will go on filtering pure heavy chloroform vapour into a patient's lungs through one thickness of lint after having depressed him by auscultation and pulse-feeling, then they will always require that miserable subterfuge, the 'fatty heart' or the 'large flabby heart'. I have never put a patient under the influence of chloroform in less than ten minutes yet, oftener it is nearer half an hour before they go off; but with the 'lint filter' the pure vapour does it in less than five minutes very often, and with what percentage of results our medical and even lay press bears only too solemn a testimony.—I am, yours, ANGLO-SCOT.
London, June 22, 1880.

HYDROPHOBIA.

SIR,—The number of cases of hydrophobia reported from time to time in your and other medical journals induces me to ask the gentlemen under whose care they were to send me a short account of them, as I am at present engaged in some investigations on this fearful malady, which appears to have increased in a most alarming degree within the past few years.—I am, Sir, yours, etc.,

THOS. C. SHINKWIN,
Author of *Lectures on Hydrophobia, its History, Pathology, and Treatment.*

North Mall House, Cork, June 26th, 1880.

MEDICO-PARLIAMENTARY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—July 6th.

The "Plank Bed".—MR. PEEL, in reply to Mr. P. A. Taylor, stated that in 1863 a Select Committee of the House of Lords reported that the use of plank beds similar to the Guards' beds in military prisons, should be resorted to in short sentences. In the Prison Act, 1865, there was an enactment to the following effect: "A convicted criminal prisoner may be required to sleep on a plank bed without mattress during such times as may be required by the rules of the prison." The fact of the plank bed having been almost universal since that time might be supposed to indicate that it answered its purpose. In 1878 the Home Secretary gave orders that in the case of women and young prisoners there should be a pillow and a mattress "other than a wooden one". The rule was laid on the table in 1878, and was to the effect that a convicted criminal prisoner should during the whole of his sentence when it did not exceed a month, or during one month when the sentence exceeded that period, should be required to sleep on a plank bed. A prisoner was allowed to earn a remission of that requirement after the first month, but he was liable to have it reimposed for idleness, inattention to instructions, and misconduct.

Saturday, July 3rd.

The Poisoning at Welbeck.—MR. MAPPIN: I wish to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been called to the alleged wholesale poisoning at Welbeck, Nottinghamshire, where several deaths have occurred, and it is said sixty persons have been ill; and if he will send a Government official to inquire into the whole affair, as the adjourned inquest has been held, and the deputy coroner expressed an opinion very much in opposition to the medical evidence produced. —MR. A. PEEL, in reply, said: The local medical officer of health has been in communication with the Local Government Board, who has to do with such matters, and the Local Government Board, if they think it necessary, will send down a gentleman specially to make inquiries into the subject. I may say that an inquest is now pending, and that the medical officers are examining the intestines of the unfortunate victims of this lamentable occurrence. I shall be able to give further information on the subject when I have seen the President of the Local Government Board, but I have little doubt that if an inquiry should be necessary there will be no difficulty in sending down a gentleman to make a special inquiry.

THE Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths have granted a second donation of fifty pounds (£50) to the Association for the Oral Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, 11, Fitzroy Square, W.

THE STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND.—DR. MAPOTHER, the late President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, has been elected President of the Statistical Society of Ireland. With the exception of Sir John Lentaigne, C.B., who does not practise, Dr. Mapother is the first member of the profession who has been honoured by being placed in the presidential chair of this important Society.

MILITARY AND NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

THE promotion of Deputy Surgeon-General Sir A. D. Home, K.C.B., V.C., to the rank of Surgeon-General, will not remove him from his present station (Madras), as the appointment he has been recently holding there is one belonging to the Surgeon-General's rank.

ORDERS have been despatched to Deputy Surgeon-General W. A. Mackinnon, C.B., now serving as Principal Medical Officer at Hong Kong, to proceed from that station and to take over the duties of Principal Medical Officer at Malta, in anticipation of his promotion to the rank of Surgeon-General. The appointment at Malta has been vacant since the retirement of Surgeon-General Godfrey Watt, which took place several months ago.

THE LATE SURGEON-MAJOR SHEPHERD.

A MEMORIAL brass has just been placed on the wall of the Royal Victoria Hospital Chapel at Netley, in memory of the late Surgeon-Major Shepherd, A.M.D., who, it may be remembered, was riding away with a fair chance of escaping from the field of slaughter at Isandhlwane, when seeing a man wounded by his side he dismounted to help him, but was shortly afterwards assailed. The brass has the following inscription upon it: "In memory of Peter Shepherd, M.B., University of Aberdeen, Surgeon-Major Her Majesty's Army; born at Leochel Cushnie, Aberdeenshire, 25th August 1841; who sacrificed his own life at the battle of Isandhlwane, Zululand, 22nd January 1879, in the endeavour to save the life of a wounded comrade. Erected by his brother officers and friends." The brass, which is large and handsome, supported on a thick slab of black enamelled slate, is erected side by side with a tablet commemorative of the late Dr. Halyburton Ross of the 39th Regiment, placed in the chapel "as a mark of affection" by the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the 39th Regiment. The committee that arranged the Shepherd Memorial for the Netley Chapel have also placed a marble tablet to his memory in the parish church of his native place in Aberdeenshire, and have founded a "Shepherd Gold Medal" to be competed for annually as a surgical prize in the University of Aberdeen.

MEDICAL SERVICE IN THE NAVY.

The United Service Gazette of last week refers to two instances of the present mode of treatment of medical officers in the navy, which are certainly not calculated to lessen the existing disfavour into which that service has fallen, or to lessen its unpopularity in the medical schools. In one instance, it appears that the captain of a ship in a Home port has taken upon himself to prohibit a junior medical officer from discharging his ordinary duties, and to order the Fleet officer to take alternate days with the senior surgeon. The junior medical officer in question is not only a fully qualified medical man, but one who passed into the service first of nineteen. Such a mode of marking official displeasure is properly described as a parody on discipline, and a great insult to the medical officer in question.

THE NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICE.

SIR,—I should wish, with your permission, to bring to the notice of candidates who aspire to compete at the forthcoming examination, which has been so widely advertised, the new "naval law of suspect" which has just been officially promulgated, not presumably, however, "for the guidance of candidates", but it will doubtless add greatly to their comfort and sense of self-respect, should they be so fortunate as to obtain a place in this much sought after service.

"No rightfoller law ever ruled in a nation of men." So writes Thomas Carlyle on the "law of the suspect", and what the nature of this new yoke is under which they are invited to pass, I will proceed to explain. It will surprise those of your readers who have learned, from recent debates in Parliament on the flogging question, that the same powers who have condemned it, on the score of its degrading nature, have invented a moral punishment for officers, ten times more degrading, and calculated to obliterate every trace of manly self-dependence. In future, a secret report is to be made annually upon all officers by the captain, in a tabulated form, the questions being of the most inquisitorial nature, including the state of their pecuniary affairs; their tastes, whether gentlemanly or otherwise; their habits, whether objectionable or not; their tempers, soberness, and chastity; their professional capacities (this in the case of a medical man to be determined by the captain) and a variety of other questions similarly offensive, but of too exhaustive a nature for insertion in the form of a letter. This document, so un-English in its character and details, has aroused the wrath of the professional press, and is now receiving at their hands the treatment it deserves; but in the pages of the JOURNAL it is more likely to attract the attention of those for whom the information is intended; and at this juncture it is as well they should have an opportunity of forming a judgment on all the advantages held out to them, as well as the one so prominently brought to their notice, but at the same time so flagrantly disregarded by the Admiralty, as the privilege they are told they are to possess, "the choice of cabins according to relative rank".—I am, etc.,
CRUX.