1901); Lieutenant-Colonel George Waters, Bombay Establishment (dated April 23rd, 1901); Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Lawrie, Bengal Establishment (dated May 17th, 1901); and Major George Herbert Fink, Bengal Establishment (dated July 13th, 1901).

VOLUNTEER CORPS.

Rifle: 1st Volunteer Battalion the Buffs (East Kent Regiment): Surgeon-Lieutenant H. S. Oliver to be Surgeon-Captain.

VOLUNTEER MEDICAL STAFF CORPS.

The Glasgow Companies:—Surgeon-Captain W. F. Somerville to be Surgeon-Major.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR NOTES.

The following have been discharged from hospital to duty:—Major S. Hickson, R.A.M.C., and Captain H. W. Vaughan-Williams, R.A.M.C.

Major B. L. Mills, R.A.M.C., and Civil Surgeons Turton, Jones, and Wade are on passage home in the *Wakool*, which left Cape Town on August 21st.

Civil Surgeons Verley, Hunter, and Brock are on passage home in the *Dilwara*, which left Cape Town on August 24th.

Princess Henry of Battenburg invited a number of invalids from South Africa to a short trip in her yacht *Sheila* recently.

AFFAIRS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Whatever effect Lord Kitchener's proclamation may have had upon the burghers in inducing them to submit to the inevitable and to put an end to further bloodshed and futile suffering on the part of their countrymen it has had none on the Boer leaders and generals who have now little or nothing to lose or to gain by it. As might have been confidently expected, they announce their intention of holding out to the end, although they cannot possibly deceive themselves into believing that they can ever hope to accomplish the design with which they started—namely, that of uniting South Africa under an Afrikaner flag. The Boer generals, not without reason, think they can at any rate succeed in eluding capture, and it is apparently hopeless to expect that anything short of that will suffice to put an end to their hostile activity. Be this as it may, the cold season at the Cape will soon be coming to an end and with the advent of hot weather we may expect that there will be a recrudescence of enteric fever and of other diseases among the forces in the field, although probably not to anything like the extent that has taken place in the past. The troops forming the army of occupation, although they may expect to be harassed by fitful attacks and desultory fighting and marches in pursuit of small marauding bodies, will not be generally called upon to undertake the same hard and fatiguing marches or exposed to the same extent to the heat—conditions which had previously rendered them so vulnerable to disease-causes—and they will also have become more acclimatised and hardened by field service. Still, there has been a good deal of enteric fever during the past winter and every effort should be made to provide for the cleanliness and sanitary condition of camps and railway-stations, and for the provision of a good water-supply, together with proper means for the boiling and storage of the water. As we have again and again insisted upon, the soil in and around camps soon becomes fouled by occupation, rendering a frequent change of site essential. The long-continued elimination by the kidneys of typhoid bacilli, their vitality in organically polluted soil, and the facility with which this source of dissemination is overlooked in camps make this obvious. The sanitary work of the army in the field is always of the highest importance, and to be of any use it must be systematically undertaken and thoroughly carried out. Never was a greater mistake made than that of the abolition of the special post of sanitary officer with an army in the field. Instead of one sanitary officer there should really be a properly organised sanitary department composed of administrative and directing officials and of a subordinate executive service, in addition to a local sanitary body at every camp and post where troops are located, and it should be the duty of an officer of the former to visit, to advise, and to inspect the work of the latter periodically at uncertain times, to consult with the local medical and Royal Engineer officers, and to furnish the officer commanding the station with a summary result of his recommendations, sending a copy to the chief of the staff at headquarters, to whom and to the principal medical officer of the army he should be empowered to telegraph in case of need.

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES.

Fleet Surgeon William Brown, R.N. (retired), at Southsea,

on August 16th, aged 55 years. He entered the service as Surgeon in 1871, became Staff Surgeon in 1882, Fleet Surgeon in 1890, and retired in 1891. He was at the bombardment of Alexandria (promoted Staff Surgeon), and served during the Egyptian War of 1882 (medal with clasp and Khedive's bronze star).

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE CELEBRATION OF ST. LUKE'S DAY.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—On or about St. Luke's Day the members of the Guild of St. Luke hold their annual meeting and have an anniversary service at St. Paul's Cathedral. I beg to suggest that a similar service be held in every town in the kingdom on that day or the following Sunday and that a collection be taken at each, of which one-fifth be given to the British Medical Benevolent Fund, one-fifth to the Royal Medical Benevolent College, Epsom, one-fifth to the Society for the Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men, one-fifth to THE LANCET Relief Fund, and one-fifth to Church expenses; these most deserving charities would benefit greatly by these collections. St. Luke's Day, Oct. 18th, will this year fall on a Friday.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Bedford, August 26th, 1901.

HORACE E. HAYNES.

"WAS LUIGI CORNARO RIGHT?"

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I do not find that Mr. T. B. Sellors, in THE LANCET of August 24th, p. 565, advances any cogent argument against my views regarding the evils of pap-feeding.¹ His argument founded on the relative frequency of adenoids in the poor and well-to-do is valueless, as we have no exact data to go upon. Mr. Sellors says, "It is recognised that the disease more generally affects the children of the poor." But is it? Adenoids are certainly painfully common in the well-to-do.

Mr. Sellors writes: "It must be apparent to those who have had much to do with babies that it is wrong to attribute the presence of adenoids to an imperfect use of the jaws." Well, Sirs, to me it is by no means apparent. He goes on to say: "During the first year of life the jaws and tongue are in almost perpetual movement; when not taking the breast or bottle the child sucks its fingers or 'comforter,' or champs so vigorously that its bib is quickly saturated with saliva." I would remind Mr. Sellors that my indictment against the too exclusive feeding of children on pap did not specifically refer to the "first year of life," but to the period between weaning and the end of the second year, though, as a matter of fact, I am prepared to extend this period in both directions. Is it not apparent to Mr. Sellors that we have conclusive evidence as to the inadequate use of the jaws during early life in the fact of their defective growth and the consequent overcrowding of the teeth to which that defective growth so frequently leads?

Mr. Sellors has a tender solicitude for the baby's gums; he fears lest they may be torn by hard food. Has this physician, in his long experience of babies, ever chanced to put his fingers into the mouth of a lusty baby at its weaning time? If not, a valuable object lesson in infantile dietetics awaits him: he will find the interior of the baby's mandibular apparatus better adapted for lacerating than being lacerated.

But, Sirs, what is the use of arguing as to the practicability of giving the weaned baby food that requires substantial chewing when the question can only be decided by experience? My experience has shown me that the theory is practicable. Acting on the assumption that the teeth of the young human are not for ornament merely, but for use, I have long recommended mothers to give their children's teeth an opportunity of exercising their function, which is to bite and chew food. The result has been eminently satisfactory. I believe, indeed—though I do not at present press this point—that children should be afforded

¹ THE LANCET, August 17th, 1901, p. 487.