A REGIMENT STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.

While the 2nd Battalion the Cheshire Regiment was marching on Thursday night last, August 3rd, from Limerick to Thurles for the autumn manœuvres the men were caught in a thunderstorm and several were injured, though not fatally it is hoped.

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES.

Deputy Inspector-General H. Pilleau (retired list) at Brighton on July 28th, aged 86 years. He joined the Army in 1836, became Surgeon-Major in 1846, and retired with the honorary rank of Deputy Inspector-General in 1861.

Surgeon-Major Edward D'Arcy Evezard (retired list), I.M.S., Madras Army, at Broadstairs, in his seventieth year. He served in the Madras Army as Civil and Zillah Surgeon and retired in 1872.

Surgeon-General William Godfrey Watt (retired list), A.M.S., at his residence, Sholden Paddocks, near Deal, aged 78 years. He was appointed Assistant-Surgeon in the Army in 1844 and Surgeon in 1854 when he served in the campaign in the Crimea. He was present at the battles of the Alma, Balaclava, and Inkerman, the affairs of Bulganac and M'Kenzie's Farm, and during the siege of Sebastopol. In the winter of 1855-56 he was present at the great explosion of magazines in the French camp, remaining behind to attend the wounded of the British and French armies when the troops were marched to the front to avoid the danger of a second explosion, which was supposed to be imminent (medal with three clasps, 5th Class of the Medjidie, and the Turkish medal). He obtained the rank of Surgeon-General in 1879, and retired in 1880.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

UNFOUNDED CHARGES OF PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT: AN APPRECIATION OF THE MEDICAL DEFENCE UNION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Will you allow me space in the columns of THE LANCET for a grateful appreciation of the Medical Defence Union? Judging from the comparatively small number of its members I feel sure that the benefit and advantage of membership is not sufficiently realised by the profession generally. My own story will, I hope, lead many to join its ranks. I became a member of the Union five years ago, little thinking that I was likely ever to become involved in litigation; but last year I suddenly found myself the object of the most damaging public charges of professional neglect and incompetency—charges which I should certainly not have been able to deal with adequately on my own slender resources. I sent the facts up to the secretary of the Medical Defence Union and at once received a most careful and exhaustive letter of advice from their solicitor, followed up by eminent counsel's opinion, and further advice of the most thorough and painstaking nature. Nothing could have exceeded the amount of trouble and care bestowed upon my case from the first by the solicitor to the union, Mr. W. E. Hempson, and it would be difficult to exaggerate the comfort which I derived during a very trying period from the sense that my case was in such hands. The Union subsequently took action on my behalf, which has just ended with complete success in the entire vindication of my character by a jury and the award of £150 damages.

During the six months over which the action was pending the whole of the work connected with the case was taken off my hands by the solicitor to the Union without the slightest trouble to myself and I need scarcely have been aware that I was involved in any proceedings at all, but the work was being done nevertheless with an amount of skill and care and unwearied labour which it would be impossible to praise too highly and which could not have been exceeded if I had been the most wealthy and exalted client in the land instead of a humble country medical man. When I think of what the union has done for me in this trying case and of what I should have suffered without its powerful and kindly aid and when I reflect that such advantages are open to every member of our profession

at the cost of 10s. 6d. yearly, it becomes a matter of surprise to me that the membership roll of the Medical Defence Union is not identical with the Medical Register and Directory.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Bromsgrove, August 5th, 1899. CAMERON KIDD.

MEDICAL MEN AND THEIR GRIEVANCES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I cannot intelligently follow all the demands put forward by the different writers to THE LANCET, but I am sure that all the clamourings about our grievances will not bring them any nearer any remedy until medical men can sink their minor differences with their own neighbours and sit down together to work for their own mutual good. In going about amongst medical men in this county it is most disheartening to find such petty differences keeping medical men apart and not willing to act with their neighbours to obtain increased remuneration for their work. If medical men will not learn the principles of union they may go on clamouring about their grievances until Doomsday. In the fable we are told that the frogs clamoured for a king and they got a stork for their king who swallowed up the frogs; I will leave others to say who corresponds to the stork in our case. I do not believe in a conciliation board to deal with friendly societies—the profession should take a higher stand than this. But I do believe in medical unions being formed in each county and the scale of fees drawn up and demanded (collectively and individually) and not to go, hat in hand, to ask, What will you give us?

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

EDWARD JEPSON,

President of the County of Durham Medical Union.

August 1st, 1899.

THE SWANSEA HOSPITAL STAFF AND THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I have been instructed to send you for your kind publication the subjoined resolutions which were passed unanimously at a meeting of the honorary medical staff of the Swansea General Hospital held this evening.

1. That the medical staff of this hospital do not fill up certificate under the Workmen's Compensation Act for patients treated in the hospital for a fee of less than a guinea.

2. That the house surgeon be requested not to give any certificate under the Workmen's Compensation Act except under the direction of the honorary medical officer in charge of the case.

The medical staff will feel obliged if you will publish these resolutions as the matter is one of much importance to the profession at large.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

A. F. BLAGDON RICHARDS, M.A., M.D. Cantab.,

Honorary Secretary Swansea Hospital Medical Staff.

Swansea, August 2nd, 1899.

"A CHANCE WHICH MAY NOT RECUR."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Mr. George Barraclough in THE LANCET of July 8th under the above heading speaks of the Canary Islands as possible health resorts for Europeans. May I ask him if he has ever seen "Tenerife and its Six Satellites," by Mrs. Stone (Marcus Ward); "Samler Brown's Guide to Madeira and the Canary Islands" (Sampson Low, Marston, and Co.); Dr. Cleesby Taylor's works on "The Climate of the Canaries" (Churchill); or Dr. Brian Melland's recent pamphlet, "Climatic Treatment in Grand Canary" (Heywood)? Perhaps I may also call attention to a letter by myself in the *British Medical Journal* of July 15th of this year describing the hospital now being erected and to be opened on Dec. 1st next; also "A Guide to Güimar, with Appendix on the Islands" (Heywood), also by

Yours faithfully,

STANFORD HARRIS, M.D. Durh., M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A.
Las Palmas, July 26th, 1899.

"TUBERCULAR' AND 'TUBERCULOUS.'"

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Surely your correspondent, writing upon the above subject in THE LANCET of August 5th, is wrong. It is only within the past few years that the pathological significance of "tuberculous" has been recognised, and to quote old authors