regard to the hospital and its equipment that three-quarters of the equipment would be shipped by Feb. 7th, and two-thirds was already at sea. The medical men would leave in the *Majestic* on Feb. 10th with the exception of Lieutenant-Colonel Sloggett, R.A.M.C., military commandant of the hospital and principal medical officer, and Mr. A. Fripp, chief civilian medical officer, who would go in the *Norman* on the same date, accompanied by 114 members of their staff. The Prince of Wales will inspect the hospital staff at Devonshire House to-day (Friday). Mr. Charles Stonham, F.R.C.S. Eng., senior surgeon Westminster Hospital, Surgeon-Captain Middlesex Yeomanry Cavalry, has been appointed senior surgeon.

Dr. Mario Nascimento, a Portuguese doctor, lately Mayor of Lourenço Marques, has volunteered his services in the British ambulance at Natal and has been accepted.

Princess Christian and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein visited the sufferers from the war at Netley Hospital on Feb. 6th. Their Royal Highnesses were received at Netley Pier by Colonel Creagh and Colonel Charlton, R.A.M.C. On arrival at the hospital their Royal Highnesses were conducted through the wards, in which were some 300 patients.

Nurse "Lawrence," mentioned in the second paragraph under the above heading last week, should have been Miss Eda C. Laurence, sister of Judge-President P. M. Laurence, of the High Court of Griqualand West, Kimberley, and daughter of the Rev. P. Laurence of Walesby, Lincs.

FIELD HOSPITALS AND AMBULANCE FOR HILL WARFARE.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. McCartie, I.M.S., has issued through Messrs. W. Thacker and Co., Creed-lane, E.C., a pamphlet recommending several changes in our field hospital system to make it suitable for mountain warfare. The main points of his plan are to divide the hospital equipment into (a) indispensable and (b) reserve, and to have the "indispensable" carried by porters accompanying the troops. Each regiment now takes two field panniers on a mule, but Lieutenant-Colonel McCartie believes that instead of this a regiment might take all the indispensable articles of the panniers in two knapsacks of about 35 lb. each on two porters. For a brigade of four regiments and a battery there would be 10 porters attached to corps and 32 porters to carry all the articles that are really necessary for the two field hospitals belonging to the brigade, whereas at present the equipment is carried by about 105 mules with 35 drivers. Porters can keep up with the troops over hills or snow, but mules cannot do this. There are 13 medical officers in the brigade. Each would be accompanied by a porter carrying an amputation case, chloroform, and everything necessary for ordinary operations. With the present system an operation cannot be performed on the march without unloading and re-loading a mule, and if the mules are left behind no instruments or lanterns are obtainable. The other 29 porters would carry medicine, milk, soup, dressings, &c., and about 14 lanterns. The ambulance of a brigade now provides for the carriage of 49 patients in dandies and 160 on riding mules, besides the four stretchers for each regiment. There are 306 bearers for the dandies. Lieutenant-Colonel McCartie describes and figures patterns of dandies and stretchers which he considers to be much superior to the regulation ones.†

THE FAMINE IN INDIA.

India has been sorely tried of late years. It will be seen from our Special Correspondent's letter published in the present number of THE LANCET that plague continues its ravages and from the official statement furnished by the Secretary of State for India to the Lord Mayor that the country is suffering from a terrible famine—terrible alike in the great extent of its area of prevalence and the number of the population affected.

JOURNALISM AND THE WAR.

We refer our readers to the latter part of an article, "Musings without Method," in *Blackwood's Magazine* for February for a trenchant criticism on journalism in connexion with the war in South Africa. It strikes us as well worthy of being read at the present time.

The annual distribution of prizes to the London Companies the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps will take place on Feb. 17th, at 3 P.M., at the headquarters of the corps, 51, Calthorpe-street, Gray's Inn-road. The prizes will be distributed by Surgeon-General H. S. Muir, Deputy Director-General, Army Medical Service.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

NEALE'S DIGEST: A RECOGNITION OF THE AUTHOR'S LABOURS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—No doubt most of your readers are aware that Dr. Neale has recently published the supplement to his Medical Digest, which completes and brings down to date that admirable guide to the British medical literature of the last 50 years; but it is not likely they have any idea of the enormous and unremitting labour this self-imposed task has cost the compiler. The work of making his index and preparing it for the press has involved an average of four hours per day for more than 50 years. This labour has not only been without remuneration, for the publication of the Digest has never been profitable, but it has been carried on year after year at great cost to Dr. Neale, who with rare determination has cheerfully persevered in a task which he originally undertook for the benefit of science and of his profession rather than for his own pecuniary advantage.

It seems to the undersigned that it would be unbecoming to the profession he has worked for if Dr. Neale's labours were allowed to pass unrecognised, and they have, therefore, decided to invite the members of the profession throughout the British Empire to contribute to a fund which will enable them to present Dr. Neale with a suitable testimonial, as a recognition by his professional brethren of his long-continued and invaluable labours on their behalf. Obviously, it would be premature to discuss the form of the testimonial until the amount of the contributions can be ascertained, but all the subscribers will be communicated with before a decision is arrived at.

We are, Sirs, yours faithfully,

W. S. CHURCH,

President of the Royal College of Physicians.

WM. TURNER,

President of the General Medical Council.

H. G. HOWSE,

Senior Vice-President of the Royal College of Surgeons.

THOMAS BRYANT,

President of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society.

R. DOUGLAS POWELL,

President of the Clinical Society of London.

W. WATSON CHEYNE,

President of the Pathological Society of London.

FREDERICK T. ROBERTS,

President of the Medical Society of London.

ALBAN DORAN,

President of the Obstetrical Society of London.

W. H. BROADBENT,

President of the Medical Graduates' College and Polyclinic.

HENRY POWER,

President of the New Sydenham Society.

JONATHAN HUTCHINSON,

Honorary Secretary of the New Sydenham Society.

P.S.—Subscriptions may be sent to Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister (Librarian of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society), 20, Hanover-square, London, W. It will save him much trouble if cheques are made payable to "Bearer" and crossed "National Provincial Bank—Neale Testimonial Account."

"THE CONFERENCE AT NEWCASTLE AND THE MIDWIFERY QUESTION."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I have pleasure in answering the questions and suggestions of Mr. Chas. E. S. Flemming in his letter appearing in THE LANCET of Feb. 3rd (p. 338). Radical changes of any kind in systems or schemes which have enjoyed much support for a number of years usually meet with strenuous opposition from some source or other, and I can only express surprise that more has not been shown against my suggested scheme as sketched in THE LANCET of Jan. 20th (p. 197). I feel bound to attribute this to a very wide sympathy which my suggestions have elicited.

Mr. Flemming devotes nearly the whole of his letter to the