withdrawn from the minor Presidencies. How far, if at all, the medical services will be affected by these changes we have yet to learn.

BRIGADE-SURGEON-LIEUTENANT-COLONEL GRAY.

The *Times of India* has a long and eulogistic article on this officer on his retirement from the Grant Medical College, of which he is the Principal, and from the Indian Medical Service, of which he is a distinguished member. Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Gray entered the service in 1866 and arrived in Bombay the same year. He has spent upwards of twenty-six years in the work of medical education in the Grant Medical College. He joined the college and hospital as Professor of Anatomy and second surgeon, with the attached duties of Curator of the College Museum. He also held other professorships; in 1882 he was appointed a Professor of Surgery and senior surgeon; in 1888 he became Principal of the Grant Medical College. He appears to have been a very energetic worker in various directions and to have done excellent and highly honourable work.

DEHRA DUN LEPER ASYLUM.

Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Rutledge, Civil Surgeon of Dehra and Superintendent of the Asylum, has published a report of that institution for the year 1892. The new asylum is built on the separate cottage system, which has been adopted with such success in the cottage hospitals in this country. The design was to consist of fifteen cottages: ten for males, of which nine have been built, and five for females, of which four have been built. As regards the ages of the inmates at the end of the year, out of 89 that were sheltered only 10 were under twenty years of age and 14 over the age of fifty, the remainder being between those ages. The daily average during the year was 101.6, and altogether 171 received shelter and relief.

ALDERSHOT.

A new hospital for infectious diseases has been for some time past one of the more urgent requirements for Aldershot Camp. We are consequently glad to learn that a board has been appointed to examine and report upon a site that has been selected for the purpose.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE WATER-SUPPLY OF CHICAGO.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I am in receipt of a copy of your excellent paper containing an exhaustive article on the "Water-Supply of Chicago," and I congratulate you on this exhibition of progressive journalism. I have examined with such care as my time would warrant the article in question and shall preserve it for more careful examination later. The unwarranted and sometimes malicious statements which have been made regarding the water-supply of Chicago will be set at rest by such an able article as you have prepared. The scientific experiments carried on under your direction establish the fact beyond any question as to the water-supply of Chicago being all that could be expected for the health of a large population if the unscientific use of ice should be abandoned or so changed as to prevent the ice itself coming in contact with the water for drinking purposes.

It seems to me that such a report as you have made should be regarded as a large voluntary donation to Chicago and at the same time as a very valuable contribution to the literature connected with the greatest Exposition ever projected by man.

You have my thanks for sending me a copy of this paper.

I am, Sirs, yours respectfully,

A. F. SEEBERGER, Treasurer.

Treasurer's Office, World's Columbian Exposition.

INTRAVENOUS INFUSION OF ALCOHOL.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—A man aged twenty-nine years was admitted to St. Thomas's Hospital on April 26th at 4 P.M. He was suffering from strangulated right inguinal hernia. He was in

a state of extreme prostration, having vomited repeatedly for five days. The vomit was yellow and very offensive. The hernia was about the size of an orange, soft and painless on palpation and could not be reduced. The abdomen was only a little distended. I saw the patient at 5 P.M. The hands were cold and there was no radial pulse to be felt. The face was cold, pale and wet with perspiration; the respiration shallow and slow. It seemed unlikely that the man could be moved to the operating theatre before death ensued. However, brandy was injected into the rectum and ether subcutaneously. He reached the theatre alive and in about the same condition. The sac of the hernia (congenital) was rapidly opened; it contained three inches of deeply congested (black) small intestine and a good deal of congested omentum of a greenish colour. The intestine was returned into the abdomen as its surface had not lost its lustre nor its substance the natural resilience. The omentum was cut away. A drainage tube having been inserted into the abdomen the wound was sewn up. The whole procedure did not take more than five or six minutes and it did not appear to cause any pain to the patient. Meanwhile the general condition became even more desperate, the carotid pulse was very feeble, the pupils dilated and each respiration seemed as if it would be the last. Mr. Pitts, who was standing by, suggested that saline infusion might be tried and Mr. Stabb kindly opened the basilic vein for me while the hernial wound was being stitched. Three pints of warm sterilised normal saline solution were infused and in each pint I arranged that there should be one ounce of brandy. Whether the man would have revived if he had had simply an infusion of normal saline solution, I do not know, but the presence of the alcohol was, I am sure, most beneficial. The effect was remarkable. In ten minutes a good pulse could be felt at the wrist, the extremities were warm, the pupils and respiration normal, the voice strong, the face became red, and the patient so wide awake and excited that a quarter of a grain of morphia was injected to secure quiet. Until midnight the patient did well, but during the last hour his strength failed though his conversation was sensible and the voice good. On passing a soft catheter no urine was found in the bladder. It was determined to again resort to infusion, and three pints of saline solution with three ounces of brandy were again introduced into the circulation. The patient again revived and went on well during the night; but at 7 A.M. he suddenly vomited and fell back dead.

The necropsy revealed nothing of importance. When the alcohol infusion was first carried out the patient was clearly suffering from exhaustion and shock, and, though I had no hope of ultimately averting a fatal issue, yet the treatment adopted brought back consciousness and life for twelve hours. During this time he was comparatively well, talked sensibly and was certainly capable of making or signing a will. I can strongly recommend others to adopt the plan of brandy infusion (25 per cent. alcohol) in emergencies and desperate cases.—I remain, yours faithfully,

Harley-street, W.

CHARLES A. BALLANCE.

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH AND GENERAL PRACTITIONERS: AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Dr. Dudfield, the medical officer of health at Eastbourne, summoned me before the magistrates for having removed a child from the scarlet fever hospital at the end of three months and a week from the commencement of scarlet fever on the ground that the boy was still desquamating and infectious. A week before this time Mr. Holman, the medical man in attendance on the case, had written to say that the boy had finished desquamating and could be removed into lodgings in Eastbourne. I agreed with Mr. Holman that the boy had done so and this opinion was supported by Mr. Holman's senior partner; therefore I removed the boy. Dr. Dudfield on one examination of the boy at the end of the thirteenth week takes another view. Thus, when duly qualified practitioners take one view and the medical officer of health takes another, it appears from the subsequent progress and termination of the prosecution that the opinion of the medical officer of health is held to overrule the opinion of the other duly qualified men. Two of these could place a patient in a lunatic asylum, and yet it is held that three cannot determine when scarlet fever desquamation has terminated. This case opens a very wide question of the status and bearing of duly