

extent in the thigh, caused by a fragment of shell. Not only are the rumours as to his death untrue, but there is no ground for apprehending a fatal issue in the case.

WE are authorised to state that the Hull Medical School was closed at the termination of the last session. An advertisement of the institution has since appeared, but it has been determined not to re-open the school.

No sooner was it publicly announced that a native regiment at Allahabad had risen in mutiny and laid down its arms, than the class of "told you so" military prophets took up their parable, and declared that India was in danger of another mutiny from the authorities having adopted the policy of doctors and sanitarians in removing the troops from the plains to the hills. It turns out, however, that the report of the mutiny is utterly untrue.

THE people of Birmingham are to be commiserated as regards one of the conditions under which they live at present. According to Dr. Alfred Hill, the supply of water to the borough, when analysed by him on the 3rd August, was "highly charged with nitrogenous organic matter," and was also "turbid and bright green with minute vegetation." The sooner Birmingham puts its lately acquired Act in force for a new supply the better for the inhabitants.

THE Ambulance of the Paris Press, formed with the funds subscribed by the journalists of Paris, has, during the month of August, met with sad impediments and misfortunes. The whole establishment was actually made prisoners at some distance from Metz, and bandied about in a very rough manner. After passing through very severe ordeals (according to a letter signed "Léon Guillet," published in the *Gaulois*), the ambulance came in contact with King William himself; who, at last, ordered it to be sent to Saarbrück, whence it might return to France through Belgium. The name of "Ambulance of the Press" was partly the cause of all the mishaps.

DR. FRANKLAND, in his report on the quality of the London water-supply during the last month, remarks that the waters of the two companies which draw from the Thames below its junction with the Mole exhibited nearly twice as much evidence of previous sewage or animal contamination as the waters abstracted from the Thames above the junction. Twelve months ago Mr. J. N. Radcliffe reported that the Lambeth and Chelsea Companies ought to remove their in-take above the influx of the Mole, but it would seem that this has not been done.

THE Committee of Management of the West London Hospital, Hammersmith, have received from Mrs. Baker, wife of the Rev. R. G. Baker, of Fulham Vicarage, a promise of £1400 for building and entirely fitting up a female ward in the new hospital, to be called the Baker ward. Already considerable progress has been made in the works of the new building, and the Western district may be congratulated on the prospect of an early addition to its hospital accommodation, which is now painfully overtaxed.

THE Minister of Public Instruction of France has just appointed a committee of scientific men, who will confer with the military authorities as to the latest discoveries in physics and chemistry which may be applied to the defence of the capital. Professor Berthelot is the chairman. A second committee has also been formed to discuss all the medical questions relative to the siege. Professor Sée presides.

MR. SPENCER WELLS has been elected an honorary member of the Royal Society of Medical and Natural Science of Brussels.

FEVER is very prevalent just now at Leeds and Sheffield, causing a sixth of the total deaths in the latter town last week.

A COTTAGE HOSPITAL is about to be erected at Amlwch (Anglesea), at a cost of £500. The site has been given by Lady Dinorben.

THE Medical Society of Marseilles has decided that the patients of the members who are sent to the army shall be attended by members of the Society. Each doctor is, on leaving, to appoint a substitute; to whom he shall give the list of his patients. Such services are, of course, rewarded by the sick, but are quite disinterested on the part of the substitute.

THE Registrar-General's last Weekly Return records the death on the 5th inst., at Guy's Hospital, of a horsekeeper aged fifty-six years, which resulted from "glanders caught while attending a diseased horse."

THE building which was formerly the Sydenham Medical College at Birmingham has been fitted up as a model lodging-house for working men, with every care for the comfort and health of the occupants.

WITH the reduced temperature of the last three weeks, the fatality of diarrhoea in London has rapidly diminished, the deaths last week being 130, against three times as many returned weekly a month or six weeks ago.

A MEDICAL FELLOWSHIP, with a salary of £120 per annum, has been instituted by the Punjab University College at Lahore, for the purpose of translating and editing medical treatises in the Hindostanee language.

AMONG other ridiculous rumours that occasionally find their way into the papers, there was one which would have furnished a grim comment on glory if it had only been true—viz., that the Prussian Government had ordered 200,000 wooden legs from this country.

WE are requested to state that Mr. Henry Arnott, F.R.C.S., is not a nephew of Mr. Moncreiff Arnott, but of Dr. Neill Arnott.

## Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

### RELIEF TO THE WOUNDED.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you allow me through your pages to make a suggestion as to the form in which relief to the wounded of the continental armies might be sent, in such a way as to be immediately available when it arrives on the field.

The committee in Glasgow for the purchase of articles for the wounded, besides sending, in equal proportions to both armies, hospital clothing, instruments, Liebig's food, lint, chloroform, carbolic acid, bandages, &c., in bulk, have, at my suggestion, fitted up and sent out a number of boxes specially adapted for field hospitals, or hurriedly fitted-up tents or sheds, containing a few wounded men. Each box contains hospital clothing for two men, and sick rations which will last them a number of days, so that a surgeon with a pocket case of instruments could undertake the management of a number of wounded men without any other supplies, if provided with a box for every two patients. The lids are hinged, and fastened down with

screw nails, so that the box is useful for a table and cupboard.

The boxes are labeled, "Hospital clothing and sick rations for two patients, complete. Contents:—2 blankets; 2 flannel jackets; 4 sheets; 2 waterproof sheets; 2 shirts; 2 pairs socks; 1 jar Liebig's extract of meat; 1 tin arrow-root biscuits, 8 lb.; 1 tin rice, 7 lb.; 1 tin sago, 7 lb.; 6 tins preserved milk; 2 bottles essence of coffee; 2 tin pannikins; 2 tin plates; 1 lb. lint; 6 yards gutta percha tissue; 8 bandages;  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. chloroform;  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. tr. opii;  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. carbolic acid."

At the price charged by those who sell these articles here, with reduction allowed in consideration of their being for the wounded, such a box, packed with carded oakum, costs under £5. Two can easily be carried by a bāt mule or pony, and on arrival at their destination almost everything needed for the treatment of the wounded and rations for many days are to be found together.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
Glasgow, Sept. 2nd, 1870. GEORGE BUCHANAN, M.D.

## THE WAR AND THE SOUTH OF FRANCE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In one of your annotations on Sept. 3rd, you state that the south of France may be inaccessible to invalids this winter, or at least during the early part of it, and draw attention to a plan in contemplation for affording shelter to such invalids at Cairo, in Egypt. May I be allowed to state in your pages, what I have recently replied to many sufferers and intending emigrants inquiring what influence the present disastrous war was likely to have on the usual health resorts in the south of France and in the Riviera. I firmly believe that, whatever may be the issue of the war, the French health resorts, Hyères, Cannes, Nice, and Mentone, will remain calm, peaceable, and open to invalids. Their very existence depends on the winter influx of invalids and visitors; and it may be taken for granted that the authorities will do all in their power to secure the comfort, safety, and welfare of those who may visit them. We may also rely on the French Government protecting and helping those who wish to traverse the French territory in order to reach their winter abodes.

Nothing but civil war extending to every part of France could render the south inaccessible. Should Paris be the scene of conflict, the south is easily reached by Southampton, Havre, and the Brittany and Central of France Railways, through Bourges, without coming within a hundred miles of Paris. Should such an all but impossible state of things as universal civil war take place in France, there is still the resource of the two Italian Rivas for those who want a dry, cool, bracing sunny winter climate, not far from home. Both the eastern and western Rivas present this kind of climate. San Remo (near Mentone), Pegli, Nervi (near Genoa), Massa Carrara, are already colonised, and in a measure prepared for strangers. There are other large towns, such as Oneglia, Finale, Alassio, Savona, where more adventurous tourists might plant their flags as pioneers of the progress that is to be.

I would add that we must not forget that Alexandria and Cairo are two of the most unhealthy towns in the world, where drainage is all but unknown, where zymotic diseases are rife, where typhoid fevers approximating to the old plague may be said to be ever lurking; where even passing strangers constantly suffer from troublesome diarrhoea from unfavourable hygienic conditions. A house quite out of the town might escape these conditions; but such houses, I am told, are very difficult to get, and one, if found, would be filled by a dozen patients, whereas thousands migrate every winter, from health motives, to the south of France. Moreover, the climate of Cairo, which is in Lower Egypt, is not the really good Egyptian climate. The latter, I believe, is scarcely reached before Thebes is attained in Upper Egypt. North, moist winds often long prevail at Alexandria and Cairo.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
Grosvenor-street, Sept. 7th, 1870. J. HENRY BENNET, M.D.

## HOME RESORTS FOR INVALIDS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have seen, in your issue of the 3rd inst., Egypt advocated as a winter residence. No doubt Cairo is a charming climate, as I have experienced it in the month of January; but other places nearer home, I think, claim consideration. Such places as Queenstown, Penzance, Funchal, and Malaga are delightful winter residences for the invalid. As of Cairo, I also have personal experience of Malaga and Funchal, the Cape, slightly of Algeria, and other mild climates. But why delicate people should undergo the discomforts inseparable from ship life and a long voyage, whilst they can get all they want at home, often puzzles me.

Now that the Continent is virtually closed, I would say to invalids, "Try your fortune nearer home." A residence abroad has many drawbacks. The language and the habits of foreigners differ from ours. There is a want of comfort for the invalid which counteracts in a great measure the good effects of climate; but even in this I will not yield our home resorts to foreign ones. For a quarter of the expense much more comfort and benefit may be obtained at home.

I write from Queenstown, whose terraces and beach in forenoons of winter months often remind one of the sunshine and warmth experienced in most southern latitudes.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
September, 1870. M.D.

## PHARMACY AND MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Some time back I noticed in your journal medical men complaining of the extent to which druggists were carrying on their prescribing business, which no doubt is highly injurious to the profession.

In the town in which I reside nearly all the general practitioners some ten years ago gave up sending their own medicines, and only wrote prescriptions. They are now beginning to see the results of their kindness to the chemists, for nearly every case the medical man is sent to be bled has been doctored by this dignitary first, and, therefore, he guesses before he sees the patient that it is a bad case.

I myself the other day was standing in one of the shops, and was greatly amused at seeing the people one after another come in to be doctored, the druggist actually in my presence feeling their pulses, &c. A short time ago I was sent for to a lady in very affluent circumstances, and I happened to drop the remark, "What a weak pulse you have," when she replied, "I know that; Mr. —, the druggist, always tells me the same."

Now there is no doubt it is quite time that this kind of thing should be put a stop to, for I can clearly see, as time advances, that it will get worse. Is it not possible, in this Medical Bill which will be again shortly before Parliament, to get a clause inserted to somewhat restrict this kind of thing? The only other remedy I can see will be for all general practitioners to supply their own medicines, as in former days (which certainly is very *infra dig.*) and thus to wrench back from druggists that of which evidently they are depriving the profession.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
REFORMER.

## POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you permit me, through your columns, to remind my professional brethren interested in this important question, that Mr. Brady has resolved, aided by a distinguished member of the House of Lords, to introduce a Bill, in the next session of Parliament, having for its object a very considerable reform in the administration of medical relief to the poor, and largely affecting the status of Poor-law medical officers.

In order to strengthen his hands in every possible way, I would appeal to all my brethren, who are in a position to do so, to forward me a statement of any facts which they may consider useful for the demonstration of the inefficiency