HEALTH OF SCOTCH TOWNS.

The annual rate of mortality in the eight Scotch towns, which had been equal to 20·8, 20·4, and 19·2 per 1000 in the preceding three weeks, further declined to 19·0 in the week ending the 11th instant; it was, however, 0·7 above the mean rate during the same week in the twenty-eight large English towns. The rates in the Scotch towns last week ranged from 14·4 and 15·6 in Leith and Edinburgh, to 21·2 in Greenock and 24·6 in Paisley. The 463 deaths in the eight towns included 20 which were referred to diarrhoeal diseases, 19 to whooping-cough, 8 to scarlet fever, 6 to "fever," (typhus, enteric, or simple), 4 to measles, 3 to diphtheria, and not one to small-pox; in all 60 deaths resulted from these principal zymotic diseases, against 48 and 57 in the preceding two weeks. These 60 were equal to an annual rate of 2·5 per 1000, which was 0·4 below the mean rate from the same diseases in the twenty-eight English towns. The deaths attributed to diarrhoea showed a further increase upon recent weekly numbers, and exceeded the number in the corresponding week of last year by 7. The fatal cases of whooping-cough, which had been 14 and 21 in the preceding two weeks, were 19 last week, of which 14 occurred in Glasgow. The 8 deaths from scarlet fever corresponded with the number in the previous week, and included 6 in Glasgow. The deaths referred to "fever," which had been but 3 and 1 in the previous two weeks, rose to 6 last week; 4 occurred in Glasgow. Two of the 4 fatal cases of measles and 2 of the 3 of diphtheria were also returned in Glasgow. The deaths referred to acute diseases of the respiratory organs in the eight towns, which had been 94, 74, and 69 in the preceding three weeks, further declined last week to 61, and were 22 below the number returned in the corresponding week of last year. The causes of 65, or 14 per cent., of the deaths in the eight Scotch towns last week were not certified.

HEALTH OF DUBLIN.

The rate of mortality in Dublin, which had been equal to 27·5 and 29·6 per 1000 in the preceding two weeks, declined to 22·6 in the week ending the 11th inst., and was lower than in any previous week of this year. During the thirteen weeks of last quarter the death-rate in the city averaged 30·0 per 1000, the rate during the same period not exceeding 19·3 in London and 18·1 in Edinburgh. The 153 deaths in Dublin showed a decline of 47 from the number returned in the previous week, and included 19 which were referred to the principal zymotic diseases, against 31 and 24 in the preceding two weeks; 5 resulted from diarrhoea, 4 from "fever" (typhus, enteric, or simple), 4 from measles, 4 from scarlet fever, 2 from whooping-cough, and not one either from small-pox or diphtheria. These 19 deaths were equal to an annual rate of 2·8 per 1000, the rate from the same diseases being 3·6 in London and 1·2 in Edinburgh. The fatal cases both of scarlet fever and whooping-cough showed a considerable decline from the numbers in the previous week, while those of "fever" showed no variation. The deaths from measles showed an increase of 1, and those attributed to diarrhoea exceeded the number in any recent week. Six inquest cases and 3 deaths from violence were registered. The 47 deaths in public institutions showed a decline from the numbers in recent weeks. The deaths both of infants and of elderly persons were fewer than in any previous week of this year. The causes of 21, or nearly 14 per cent., of the deaths registered during the week were not certified.

THE SERVICES.

The Queen has approved of the Good Service Pension of £100 per annum, vacant by the death of Sir W. Muir, being bestowed upon Surgeon-General W. Mackinnon of the Army Medical Staff, who has seen much active service.

Among the officers who arrived at Cairo from the Upper Nile on the 8th inst. was Surgeon R. Porter.

The following officers of the Nile force left Cairo invalided for England on the 9th inst.:—Surgeons M. O'D. Braddell, J. A. Smith, R. Haselden, C. W. Johnson, L. W. Swabey, W. H. P. Lewis, and F. J. Jencken.

ADMIRALTY.—The following appointments have been made:—Surgeon H. F. D. Stephens, to the *Wrangler*, his appointment to the *Grappler* being cancelled; Surgeon

Herbert W. A. Burke, to the *Grappler*; Surgeon Herbert E. Marsh, to the *Excellent*; and Mr. Evan Thomas Hughes, to be Surgeon and Agent at Holyhead.

RIFLE VOLUNTEERS.—24th Middlesex (Post-office): J. D. Grant, Gent., M.D., to be Acting Surgeon.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE CASE OF DR. WARBURG.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Some years ago I appealed through the press on behalf of Dr. Warburg, to whom the people who serve in malarious climates are indebted for a most powerful febrifuge known to the medical profession, and which has saved many valuable lives. I have before me a letter from the lamented General Gordon, dated Khartoum, October 25th, 1876, when Governor of the Soudan, addressed to Dr. Warburg, in which he says: "I am (D.V.) coming home on leave (it would be for good were it not for your medicine, but I have such confidence in it that I look on returning with no dread), and will give you an order for £20 worth." I urged Dr. Warburg to make its composition known. In compliance with this advice, Dr. Warburg came to Netley, and in the laboratory there made up a large quantity of his tincture, giving me at the same time his formula for publication, which I made known to the profession in the pages of THE LANCET and Medical Times. I regret to say that this well-intended act of mine was followed by disastrous results to the inventor. It is now made and sold by druggists without any profit to Dr. Warburg, and I invite such of your readers who have derived benefit—perhaps had their lives saved—by this remedy to assist the man who has given to tropical medicine a powerful weapon to contend with a disease that kills twice as many victims as cholera and small-pox put together. The Government of India some time ago took the very unusual step of marking their sense of the value of Warburg's tincture by a grant of £200 to the discoverer. Dr. Warburg is now upwards of eighty-one, and is in embarrassed circumstances.

The following gentlemen will be happy to receive contributions:—The Rev. Fredk. Chalmers, B.D., Nonington Vicarage, Wingham, Kent; Major-General Fredk. Cotton, C.S.I. (late R.E.), 13, Longridge-road, S.W.; Captain Ralph N. Taylor, E.I. United Service Club, St. James's-square.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

W. C. MACLEAN,

Inspector-General (retired), late Professor of Military Medicine, Army Medical School, Netley.

28, Carlton-crescent, Southampton, July, 1885.

"FEAR OF FALLING OVER THE 'KHEED' DISEASE," AND FASCINATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—With regard to the announcements of Alpine accidents that usually appear about this time every season in the papers, will you allow me to throw out a hint or two anent them that have just occurred to me. One of the latest of these was a very startling one. A gentleman, who had attained the proud position of vice-president of the French Alpine Club, and who must accordingly be assumed to have achieved considerable repute for his mastery of this kind of experience and adventure, has just been found dead with his two guides at the foot of the Glacier du Col d'Argentière. The guides were, we are further told, "two of the most experienced men in Chamounix." But later research would seem to imply something more than mere bravado or rashness on their part; and this is the feature of the case with which I am most concerned here.

I met at Serimiggur, during my visit to that city several years ago, a gentleman who had just come into the Valley of Cashmere by the Guzerat and Bimbur route over the well-known Pir-Punjal range. He had a somewhat startled appearance when I first saw him; his servants had, I think, some doubts about his sanity, and it was only after some pressure or "pumping" that I could induce him to acknowledge that he had been horribly frightened on the way; he,