imprisoned for not finding £1000 bail as security for a debt of £42 2s. which had never been legally proved against him.

That the administration of justice in the West Indies by Gorrie and Cook was a disgraceful farce had long been the opinion of the European residents. Mr. Anderson, who had petitioned the Crown and been threatened with proceedings for contempt of court consequently, was sent to England in 1891 by public subscriptions raised in Trinidad, to lay his wrongs before the home authorities and the public. On Sept. 14th of that year he instituted his remarkable action in the Court of Queen's Bench against the Trinidad judges (Anderson v. Gorrie and others). The facts disclosed were too flagrant to be overlooked. In 1892 a Royal Commission, consisting of Sir William Markby and Sir Frederick Pollock, was appointed to inquire into the administration of justice in Trinidad and Tobago, and their report resulted in the removal of Mr. Justice Cook from office. Sir John Gorrie was also interdicted pending the formal bringing of charges against him, but the interdiction was soon followed by his death. Mr. Anderson's action against the judges only came on in April, 1894, and occupied seven days, before the late Lord Chief Justice Coleridge and a special jury of Middlesex. He appeared in person and successfully held his own against five counsel employed by the defendants. In the course of the trial Lord Coleridge stigmatised the imposition of the bail already mentioned as "a piece of unmitigated, unlawful tyranny," and in the course of his summing-up said:—"The proceedings for contempt of court against the plaintiff for having petitioned the Queen were quite unjustifiable. Then judgments having been obtained against Mr. Anderson for £42, Mr. Justice Cook held him to bail for £500. He confessed he could not understand how an English judge could have so acted." The verdict was as follows:—"The jury find that the defendant Cook oppressively and with malice overstrained his judicial powers to the prejudice of the plaintiff and the wilful perversion of justice, and found a verdict for the plaintiff for £500." Lord Coleridge, however, entered judgment for the defendant on the ground that no action could lie against a judge for an act done in his judicial capacity, and this judgment was confirmed by the then Master of the Rolls (Lord Esher) and the Court of Appeal.

Mr. Anderson thus became the helpless victim of judicial persecution. Having been forced into heavy expenditure in defence of his personal rights he had the additional mortification of finding that the survivor of his persecutors was by a legal technicality superior to the ordinary operation of the law. Under the terrible strains and mortifications which he had courageously endured for several years Mr. Anderson, now completely ruined in purse, bore himself with unflinching courage. It would, perhaps, have been better for him—he certainly would have been a happier man—if he had ceased to struggle against the gross injustice of his fate. But this his courage and determination would not allow him to do, and he spent the remainder of a most unfortunate life in resenting the position to which the unjust and drunken colonial judges had reduced him. His efforts on behalf of general medical reform, though honestly undertaken for the sake of the rank-and-file of the medical profession, were all inspired by the abiding sense of his own wrongs. The General Medical Council being unable to take cognisance of his case stood convicted in his eyes of ineptitude, while he was ready to maintain the illegality of its constitution and the necessity for its root and branch reform. The governing body of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, making no sustained effort to help him—a Fellow of the corporation—in his struggle, became in his eyes a body that required complete reconstruction, and his voice was among the loudest, if not among the clearest, of those who demanded for all Members of the College a proper representation on the Council. But, we regret to say, having that cause at heart, that the position of the Members lost by Mr. Anderson's advocacy. Protracted litigation, often personally conducted, had left him with a feeling concerning legal phraseology that was little short of superstition. He had found himself on many occasions opposed in his procedure by the wording rather than by the spirit of certain Acts of Parliament, certain verdicts, and certain charters. Consequently, in framing resolutions in support of various broad schemes of medical reform, he was wont to make his motions so elaborate in their provision against possible misconception

that they became to the ordinary understanding mere involved verbiage. The medical profession cannot be blamed for withholding serious support from propositions so incoherent as those for which Mr. Anderson was wont to stand sponsor upon all public occasions.

But it would be an injustice to the memory of a brave and deeply wronged man if his character were to be finally judged by some of his later acts and utterances. Impelled, as no doubt he was, by his private wrongs to take up the rôle of public champion of the rights of his profession, from the time that the grievances which he desired to redress were public and not private ones he ceased to obtrude his personal wrongs; while as a reformer the line which he took was fairly correct, though his methods were more than occasionally wrong-headed. With his death is closed a lurid page in the constitutional history of this country. Mr. Anderson was ruined by unjust judges, and this not under some corrupt Oriental autocrat with a mediæval scheme of misrule, but less than a decade ago under the British Crown.

GEORGE CORDWENT, M.D. ST. AND, F.R.C.S. ENG.,
L.S.A.

DR. GEORGE CORDWENT died at his residence, Milverton, Somerset, on Nov. 12th. in his eighty-sixth year. Dr. Cordwent received his medical education at St. George's Hospital and qualified as M.R.C.S. Eng. and L.S.A. in 1840 and in 1841 respectively. He graduated as M.D. at St. Andrews University in 1859 and three years later he was admitted F.R.C.S. Eng. Dr. Cordwent practised in Taunton for many years and was on the honorary staff of the Taunton and Somerset Hospital. He was a former president of the West Somerset Branch of the British Medical Association. About 25 years ago he retired from practice and settled at Milverton. Dr. Cordwent was a life-member of the council of St. Andrews University and also a Fellow of the Chemical Society. He took a great interest in archæological subjects. Dr. Cordwent married a Miss Mathias of Taunton who predeceased him many years ago and he leaves no children. The deceased was much respected in Milverton and the funeral, which took place there on Nov. 16th, was largely attended.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

THE IMPERIAL YEOMANRY FIELD HOSPITAL AND BEARER COMPANY.

BY CHARLES STONHAM, F.R.C.S. ENG.,

CHIEF SURGEON AND OFFICER COMMANDING THE IMPERIAL YEOMANRY FIELD HOSPITAL; SENIOR SURGEON, WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL, ETC.

IN my second letter,¹ sent to you from the Devil's Kantoor, I gave you some account of our marches east and north of Pretoria, to which place we returned from Warm Baths on August 26th, reaching Pretoria at 9.30 A.M. on the 28th after covering a distance of 64 miles. Sending our ambulances on to the Irish Hospital, which is established in the Palace of Justice, we proceeded to camp near the Racecourse, and spent the rest of the day with our five weeks' mails, which were brought into camp by the returning ambulances. We all looked forward to a few days' rest, which had been well earned by the men and transport animals of all units—of the latter, indeed, we had lost many, and those which were still alive were worn out with long marches and scanty rations. The forced march of 64 miles from Warm Baths, coming as it did at the end of a month's hard trekking, had played havoc with the mules; indeed, the field hospital and bearer company combined had to requisition for 70 fresh animals to make up for those dead or quite unfit to move. We were, however, only able to draw 10—60 being the total number allowed for the whole brigade; and when I tell you that all units were in this respect as badly off as ourselves, you will have some idea of the extreme difficulties of transport.

The day after our arrival in Pretoria (August 29th) Major Hale, D.S.O., R.A.M.C., and I went to No. 3 Model School Hospital (commanded by Major R. W. Ford, R.A.M.C.), to

which we had lent our detachment for the time being. We made all arrangements for the detachment which appeared necessary to us, exchanging one or two sick men and providing for the sending home of most of the St. John Ambulance men who were time-expired. We drew a few stores, and changed a couple of our carts so that we should be ready to march at once when orders arrived. For these we had not long to wait, for at about 12 o'clock we received marching orders for the following day. I must say that these orders were received with some regret, as, although we were all most anxious to go on, yet the whole brigade had confidently looked forward to a little rest and time to refit.

General Hamilton and his division (with the exception of Mahon's brigade) went east on August 29th by train. Our brigade was to march. On the 30th we struck camp at 7 A.M. and marched through Pretoria at 9 A.M., passing the recently established Yeomanry Branch Hospital in the grounds of Beckett's house at Sunnyside. It looked most business-like, with everything in full swing. The orderlies and the nurses came to the railings to see us pass. On the opposite side of the road was the Langman Hospital. We camped at Donkerhoek at 5.30 P.M. On Sept. 1st we arrived at Balmoral, having camped the night before two miles south of Bronkhorst Spruit. Our march on this day was by no means pleasant, as we had to pass along the road where our animals had perished in such numbers during the storm of the night of July 25th. The stench was abominable and nauseating and, although we are pretty well used to this kind of thing now, it was so obtrusive that everyone was glad when this part of our journey was over. On Sept. 3rd we passed through Middelburg and sent our sick to the hospital there. We camped at Wonderfontein on the 4th. On the 5th as we were inspanning we heard heavy gun-fire to the north-west of us, and after marching on our journey about three miles our artillery and mounted troops with two ambulances under Major Hale were ordered back. The rest of the convoy, with the infantry, outspanned until late in the afternoon, when, the mounted troops beginning to return, we moved on and camped after marching for two miles. We found that our troops had arrived too late, and that the Boers under Commandant Trichardt, who had attacked a party of Canadians guarding the railway between Pan and Wonderfontein, had been beaten off. Our ambulances took five wounded men from the camp of the Canadians to Wonderfontein railway-station to await a train for Middelburg.

On the 6th we joined General French's division at Carolina and rested there till the 9th, on which date the division marched into the hills in the direction of Barberton. Major Hale and Dr. Green with two ambulances followed Mahon's cavalry, the rest going with the main convoy. About 10.30 A.M. our advanced guns engaged the enemy and the convoy parked at the foot of a hill on which two of our guns were placed. The guns soon drove the enemy from the opposite hill and after lunch I rode forward to the advanced battery and watched the action for the rest of the afternoon. It was most exciting, especially at the finish when the mounted Boers broke cover and made up the hill which we had been shelling as hard as they could go under a perfect hail of shell-fire from the battery. The division now advanced, crossed the hill which we had been shelling, and encamped about 8 P.M. in the valley, some of the convoy not coming in till the following morning. As the convoy was passing over the hill we had just been shelling the Boers sent two shells which passed just over our heads and fell on the other side, fortunately without bursting. Our casualties in this action were five wounded. One man, who was shot through the head, died in our hospital on the 12th. On the next morning we continued our march. We were now fairly in the mountains. The roads were very bad, and they may be best likened to a dissipated switchback. They are broken by numerous drifts over the Komati river, which takes a very winding course through the valley. On all sides of us were mountains—indeed, the country was such that had the Boers chosen to hold it at almost any point, they might have defied us indefinitely. On the 12th we camped at the foot of Rodehoogk, an exceedingly steep pass about half a mile long. Our guns shelled the Boers from their position here during the morning. The remainder of the day and the two days next following were taken up in getting the troops and convoy over the pass—a by no means easy task, as each wagon required a minimum of 24 mules, so that constant relays of animals had to be sent down the hill until the last wagon reached the top.

Our turn to ascend the hill came on the 14th. General French had moved on with his cavalry the day before to make a forced march to Barberton, the 4th Cavalry Brigade being left to guard the pass, and the next day the rest of us marched to the top of the Devil's Chute, which we descended the following morning. The top of the Devil's Chute is about 7500 feet or 8000 feet about sea-level, and from it there is an extensive and beautiful view of the lower ground surrounded by mountain chains with Barberton about 20 miles distant. The Devil's Chute is a winding road about three miles long descending about 2500 feet or 3000 feet to the lower, but still hilly and broken, ground. Many wagons and animals which had come to grief in the descent bore witness to its difficulties. Our mules were now thoroughly done up; we had lost so many that even after inspanning our horses our teams were reduced to six animals, and we only just managed to creep into Barberton on the 17th, when we sent our sick to the Boer hospital. This march to Barberton will certainly rank as one of the great marches of the campaign, and some idea of its difficulties may be formed when I tell you that the Boers at Barberton—and, indeed, the English residents too—thought that it would be impossible for us to enter the town with our heavy guns and convoy. When it was evident to the former that we not only could, but would, enter Barberton, the Boers made preparations to go, but General French pushed on and arrived two days before he was expected. This caused the Boers to beat a hasty retreat and they left large quantities of stores and over 40 engines. I need not dwell upon our stay at Barberton, where we were detained for lack of transport till Oct. 2nd. We obtained supplies and a small supply of fresh vegetables, which were very welcome, as we began to feel the absence of the latter severely—indeed this is one of the chief drawbacks to long marches through an absolutely barren country. Unfortunately there was absolutely no forage to be obtained and our transport animals had to pick up a living as best they could on the veldt. Needless to say they died daily. A few days before we left a small quantity of forage was issued, and had it not been for this most of the poor animals would have died. On Sept. 20th the 4th Cavalry Brigade, which had been left to guard the pass, marched in followed by the Naval Brigade with their 4.7 gun.

On Oct. 1st we received orders to march on the following morning. We were to proceed by the Devil's Kantoor and we were only to take such wagons as we could find full teams for. All the others and the greater bulk of our stores, with the dismounted men, were sent to the station where they would be entrained as soon as the line was repaired. We accordingly left two officers and 35 men with seven wagons who camped near the station. These were sent on by train and we found them waiting our arrival when we got to Machadodorp. On the 2nd Major Hale, Dr. Green, and I, with 28 men, moved off with 10 carts, after passing a most disagreeable night in consequence of the very high wind and perpetual duststorms. We marched for 18 miles and camped at the North de Kaap river, the rest of the column going four miles further on. Mahon's brigade was now virtually broken up. The Imperial Light Horse had been sent on on Oct. 1st, and we understood that they went to Pretoria for disbandment. M Battery, the ammunition column, Lumsden's Horse, and a few details were now all that were left, the others either having been sent away by train or being left at Barberton as a garrison. During the night a series of heavy thunderstorms commenced, which lasted, practically without intermission, for 18 hours. The lightning was extremely vivid and, I regret to say, was fatal to two men in the ammunition column, besides injuring some others and killing some mules. Personally I have never experienced such terrible thunderstorms before.

On the 3rd we commenced the ascent of the Kantoor by a very bad road, which was excessively steep in parts and wound up the mountain for about seven miles. This day we did about four miles in pouring rain, accompanied by heavy thunder and lightning. The next two days were occupied in getting the wagons up. This had to be done in detachments, as each wagon required 26 mules. The road was exceedingly picturesque and from the top of the Kantoor a magnificent view of the mountains surrounding the low ground in which Barberton lies was obtained. On the 6th we reached Godwan Rivier station, and before we proceeded further we had again to cut down our convoy as there was another hill to be ascended at Waterval Onder which,

according to accounts we had received, was worse than anything we had yet passed. We left Dr. Green with all the baggage and what little stores we had, two carts, and all the men but eight, to go on to Machadodorp by train. Major Hale and I, with eight men and the rest of the wagons, quite empty except for kits, marched to Nootgedacht, where I took the opportunity of going over the prisoners' quarters. Our march was through a beautiful valley, and had it not been for the wind and heavy duststorms would have been most enjoyable. On arriving at Waterval Onder about mid-day on the 8th we saw the hill of which we had received such terrible accounts and we were agreeably surprised to find that there was really nothing formidable about it; indeed, in the afternoon we marched up it without difficulty with our usual 10 spans of mules. The following day we reached Machadodorp, where we found the rest of our men and wagons who had preceded us by train. General French's division and some of Buller's troops were here and made a very big camp.

On the 11th we received orders to take part of the field hospital and bearer company and march on the next day with Mahon's brigade, which had been re-formed, the rest of our men being left behind to go to Pretoria by train as soon as possible. Late at night these orders were countermanded from Pretoria, and we were ordered to cross to the north of the line at daybreak and to take over the sick from the field hospital which was to take our place in Mahon's brigade. This, in view of the fact that the Yeomanry, volunteers, colonials, and reservists were being sent down, looked like an early return home, and although, as we had been with General Mahon for three months, we were sorry not to accompany him further, we were all delighted at the prospect before us. We remained at Machadodorp until the 21st, when we entrained for Pretoria, arriving there on the 22nd. During our stay at Machadodorp we had admitted nearly 100 patients, sending them down by sick conveyance as opportunity offered.

I have now brought our wanderings up to date and I am afraid some of your readers may be inclined to say, "This is all very well, but he has said nothing about the medical and surgical work which the hospital has done." I have purposely refrained from doing so, as it seems to me injudicious to interlard my letters with professional details. However, when our work as a field hospital and bearer company is definitely terminated I hope to furnish you with such professional details as I think may prove interesting.

Pretoria, Oct. 23rd.

THE BATTLE OF THE CLUBS.

MIDLAND MEDICAL UNION.

THE inaugural meeting of the above union was held at Nottingham on Oct. 10th, Mr. J. G. SHEA of Chesterfield being in the chair. There was a representative attendance of members from Nottingham, Derby, Belper, Mansfield, Chesterfield, and the neighbourhood. The Nottingham and District Medical Union were received *en bloc* as members and now constitute the Nottingham branch of the Midland Medical Union. Dr. E. Jepson, President of the Durham Medical Union, had kindly promised to deliver an address but was prevented from being present. His address has been printed and circulated amongst the members.

The following officers were elected:—President: Mr. J. G. Shea (Chesterfield). Vice-President: Mr. T. Geraty (Nottingham). Treasurer: Dr. F. R. Mutch (Nottingham). Honorary secretaries (*pro tem.*): Dr. E. H. Houfton (Shirebrook) and Mr. C. J. Palmer (Mansfield-Woodhouse).

A representative council was also elected and a code of rules was adopted, the principal of which were as follows:—

1. Name of association: "Midland Medical Union."
2. Objects: (a) To protect the interests of members of this association in every respect, but more particularly from unfair competition, and from any attempts that may be made to induce or compel medical practitioners to accept insufficient remuneration for professional services; (b) to establish and maintain minimum rates of payment for medical contract work in relation to miners and all classes of workmen, members of friendly societies, sick and other clubs, lodges, insurance and other companies and societies.
3. Every registered medical practitioner residing in or near the counties of Nottingham and Derby shall be eligible for membership. Application to be the recognised form and election by a majority of the council.
4. The annual subscription for each member be 5s., payable in advance on Oct. 1st. A guarantee fund shall be formed limited to 21s. per member, to be called for in case of necessity only.

5. The officers of the union shall be elected annually and consist of president, vice-president, secretaries, treasurers, solicitors, and council. The council to consist of two or more members from each branch, four to form a quorum.

6. The annual meeting shall be held in October, at place to be decided on by council.

8. A special general meeting shall be called by the President at any time upon a requisition signed by six members, such special meeting to consider no other topic than that for which the meeting was called.

9. No member of the union shall oppose any practitioner in any course of action which he may take, with the previously expressed sanction of the council, for the general good of the profession.

10. Any member acting, in the opinion of a special meeting called for the purpose, contrary to the laws and regulations of the union shall, upon a majority of at least three-fourths of the members present, be suspended or expelled, and without appeal, from the union.

11. A special meeting, called for the purpose of considering the conduct of any member of the union, shall only be convened after 14 days' written notice has been sent to the last known address of each member, and such notice shall state clearly the purpose for which such meeting is convened.

14. No new law shall be adopted, and no existing law be altered or rescinded, except at the annual general meeting or at a special meeting called for the purpose, and 14 days' notice of such proposed alterations, signed by at least three members, shall be sent to every member of the union in the circular convening the meeting.

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS.

15. That any existing local association of medical practitioners or groups of practitioners in districts where there are such local associations be empowered to form or become a local association of this union, and that each member of such local association having paid to this union the annual subscription for the time being, payable under the foregoing rules, such local association shall be allowed by this union reasonable expenses for carrying on the work of such local association in relation to this union, and also have full authority to direct and control their own local affairs, subject to all questions of special importance being referred to this union and governed by the rules thereof.

It is hoped that all medical men in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and the neighbourhood will become members so that something may be done to improve rates of pay for contract work and to deal with other matters of medico-political interest.

The honorary secretaries will be glad to give any information respecting the union and to receive the names of those wishing to become members.

THE BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS' UNION.

IN THE LANCET of Dec. 30th, 1899 (p. 1866), we announced the formation of this union. The report of the council of the union to the members for the first year of its existence has just been published. The area with which the union deals is that known as "Greater Birmingham"; it has a radius of some five miles from the centre of the city and it has been divided into 14 medical wards. The members of each ward elect representatives to serve on a central council. Members to the number of 202 have already been enrolled. We gather from the report that owing to the influence of the union five general practitioners have been elected on the council of the Birmingham Medical Institute. Inquiries have been instituted into the abuses of the club system, and though the council of the union do not consider the present time opportune for dealing with the question as a whole, yet they are prepared for action in the case of individual clubs if they are appealed to. We wish the union success, for it is only by organisations of this kind that the abuses affecting the medical profession will ever be remedied.

The officers for the ensuing year are the same as last year, all having been re-elected. They are as follows:—President: Dr. W. E. Parkes. Vice-Presidents: Mr. H. R. Leech and Mr. R. A. Newton. Treasurer: Dr. W. H. Line. Secretaries: Dr. E. D. Kirby, Mr. J. Neal, and Dr. C. Robertson.

THE CORONER AND THE DEATHS OF LUNATICS IN POOR-LAW INSTITUTIONS.

THE following General Order has been addressed by the Local Government Board to the guardians of the poor of the several Poor-law unions in England and Wales, to the boards of management of the several asylum districts formed under the Metropolitan Poor Act, 1867, and to others whom it may concern:—

Whereas it is expedient to provide for the notification of the death of every poor person of unsound mind in any workhouse or in any other building subject to the government of a board of guardians or joint committee of two or more boards of guardians or board of management