Ulundi the column was disbanded, and Dr. Glanville was then attached to the 1st King's Dragon Guards, Lord Wolseley's military escort, and proceeded with them through the Transvaal.

**W.A.R. OFFICE.**—Army Medical Staff: Surgeon-Major Albert Benjamin Robinson is granted retired pay, with the honorary rank of Brigade Surgeon. Surgeon-Major James Henry Ussher, M.B., has retired on temporary half-pay.

**MILITIA MEDICAL STAFF.**—Surgeon Thomas Dodson Parke, 8th Brigade, North Irish Division, Royal Artillery, to be Surgeon-Major.

**ADMIRALTY.**—The following appointments have been made: Staff Surgeon Alexander Flood, to the Forward; Staff Surgeon Stewart F. Hamilton, to the Dolphin; Staff Surgeon Charles W. Maynard, to the Penelope; Staff Surgeon Michael Fitzgerald, to the Hibernia; Staff Surgeon T. D. Gimlette, to the Euryalus; Fleet Surgeon Edward Meade, to the Iron Duke; Staff Surgeon William F. Spencer, to the Triumph; Staff Surgeon Henry J. Madders, to the Duke of Wellington; Surgeons Henry F. Kiewie and C. L. Nolen, to the Iron Duke; Surgeon Robert F. Yeo, to Sheerness Dockyard; Surgeon Justin F. Donovan, M.D., to Malta Hospital; and Mr. Samuel Hamill, to be Surgeon and Agent at Burnham, Brancaster, and Thorsham.

The undermentioned Surgeons have been promoted to the rank of Staff Surgeons in Her Majesty's Fleet—viz., Richard Dormer White, M.A., M.D.; John Wilson, M.A., M.D.; Henry John Madders, M.D.; Alexander Flood, Michael Fitzgerald, Stewart Fraser Hamilton, and Charles William Magrane.

In accordance with the notices appearing in the London Gazette of May 21st, 1884, Surgeon Thomas Desmond Gimlette has been promoted to the rank of Staff Surgeon in Her Majesty's Fleet.

In accordance with the provisions of Her Majesty's Order in Council of April 1st, 1881, Staff Surgeon Henry Scanlan has been placed on the retired list of his rank.


**RIFLE VOLUNTEERS.**—3rd Hampshire: Acting Surgeon Arthur Vernon Ford, from the 4th Volunteer Battalion, the Essex Regiment, to be Acting Surgeon.—2nd Lanarkshire: Lieutenant Robert Thin Craig Robertson, M.B., is appointed Acting Surgeon.

**Correspondence.**

"Audi alteram partem."

THE MEDICAL BILL AND THE SCOTCH UNIVERSITIES.

To the Editor of The Lancet.

Sir,—I read with some surprise in your leader of April 11th that Sir Wm. Jenner, in his address at the College of Physicians, attributed the withdrawal of the Medical Bill of last year to the "determined opposition of Scotch universities." Now, I yield to no one in my respect for the President, but he has been led into error in this case by the equanimity with which universities and corporations seem to view their future prospects as affected by the Bill, and by the small amount of alarm which they showed at its destructive tendencies. It is quite unjustified to believe that the ordinary rank and file of medical students, whose time and money are not too abundant, will wish to obtain anything beyond the simple right to practise conferred by the Conjoint Board, and the purveyors of fancy qualifications would soon perish from sheer inanition under the provisions of the Bill. Sir Lyon Playfair's amendment would have prevented these risks, and his able advocacy of his views contributes, if that were possible, to increase the chance of which he is held in the House as an able and eloquent exponent of all that is soundest and best in education and science.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Reform Club, April 14th, 1885.

ROBERT FARQUHARSON.

* * * Dr. Farquharson's views are entitled to much respect; but he will not shake the general opinion, as well as Sir William Jenner's, that the Scotch Universities, represented by Sir Lyon Playfair's amendment, really sealed the fate of the Bill which they had previously assented to. The other opposition was unreal and confessedly obstructive; that of Sir Lyon Playfair was subtle, but fundamental and serious. We are sorry that it should have the countenance of Dr. Farquharson, who, as a most worthy alumnus of the University of Edinburgh, should not be so fearful of the interests of his alma mater. Does he carry his admiration of Sir Lyon so far as to justify the way in which he misled the House by conjuring up a community with an inadequate supply of medical men, by largely overstating the waste of the profession, which, on the contrary, is overstocked and underpaid?—Ed. L.

THE COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS AND THE ASSOCIATION OF MEMBERS.

To the Editor of The Lancet.

Sir,—May we be permitted through the medium of your columns to protest, on behalf of the Association of Members of the College, against the unconstitutional course of action which has been adopted by the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England with regard to the new Charter.

In March of last year, at the general meeting of Fellows and Members, the resolution was carried by a large majority that the Council are attempting to legislate in direct opposition to the wishes of their whole constituency. It would appear, therefore, that the Council are attempting to legislate in direct opposition to the wishes of their whole constituency.

Furthermore, according to the present Charter no meeting
of the Fellows and Members is permitted, unless the Council approve the object of such meeting. This monstrous infringement of the liberty of the body of the Fellows and Members embodied in the draft of the new Charter with only a slight alteration in the wording. It seems hardly credible in these days of freedom of the press and liberty of action that a large, intelligent, and educated body of Englishmen should be debarred from holding on the part of the College authorities, questions relating to their government, their dignity, and their interests in a country which has been immortalised by the Poet Laureate as

“...and there, girl with friends and foes.
A man may speak the thing he will.”

Since the Council of the College have persistently refused to consider the interests of its Members, and have turned a deaf ear to their appeals, the Association of Members have come to the conclusion that the only remedy for the unsatisfactory state of affairs which now exists is for Members of the College to obtain the right of electing their own representatives—either Fellows or Members—to sit upon the Council. In order to effect this reform, they have determined, much as they regret the necessity for such a step, to petition the Home Secretary to refuse to grant any Charter which does not provide for the representation of Members on the Council. A petition has been drawn up, and has already been signed by several Lord and Member for Members. Members have, furthermore, determined to invite all Members of the College to attend the annual general meeting of the Association for the purpose of discussing what further steps must be taken in order to obtain such reforms as are safely by the most earnestly needed by the administrative department of the Royal College of Surgeons. The meeting will be duly advertised in the medical journals, and will be held on May 5th, at 4 P.M., in the Westminster Town Hall.

Trusting to the ready manner in which you have always advocated any measure for promoting the interests of the medical profession, we take the liberty of transmitting to you this protest against what we consider to be a most unconstitutional proceeding on the part of the College authorities. We beg to subscribe ourselves, Sir, your obedient servants,

WARWICK C. STEKLE,  J. NIELD COOK,  W. ASHTON ELLIS,  Hon. Secs. to the Association of Members of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Western Dispensary, Westminster, April 18th, 1885.

INFECTIVE PHthisis.
To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—With reference to that part of Dr. Weber’s Croonian lecture which appeared in your impression of March 14th, which implies that the power of imparting their own properties to outsiders inherent in the infective characters that take place in the lungs of phthisical patients “has been surmised long ago, even before the history of inoculation, which dates back at least as far as 1683,” allow me to observe that this “surmise” is entitled to a far higher ancestry or antiquity than is claimed for it here. I published in THE LANCET Dec. 4th, 1881, a short note of an occurrence in point which I took from a little brochure, entitled “Cardinal Allen’s Defence of Sir William Stanley’s Surrender of Davenport,” Cluthan Society’s publications, p. 69, and I find from that very accessible compilation, Copland’s Dictionary, article “Tubercular Consumption,” p. 1125, that “although the occasional transmission of this disease by infection was believed, not only by Galen, but d’Aubigny, and Johannes Damascenus, or Rabbi Moses, relates that for that the miasma of this disorder is not sufficient to induce a phthisis, it is nevertheless capable of promoting it, if there is already a disposition to it.” He adds that this doctrine is confirmed to us by some of the most celebrated physicians, and he quotes several cases in point.

William Salmon, whose book, entitled “A Complete System of Physiology,” appeared in 1686, and who was, moreover, a firm believer in the hereditary transmission of this complaint, says in his “Chapter of a Consumption,” p. 275, that contagion may also be referred hither,—i.e., as a cause for sufficient security cannot (he thinks) be given for them who live familiarly with consumptive people; as we have in a far instance a woman in a phthisical state was no way predisposed to a consumption, and yet by lying with a consumptive husband she died of one. You may (he continues) find also other instances in Riberius;” and James, whose ponderous “Dictionary” is dedicated to Dr. Mead, does not hesitate to affirm that “if the miasma of this disorder is not sufficient to induce a phthisis, it is nevertheless capable of promoting it, if there is already a disposition to it.” He adds that “this doctrine is confirmed to us by some of the most celebrated physicians,” and he quotes several cases in point.

I am, Sir, yours obediently.  

Auril-road, West Kensington, March, 1885.  

WM. CURRAN.

NORTHERN COUNTIES NOTES.  
(From our own Correspondent.)

THE LATE SMALL-POX EPIDEMIC IN DURHAM.

Dr. Barron, the medical officer of health for the city of Durham, refers in his report to the late small-pox visitation. A very severe epidemic of small-pox occurred during the past year; about 400 cases came to the knowledge of the sanitary authority, of which 31 proved fatal. Dr. Barron remarks: “So far as I have been able to discover, the majority of those who died from the disease have never been vaccinated. In the case of David from the Book of Kings, Bacon, Galen, and Johannes Damascenus, or Rabbi Moses, relates that for the grave. Moreover, nothing we find (he continues) sound lungs sooner than inspiring the breath of putrid, ulcerous, or consumptive lungs, many having fallen into consumptions only by smelling the breath or spittle of consumptive; whereas by drinking water freshly drawn, the strength of the body. The awakening of the cholera, and he quotes several cases in point.


and pure virgins and young children were supposed able to free persons from diseases by their breath.” He quotes the case of David from the Book of Kings, and of Lord Bacon, Galen, and Johannes Damascenus, or Rabbi Moses, relates that considering its malignity and catching nature, it may be enumerated with the worst epidemics, since, next to the plague, pox, and leprosy, it yields to none in point of contagion, for it is (he says) no rare observation here in England to see a fresh-coloured, lusty young man yoked to a consumption victim, and then falling into one. The occurrence in point which I took from a little brochure, Cluthan Society’s publications, p. 69, and I find from that very accessible compilation, Copland’s Dictionary, article “Tubercular Consumption,” p. 1125, that “although the occasional transmission of this disease by infection was believed, not only by Galen, but d’Aubigny, and Johannes Damascenus, or Rabbi Moses, relates that for the miasma of this disorder is not sufficient to induce a phthisis, it is nevertheless capable of promoting it, if there is already a disposition to it.” He adds that this doctrine is confirmed to us by some of the most celebrated physicians, and he quotes several cases in point.

I am, Sir, yours obediently.  

Auril-road, West Kensington, March, 1885.  

WM. CURRAN.

NORTHERN COUNTIES NOTES.  
(From our own Correspondent.)

THE LATE SMALL-POX EPIDEMIC IN DURHAM.

Dr. Barron, the medical officer of health for the city of Durham, refers in his report to the late small-pox visitation. A very severe epidemic of small-pox occurred during the past year; about 400 cases came to the knowledge of the sanitary authority, of which 31 proved fatal. Dr. Barron remarks: “So far as I have been able to discover, the majority of those who died from the disease have never been vaccinated. In the case of David from the Book of Kings, Bacon, Galen, and Johannes Damascenus, or Rabbi Moses, relates that for the grave. Moreover, nothing we find (he continues) sound lungs sooner than inspiring the breath of putrid, ulcerous, or consumptive lungs, many having fallen into consumptions only by smelling the breath or spittle of consumptive; whereas by drinking water freshly drawn, the strength of the body. The awakening of the cholera, and he quotes several cases in point.


and pure virgins and young children were supposed able to free persons from diseases by their breath.” He quotes the case of David from the Book of Kings, and of Lord Bacon, Galen, and Johannes Damascenus, or Rabbi Moses, relates that considering its malignity and catching nature, it may be enumerated with the worst epidemics, since, next to the plague, pox, and leprosy, it yields to none in point of contagion, for it is (he says) no rare observation here in England to see a fresh-coloured, lusty young man yoked to a consumption victim, and then falling into one. The occurrence in point which I took from a little brochure, Cluthan Society’s publications, p. 69, and I find from that very accessible compilation, Copland’s Dictionary, article “Tubercular Consumption,” p. 1125, that “although the occasional transmission of this disease by infection was believed, not only by Galen, but d’Aubigny, and Johannes Damascenus, or Rabbi Moses, relates that for the miasma of this disorder is not sufficient to induce a phthisis, it is nevertheless capable of promoting it, if there is already a disposition to it.” He adds that this doctrine is confirmed to us by some of the most celebrated physicians, and he quotes several cases in point.

I am, Sir, yours obediently.  

Auril-road, West Kensington, March, 1885.  

WM. CURRAN.