and in the London Fever Hospital was 742, against numbers declining in the preceding seven weeks from 980 to 791; 60 new cases were admitted during the week, the numbers in the previous five weeks having declined from 96 to 44. The deaths referred to diseases of the respiratory organs in London, which had been 440 and 412 in the previous two weeks, rose last week to 484, but were 67 below the corrected average. The causes of 86, or 2·1 per cent., of the deaths in the twenty-eight towns last week were not certified either by a registered medical practitioner or by a coroner. All the causes of death were duly certified in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Sunderland, Bradford, Leicester, and in three other smaller towns. The largest proportions of uncertified deaths were registered in Preston and Liverpool.

HEALTH OF SCOTCH TOWNS.

The annual rate of mortality in the eight Scotch towns, which had been 19·3, 20·1, and 20·3 per 1000 in the preceding three weeks, further rose to 23·6 in the week ending Jan. 5th; this rate exceeded the mean rate in the twenty-eight large English towns by 0·9. The rates in these Scotch towns ranged from 16·8 and 17·6 in Edinburgh and Aberdeen, to 28·4 in Glasgow and 35·7 in Paisley. The 604 deaths in the eight towns showed a further increase of 92 upon the numbers returned in recent weeks, and included 16 which were referred to whooping-cough, 13 to measles, 7 to diarrhoea, 6 to diphtheria, 5 to "fever," 2 to scarlet fever, and 1 to small-pox; in all, 50 deaths resulted from these principal zymotic diseases, against 47 and 60 in the preceding two weeks. These 50 deaths were equal to an annual rate of 2·0 per 1000, which was 1·4 below the mean rate from the same diseases in the twenty-eight English towns. The 16 fatal cases of whooping-cough showed a considerable increase upon recent weekly numbers, and included 15 in Glasgow. The 13 deaths from measles corresponded with the number in the previous week; 7 occurred in Glasgow, 3 in Paisley, and 2 in Greenock. The deaths referred to diphtheria, which had been 7 and 16 in the previous two weeks, declined last week to 6, of which 4 occurred in Glasgow. Three of the 5 fatal cases of "fever" and 3 of the 7 deaths from diarrhoea were returned in Glasgow. The fatal case of small-pox was recorded in Dundee. The deaths referred to the principal diseases of the respiratory organs, which had been 121 and 95 in the previous two weeks, rose last week to 140, but were 29 below the number returned in the corresponding week of last year. The causes of 77, or nearly 13 per cent., of the deaths registered during the week were not certified.

HEALTH OF DUBLIN.

The rate of mortality in Dublin, which had been 30·9 and 21·3 per 1000 in the preceding two weeks, rose to 31·3 in the week ending Jan. 5th. During the thirteen weeks of last quarter the death-rate in the city averaged 24·8 per 1000, the mean rate during the same period being 18·8 in London and 15·5 in Edinburgh. The 212 deaths in Dublin showed an increase of 68 upon the number in the previous week; they included 5 which were referred to "fever" (typhus, enteric, or ill-defined), 5 to whooping-cough, 1 to scarlet fever, 1 to measles, and not one either to small-pox, diphtheria, or diarrhoea. Thus the deaths from these principal zymotic diseases, which had been 19, 18, and 13 in the preceding three weeks, further declined last week to 12; they were equal to an annual rate of 1·8 per 1000, the rate from the same diseases being 2·9 in London and 0·4 in Edinburgh. The 5 fatal cases of "fever" corresponded with the number in each of the preceding two weeks, while those of whooping-cough showed an increase of one; the deaths from the other zymotic diseases had declined. Ten inquest cases and 7 deaths from violence were registered; and 83, or considerably more than a third, of the deaths occurred in public institutions. The causes of 24, or more than 11 per cent., of the deaths in the city were not certified.

THE SERVICES.

ARMY MEDICAL STAFF.—Surgeon-Major Thos. Michael O'Brien is granted retired pay (dated Jan. 9th, 1889).

ARMY MEDICAL RESERVE OF OFFICERS.—The undermentioned Surgeons and Honorary Surgeons-Major to be Surgeons-Major, ranking as Majors (dated Jan. 9th, 1889):—George Sampson Elliston, 1st Volunteer Battalion, the

Suffolk Regiment; Michael Benny, M.D., 4th Battalion, the Princess Louise's (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders). The undermentioned Surgeons-Major resign their commissions (dated Jan. 9th, 1889):—Robert Phair Frazer and Robert Alexander Jackson.

ADMIRALTY.—The undermentioned Staff Surgeons have been promoted to the rank of Fleet Surgeon in Her Majesty's Fleet:—William Henry Putsey and Richard Alfred Mowel, M.D. (dated Dec. 27th, 1888).

The following appointments have been made:—Staff Surgeon Thos. D. Gimlette to the *Terror*, and Staff Surgeon Richard J. Barry to the *Brilliant*, additional, temporarily (both dated Jan. 4th, 1889).

VOLUNTEER CORPS. — *Artillery*: 1st Ayrshire and Galloway: Acting Surgeon A. Marshall, M.D., resigns his appointment; also is permitted to retain his rank, and to continue to wear the uniform of the Corps on his retirement (dated Jan. 9th, 1889).—*Rifle*: 1st Volunteer Battalion, the Highland Light Infantry: Acting Surgeon M. Cameron resigns his appointment (dated Jan. 9th, 1889).—2nd Volunteer Battalion, the Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment): Surgeon E. N. Carless is granted the honorary rank of Surgeon-Major (dated Jan. 9th, 1889).—20th Middlesex (Artists'): Acting Surgeon W. Pearce, M.D., is appointed Surgeon (dated Jan. 9th, 1889).

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE MEMORIAL TO THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—At a largely attended meeting of the Bath and Bristol Branch of the British Medical Association, held on Dec. 13th, 1888, a resolution was passed giving expression to the feeling of the members on the violation of professional confidence involved in the recent publication of a "script" of the late German Emperor. As those responsible for the conduct of the official journal of the Association have thought fit to prevent the appearance of this resolution in its pages, I appeal to you to give by its publication in THE LANCET that currency to the opinion of the profession in this neighbourhood which it has failed to obtain in the journal of the Association.

Resolved: "That this Branch concurs with the signatories to the memorial recently presented to the President and Council of the Association in regarding the publication of a facsimile of a 'script' by the late German Emperor referring to his treatment by one of his medical attendants as a gross violation of professional confidence; and they would express the hope that the President and Council will take some more decided steps than they have yet done to clear the Association and the profession of the discredit which this matter has brought upon them."

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,
Clifton, Bristol, Jan. 7th, 1889. HENRY MARSHALL.

INACCURACIES ABOUT VACCINATION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The inaccuracy about the vaccination law in the several provinces of Canada, which formed the subject of your leading article last week, has already been corrected in the stereotype plates of the "Encyclopædia Britannica" by inserting the word "Lower" before "Canada." Two other inaccuracies, pointed out by a well-informed leader writer in a daily newspaper, have been corrected by inserting "not less than" before "one shilling and sixpence," and by changing 679 into 673 and 271 into 176 in the small-pox figures for the year 1875. The desire for accuracy is of course laudable, only it cuts both ways. I have already had occasion to correct one considerable error (about infantile syphilis) made in your own editorial columns, and I have now to ask your leave to correct another. You say that the editor of the Encyclopædia engaged me to write on vaccination, knowing that I had a bias. This is an assumption, surely not in the best taste,