

## THE SERVICES.

## ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE.

Colonel Owen E. P. Lloyd, V.C., to be Surgeon-General, vice W. Donovan, C.B., retired (dated Nov. 17th, 1909). Brevet-Colonel Tom P. Woodhouse, from the Royal Army Medical Corps, to be Colonel, vice O. E. P. Lloyd, V.C. (dated Nov. 17th, 1909).

## ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

Lieutenant Colin Cassidy is seconded for service with the Egyptian Army (dated Oct. 14th, 1909).

## INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

¶The King has approved of the following promotions among officers of the Indian Medical Service:—Majors to be Lieutenant-Colonels (dated Sept. 30th, 1909): Henry Bruce Melville, Joseph Charles Stoelke Vaughan, Alexander Leonard Duke, Joshua Chaytor-White, John Blackburn Smith, Henry Francis Cleveland, and Charles Henry Bedford. Lieutenant to be Captain (dated Sept. 1st, 1909): Shumshere Singh.

¶The King has approved of the retirement of the following officer:—Lieutenant-Colonel Julian Carter Carington Smith (dated August 7th, 1909).

## TERRITORIAL FORCE.

*Royal Army Medical Corps.*

Eastern Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance: Meredith Sedgwick Double to be Lieutenant (to be supernumerary) (dated Oct. 30th, 1909).

London Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance: Major Martin Alfred Cooke, from the list of officers attached to units other than Medical Units, to be Major (dated June 20th, 1909).

Highland Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance: John Macpherson Grant to be Lieutenant (dated Oct. 19th, 1909).

3rd London (City of London) Field Ambulance: Lieutenant George L. L. Lawson to be Captain (dated August 22nd, 1909).

*Attached to Units other than Medical Units.*—Lieutenant-Colonel and Honorary Surgeon-Colonel Robert L. Sparrow resigns his commission, and is granted permission to retain his rank and to wear the prescribed uniform (dated Oct. 31st, 1909).

## THE SPANIARDS IN MOROCCO.

In the *Times* of Nov. 18th a special correspondent at Melilla, telegraphing on Nov. 17th, describes the hospital administration, which he says it is impossible to praise very highly. The main base hospital is at Malaga, where all, except dangerous cases, are shipped. At the advanced base hospital at Melilla the accommodation is inadequate. With the exception of the base accommodation and the forwarding of cases, the treatment of the sick and wounded is good and the surgery is beyond reproach. There has been much enteric fever, pneumonia, and dysentery, but malaria has not been so prevalent as was anticipated.

## DEATHS IN THE SERVICES.

Deputy Inspector-General Thomas Seccombe, R.N. (retired), at his residence in Granville Mansions, Torquay, on Nov. 19th, in his ninety-first year. He entered the Royal Navy as assistant surgeon in 1845, became staff-surgeon eight years later, and in 1867 was promoted to fleet-surgeon. In 1880 he retired with the rank of deputy inspector-general of hospitals and fleets. The deceased officer served as surgeon to the native levies during the Kaffir War of 1851; he was present at almost all of the skirmishes of this campaign (Kaffir medal). He was in charge of the field hospital at the taking of Rangoon (Burmese medal), and he also served in several of the boat campaigns (mentioned in despatches).

Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick James Crawford, I.M.S., on board the steamer *Herefordshire*, near Suez, on Nov. 5th, aged 45 years. He entered the service as assistant surgeon in 1887 and reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel in 1907. He was the principal of the Madras Medical College and had been district surgeon of Ganjam.

## Correspondence.

“Audi alteram partem.”

## OSTEITIS DEFORMANS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In THE LANCET of Nov. 13th is an annotation on the subject of “Osteitis Deformans,” wherein it is stated “that Sir James Paget first described that form of chronic inflammation of the bones which bears his name.” This was in the year 1876, and his paper may be found in the volume of the Medico-Chirurgical Transactions of the following year. He described it as a rare disease and spoke of it as the first which had been under his care. He then gave an account of it and added others from various sources, and amongst them was one of my own in which I had taken specimens of the bones to the Pathological Society. The account is to be found in the Pathological Transactions for the year 1869. I called the case “osteoporosis,” or spongy hypertrophy of the bones. I so named it because it was the word on the labels attached to some old specimens in the museum of Guy’s, and which evidently belonged to a case of this disease, shown by the enormously thickened skull and the large and crooked long bones of the limbs. In giving my lectures in 1857 I commented on these bones and said I did not think they arose from an inflammatory process because I could find no new osseous tissue either on their surface or interior, and therefore I considered the name to be most excellent. I believe it was also used on the continent. When, therefore, an example of the same disease came under my own notice I called it “osteoporosis,” and more especially as I discovered no new osseous tissue either as osteitis or periostitis. I think now a better name would be “osteoporosis deformans.” I may add that in the second edition of my book on pathological anatomy I gave a description of this case. This was two years before the appearance of Paget’s paper. I have given these particulars because this different name is the sole cause of my writing this letter. The patient came under my care from being called in by a medical man at Camberwell. The patient, a gentleman, aged 60 years, had consulted all the leading men in London, and he had also visited me. When he was too ill to leave home I was asked to see him occasionally. After his death his friends, knowing it was a rare and important case, gave me *carte blanche* to take away some of the bones for examination.

The report in the Pathological Transactions says that the post-mortem examination was made on Jan. 13th, 1869, and that I was assisted by Mr. Goodhart, house physician of Guy’s Hospital, and he it was to whom I am indebted for the long description which he gave me. I wrote a few days ago to Dr. Goodhart at Portland-place, and he answers me on Nov. 14th by saying, “I remember the case well. I made the ‘post-mortem’ somewhere down in Camberwell with a man named Massey, and I brought away the vault of the skull, a femur, and some other things which ought to be in the museum. There are specimens in Guy’s museum long before our time, and Paget summed up all the cases and called the disease ‘osteitis deformans.’”

I may be allowed to say in conclusion that personally the question of originality is of very little moment and of no importance to most medical men, but there are those who are bibliographers and historians who would altogether miss the first account of the disease if they looked for its usual name. I am also instigated in writing for the sake of Dr. Goodhart, who was the first who carefully examined the bones and their structure, giving also their measurements and weights. I may add that Dr. Goodhart is quite ignorant of my writing this letter. I trust also that the thought will not arise in anyone that I am suggesting a dishonourable act on the part of Sir James Paget, for this would have been impossible for my old friend; indeed, his method was the usual one and the most correct—to take a number of cases of a remarkable disease, discuss its nature, and give it, according to his views, the most apposite name.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Hampstead, Nov. 20th, 1909.

SAMUEL WILKS.