of hot spiced dishes, and to drink mead or beer. Should five or six hours elapse without indication of the medicine having taken effect, it is recommended to eat a full meal seasoned with hot condiments, which is said to quicken its operation.

"A favourable opportunity occurred of trying the effects of Kosso on a European soldier of the escort, who was troubled with the lumbricus teres, on whom it acted mildly and effectually. Should it be considered a desirable addition to the materia medica of Europe, a plentiful supply of Kosso might be easily obtained at Massowah on the Red Sea, from the merchants of Abyssinia who visit that port, which is but a journey of five or six days from the country of its growth; or, as it appears of a hardy character, and the climate of Abyssinia seems favourable to northern vegetation, the tree itself might perhaps be successfully introduced, by seed, into Europe."

Rajkote, Dec. 10, 1850.

R. KIRK, Surgeon,
2nd Bombay Light Cavalry.

THE COUNTRY MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AND THE HORSE-TAX.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—However divided the medical profession may be in itself as regards "medical reform," &c., it must almost unanimously acknowledge that THE LANCET has been constant in its aim to correct abuses, and an able advocate of its interests, for the last quarter of a century. Many years' perusal of your journal has convinced me of the above fact, and that if any injustice, hitherto unexposed, presents itself to any member of the profession, I think such an one is hardly true to the general cause, if he does not endeavour to enlist your valuable aid for its amendment, or at all events submit it to your consideration.

There are but few, if any, gentlemen, practising the profession, but must annually receive a schedule of the assessed taxes; and among the list of exemptions they may read *ut sequitur*—

"Clergymen, Roman-catholic priests, and dissenting ministers, whose annual income is under £120, are allowed one horse duty free.

The landed proprietor, who farms his own estate, of a value of £250 per annum, and the tenant farmer, who cultivates an estate, the rental of which amounts to £500 per annum, is allowed the same privilege.

Officers in the army are relieved of duty for their horses, being for the public service.

A servant's duty is also imposed upon the groom, unless under eighteen years of age; but here again the Roman-catholic priest enjoys a privilege, being permitted to have one bachelor's servant exempt.

No medical man is included in the foregoing (*considerate*?) list of exemptions, nor can he avail himself of any immunity from the horse-duty, *unless the animal is under twelve hands high*. Now, considering how often the country practitioner has to travel express, being called to "two points diametric," any animal whose height would entitle the owner to an exemption from the duty, must inevitably prove unequal to the duty assigned to it. Now, permit me to inquire—Why should the parties above enumerated enjoy a privilege to which the country medical practitioner, and especially the union surgeon, has so just a claim?

Is it surmised that the landed proprietor of an estate of the annual value of £250 in his own occupation, or the tenant of one of £500 per annum rental, is less able to pay the duty of a riding-horse than the ever-toiling practitioner of a country district? And as regards the officers of the army, does it bear even the semblance of equity that those gentlemen enjoying their pay when upon "home service" should be entitled to an exemption of the duty on their horses, in order that in the event of a commotion they may inflict wounds with greater celerity, whilst the surgeon who may be called in to repair the "mischief they had done" pays the same duty as the "squire" or the man of fortune for the horse that bears him on his philanthropic errands?

I think it would be but just that every surgeon holding a wide rural district under the poor-law union as the law now stands, and whose gross income is under £300 per annum, should at least be included in the list of exemptions for the duty of one horse, and that he has as just or even juster claim to such a privilege as those to whom it is at present ceded.

The consideration of the national finances in Parliament has induced me to submit these remarks to you.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

VOLUCRIS, (Skiddaw.)

RESIGNATION OF ASSISTANT-SURGEONS R.N.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Much and startling truth is there in your remarks on this subject, and let me beg space for a remark on each of your two cases, and to add an outline of two others.

In the case alluded to by you, where a surgeon volunteered for the pest-stricken *Eclair*, he was, in simple right and justice, promoted; yet it has been stated, by high official authority, that if it were to occur again, he would not be promoted!—his promotion is grudged! In the case of Dr. M^cWilliam, the Admiralty made no exception to their rule, for he is to this day denied his well-merited promotion, and is indebted to the Treasury, and not to the Admiralty, for his present appointment. The following are authentic cases:—

An assistant-surgeon, two years in the service, *volunteered* to join a cholera hospital ship, when the disease first appeared, and was believed to be highly contagious. His services were laborious, and were favourably reported to the Admiralty; but when he applied for promotion, it was not granted. Four years afterwards he again *volunteered* to attend a cholera hospital, in addition to the duties of his ship. Two years later he *volunteered* to take medical charge of a steamer in which plague had occurred, and was thought to have attacked the assistant-surgeon. In two more years he *volunteered* to take part in the hardships and dangers of parties landing in an enemy's country; and while on shore he had to treat several cases of plague. In the *tenth* year of his service he was promoted in a general promotion, which, deservedly enough, included several assistants of four years' standing. So much for a volunteering assistant-surgeon.

In the ships engaged in active operations in the river Plate almost all officers eligible were promoted, but not *one surgeon*; and in one ship, the captain, three lieutenants, the master, two marine officers—indeed, all eligible officers—were promoted, except the surgeon. This omission is the more unjustifiable, since, from peculiar circumstances during the chief action, he was quite as much exposed to personal danger as any one in the ship, and during three hours of the engagement he was employed with a French brother officer in performing seven amputations. The French surgeon duly received the order of the Legion of Honour, but the English surgeon, eligible though he be for promotion, has yet received no acknowledgment of his services.

Here we see executive officers promoted as a matter of course, and deservedly so, while medical officers, participating in these services, exposed to the same dangers, and discharging their duties with equal credit and zeal, are denied any reward, and are entirely neglected. It is therefore clearly in the nature of things that the medical profession should be influenced by such treatment, and that such a result as that *regretted* by the lords of the Admiralty should take place; and it being obvious that there is something wrong somewhere, unless it be remedied the public service must suffer, for the more worthy members of the profession will not certainly enter such a service.

Yours &c.,
MEDICUS.

March 9, 1851.

PUBLIC MEETING IN INDIA IN HONOUR OF SIR JAMES THOMSON, K.C.B.

A PUBLIC meeting was held in the Town-hall, Calcutta, on Monday, the 14th October, 1850, at the request of many friends of Sir James Thomson, K.C.B., who had expressed an opinion that the present would be a fitting occasion to show their respect and esteem for that gentleman individually, and that it would also afford an opportunity of publicly demonstrating that the honour which her most gracious Majesty has been pleased to confer on him is deemed deservedly bestowed, having been gained by long and meritorious services, and is also fully appreciated as opening a road to distinction to other gentlemen of the medical department of the army. Lieut.-Colonel Hawkins, C.B., was voted into the chair.

Lieut.-Colonel GOLDRE moved the first resolution, and spoke nearly as follows:—Sir, as one of Sir James Thomson's oldest friends, having been his schoolfellow indeed, and known him for almost fifty years, I have much pleasure in being present at this meeting. I am quite sure that the whole Bengal army, without exception, will rejoice at the military honours of the Bath having been conferred by her most gracious Majesty upon military surgeons, who have, in common with their brother officers, shared in all the perils and dangers of Indian warfare. Upon no man could such honours have been more fitly bestowed than upon Sir James, who has, in the course of forty years' service, been actively employed in military opera-

tions in every region to which the arms of the Bengal army have been carried. I am most desirous that Sir James's numerous friends should have the opportunity of presenting him on this occasion with some permanent mark of their esteem, as well as in token of their approbation of the honours he has gained. An address and a dinner, which have been spoken of, are very well in their way, but are evanescent, and pass off with the occasion. I therefore beg to propose—

"That, to mark the high gratification experienced by the friends of Sir James Thomson, K.C.B., on his elevation to the honours of the Bath, as also to evince their esteem for the public and private character of one who has served upwards of forty years in the Bengal army with distinguished merit, a service of plate, bearing an inscription to the above effect, be subscribed for and presented to him;" which was seconded by Dr. LAMB, and carried unanimously.

Lieut.-Colonel GOLDIE proposed the second resolution, which was seconded by Dr. STIVEN, and carried unanimously—

"That a committee, formed of Lieut.-Colonel Thompson, C.B., Dr. Forsyth, and Dr. Montgomerie, be appointed, for the purpose of collecting subscriptions for the testimonial voted in the first resolution."

Dr. STRONG proposed the third resolution, which was seconded by Dr. FORSYTH, and agreed to unanimously—

"That a public dinner be given in honour of the occasion to Sir James Thomson, K.C.B., and that a deputation, consisting of Lieut.-Colonel Goldie, Dr. Montgomerie, and Dr. Forsyth, be appointed to wait on him to fix any day he shall please to name for the same."

Thanks were voted to the chairman, and the meeting separated.

F. S. HAWKINS, C.B., Chairman.

Amongst those present at the meeting were, Colonel Goldie, Military Auditor-general; Colonel Hawkins, C.B., Commissary-general; Dr. Stiven, Surgeon-general; Dr. Lamb, Physician-general; Colonel Thompson, C.B., Deputy Commissary-general; Dr. Stewart, Presidency Surgeon; Colonel Mactier, C.B., Member of the Military Board; Dr. Bedford, Assistant Garrison Surgeon; Dr. Forsyth, Secretary Medical Board; Dr. Montgomerie, Garrison Surgeon; Dr. Strong, Surgeon to Mysore Princes; Dr. Martin, Superintendent of Eye Infirmary; Captain Frazer, Garrison Engineer; D. Mackinlay, Esq.; W. Stewart, Esq.; Captain Mayhew, Assistant Adjutant-general; Major Wyllie, Deputy Military Secretary to Government of India; Dr. Coator, Assistant-surgeon, General Hospital; Dr. Goodeve, Professor of Materia Medica; Major Bygrove, Presidency Paymaster.

About £160 were subscribed before the meeting separated.

MEETINGS OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETIES IN LONDON DURING THE ENSUING WEEK.

NOTE.—When the day of the month is not specified, no meetings take place.

Societies.	—	Days of Meeting.
Epidemiological	Mon. 8½ P.M.	March 17
Chemical, 142, Strand.....	Mon. 8 P.M.	
Medico-Botanical, 32, Sackville-st.	Tuesday.	" 18
Medico-Chirurgical, 53, Berners-st.	Tues. 8½ P.M.	" 18
Pathological, 32A, George-street, } Hanover-square	Tues. 8 P.M.	
Hunterian, 4, Bloomfield-street, } Finsbury	Wed. 8 P.M.	" 18
Pharmaceutical, 17, Bloomsbury-sq.	Wed. 9 P.M.	
Harveian, 21, Edwards-street, } Portman-square	Thurs. 8 P.M.	" 22
South London Medical, Borough ...	Thurs. 8 P.M.	
Western Medical and Surgical.....	Fri. 8 P.M.	" 22
Medical Society of London, 32A, } George-street, Hanover-square }	Sat. 8 P.M.	

Medical News.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on

Thursday, March 6, 1851.

CARRUTHERS, JOHN, Dumfries.

DEWSNAP, WILLIAM.

KIDD, RICHARD DRIVER, Godalming.

MOORE, EBENEZER, London.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted members of the college, at the meeting of the Court of Examiners, on the 7th inst.:—

ALLEN, THOMAS, London.

BULLOCK, HENRY, Reading, Berkshire.

COOMBS, JAMES WESTON, Cannon-street.

EARLE, EDWARD EMRA, Westbury-on-Trym, Wiltshire.

ELLIS, FREDERICK, Birmingham.

FOOTT, EDWARD O'CALLAGHAN, Cork.

GRANT, CHARLES JAMES, Arundel, Sussex.

HAMILTON, ROBERT, Maddox-street, Bond-street.

MARSH, THOMAS WILLIAM JOSEPH, Australia.

MORRIS, JOHN GRIFFITH, Liverpool.

MUNRO, WILLIAM STEWART JAMES HOME, Caithness, Scotland.

PECK, WILLIAM, Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire.

At the same meeting of the court, Mr. WILLIAM EVANS passed his examination for naval surgeon. This gentleman had previously been admitted a member of the College, his diploma bearing date, August 7, 1846.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—The Society held its seventy-ninth annual meeting on Saturday, the 8th instant, at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. The President was in the chair. The attendance at the Oration was unusually large. The orator, Dr. Rowland, made an eloquent and able address. The result of the ballot was declared to be as follows:—

President: E. W. Murphy, M.D. *Vice-Presidents:* J. F. Clarke, Esq.; F. Hird, Esq.; E. Lankester, M.D.; Forbes Winslow, M.D. *Treasurer:* H. Hancock, Esq. *Librarian:* W. A. Harrison, Esq. *Secretaries in Ordinary:* C. H. F. Routh, M.D.; C. Cogswell, M.D. *Foreign Secretary:* T. Davidson, M.D. *Councillors:* G. Pilcher, Esq.; E. Headland, Esq.; W. C. Dendy, Esq.; J. Middleton, Esq.; S. Stedman, Esq.; S. W. J. Merriman, M.D.; W. Smiles, M.D.; F. Sibson, M.D.; J. R. Bennett, M.D.; H. H. Walton, Esq.; J. Gay, Esq.; T. Nunn, Esq.; A. B. Garrod, M.D.; R. Druitt, Esq.; J. S. Bushnan, M.D.; W. Coulson, Esq.; J. W. Woodfall, M.D.; A. P. Stewart, M.D.; J. H. Bennett, M.D.; E. J. Tilt, M.D. *Orator:* Edwin Canton, Esq.

Fothergillian Gold Medallists.—Dr. R. Payne Cotton, of 4, Bolton-street, Piccadilly, for the best essay on "Phthisis;" Richard Hodges, Esq., F.R.C.S., Rochford, Essex, for the best essay on "Uterine Hæmorrhage." *Fothergillian Silver Medallist:* H. Hancock, Esq., 59, Harley-street, for special services rendered to the Society during the late session. The following are the subjects for the Fothergillian gold medals in 1852 and 1853—viz., March, 1852: "On the mode in which therapeutic agents introduced into the stomach produce their peculiar effects on the animal economy." Two for March, 1853: 1st. "Wounds and injuries of the abdomen and their treatment." 2nd. "On the pathology of convulsive action."

The fellows of the Society, to the number of eighty, afterwards dined together. Among the visitors were, Dr. Conolly, Mr. Guthrie, the President of the Hunterian Society, &c. The usual loyal toasts having been drunk, the Medical Society of London was given, in proposing which, the President took occasion to congratulate the assembly on the very prosperous and flourishing condition of the Society. In responding to the toast of the College of Physicians, Dr. Conolly expressed his hope that the College would see the signs of the times, and make such alterations in its government as would meet the wants and wishes of the age. Mr. Pilcher, in acknowledging the College of Surgeons, stated that the majority of the council were in favour of justice to every member of the profession. These announcements were received with much cheering.

THE ANALYTICAL SANITARY COMMISSION.—By the report of the meeting yesterday on the adulteration of coffee, it will have been observed, that although there was a noisy opposition to the resolutions against chicory being surreptitiously vended under the name of coffee, not a single argument was offered in justification. The old statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that the public, when they ask and pay for coffee, prefer to have the inferior article foisted upon them, was all that could be brought forward, although at the same time the fact that the opponents of the practice, when they point to the injury inflicted by it upon the revenue, manifest "far more sympathy for the Chancellor of the Exchequer than the Chancellor had manifested for himself," was adroitly taken advantage of. A sample of stuff was produced to the meeting, "consisting of burnt peas, dog biscuit, powdered earth, and other materials too horrid to men-