occupy too much space, to detail in a brief statement of this description, it would be great injustice to his memory to omit notice of them altogether, and therefore we select the following for concise remarks.

Amongst the observations of Dr. Burnett in his appointment as Commissioner of the Victualling Board, he was forcibly struck by the insufficiency of the returns then in use to show the nature and extent of sickness and disease existing in the naval medical establishments on shore as well as in the service afloat; he therefore required from the medical officers periodical returns, nosologically prepared, to show the extent of the particular classes of diseases in each hospital or ship on every station, and also the number of deaths from each disease, separately. These regulations have been of great advantage in the preparation of statistics, to show the effect of the remedial systems pursued, both past and present; and, indeed, from this source, under the Director-General's superintendence, most elaborate and interesting statistical reports have been published.

Considering the inconvenience which arose from the want of a naval hospital on shore at Chatham, Sir William strongly urged the erection of the present one (Melville Hospital), in lieu of the plan, which had been long practised, of sending patients to a vessel used as an hospital ship at that port; the regulations and arrangements of the said hospital were principally suggested by him, and the change proved most beneficial. His personal visitations of that and the other naval hospitals also produced great benefit in the adoption of regulations suggested by him for their better and more perfect economy and management. Nor is it one of the least acts for which credit is due to him, that a moral and merciful management of the naval lunatics at Haslar has been established, easier in its execution, and changing into comparative happiness the former misery of those unfortunates. This change was effected under the personal care of Dr. Anderson, who was selected by the Director-General for that office, on account of his superior talent, practical knowledge, and natural kindness of heart, and to whom the service is so much indebted for the present admirable state of the asylum.

All the codes of instructions relating to the naval medical service, either in hospitals or ships, as well as at the established sick-quarters and marine infirmaries, were revised or constructed by Sir William with evident advantage to the service, as exemplified by the facility and correctness with which, in comparison with its former difficulties and irregularities, the whole business of the medical department has for many years, with a reduced establishment, been conducted: and with these regulations may also be connected those which have been formed and issued for the qualification of candidates for admission into the naval medical service, by which it may confidently be asserted that a class of medical officers now exists in the Navy equal to any whether in this or any other country.

In the year 1841 a circumstance occurred which strongly showed the regard and esteem entertained for Sir William by the naval medical corps. A committee from that body met for the purpose of offering to the whole of their brother officers an opportunity of evincing their feelings by presenting to him a testimonial of the sense they had of the benefits he had rendered, not only to that class of officers, but to the service generally. The opportunity was eagerly embraced, and the measure carried out with the greatest rapidity; although when it first came to his knowledge that the affair was proceeding he expressed his strong objection to it; but the managers would not desist. It could not, however, be otherwise than gratifying to him to witness such a feeling, and the more so as those officers who had retired from the service were as strenuous in the cause as those who were actively employed. The result was that in a very short space of time Sir William was presented with his portrait in full-length, painted by Sir Martin Shee, then president of the Royal Academy, accompanied by a handsome service of plate.

Upon all occasions, when opportunity offered, Sir William evinced his anxiety and zeal for the respectability and prosperity of the medical department of the navy; and amongst the many instances which could be adduced in proof of the truth of this assertion, it is considered only necessary to refer to the honest and manly evidence given respecting the medical officers of the navy by Sir William before the Naval and Military Commission appointed by her Majesty. No small portion of the success which has attended the prolonged struggle of the naval assistant-surgeons for their proper position was owing to the continued support of their claims by Sir William Burnett.

Sir William, soon after coming to London, became a licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, and some years after-

wards a fellow of the College. He was also a fellow of the Royal Society, the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of Edinburgh and Dublin, and of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of St. Petersburg. He was the author of several papers, on different medical subjects, in the periodical medical journals; of a work on the Mediterranean Fever; the Official Report of Fever in the *Bann Sloop-of-War* on the African Station; and an Account of a Contagious Fever prevailing amongst the Prisoners of War at Chatham.

In according due praise to the dead, adverse truth should not be suppressed. It was regarded by many as a scandal to the medical profession, and to the medical department of the navy, that the Medical Director-General should for many years have been the ostensible proprietor of a Patent Disinfecting Fluid—a composition which was advertised and pushed with all the pertinacity of commercial keenness. This pernicious example of Sir William Burnett has encouraged several lesser men, in and out of the service of which he was the head, to advertise secret medicines. How different is this course from the noble principle of such men as Dr. Neil Arnott, who, having invented many admirable contrivances of inestimable value to mankind, freely gave them to the public!

Sir William Burnett died on the 16th inst., at the advanced age of eighty-two.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL AND THE TURKISH BATH QUESTION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—To the statement which you have been requested to make (see THE LANCET of Feb. 2nd, p. 108)—that the allegations which I made as to the opposition of some of my colleagues to the Turkish bath are false—I beg to offer a distinct and emphatic denial. It will remain with your informants to support their statement, which I am prepared to dispute. Meantime, having given currency to a charge which personally affects my honour, you will not refuse me totally to deny that I have stated anything unsupported by proof.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Sussex-gardens, Hyde-park, Feb. 19th, 1861. R. H. GOOLDEN.

THE CONVICT ESTABLISHMENT AT CHATHAM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I copy the following extract from *The Times* of the 19th inst. relative to the diet of the convicts at Chatham:—

"The amount of food given to each convict weekly at the Chatham establishment is as follows:—189 oz. of bread; 42 oz. of cooked meat, free from bone &c.; 7 pints of tea, 5½ pints of good soup, 7 pints of cocoa or gruel, and 7 lb. of vegetables; in addition to which certain of the convicts are allowed cheese and porter on Sundays. The weekly quantity of food supplied to each pauper in the Chatham workhouse is—112 oz. of bread; 16 oz. of meat, pudding, and vegetables; 4 oz. of cheese, 7oz. of butter, and 1 oz. of tea."

The folly of this reckless waste of food is simply sinful. The idea of thus pampering and stuffing these wicked convicts! I have had some little experience in the issue of diets in both military and civil hospitals, in barracks, and in asylums; and I have no hesitation in thus characterizing the quantities of food issued to these worthless criminals. Instead of 189 oz. of bread per week, 112 oz. is sufficient. Again, in place of 42 oz. of cooked meat, 28 oz. would—made into mutton broth—be ample for every purpose of health or capacity for work. The cheese and porter on Sunday, when no work is done, is a mere premium on crime.

Admitting the necessity of a larger and more stimulating diet for men in confinement, there is yet a weekly waste of 77 oz. of bread and 14 oz. of cooked meat per prisoner, besides the Sunday cheese and porter, which no necessity of health can justify. Some cases may require an extra ¼ lb. of bread per day; but even then the weekly waste of bread per prisoner would be 49 oz.

"Of poor craftsmen," says Carlyle, "that pay rates and taxes from their day's wages; of the dim millions that toil and