the prescribed uniform on retirement (dated Nov. 28th, 1903). The Glasgow Companies: Captain J. G. Graham resigns his commission (dated Nov. 28th, 1903).

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES.

Surgeon General Alfred James Dale, I.M.S. (retired), on Nov. 24th at his residence in Rosary Gardens, South Kensington, aged 73 years. He entered the service in 1853, was promoted surgeon in 1864, surgeon-major in 1873, brigade-surgeon in 1879, deputy surgeon-general in 1882, and retired with the rank of surgeon-general in 1886. He served in the Afghan War in 1879 with the Kuram Valley Field Force (medal).

Surgeon-Major Hamilton De Tatham, I.M.S. (retired), on Nov. 25th, in his sixty-first year. He entered the service in 1867 and was promoted surgeon-major in 1879. He served in the Abyssinian War in 1867-68 (medal).

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

BAYLISS v. COLERIDGE.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—May we ask you to be good enough to give publicity in your columns to the following undertaking and apology which we have obtained from the publisher of "The Shambles of Science," a work intimately associated with the above action. We may state that the terms of Mr. Bell's undertaking have been complied with.

To Dr. W. M. Bayliss, "St. Cuthberts," West Heath-road, Hampstead, and to Messrs. Hempson, 35, King-street, Cheapside, E.C. (his Solicitors).

I, the undersigned Ernest Bell of 5, York-street, Covent Garden, London, W.C., the printer and publisher of a book entitled "The Shambles of Science," the authors of which are Lizzy Lind Af Hageby and Leisa K. Schartau, and which book contains therein certain matter libellous upon Dr. Bayliss hereby acknowledge that I have given instructions for the withdrawal from circulation of all copies of such book and hereby undertake that no further copies of such book shall be printed or published by me, that the circulation of such book shall cease, and that all copies in stock and withdrawn from circulation shall be handed over to Messrs. Hempson, Dr. Bayliss's solicitors, and I hereby express to Dr. Bayliss my sincere regret for having printed and published the book in question.

Dated, this 25th day of November, 1903.

Witness, HENRY RAYMENT.

ERNEST BELL.

In the interests of truth and of science it is desirable that it should be publicly known that the circulation of the book has been suppressed.

We are, Sirs, yours obediently,

HEMPSON AND CO.,

Solicitors for Dr. W. M. Bayliss.

35, King-street, Cheapside, London, E.C., Nov. 23th, 1903.

RECURRENT OVARIAN CYSTOMA AND ABERRANT ACCESSORY OVARIAN STRUCTURES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Mr. Roger Williams shows in THE LANCET of Nov. 28 h (p. 1530) that "of 138 ovarian tumours from the Kelly clinic submitted to microscopical examination at the Johns Hopkins Hospital 11, or 8 per cent, were malignant." Greig Smith¹ quoted Shroeder as having 16·6 per cent. of malignant cases in 600 ovarian tumours and he also quoted Leopold as finding that 22·4 per cent. were malignant in 126 cases. Mr. Williams contrasts the 8 per cent., which he takes as the proportion of malignant disease in these cases, with "the great frequency of its occurrence after ovariectomy, which in Spencer Wells's large experience amounted to no less than 36 per cent." He obtains the 36 per cent. from a table of 1000 cases of ovariectomy² and a summary of the results³ in Sir Spencer Wells's book on ovarian and uterine tumours. Of the 1000 cases of completed ovariectomy, 117 were reported as having died after recovering from the operation, but the cause of death was known only in 88, and in 32 of these cases death was due to cancer.

This shows a malignancy of about 36 per cent. in the 88 cases. It does not seem to me, however, that it may be logically argued from this that the occurrence of malignant disease after ovariectomy "amounted to no less than 36 per cent." In addition to the 32 patients who died of cancer after convalescence was complete there were four who died with cancer immediately after their operations. Thus there is evidence of the occurrence of 36 cases of malignant disease in the 1000 and the figures seem to me only to warrant the assertion that at the time of publication malignant disease had developed in 36 cases or 3·6 per cent. of the whole. The comparison made by Mr. Williams is appropriate only if it can be shown that the incidence of malignancy in the 88 cases constitutes a fair sample of the results to be expected in the cases still alive at the date of publication. If this is so, malignant disease would develop in about 276 of the 768 cases which were not immediately fatal from the operations—a truly appalling result.

There are, however, reasons, which seem to me conclusive, indicating that the patients surviving a few years would not be so liable to malignant disease as those dying early. The 1000 cases were operated on between 1858 and 1880 and were published in 1882. Of the 36 patients who had or developed cancer four (Nos. 747, 155, 236, and 882) died on the sixth, twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth days respectively after their operations; one died after six weeks (No. 111); six more died within six months (Nos. 61, 63, 331, 433, 764, and 890); 13 more died within two years (Nos. 3, 151, 330, 397, 519, 545, 557, 605, 656, 712, 762, 802, and 977); another three died within three years (Nos. 696, 810, and 904); two died after about three years (Nos. 774 and 832); three in about four years (Nos. 127, 494, and 691); one in five years (No. 736); and one in seven years (No. 2). In two cases (Nos. 831 and 847) the duration of life after ovariectomy is not stated, but as both patients were operated on in 1877 they must have died within six years. Thus 27 of the 36 patients that had cancer died within three years of their operations.

I think it will hardly be gainsaid that the four patients dying with cancer within a fortnight of their operations had malignant disease when they were operated on. Moreover, it is incontrovertible that in many cases when an ovarian tumour is removed and examined under the microscope conclusive evidence of the presence of cancer may be found. The patients may become quite well for a time but the disease, so far as my experience goes, always recurs and usually this is evident within three years. Hence, when I see that so many of Spencer Wells's cases developed malignant disease within three years of being operated on the conclusion seems to me unavoidable that in most of them, if not in all, the disease removed was malignant. The 3·2 per cent. in which a recurrence (as I believe it to be in most of the cases) took place and the 0·4 per cent. of cases dying from the operation, with cancer, make 3·6 per cent., a figure very much below the 8 per cent. which Mr. Williams quoted as the percentage of malignancy in ovarian tumours. A larger number of cases of malignant disease was therefore to be expected and there is no doubt that a later investigation would have revealed more by allowing other cases time to develop. But the table only included completed ovariectomies and therefore many malignant cases would not be in it. As three-fourths of the deaths from malignant disease occurred within three years of removal of the ovaries, and none after seven years, it is obvious that the patients who lived beyond three years would show a much smaller proportion of deaths from malignant disease, so that when all were dead the percentage of 36 would be very materially reduced. In THE LANCET of Nov. 14th, p. 1394, Mr. Williams wrote that there is "an extraordinary frequency of malignant disease after removal of both ovaries." This is not supported by Spencer Wells's table, for only six of the patients dying from malignant disease had both ovaries removed. This gives 0·6 per cent. which cannot be described as "extraordinary frequency."

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Portman-street, Nov. 30th, 1903.

JOHN D. MALCOLM.

THE LUNG REFLEX OF ABRAMS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In view of the communication of Dr. R. D. Rudolf to THE LANCET of Nov. 21st, p. 1461, and a further communication from Dr. H. Campbell in THE LANCET of Nov. 28th, p. 1531, perhaps you will kindly allow me

¹ Abdominal Surgery, third edition, p. 156

Spencer Wells: Ovarian and Uterine Tumours, 1882, pp. 342-393.

³ Loc. cit. p. 475.