drainage of the barracks at Windsor accompanied by an officer of the Royal Engineers. The drainage of the barracks is said to be in an unsatisfactory state.

MILITIA MEDICAL STAFF CORPS.

Owing to a printer's error the word "Corps" was omitted in the above heading of the Services in our last issue.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

"THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AT NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I read with especial interest your remarks on the annual meeting of the British Medical Association. Only a few weeks since I pointed out in the Journal how little encouragement was given to general practitioners to take part in the subjects brought forward. The annual meeting of the Association should, in my humble opinion, be the Parliament of the profession at large. At present too much is attempted to be done and what is done is not of special interest to the bulk of the medical men. Specialists might well content themselves with the opportunities they have of bringing their views before the various London medical and surgical societies. The Council should arrange for the discussion of subjects which would be likely to interest general practitioners, and encouragement should be given to the practitioners to express their views and opinions thereon. It may be a difficult matter to arrange that the annual meeting should be held either earlier or later in the summer; but there is no doubt that the beginning of August, from a climatic point of view, is not the most suitable time for a scientific congress to meet. Either June or September would be better months; probably most men would if asked choose September. The temperature then would be more conducive to scientific work and the majority of men would have been renovated by their autumnal holiday. More time is absolutely necessary, also, as you remark, for the "grievances and just complaints of the members." The Council is naturally the Cabinet of our Parliament and it should not be a difficult matter to allow members to bring forward questions of importance at short notice. If it is found that the time allotted for the meeting is too short why should it not be extended for two or three days? Is not too much time consumed in relaxation? What with garden parties, receptions, conversaziones and other forms of pleasure there is but little time left for the ordinary routine business. If we met in September we should be more inclined to settle down to earnest work, and would not shun the sectional meetings so much as is the case now.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Cardiff, Aug. 14th, 1893.

T. GARRETT HORDER.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In THE LANCET of Aug. 12th, under the report of the section of Obstetric Medicine and Gynæcology, it is stated that "application was made to the secretary of the Section for the opportunity of making some extracts from Professor Pozzi's valuable paper, which was not accorded." In fairness allow me to state that a gentleman certainly did ask me for Professor Pozzi's paper, which he offered to return; but he did not, to the best of my belief, mention by whom he was authorised to make the request or explain who he was. I explained to him that Professor Pozzi had asked me as a personal favour not to part with the rough MS. until it had been revised. This it was quite impossible to do within a few minutes of closing the Section for the day, which was the time when the request for the paper was made. I offered to let the gentleman see the paper if he would call again after I had overtaken the absolutely necessary secretarial work for the day and had had time to roughly revise Professor Pozzi's paper. He did not call again or communicate with me in any way respecting the paper.

Personally I should have been greatly pleased to have handed over the paper to any such excellent medium of publicity as THE LANCET. But I conceive that a secretary of a Section must

in the first place be guided by the expressed wishes of the individual writers of papers; and, secondly, see that, so far as possible, the primary publication rights of the British Medical Association are protected. This is surely the more necessary when, as in the above instance, a paper has been written by a foreigner in English, and when it is inferentially desirable to harmonise the style with that of English medical writings. Showing that the recognised claims of THE LANCET were favourably considered and conserved, permit me to add that if you will have the goodness to examine the MS. of the speeches in the debates you will find that more than one is in the handwriting of

Aug. 12th, 1893.

THE SECRETARY OF SECTION C.

* * We willingly insert the above letter. Our representative asked to be allowed to make the extracts on behalf of THE LANCET. A very brief time would have sufficed to make the extracts in shorthand. The language would have been revised before publication. Pressure of work forbade the loss of time which would have been entailed by repeating the application. We gladly acquit the Secretary of any intentional discourtesy.—ED. L.

THE TREATMENT OF INFANTILE DIARRHŒA.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In THE LANCET of Aug. 3rd I read with pleasure Dr. Wheaton's advocacy of strong antiseptics in the treatment of infantile diarrhœa. I am convinced of their efficacy. Last month, during a severe epidemic in this city, I used the glycerine of carbolic acid in drop doses every hour with signal advantage, and notably in one case in the Children's Hospital in which there was marked collapse. I can speak highly also of the hypodermic injection of morphia in these very severe cases in one-thirtieth of a grain doses and repeated in two hours if necessary, this treatment being especially useful when the vomiting is urgent and distressing, as it often is. Dr. Wheaton might have drawn attention to the importance of avoiding milk in these cases and of substituting raw meat juice. I find that the administration of milk is persevered in and I think there can be little doubt that it does much harm. Again, the application of warmth to the abdomen by means of a pad of wadding and a binder is an important adjunct, as had been pointed out by Dr. Eustace Smith.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Belfast, Aug. 12th, 1893.

JOHN MCCAW, M.D. &c.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SCOTCH DISTRICT LUNACY MATTERS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I have before me the "Report of a Committee appointed by the County Council of Argyll to bring before the notice of Parliament the necessity of restricting the statutory powers of the General Board of Lunacy over the District Lunacy Boards." So much has been said of Local Government that after the passing of the Acts for England and Scotland I had thought that the local authorities had some little power over the expenditure of the moneys raised by them in their own districts, but a perusal of this report clearly shows the contrary. From the time of the erection of the Argyll Asylum the General Board of Lunacy seem to have forced the district board to carry out their views, and the district board in this report show that the views they unwillingly carried out were not only short-sighted but costly and that their own policy, which they were not permitted to adopt, was not only in accord with now recognised experience but, seen by the light of time, would not only have been best but cheapest. For instance, in 1861 the district board wished to erect an asylum for 200 patients, but were only allowed to build for 120, and before the end of three years the General Board called on them to increase the number of beds to the actual number they had wished to build for, and as they then united with Bute 50 additional beds for that county were added. An addition in so short a time involved increased expense and could not be so complete as if the original