

The results obtained by adding the substance, in the proportion of one ounce to an ordinary sized well, have been encouraging, though they are not sufficiently numerous for him to definitely recommend the practice as a sanitary precaution.

#### THE LATE SIR EDWARD HAMLEY.

The late General Hamley was a remarkable man in more ways than one. He was a gallant soldier who had distinguished himself by his valour in the Crimea, a strategist who had published a text-book on "The Operations of War" which has a European reputation, a brilliant writer and a novelist and essayist of no mean merit, and yet there can be no doubt that at the time of his death he was a disappointed man and laboured under a sense of wrong. With an unusual number of fine qualities he had an assertive and somewhat austere manner which probably led to his being misunderstood and misrepresented. The main cause of General Hamley's feeling of injustice and disappointment was connected with his services in command of the Second Division at the battle of Tel el-Kebir, upon which fell, he alleged, the main burden and success of the assault. Mr. Shand, his biographer, who has written a very interesting account of Sir Edward Hamley's life, has gone fully into the subject, and the question which occupies the military mind at present is whether any explanation in the way of reply will be forthcoming. It is a subject that does not come within the province of medical journalism, and about which, of course, we are not competent to express any opinion, but our readers cannot have forgotten that an inquiry took place into the conduct of the medical service in the Egyptian campaign of 1882. Medical officers at the end of that expedition—in which better results had been obtained than had ever before been accomplished in the treatment of wounds and sickness in warfare—found themselves called upon to vindicate their department and its work on that occasion from what they thought unjust and ungenerous attacks. The result was not unsatisfactory to the medical service, and it was always understood that the late Sir Edward Hamley was no participator in the views of those who attacked it.

#### ARMY MEDICAL STAFF IN INDIA.

We are pleased to be assured by the Secretary of State for India (*vide* our Parliamentary Intelligence, p. 1555) that the establishment of the Army Medical Staff in India is considered sufficient for the requirements of the Army in peace and war, and that there is no reason to suppose that it is "terribly undermanned"; but this official answer to a question put by Mr. A. C. Morton does not at all dovetail with the following extract from a letter of an officer in India, recently published in the *Army and Navy Gazette* on the condition of garrisons after the mobilisation of hospitals for the Chitral relief force had been carried out:—"The hospitals have been successfully mobilised for the expedition, but the result is that the stations are denuded of medical officers, chiefly those of the Indian Medical Service; all leave is stopped, and men are going sick with extra hard work. One medical officer is doing duty at the station hospital, is also staff surgeon, and, as well, in medical charge of a native cavalry regiment. Another is in charge of his own corps (a native regiment) and has to look after a large cantonment hospital as well. The Indian Government has no reserve for any emergency like the present. In fact, there is a paucity of medical officers, medical subordinates, hospital assistants, and ward orderlies, to carry on the medical duties of garrison hospitals."

#### THE LEE-METFORD ARMY RIFLE.

Some doubt has been felt and expressed by military men as to the efficiency of the small new regulation projectile, used with cordite powder, to break the "rush" of an enemy on a line or square. A communication in the *Standard* of the 12th inst., in calling attention to this subject, quotes from a letter received from an officer engaged in the fighting at the Malakand Pass and at Khar during the recent Chitral expedition. Allowing for the fact that, as the writer does not appear to be a medical officer, his description may be inaccurate, the quotation is to the effect that a wounded Swati in one of the field hospitals was found to have had no less than six bullets through him—through the knee, ankle, trunk of the body, and one through the back of the neck, traversing the mouth, wounding the tongue, and carrying away two upper front teeth in its course. It is stated that the wounded man was able nevertheless to go voluntarily to the hospital for treat-

ment and was doing well. The correspondent of our contemporary asks whether such immunity from immediate disablement to an enemy does not mean greater danger and loss to our own soldiers when withstanding a charge or rush, such, for instance, as we experienced with the Arabs in the Soudan.

#### THE CHITRAL RELIEF FORCE.

According to the latest accounts, the health of the force—both European and native—is very good. The troops which composed Co'onel Kelly's force have been suffering from the effects of their late exposure, severe marches, and the hardships they underwent. As we have already said, the fact that Colonel Kelly and his officers were comparatively unknown men in command of a small force of native soldiers and followers, is one of the most satisfactory things about the grand achievement they undertook and successfully accomplished. The enterprise, the fearlessness and courage of the leaders, and the pluck and endurance of the men who accomplished the work they set themselves to do are qualities of which we must all feel proud. The advance of the larger expedition under General Sir R. Low no doubt materially influenced the course of events and enabled Colonel Kelly's force to do what it did—namely, to make one of the most memorable marches on record. The description of this march from Gilgit to Chitral by the special correspondent of the *Times* is one of the most interesting narratives that has appeared for a long time.

#### INSPECTION OF THE VOLUNTEER MEDICAL STAFF CORPS.

The London Companies of the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps were inspected by the Duke and Duchess of Teck on Saturday, June 8th, when some 200 men paraded at Putney under the command of Surgeon-Colonel Norton. The smartness of the men, upon which they were complimented by the Duke of Teck, spoke well for the training they had received.

#### LEAVE FOR MEDICAL OFFICERS SERVING IN INDIA.

The *Pioneer Mail* of the 22nd ult. states that the Government of India have decided that leave out of India may now be granted to medical officers on the usual conditions—viz., if their services can be spared locally and with the consent of the Principal Medical Officer at headquarters.

Surgeon-Captain Michael Thomas Yarr, A.M.S., attached to the Coldstream Guards, has been appointed physician to the Crown Prince of Siam.

## Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

### HOSPITAL SUNDAY.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS.—For the twenty-fourth successive year the Council of the Hospital Sunday Fund—of which, in my official capacity as Lord Mayor, I am president and treasurer—have to claim your indulgence in drawing public attention to the approach of Hospital Sunday, and in invoking increased assistance for the medical charities of this great metropolis. The various congregations in the churches and chapels of London will have their attention drawn on Sunday next (Hospital Sunday) to the needs of these institutions and to the vast work which they are effecting among a population of over five millions, living close to each other, the majority of whom are poor, and many are sick, suffering, and dying.

Last year's statistics afford valuable testimony to the beneficent character of the operations of the hospitals and dispensaries of London. From these it is gathered that the voluntary hospitals and medical charities in the Metropolis relieved during 1894 no fewer than 1 383 000 patients at a cost of £699 527.

The ordinary income of the institutions amounted to only £559 725, leaving a deficiency on the year's work of £139 802. The number of beds in the hospitals is 8391, but only 6490 were occupied and nearly 2000 constantly remain empty for want of funds. The Hospital Sunday Fund distributed last year over £40,000 among ninety hospitals, twenty-two convalescent homes, thirteen cottage hospitals and fifty-four dispensaries, and in addition purchased surgical appliances for 2814 sufferers requiring that form of relief. The number of

contributing congregations was 1799, being the largest ever recorded in the fund's history, and representing every form of faith.

This year the Council venture once again to appeal for funds towards covering the deficiency of over £130,000 which remains when the ordinary income of the charities is exhausted. They feel that if this large sum is not actually raised by this one effort the benevolence of the public will, as in past years, materially supply the needs of the medical institutions. The value of the hospitals is not merely gauged by the amount of suffering relieved; it is within their walls that our medical practitioners acquire their skill, experience, and knowledge, that nurses receive their training, and the sanitation of our great city is improved and advanced.

On the religious aspect of the movement it is not for me to dwell. I would only say that it is an edifying sight on this annual recurrence of Hospital Sunday to witness people of all denominations and creeds sinking their differences and joining heartily in lending helping hands in the interests of the sick and suffering poor of this teeming city.

While it is desirable and conducive to convenience that intending donors should forward their contributions through their respective places of worship, I shall be glad to add to the fund any subscriptions which may be sent direct to me at the Mansion House.

Thanking you for the publicity which I feel sure you will accord to this appeal,

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,  
JOSEPH RENALS, Lord Mayor.

Mansion House, London, June 13th, 1895.

## BATHING AND AURAL DISEASES.

*To the Editors of THE LANCET.*

SIRS,—As the bathing season is commencing it is not out of place to call attention to the fact that every year a number of patients are seen suffering from some aural disease which is directly attributable to bathing, especially sea-bathing. The most frequent troubles are acute otitis media, acute diffuse otitis externa, often associated with a ceruminous plug, a combination of the two preceding lighting up an acute condition in a chronic suppurative otitis media, simple deafness from swelling of a ceruminous plug, and occasional extension of a suppurative process to the antrum, mastoid process, &c. Other troubles from diving, such as concussion of the labyrinth, rupture of the membrana tympani, with subsequent acute otitis media, are occasionally seen; and there seems no doubt that sea-bathing is a cause of exostoses. The question as to how these may be avoided is an important one. It should be a rule that persons suffering from middle-ear discharge should never bathe at all, and those who have had middle-ear discharge and whose membranes have healed, or those who have any tendency to ear troubles, should never bathe without some efficient means for preventing water entering the ears, such as firm plugs of cotton wool with an oilskin cap fitting tightly over them as recommended by Dr. Urban Pritchard. Water remaining in the healthy ear should be let out as soon as possible; to effect this it is a good plan to incline the head well over to the affected side, straighten the meatus by pulling the auricle upwards and backwards, and execute a series of hops on the foot corresponding to the affected ear. The acute otitis seems to be occasionally caused by water which has entered the naso-pharynx being blown into the middle ear by the forcible efforts to expel it by the nose; this danger is of course greater if there is a nasal block present.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,  
Harley-street, W., June 8th, 1895. ARTHUR H. CHEATLE.

## THE "LIBERATOR" RELIEF FUND.

*To the Editors of THE LANCET.*

SIRS,—In accordance with a suggestion made by numerous sympathisers with the "Liberator" Relief Fund it is proposed to have a "Liberator" Sunday on the first Sunday in next month, July 7th, when the special claims and distressing need of the aged and destitute victims in this truly national and cruel disaster may be declared from every pulpit in the land, and all the worshippers present at least given an opportunity of contributing something, many of whom may not be able to spare the time or may not think it worth while to send their small subscription by means of a postal order to the office of

the fund. We beg very heartily to commend the proposal to Christian Churches of all denominations, believing that if adopted to any general extent it would go far towards realising the much-needed augmentation of the fund, whilst affording a happy and striking illustration of the essential oneness of the various sections of the Christian Church in the work of Christ-like charity. The Executive Committee are now sending an earnest request for a collection, or part collection, to every clergyman and minister whose name and address they can procure, but lest they should fail to reach anyone who may be willing to join in this final endeavour to raise the Fund to the £100,000 required before it can relieve in any adequate sense the worst cases, we should greatly esteem if you would kindly give your valuable aid by calling attention to this special effort. We should like to add that a pamphlet has been prepared dealing at length with this matter, entitled "Liberator Victims: a First-charge on Christian Charity," copies of which, in any number desired, the Rev. J. Stockwell Watts, honorary secretary (16, Farringdon-street, E.C.), will be pleased to forward to clergymen or ministers willing to distribute the same among the members of their respective congregations.—Sincerely thanking you in advance for the kind insertion of this letter,

We are, Sirs, yours faithfully,

(Signed) KINNAIRD.

F. W. FARRAR, D.D. (Dean of Canterbury).

WILLIAM SINCLAIR (Archdeacon of London and Canon of St. Paul's).

URIJAH R. THOMAS (Chairman, Congregational Union of England and Wales).

J. MONRO GIBSON, M.A., D.D. (Presbyterian).

HUGH PRICE HUGHES, M.A. (Wesleyan).

ROBERT F. HORTON, M.A., D.D. (Congregational).

J. CLIFFORD, M.A., LL.B., B.Sc. (Baptist).

MARK GUY PEARSE (Wesleyan).

J. MORGAN GIBBON (Congregational).

H. ARNOLD THOMAS, M.A. (Congregational).

June 12th, 1895.

## THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL.

*To the Editors of THE LANCET.*

SIRS,—I beg to call your attention to the report in your issue of the 8th inst. of the case of Mr. G. F. McCarthy on page 1470. By some oversight it is stated that "Dr. Braxton Hicks addressed the Council" &c. It is, no doubt, known to you that my father is Dr. J. Braxton Hicks, and in no way was concerned in the matter, and I should be glad if you will correct this in your next issue.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

A. BRAXTON HICKS.

Lupus-street, W., June 8th, 1895. Coroner and Barrister-at-Law.

\* \* We regret the oversight.—ED. L.

## DEFECTS OF VISION AND ACCIDENTS.

*To the Editors of THE LANCET.*

SIRS,—This subject, I am sure you will agree with me, is worthy of notice in your journal. My knowledge of the question extends backwards to the year 1870. I was surgeon of the Cunard steamer *Russia*, and I had a unique experience in that capacity. The *Russia* was then a perfect steam-yacht, carrying no emigrants, and no member of the crew left her except through death or promotion. On one trip, during the muster prior to sailing, I detected a new member amongst the crew, and on looking at him carefully discovered that he had a glass eye. This set me thinking, and I made an examination of all the men who were on duty for that night, the result being that I discovered that the man on the opposite side of the bridge was also imperfect in his vision. These men were relieved from look-out duty. The following night, running down the Channel, we missed almost by a hair's breadth a collision with an East Indiaman. What would have been the result had these men with imperfect vision been on the look-out that night I do not know. *Ab uno disce omnes.* That is the whole history of the origin of what I have done with reference to the question of defective vision as a cause of disaster at sea. In 1875 I wrote to you on this matter and you noticed my letter in an editorial paragraph. The matter was subsequently brought to the notice of the then President of the Board of Trade, Sir Thomas Grey, and was adopted by the