VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION.

Surgeon-General Taylor, C.B., will present medals to the members of this school who served in the Rhodesian Field Hospital at the London Scottish headquarters, Buckingham-gate, S.W., at 9 P.M. on Monday, Feb. 17th.

VOLUNTEER MEDICAL STAFF CORPS.

The annual distribution of prizes to members of the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps will take place at the headquarters, 51, Calthorpe-street, London, W.C., on Saturday, March 1st, at 8 P.M., when Surgeon-General Taylor, C.B., will preside. A dance will follow the distribution of prizes.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR NOTES.

Lieutenant A. O. B. Wroughton, R.A.M.C., is reported progressing favourably and out of danger at Queenstown (Feb. 9th).

Civil Surgeon Bensusan is reported out of danger (Feb. 7th).

Civil Surgeon Fort is reported slightly worse (Feb. 7th).

AFFAIRS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The purely military news from South Africa during the past week is somewhat mixed but is indicative of increased activity on both sides with the balance of advantage, on the whole, on the side of the British. The "wearing down" process as regards the Boer forces has been going on, and still seems to be going on at an accelerated pace, and that appears to sum up the situation. The main object of the carefully designed operations for surrounding and capturing that redoubtable tactician De Wet and his force in the Heilbron and Kroonstadt district distinctly failed. De Wet, taking advantage of a dark night, stampeded a herd of cattle against a part of the blockhouse line, broke through it, and made his escape. The War Office return of casualties reported since the beginning of the war up to and including last month shows that the total reduction of the military forces in South Africa, including deaths from all causes, missing, prisoners, and invalids who have been discharged from the service as unfit, amounts to 25,305, counting officers, non-commissioned officers, and men. As regards the forces now in the field it will be seen by the published sick returns that there is still a good deal of enteric fever, but that the health of the troops, speaking generally, is satisfactory.

THE MILITIA AND VOLUNTEER MEDICAL STAFF CORPS :
CHANGES IN DESIGNATION.

The King, in consideration of the valuable services rendered by the Militia Medical Staff Corps and Volunteer Medical Staff Corps during the war in South Africa, has approved the following changes in the designation of the corps and in the titles of the officers :—The Militia Medical Staff Corps will be known as the Royal Army Medical Corps (Militia), and the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps as the Royal Army Medical Corps (Volunteers). The titles of the officers will be altered from Honorary Commandant and Honorary Surgeon-Colonel to Honorary-Colonel; Honorary Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant to Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant; Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel to Lieutenant-Colonel; Surgeon-Major to Major; Surgeon-Captain to Captain; and Surgeon-Lieutenant to Lieutenant.

THE VICTORIA CROSS.

The King has signified his intention to confer the decoration of the Victoria Cross on the undermentioned officer for conspicuous bravery in South Africa :—

Surgeon-Captain T. J. Crean, 1st Imperial Light Horse.

During the action with De Wet at Tygerskloof, on Dec. 18th, 1901, this officer continued to attend to the wounded in the firing line, under a heavy fire at only 150 yards range, after he had himself been wounded, and only desisted when he was hit a second time and, as it was at first thought, mortally wounded.

SOLDIER CHIROPODISTS.

The issue of the Army order about the appointment of soldier chiropodists has been followed, we understand, by the publication of an official "Manual of Chiropody," which we have not yet seen. Such a manual, giving plain advice on the causes, nature, and treatment of the common ailments of the feet to which soldiers are exposed, should be very serviceable. The Americans, during their big war of rebellion, were the first, we believe, to employ chiropodists in the army.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

"WHAT'S WHAT."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In a recent publication called "What's What" there is, I understand, a paragraph indicating various medical men by name as consultants, with my name among the number. I should have thought that it was quite unnecessary for me to say that I had nothing whatever to do with such a paragraph and was, indeed, quite ignorant of its existence until the other day. To my surprise, however, a paper called the *Medical Times and Hospital Gazette*, of the existence of which I was also unaware, was sent to me last week containing a most offensive paragraph which insinuates very pointedly that it is by no means certain that those whose names are mentioned in "What's What" are quite innocent in the matter. I wrote to the editor of "What's What" asking him to withdraw my name from his paragraph, and I inclose my letter and his reply and also a letter which I sent to the *Medical Times and Hospital Gazette*.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

W. WATSON CHEYNE.

Feb. 11th, 1902.

[INCLOSURES.]

To the Editor of "What's What."

Feb. 9th, 1902.

DEAR SIR,—My attention has been called to a paragraph in "What's What" in which a list of medical men is given containing, among others, my name. I feel sure that you did not at all realise how such a paragraph would affect those whose names are mentioned, otherwise you would not have inserted it. I presume your object in introducing it was that just as you tell elsewhere what people should do or see so you want to guide them if they are ill. If that was your object it would entirely fail, because patients, if they are wise, ask their family medical man whom they should consult and would not be at all guided by a paragraph in a book or newspaper. On the other hand, those whose names are mentioned in this way may suffer irreparable damage as the result. While the better-class practitioners would, of course, assume that such a paragraph was inserted entirely without our knowledge or consent and would know that we would not have anything to do with such an advertisement, there are, I am sorry to say, men in our profession, as in every other, with jealous and dirty minds who would assume that we were not innocent in the matter, and would employ this occurrence to blacken our characters in every way possible. I need only refer you to an article in yesterday's issue of the *Medical Times and Hospital Gazette* as an example of this. For these reasons I would strongly advise you to suppress this paragraph, and in any case I would beg of you to cut my name out of the list.

Yours faithfully,

W. WATSON CHEYNE.

Reply from the Editor of "What's What."

MY DEAR MR. WATSON CHEYNE,—With much that your letter contains I heartily agree, and I will gladly do as you ask with regard to your own name and in all probability with regard to the whole paragraph. I cannot, however, agree with you as to its being so great a crime to inform the public on these matters—nor that one's "family medical man" is in all cases the most fitting person to advise. How about the cases also where one has no "family medical man"? What is to happen then? The intention and the limitations of my paragraph in the appendix are very clearly stated and nobody in their senses could read it and not see that its origin was in personal opinion and experience and not in the desire to advertise anybody. In this troublous and troubling world, however, the best motives are liable to misrepresentation, and breaches of etiquette even by a layman are apparently "the unforgivable sin." I shall not again hurl myself so wantonly against the "footstool of justice" to serve the public; in this case they will have to look elsewhere for "what's what."

Meanwhile I could wish that all who differ from me would express themselves with your courtesy and moderation.

I have not seen the paragraph to which you allude in the *Medical Times*, but I can guess its tenor.

Very truly yours,

HARRY QUILTER.

Feb. 10th, 1902.

To the Editor of the "Medical Times and Hospital Gazette."

Feb. 9th, 1902.

SIR,—With reference to your paragraph on p. 85 in your issue of yesterday I do not know which is most offensive—viz., the original paragraph or the one in your issue. Whatever the object of the editor of "What's What" may have been what he has done has, I am sure, been in ignorance. In your paragraph, however, you imply the possibility on our part of some knowledge of, or complicity in, this publication, an insinuation which is most offensive and absolutely unwarrantable. It surely might have occurred to you that men in the position of those whose names are mentioned would not lower themselves to such an extent as to have either directly or indirectly incited such a statement or that they had any knowledge of it beforehand. If you can indicate how such occurrences can be avoided or how the matter can be remedied I shall be most grateful to you, but I resent most strongly that you should have in the faintest degree implied that I have anything whatever to do with the matter. I am not aware that I have ever done anything which should make you think that that was at all possible.

Yours faithfully,

W. WATSON CHEYNE.

THE SUPPLY OF VACCINE LYMPH.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The following letter has been sent from the governing body of the Jenner Institute of Preventive Medicine, over which Lord Lister presides, to a correspondent who had written concerning the confusion existing in the public mind from the fact that there are two Jenner Institutes, in one of which—that at Chelsea—the Government lymph supplied gratis to public vaccinators is prepared, while in the other—that at Battersea—vaccination lymph is prepared and sold commercially. The Government lymph, as is generally known, cannot be purchased.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Feb. 12th, 1902.

ALLAN MACFADYEN.

Jenner Institute of Preventive Medicine, Grosvenor-road,
Chelsea Gardens, S.W., Feb. 11th, 1902.

SIR,—In reply to your letter I am directed to inform you that no vaccine lymph is prepared at the Jenner Institute of Preventive Medicine under the direction of the governing body of the institute, but that certain laboratories in the institute are leased to the Local Government Board and that the officers of the Board are engaged there in preparing glycerinated lymph for supplying public vaccinators only. The manufacture of calf lymph for sale is also carried on at another institute, the Jenner Institute for Calf Lymph, situated in Battersea, but that institute is in no way connected with the Jenner Institute of Preventive Medicine.

I am, &c.,

ALLAN MACFADYEN (Secretary).

THE LAY PRESS ON THE TREATMENT OF CONSUMPTION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—There have recently appeared in a journal of the daily press certain articles relating to a treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis by intravenous injection, and stated to be a "cure for consumption," discovered by me. I have discovered no such cure. The suggestion of treatment by such means I put before the profession more than a year ago. It is on its trial and as yet its results do not warrant any authoritative opinion, still less such positive assertions as have been published. I greatly deprecate that, by no fault of mine, the matter should have obtained access to the lay press.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Seymour-street, W., Feb. 5th, 1902.

ROBERT MAGUIRE.

CANCER AMONG HINDOOS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—As Captain Donovan cannot, or will not, furnish the information as regards the custom of circumcision among the Mahomedans, which Mr. Keetley asked for in THE LANCET of Jan. 18th, I beg to state that the rite is canonically enjoined upon all the followers of Mahomet; all converts also have to be circumcised and as a matter of practice circumcision is more universal among the Indian Mahomedans than is baptism in Christian England. So universal is the custom that in some parts of India the Mahomedans owe their sobriquet "Katro" ("the cut" or "circumcised") to this practice. In fact, in a vulgar brawl a Hindoo will taunt at the Mahomedan as the "cut" one. As your readers will know, the term Mahomedan is not a racial but a denominational designation. The Indian Mahomedans call themselves Mussulmans. The Hindoos either accord them this title or call them variously as "Turiks" (Turks), Naithe (from Inam—corruption, I believe), Moplah, Lubbe, &c., but outside of officialdom the word Mahomedan is seldom heard in the mouth of a native of India.

I may say here that I have seen Captain Donovan's reference to me in THE LANCET of Jan. 4th and I cannot help observing that the time and space spent by him in his attempts at my biography would have been better devoted to a recollection of his cancer cases, so that we might have had a rough total, though, as it would seem, his "case-books" were out of reach just then; but I have no doubt that when he has once returned to his station and is settled down he will have time to look up his case-books and we will then have some definite idea of the number of cancer cases which he has operated upon or otherwise treated during his three years' active surgical work on the Malabar coast. The two provinces he speaks of have a population as large as that of Ireland. The people have little communication with the outside world. There are no railways (at least, there were none when I

was there {20 years ago), only a weekly steamer communication between the principal ports, and that only when the monsoons permitted. Besides, though these two provinces form part of the Madras Presidency the natives are by language, race, and manners strangers in the other 30 and odd districts of the Madras Presidency and to the city of Madras itself, where the "General Hospital" is located and to which Captain Donovan tells us all the afflicted from the 40,000,000 go up for operation.

For the reasons I have mentioned these two provinces could not have furnished the Madras General Hospital many patients, as it is at best a four or five days' tedious journey thereto. Besides, Malabar women are absolutely forbidden (I mean the "Nair" women, the caste women) to go beyond the limits of Malabar. Under these circumstances the Madras General Hospital could not have drawn much upon Captain Donovan's own resources, and he must have found his hands quite full during the three years of his active surgical work, especially as few other operating surgeons, I believe, have ever penetrated to Malabar and Canara.

I need not comment here upon Colonel Maitland's letters (as the evidence furnished therein, as Mr. Keetley has shown in his letter in THE LANCET of Jan. 18th, is inconsistent and self-contradictory) further than to say that I am glad to learn therefrom that female patients are now admitted to the Madras General Hospital. It is the only clinical hospital for 40,000,000, and when I looked through the wards in 1889 or 1890 (I am not sure exactly which year) there were no female patients there, and I was told that females are not admitted there—"not one in 10 years, and that the hospital is intended solely for men." Under the new regulation, is it only cancer cases that are so favoured, or are all females?

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

C. N. SÁLDANHA.

Percy-road, Ravenscourt-park, W., Jan. 29th, 1902.

PS.—As regards the word Hindoo, it is used in two ways. 1. The more strict and in the sense always used by the natives themselves it comprises the four classes of Brahmins, Shaitrayas, Vaisayas, and Sudras. In other words, it is synonymous with "Casteman." It would be seen from this that the outcasts, variously called "Mars" and "Pariahs," do not come under this category. 2. It is used in a denominational sense. All non-Mahomedan natives are Hindoos. In this sense these outcasts become Hindoos too (but they may not knock at the door of a Hindoo of the first category), as they also worship the Brahmin gods. The religion is called Brahminism or Hindooism and all the followers therefore become Brahminists and Hindoos. This leads to confusion and is responsible for much of the ridiculous statements one sees made by foreigners. For instance, in THE LANCET of Jan. 18th, p. 192, Mr. W. Roger Williams, referring to the North West Provinces, says: "Four-fifths of the inhabitants are Hindoos who, in accordance with the precepts of their religion, never eat meat." Mr. Williams must have read somewhere that Brahmins do not eat meat. Brahmins are Hindoos, therefore all Hindoos may not eat meat. As a matter of fact, Brahmins comprise a very small fraction of the total number of Hindoos. In fact, they are only the priestly class and are in a great minority. All other Hindoos—Rajapoots (the princely class), Vaisayas (the merchants), and Sudras (the cultivators)—do eat meat, but they may not eat beef. Pariahs, of course, are allowed to eat anything, and from Pariahs come domestics, barbers, washermen, &c., of Europeans, for a caste man may neither shave, eat with, cook, nor wash for a European. This rule is very rigidly observed, especially in Madras, where Colonel Maitland and Captain Donovan are serving. Still, I am afraid that Colonel Maitland uses the word Hindoo in the sense No. 2. I used it in the meaning of No. 1.

DYSENTERY IN ASYLUMS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—May I be permitted to make a correction in the report in THE LANCET of Feb. 1st, p. 307, of the remarks which I made on Dysentery in Asylums at the meeting of the Epidemiological Society on Jan. 17th? The outbreak at the Leavesden Asylum was not unreported. An account of it will be found in the Medical Supplement to the Annual Report of the Statistical Committee of the Metropolitan Asylums Board for 1899. Though there were several fatal cases, yet in not one was ulceration of the colon found, such