once a year, we meet to take stock of the work our guild has done, "the aim of which is sincerely to give a true account of the gift of reason for the benefit and use of man," we are surely bound to take some notice of those the fruits of whose labours we inherit, and not to pass by their names and leave them to the casual mention in the medical journals, as though we had not some special interest in them and did not owe many of them some special debts of gratitude. It matters little that the date of birth and trivial domestic incidents should be given correctly. The man himself—what he was, what he did, where he succeeded, where he failed; success and failure alike estimated, not in the common coin of the world's mintage: these are surely matters that may well engage the attention of the society, and the judgment passed on them by such men as my friend the pro-President would be ratified by all, and by none more heartily than by

Your faithful servant,

CHARLES WEST, M.D.

Evelyn Mansions, Carlisle-place, S.W., March 5th, 1894.

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—On behalf of the council of the Royal Medical Benevolent College we earnestly appeal for aid to enlarge the chapel, which will no longer accommodate the pensioners, the pupils, and the staff. It is absolutely necessary to put in hand with as little delay as possible the requisite enlargement of the building, the cost of which will amount to about £3000. No further extension of the school can take place until this want is supplied. It is intended, with the direct sanction and approval of Lady Derby, to associate the name of Earl Derby, our late president, with a part of this addition. A transept will be especially associated with the past pupils of the college, and it is intended that it shall be practically a memorial transept in which shall be placed tablets or brasses in memory of old pupils who have distinguished themselves. The present pupils and the members of the staff have undertaken to provide a new organ in recognition of the unswerving