M. Brownfield resigns his commission, and is granted permission to retain his rank and to wear the prescribed uniform (dated June 5th, 1909). Edmund Alderson to be Lieutenant (dated June 16th, 1909).

For Attachment to Units other than Medical Units.—Samuel Ryder Russell Matthews to be Lieutenant (dated May 1st, 1909). Albert Alexander Gunn to be Lieutenant (dated June 16th, 1909). Thomas Nash Thomas to be Lieutenant (dated June 17th, 1909).

VOLUNTEERS.

1st Cadet Battalion, The Manchester Regiment: Surgeon-Major Israel J. E. Renshaw resigns his commission (dated May 29th, 1909).

TEMPERANCE IN THE ARMY.

The annual report of the Royal Army Temperance Association for 1908-09 is excellent reading. It is the twentieth of its kind, and it contains a record of progress which has absolutely no drawbacks. In 1889 there were only 12,120 members of the association, which the Rev. J. Gelson Gregson had originally founded; now there are 30,614, the increase in the past two years alone having been 4704. Taking the normal strength of the British garrison in India as about 72,000, the proportion of temperance men is very high indeed, and there are signs that these numbers will continue to rise. In fact, there is reason to hope that in a few years' time one-half of the soldiers in British units will have become voluntary total abstainers. As the late secretary, the Rev. J. H. Bateson, happily puts it: "The association has become an army within an army—an army that is always absolutely sober." The effect of abstinence on the health and physique of men serving in a tropical climate need scarcely be dwelt upon; and there is also the higher moral tone which comes when the soldier leads a steady sober life. The support given to the association by the higher military authorities and regimental officers has been naturally of the warmest kind, and among the rank and file the old prejudice against the teetotalers has long since died out. The attractions offered in the matter of membership are such as are best calculated to win intemperate men from their demoralising habit, and to confirm the abstainer in his intention to keep the pledge that he has taken. The young soldier in particular, who is open to many temptations on arrival in India, benefits greatly by the operations of the association, and the State is the gainer by the sobriety which now reigns almost supreme throughout the cantonments of the country. Mr. Bateson has just retired from the secretaryship of the Royal Army Temperance Association after 20 years of unselfish labour, and he leaves to his successor an admirable organisation which cannot fail to endure. He carries with him the gratitude of many thousands of men who have reason to be thankful for all his efforts in the cause of army temperance.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

MALTA FEVER ON THE RIVIERA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the interest of those who may visit the Riviera next season it is, I think, desirable that the facts of the following case should be made known.

This year a gentleman, who was previously in good health, stayed for six weeks at one of the most frequented health resorts (?) there. He lived the ordinary life of a visitor, spent a good deal of time on the golf links, and returned to London on Easter Monday. For some days before starting for home he had been feeling unwell in the evenings, but neither then nor immediately after his return was the exact nature of his ailment recognised. As soon as it was found that he had a rise of temperature in the evening it was decided to have his blood tested for the reaction given by the organism of Malta fever. The result was "positive," and has since been frequently confirmed, and he has been in bed and seriously ill for 12 weeks suffering from that disease. This case is, in my experience, unique, but I am far from suggesting that it is the first of the kind. Probably it attention is called to it others will be reported and the true

nature of many obscure illnesses which have followed a visit to the Riviera will be recognised. Malta fever is known to have a wide geographical distribution, but that an ordinary visitor to the Riviera runs a risk of acquiring the disease has not, I think, hitherto been appreciated. Possibly, in some quarters it will not be so even now. Sir Alfred Keogh has kindly furnished me with the following.

Return showing the Number of Admissions to Hospital for Malta Fever amongst the Troops Serving in Malta.

Year.	Number admitted.	Remarks.
1904	320	—
1905	643	—
1906	119	From Jan. 1st to June 30th.
1906	42	From July 1st to Dec. 31st.
1907	11	—
1908	4	—
1909	0	From Jan. 1st to June 24th.

The discovery that infection was chiefly conveyed by goats' milk was made in June, 1906. Is it possible that the goat owners of Malta, finding that there is no longer a sufficient demand for the milk of their infected herds, have shipped them off to the towns on the Mediterranean coast?

In the official statistics of Malta it appears that among the "exports of local produce as reported by shipping agents" there were in 1906-07: "sheep and goats," 764; in 1907-08, 778; the proportion of goats is not given. Of the goats examined by the Commission 50 per cent. were found to be affected by the disease, and 10 per cent. were actually excreting the micrococcus in their milk. That the export of infected goats is a source of danger is shown by the case of the s.s. *Joshua Nicholson*. In 1905 this steamer shipped 65 goats at Malta for export to the United States of America. Their milk was drunk by the captain and many of the crew, the result being that an outbreak of Malta fever occurred on board the vessel, almost all who drank the milk being affected. When the goats reached America they were placed in quarantine, but that they were still infective was proved by the fact that a woman who drank their milk acquired the disease.

It would be interesting to know the number and destination of the goats exported from Malta since July, 1906. I commend this inquiry to the government of that island.

I have no personal experience of the taste of goats' milk in tea or coffee, but it is said by some to be unpleasant; if so, it is probably but little used in the hotels on the Riviera.

The occurrence of the organism of Malta fever in cows has been observed in a considerable number of instances. Have the cows on the Riviera become infected?

In the process of making cream cheese nothing, so far as I am aware, is done to ensure that the milk is sterile, and failing that cream cheese made from goats' milk must be regarded as capable of conveying infection; in this case, indeed, it appears to have been its probable source.

It is, I submit, incumbent upon the sanitary authorities of the towns of the Riviera to at once institute an investigation into the bacteriological purity of the supply of the cows' milk, goats' milk, butter, and cream cheese, and until this has been done and the question herein raised has been satisfactorily settled it will be well for visitors to the Continent in search of health either to avoid the Riviera or to be well assured that at the hotels at which they may reside all possible precautions have been taken to protect them from Malta fever.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

July 20th, 1909.

J. K. FOWLER.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Speaking from the presidential chair of the National Eisteddfod at the Albert Hall, London, on June 16th last, the Prime Minister, referring to the National Library of Wales, said: "That National Library will, I trust, become the centre, the home, the gathering and the training ground of Celtic scholarship in this country in the years that are before us. It already possesses, either actually or in promise, some