

unanimously of opinion that, under no circumstances whatever, should regimental bearers ever be detached from their regiments.

Regimental Stretcher-bearers: There is a tendency to forget that the duties of a Volunteer regimental bearer are entirely secondary to his duties in his company ranks. They should never be withdrawn from the ranks unnecessarily. Stretcher drill should never take place during a battalion drill, and the inspection of the stretcher detachment should never take place during the annual inspection of the regiment. Volunteers should not be allowed to wear the "S.B." badge unless they have reported themselves to, and been accepted by, the regimental medical officer.

THE CHITRAL HONOURS.

The following honours to medical officers are announced in the *London Gazette* of Jan. 24th: "The Queen has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointments to the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, in recognition of the services of the under-mentioned officers during the operations of the Chitral Relief Force. To be Ordinary Members of the Military Division of the Third Class, or Companions of the said Most Honourable Order—viz., Surgeon-Major-General Thomas Maunsell, Army Medical Staff, and Surgeon-Colonel George Thomson, Indian Medical Service."

Surgeon-Major-General Thomas Maunsell, A.M.S., L.R.C.P.I., L.R.C.S.I., entered the Army as Assistant Surgeon on Oct. 1st, 1860, and was made Surgeon on March 1st, 1873. He was promoted to Surgeon-Major on June 17th, 1875, to Brigade-Surgeon on Oct. 16th, 1886, to Surgeon-Colonel on March 10th, 1892, and to Surgeon-Major-General on Nov. 24th, 1895. He served with the Burmese expedition in 1886-87 (mentioned in the despatches, medal with clasp), and also with Chitral relief force under Sir Robert Low in 1895 as Principal Medical Officer to the force, for which service he has received the well-merited honour gazetted above.—Surgeon-Colonel George Thomson, M.B., M.Ch., also received a similar honour for his distinguished services in the same expedition, of which he was Principal Medical Officer to the lines of communication. He became Assistant-Surgeon on Oct. 2nd, 1865, and was promoted to Surgeon-Colonel on April 1st, 1893. Surgeon-Colonel Thomson, who is Principal Medical Officer of the Lahore district in India, served in the Afghan War of 1878-79, for which he received a medal and was mentioned in despatches.

THE ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY.

From the report of the Board of Visitors to this institution for 1895 we gather that the Academy was inspected on June 24th last, and that the health of the cadets had been very good during the past year, with the exception of January and February, when much sickness prevailed, mainly attributable to pulmonary diseases and influenza. The average height of the cadets was 5 ft. 9½ in., and their average age 19.8 years. The board were informed that the hospital had been altered and is now in a good condition, and is capable of holding ten patients comfortably. They are of opinion that the building is now sufficient for ordinary cases. They, however, still consider that arrangements should be made at the Herbert Hospital for the reception of cadets in cases of infectious disease of a serious type. They were informed that the construction of an infectious hospital (which they were given to understand last year had been proposed and recommended by the Director-General of the Army Medical Department) had not been provided for in the Estimates of the current year. The Board of Visitors animadvert upon the system that had arisen of allowing so long an interval to elapse between the time of the cadets passing out of the Academy and their being commissioned as unfair to the cadets and their parents, and in contravention of the Standing Orders of the Royal Military Academy.

NAVAL MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

An examination of candidates for fifteen commissions in the Medical Department of the Royal Navy will be held in the Examination Hall, Thames-embankment, on Monday, May 4th, 1896, and following days. The forms to be filled up by candidates will be supplied on application to the department.

ARMY MEDICAL SCHOOL, NETLEY.

The seventy-first session of the Army Medical School, Netley, will be brought to a close on Friday, Jan. 31st, when the prizes will be distributed by General the Right Hon. Sir Redvers Buller, V.C., G.C.B., K.C.M.G., Adjutant-General to the forces.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND ON THE COUNCIL.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In the leading article on Direct Representation which appears in THE LANCET of Jan. 18th it is written: "To do Mr. Page justice, he yielded quickly to the suggestion of Mr. Tweedy to omit the less generous parts of his amendment, and to be content with the simple, and what will be the historical, averment, that it is desirable to give the Members of the College direct representation upon the Council." With every wish to accord the full share of credit due to Mr. Tweedy for the part he has played, accuracy and justice to others demand some modification of the sentence. The first speaker at the meeting to suggest to Mr. Page that he should omit all but the first clause of his amendment was Mr. Norton. He was followed, after Mr. Morris had spoken, by Mr. Willett, Mr. Tweedy, another Fellow whose name I do not know, and then by myself. In THE LANCET report of Jan. 11th no notice whatever is taken of the speeches made by Mr. Norton, the Fellow referred to, and myself. My own remarks are given with substantial accuracy in one of your contemporaries, although accidentally misplaced. It will there be seen that in supporting the recommendation to Mr. Page I went a step further than my predecessors in the discussion, and advised the withdrawal of the original resolution and the adoption of Mr. Page's modified amendment as a substantive motion. This course was followed by Sir Robert Craven and Mr. Holmes, and the more readily, I believe, in consequence of my suggestion and my appeal to the Fellows that there might be no difference of opinion as to details, but as large a vote as possible in favour of the principle of direct representation of the Members of the College on the Council. There is one other correction which ought to be made. In the report of Mr. Tweedy's first speech in THE LANCET of Jan. 18th he is credited with the observation that he had great difficulty in persuading the Members' deputation to the committee of Council to consent to Fellows as well as Members being eligible as representatives of the Members of the College on the Council. I did not hear Mr. Tweedy at the meeting put forward this exclusive claim, and feel sure that he would not do so of his own accord, as other members of the Council on the Deputation Committee, including at least the President and myself, also urged the deputation to yield the point.

In justice to all concerned, I feel that these corrections ought to be made. For my own part, I have upheld from the first the claims of the Members of the College to representation on the Council. In my Carmichael Essay of 1879 I advocated the measure, and in my second essay in 1887 I answered all Mr. Erichsen's objections besides giving at length the arguments in its favour. In the pages of the medical press I have done the same, and in 1889 when I came forward with Mr. Tweedy and Mr. Lawson Tait as a candidate for a seat on the Council upon this platform I made it a prominent part of my programme. On every available occasion I have spoken in the Council or on committees in favour of it. I supported it about ten years ago, and, contrary to my own interest, spoke at length in favour of it at two annual general meetings of Fellows and Members; and on one occasion since my election to the Council I avowed my continued adherence to this just and necessary measure. I have been, therefore, and still am, deeply interested in securing its success, and I regretted the omission of my speech in THE LANCET as I was naturally anxious to show that I had not deserted my colours on a "historical occasion," as well as to indicate that I did not concur with the opinion expressed by Mr. Tweedy at the meeting that members of the Council should abstain from trying to influence votes. It has been decided in the Council that at the meeting of the Fellows members of the Council, with the exception of the President and Vice-Presidents, should sit with the Fellows and join in the debates if they wish to do so. Mr. Morris was quite within his right in speaking at

length against the Members' claims, and so were Dr. Ward Cousins, Mr. Willett, and myself in expressing our opinions in favour of this great and far-reaching reform.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Jan. 20th, 1896. WALTER RIVINGTON.

* * We are sorry that Mr. Rivington's speech was inadvertently omitted. Seeing that professional reporters are excluded from these meetings it is not possible to publish anything like a verbatim report.—ED. L.

" A PLEA FOR THE PASTEUR TREATMENT OF HYDROPHOBIA."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—When I started with my wife for Paris in charge of the eleven Sunbury children who were bitten by a dog reported rabid by the district veterinary inspector, it was with an open mind as to the Pasteur treatment. Taking into consideration the prevalence of rabies, and in face of the mis-statements which are being published in some papers which are likely to influence people in their decision whether to undergo treatment or not, I made it my business, as far as in me lay, to obtain exact statistics. As this is a question of life or death, and as I cannot but consider that the efficacy of the treatment is established, I trust you will give me space to make public the result of my inquiries, and to answer the *Star*, Captain Parkis, and Mr. Collinson.

Professor Roux, the discoverer of antitoxin, informs me that the mortality among persons bitten by rabid dogs prior to the introduction of the Pasteur treatment was, on the best authorities on the subject—such as Dr. Leblanc and the Comité d'Hygiène de la France—(1) in cases of those bitten in the head, from 80 to 90 per cent.; and (2) in cases of those bitten on the limbs or body, 20 per cent. I am indebted to Professor Roux for the reports of the Pasteur Institute for the years 1891, 1892, 1893, and 1894, from which I have extracted the following :—

Year.	Number of persons healed.	Deaths.	Percentage of deaths.
1886	2,671	25	0·94
1887	1,770	14	0·79
1888	1,623	9	0·55
1889	1,830	7	0·38
1890	1,540	5	0·32
1891	1,559	4	0·25
1892	1,790	4	0·22
1893	1,648	6	0·36
1894	1,367	7	0·50
Total	15,817	81	0·55

As the Pasteur treatment does not profess to arrest the disease after it has reached a certain stage, but is essentially a preventive measure, just as vaccination is, speaking generally, a preventive against small-pox, and as by experiments on dumb animals it has been proved that should a person die from hydrophobia within fifteen days of the termination of the course of treatment that the disease had advanced too far before its commencement for it to be of any avail, and as such cases cannot, therefore, be counted as failures, such deaths have been eliminated from the above totals. There were in 1891, 1892, 1893, and 1894 respectively, four, three, two, and five cases. I am not in possession of the figures for the previous years, but as the Institute library is open for public inspection, and a record of every case can be seen, doubtless they can easily be obtained. From this it is self-evident that the statement that Ethel Wilkins was discharged cured is absolutely false. I took especial pains to find out if I might consider my charges safe at the end of the treatment. I was told that it was impossible to say, but that experience showed that after sixty days from the original bite persons who had undergone treatment might be reasonably considered so. It is stated that this poor child was killed by the treatment, and Dr. Murphy is publicly accused of having caused her death because he advised that she should be sent. She was bitten on the left eyelid, the most dangerous of all places, and there should be no doubt in any reasonable person's mind that the virus had taken such hold of her

before the treatment began, and that the disease had made too great progress, for it to arrest its course. I had my charges under my eye daily, almost hourly, and I can say most positively that not for one minute did any feverish or uncomfortable symptoms show themselves during treatment, and I have heard of none since the children have been at home. The value of preliminary veterinary examinations are being discounted and spoken of as worthless.

Sir R. Nicholson has informed me that ever since the Brown Institute has been established, and the inoculation tests have been carried on there, this test has in every case confirmed the reports of veterinary surgeons, based upon post-mortem examination. Again, it is affirmed that the Pasteur treatment is practised without any method. This is not true. I was present when the children made their first visit to the Institute. A most minute examination was made of their wounds, every inquiry was made of the circumstances of each case by the medical officer, who then ordered seven of the children to attend once a day for fifteen days for inoculation, two for eighteen days, one for twenty days, and one for twenty-one days; the last, a boy, had been bitten in the face, and he had to attend twice a day for the first three days.

One word more, and I hope, Sirs, you will print the following in large type and so show your sympathy with the righteous indignation which is felt in Sunbury, and which I am sure will be re-echoed by the public at large, for what I am about to relate. Incredible as it may appear, yet it is still a fact, that someone has circulated broadcast in Sunbury (one of the parents had five copies left at his door) a number of the *Star* containing the harrowing details of Ethel Wilkins' death, &c. This when the sorrowing parents were separated from their young ones, before the time for anxiety had passed. What good could this do? Rightly or wrongly, the children were undergoing the treatment; what could be gained by trying to frighten the parents out of their senses? One poor woman (her husband was at night work) I am told paced the road near her house for hours in unutterable anguish. What is this but refined cruelty? If the anti-Pasteurians wish for a hearing, such methods as this is the wrong way to get it; it must, indeed, be a weak case which needs to be urged in this way. No; these poor people are blinded by prejudice and misplaced fanaticism. If they have any reliable evidence let them put it forward; if they can prove that the Buisson treatment is more efficacious than the Pasteur treatment everyone will welcome the news; but in a case of life and death let them stick to facts, and, above all, let them refrain from inflicting unnecessary pain, posing the while, I suppose, as humanitarians.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

The Vicarage, Sunbury, Jan. 7th, 1896. F. H. VIGNE.

" THE LANCET " SANITARY COMMISSION ON DISINFECTION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I see by your issue of Jan. 11th that you are publishing articles upon the disinfection of clothing &c. I should be happy to receive anyone commissioned by you and show him the working of my invention in a machine that has been in constant use since 1884. I would also ask your attention to the part of your article from which it might be inferred that the use of steam under substantial pressure entails the employment of specially skilled workmen. This is not accurate, for my patent steam disinfectors have been used for fifteen years by unskilled labourers with the most satisfactory results. Your journal is so widely read that any expression of opinion by you therein such as would lead your readers to believe that the employment of steam under pressure necessitates the services of skilled engineers is likely to do considerable injury to the reputation of my apparatus, and I trust that you will kindly correct this false impression which might certainly be gathered from your article.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

WASHINGTON LYON.

Asylum-road, Peckham, S.E., Jan. 18th, 1896.

* * The efficiency of the Washington Lyon apparatus for disinfection by steam under pressure was established by the careful investigation of Dr. Klein and Dr. Parsons, whose report appeared in the Supplement of the Fourteenth Annual Report of the Local Govt. Board. There is, therefore, no necessity to repeat the experiments. We did not state that the