appointed to officiate as Resident Physician at the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta, during the absence on deputation of Major W. V. Coppenge.

Lieutenant G. Tate has been selected by H.E. the Commander-in-Chief in India for appointment as Specialist in Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children. Lieutenant J. V. Macdonald has been transferred to the Civil Department for employment under the Survey.

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The Indian Medical Gazette.

In the November issue of this journal Major Leonard Rogers, I.M.S., professor of pathology at the Medical College, Calcutta, publishes interesting details of 60 cases of amoxic dysentery, illustrating the treatment by ipecacuanha and emetine respectively. Major Rogers's views on this subject were fully explained by him in The Lancet of Oct. 19th, p. 1065, and the present paper is a confirmation of those views. Dr. T. F. Pedley, of Rangoon, contributes a note on the treatment of small-pox vesicles by tincture of iodine and liniment of iodine in equal parts, which alleviated itching, discomfort, and caused the vesicles to collapse and shrivel; the cuticle, peeling off later, left a clean white surface, free from marks or scars.

Colony Medical Services: West African Medical Staff.

Dr. E. W. Graham, senior medical officer, Northern Nigeria, has been transferred to the Gold Coast, and Dr. E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., medical officer, Gambia, has been appointed a Travelling Commissioner. Mr. J. P. Fagan, principal medical officer, Northern Nigeria, has retired on pension. The following have been selected for appointment to the staff: Dr. E. F. Ward (Sierra Leone), W. B. Parkinson (Southern Nigeria), Dr. J. E. L. Johnston, (Northern Nigeria), and Mr. S. L. Brohier (Gambia).

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Other Colonies and Protectorates: Dr. J. Geoghegan has been selected as a Medical Officer in the Leeward Islands, and Mr. L. D. Napier has been selected for appointment as a Supernumerary Medical Officer in the Leeward Islands.

The Royal Naval College, Osborne.

The Times states: "It is understood that the Royal Naval College, Osborne, is to be rebuilt permanently on the present site at a cost of £200,000, and that the work will be begun almost immediately." It is officially stated that there have been seven cases of scarlet fever since the term began at the College on Sept. 29th. With this exception the health of the cadets is good. There are 445 cadets, aged from 11 to 14 years of age, at the College.

The Health of the Navy.

The statistical report of the health of the Navy for 1911, which has just been issued in the form of a Blue-book, shows a continuous improvement in the general health of the total force of the fleet as compared with the preceding five years. The case, invaliding, and death ratios for the year are again lower than the average ratios for the last five years, and the average loss of service for each person compares favourably with the five years' ratio and with that of 1910. The total force in the year 1811 was 117,100, and the total number of cases of disease and injury entered on the sick list was 76,463, giving a ratio of 652.97 per 1000, a decrease of 26.96 as compared with the average ratio for the preceding five years.

Indian Medical Service Examination.

An examination for not less than 12 commissions in the Indian Medical Service will be held in London on Monday, Jan. 20th, 1913, and the five following days. Application forms must reach the India Office on or before Jan. 7th, 1913.

Hunterian Society. The Hunterian Society will hold its meetings for the remainder of the present session at St. Bartholomew's Hospital by the kind permission of the authorities. On the completion of the alterations now in progress at the London Institution, the society hopes to resume its meetings there, thus carrying on a connexion of 46 years' standing, or about one-half the time of existence of the society. The next meeting will be on Jan. 8th, 1913, at 9.30 a.m., at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, when Professor Arthur Keith will deliver the second Hunterian lecture on the History and Nature of Certain Specimens alleged to have been obtained from the Post-mortem Examination of Napoleon the Great. Visitors will be welcomed.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem.

The Treatment of the Sick and Wounded in Constantinople.

To the Editor of The Lancet.

Sir,—I should like to make a few comments on Mr. Samuel Osborn's communication entitled "Beguiled from Constantinople" appearing in your issue of Nov. 30th.

The account given of the plight of the wounded and sick is true enough for the first two or three weeks of November, but I think it is only fair to the Turkish authorities to point out that their arrangements for the treatment and transport of wounded from the Tchatalja lines were much more satisfactory. Between Nov. 20th and 23rd some 700 wounded arrived at Stamboul by train, 44 of them were brought to this hospital. A large proportion of their wounds were of the most severe description. In all cases satisfactory first dressings had been applied and the men had been fed during transit.

At no time has there been any difficulty in the transport of cases to our hospital. On the first two days of our establishment I took stretcher parties to the receiving sheds and selected cases; subsequently all wounded were carried here by Turkish soldiers. The distance from the sheds to this hospital is about 400 yards.

The choice of the museum as the site of the British Red Cross Hospital at Stamboul has proved a satisfactory one. Thanks to the active help of the Ottoman Red Crescent Society, gas and water were installed within a few days of our arrival, and subsequently the wooden floors of three wards were covered with oiled cloth. Some two weeks after our installation 100 empty beds, provided by Mr. M. Osborn and bought in England, and now the hospital can compare favourably with any other similarly extemporised institution in Constantinople.

Miss Burgess's Girls' School, privately offered to us, is at Korn Kapoor, three miles from the receiving station, and would have therefore only received slightly wounded or convalescent cases. The utilisation of Kroecker's Hotel as a hospital was never within the range of practical politics.

The proposed "rest hospital" was carefully inspected, and judged to be unsuited for the suggested purpose. It was simply a large warehouse room, ill-lit, and with a rough floor. Any sanitary arrangements that could have been made would have been inadequate. It is situated at the same distance from the receiving sheds as our present hospital.

The points I have enlarged upon will, I think, help to give a clearer view of the conditions under which the Red Cross Society here have worked.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

C. M. PAGE.

Museum Hospital of the British Red Cross Society, Stamboul, Dec. 9th, 1912.

Medical Education and the National Insurance Act.

To the Editor of The Lancet.

Sir,—In his speech to the General Medical Council, reported in your issue of Dec. 7th, Sir T. Clifford Allbutt alluded to the influence which the working of the Insurance Act may exert upon medical education. He appealed to the Council to look further afield and prepare for an era in which the experts have lately been insisting, the relations of the insured and the voluntary hospitals have been almost entirely neglected by the authors of the Insurance Act; and the future of the hospitals is distinctly nebulous. Loos as are the formal bonds which connect hospitals and
associated with the term asthma. Generalised fibrinous courses of action which the Government and the hospitals obstruction caused by it is at the most but a part. In that decide to take that for the present it may be premature to Council. This is only one of the unforeseen problems which to protect and preserve the interests of the voluntary sanatoriums, it is argued, who accept the State's contract practice of which the spasm of the bronchial muscles and the be confounded.

bronchitis may, of course, be unilateral, indeed, it is rarely anything else. When unilateral, however, it does except in the course of diphtheria, and then the symptoms other details, of a lecture to be delivered by a. I defined asthma to be a widespread respiratory neurosis, of Medicine-mostly due, as we must admit, to the skilful administration, the results of which the Royal Society of Medicine in this country, nor anything which can be held medicine cases such as I have mentioned must no doubt be spun at the general meeting on Feb. 19th, 1907, of the title of "Academy" carries with it the conviction of a community of work now accomplished by the Royal Society of Medicine. A "society" merely means "a number of persons united in a community," and is applicable to any purpose for which a number of persons combines to promote a common object, as, for example, a trade union; on the other hand, the first number of persons combines to promote a common object, as, for example, a trade union; on the other hand, the first purpose of the Royal Society of Medicine is that of an educative body, in the promotion of which "a community of persons has united to advance the science and art of medicine.

There is only one word which aptly and fully expresses the objects and aims of such an organisation, and that is "academy." It possibly may have seemed immodest at the foundation of the Royal Society of Medicine to have endowed the title with such a significance, but now that we are assured that out of its abundant resources it is possible for the Society to live up to any title. Again, there is no "Academy of Medicine" in this country, nor anything which can be held to fulfil the mission of such an Institution. Furthermore, the title of "Academy" carries with it the conviction of a higher tribunal than that of the word "society." Thus, were the Royal Society of Medicine to become the Royal "Academy of Medicine, the change in title might tend to raise as well as increase the influence of the already high standard of work, the results of which the Royal Society of Medicine has become the means of disseminating throughout the world.

Another point suggests itself. Is posterity to be allowed to forget the great personal sacrifice of this generation, without which the creation of the magnificent hospital which future medical generations will ultimately succeed would have been impossible? The American nation have not been permitted to forget the personal sacrifice of their forefathers by whom emancipation from British rule was secured. Sir, I believe that the medical generations of the future should have an annual opportunity of being reminded of the strenuous personal efforts, the financial difficulties overcome by private generosity, and the personal interests surrendered, without which the scheme of the Royal Society of Medicine could never have attained fruition. An annual commemoration day of the Society might thus come into being, consisting, with other details, of a lecture to be delivered by a