Havelock, [honorary secretaries, at the College. Students and graduates of other universities will be welcomed.

THE annual dinner of the West London Medico-Chirurgical Society will take place at the Wharnccliffe Rooms, Great Central Hotel, on Wednesday, Feb. 8th, at 7 o'clock. Communications should be addressed to Dr. A. Elliot, 11, Upper Berkeley-street, London, W.

THE fourth meeting of the Bristol Medico-Chirurgical Society was held in the Medical Library, University College, Bristol, on Jan. 11th, when Professor T. Clifford Allbutt delivered an address to a full meeting of members and visitors on the Prevention of Apoplexy.

A TELEGRAM from the Governor of the Mauritius received at the Colonial Office on Jan. 13th states that for the week ending Jan. 12th there were 8 deaths notified from plague.

His Majesty the King has accepted a copy of Mr. F. J. Gant's "Autobiography" which has just been published.

Looking Back.

FROM

THE LANCET, SATURDAY, Jan. 20, 1827.

During the Peninsula war, the superior anatomical, and of course, chirurgical, knowledge of those army surgeons educated in Dublin, soon attracted the notice of the distinguished individual placed at the head of the Army Medical Establishment; and with a conscientious and honest discharge of the high trust reposed in him, he advanced those men in rank and responsibility, upon whose professional knowledge, when so much was at stake, most reliance could be placed, no matter what was their previous patronage, country, or religion. Those alone were selected who were most capable of affording the best chance of life or limb to the wounded soldier; and in consequence, numbers of our countrymen, educated in this city, and filling subordinate situations in the army, were advanced with rapidity to posts of responsibility, rank, and emolument. This naturally opened the eyes of many to the superior advantages afforded by Dublin for the acquisition of surgical and anatomical knowledge; and we have had consequently, since the war, a number of pupils from England and Scotland, annually resorting to our schools, which I shall venture to predict will every year increase.

Unfortunately, our own foolish ordinations have interfered to mar the progress of Dublin as a school of anatomy and surgery. It is natural, and a matter of course, that pupils should wish to receive their diplomas of qualification from those constituted bodies under which they have been educated, and from the hands of those professors and seniors who have observed the progress that each has made in the acquisition of medical and surgical knowledge.

This very natural and laudable desire is completely baffled by the Charter of the College of Surgeons in Ireland, which enacts that no person shall be admitted to an examination who has not served an apprenticeship to a regularly educated surgeon; and this is the *only test* of qualification demanded from the pupil by this corporation charter. No attendance upon lectures, no attendance upon hospitals, no dissections, are required by the framers of this wise sample of legislation; and, in fact, at this very moment, in point of law, the President and Examiners are bound to examine any man, no matter whether he has ever been inside the walls of an hospital or lecture-room,—if he has only served an apprenticeship to what is designated a regularly educated surgeon, he may demand an examination.

But the framers of the Charter forgot in their wisdom to define what are the qualifications which render a man a regularly educated surgeon. Their successors, I presume, taking it for granted that the only qualification to make a regularly educated surgeon is an apprenticeship to one, demanded from every pupil who had not been an apprentice to a Licentiate or member of the College of Surgeons in Ireland, sufficient documentary evidence that his master not only had been a regularly educated surgeon, but that he had also served *his* time to a regularly educated surgeon; and

thus I have known the time of the Court of Examiners occupied, day after day, examining the genealogy of a candidate, even to his professional *great great grandfather!*¹

THE ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE OF GREECE.

BY F. HOWARD, M.D. ST. AND.,

COLONEL, ARMY MEDICAL STAFF (RETIRED).

GREECE, although one of the smaller States, has a well-organised Army Medical Service. The normal army in 1896 consisted of 24,877 officers and men but all able-bodied males, aged 21 years and upwards, are liable to serve. The army in 1903 consisted of 1876 officers, 4670 non-commissioned officers, and 15,795 men.² The regulations for the Grecian Army Medical Service deal with a variety of matters connected with *personnel*, hospitals, distribution of sick, provisions for chemical analysis and micro-biological researches, supply, nursing, &c. There is a special health department under the Ministry of War which deals with the organisation and mobilisation of both the sanitary and veterinary services, the supply of *matériel* for ambulances, medicines, and surgical instruments, and the management of health establishments with their *personnel*.

Military hospitals.—These are of the first and second class, according to the strength of the corps which garrison the town. In 1902 the military hospitals of Athens, Larissa, Missolonghi, and Triccala were decreed first-class hospitals as each of the three first named was the headquarters of a division of two brigades and the last named was a brigade headquarters. Each first-class hospital is under the superintendence of a surgeon-lieutenant-colonel who is the "director." The higher *personnel* is composed of a surgeon-major (sub-director), two surgeon-captains, one surgeon-lieutenant, one apothecary with the rank of major, one apothecary ranking with lieutenant, two apothecaries as sub-lieutenants, and one captain for supply. Hospitals of the second class exist in Corfu, Arta, Tyrnavos, and Nauplia under a surgeon-major who is the director, one surgeon-captain (sub-director), one surgeon-lieutenant, two sub-lieutenants, one apothecary with the rank of captain, two apothecary sub-lieutenants, and one lieutenant for supply.

The hospital and infirmary service is performed by military medical officers and apothecaries varying in number according to the importance of the establishment. These are assisted by a staff composed of administrative or "economical" officers, civilians, and military of lower grade hospital orderlies and bearers. The *personnel* of these hospitals number in all 159 medical officers and apothecaries, many "economical" officers, subordinate employés, and two hospital orderly and bearer companies. At each divisional hospital there exist a dépôt for drugs and surgical instruments and a chemical and bacteriological laboratory. There is a medical school at Athens for the fuller instruction of medical officers.

Hospital orderly and bearer companies.—There exist two companies. The recruits are drilled as soldiers first and also receive a six months' course of instruction from the military medical officers in their special duties. After this they are obliged to pass an examination, the successful candidates being drafted into the Hospital Orderly Company and assuming forthwith their duties at the different hospitals and infirmaries, while the unsuccessful pass into the bearer companies.

Rank.—The highest rank obtainable in the Military Medical Service of Greece is that of medical inspector-general who ranks with a colonel. The highest rank obtainable by apothecaries is that of lieutenant-colonel;

¹ Excerpt from "Introductory Lecture to a Course of Surgery, delivered at the Richmond Hospital by Mr. Carmichael, president of the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin."

² Since writing the above I have seen that the Hellenic Chamber of Deputies has just passed a new law by which military service for all adult males will be, in the future, for 12 years, of which two will be with the colours. The new regulations provide for an army of from 120,000 to 130,000 men on a war footing. The three divisions on the peace establishment will swell in war to six, each containing two infantry brigades, two battalions of *chasseurs à pied*, one regiment of artillery, one regiment of cavalry, one battalion of engineers, with military train, field hospital, ammunition park, &c. Each infantry regiment consists of three battalions, each artillery regiment of from eight to six gun batteries, and in war each infantry division is joined by an artillery regiment of four batteries. In peace, as in war, the Greeks possess six mountain and three heavy gun batteries. The new law provides for a reserve of officers, the formation of a staff corps, and provision for a war chest.

and the highest rank in the Veterinary Service is that of major.

Medical and veterinary services.—The peace establishment is: 2 medical inspector-generals, 7 inspectors (of the rank of surgeon-lieutenant-colonel), 10 surgeon-majors, 34 surgeon-captains, 45 surgeon-lieutenants, 32 surgeon sub-lieutenants, 1 apothecary-in-chief, 3 apothecary majors, 9 apothecary captains, 7 apothecary lieutenants, 9 apothecary sub-lieutenants, 1 veterinary surgeon-in-chief, 8 veterinary captains, 4 veterinary lieutenants, and 4 veterinary sub-lieutenants.

War organisation.—In war time the Field Sanitary Department is divided into: (a) Field surgeons accompanying corps. (b) Provisional hospitals to which the patients of the field surgeries or hospitals are transferred. (c) Dépôts for medical stores. The Central Dépôt is at Athens and other dépôts are at Volo, Santa Maura, and Piræus. (d) The ordinary base hospitals. The field surgeries or hospitals and the provisional hospitals are under the immediate direction of a headquarters medical staff (*archiatrion*) which is again under the orders of the general or colonel commanding the corps.

The following is the constitution of the Headquarters Medical Staff: 1 surgeon-lieutenant-colonel, 1 surgeon-lieutenant, 1 apothecary lieutenant, 1 "economical" (supply) officer, 1 lieutenant for transport of the medical service, 1 assistant surgeon, 1 sergeant, 2 corporals, 1 corporal for transport service, 8 soldiers, and 8 mules. The field surgeries or hospitals are first, second, third, and fourth class according to the number and importance of the corps which they accompany in the field. A fourth-class surgery is capable of accommodating 40 men.

The provisional hospitals.—These are of the first and second class and their *personnel* is, so far as possible, the same as the first- and second-class ordinary divisional hospitals. The accompanying table gives at a glance the *personnel* of the headquarters and first-, second-, third-, and fourth-class surgeries:—

	Headquarters surgery, 16,000 to 20,000 men.	First-class surgery, 8000 to 16,000 men.	Second-class surgery, 4000 to 8000 men.	Third-class surgery, 2000 to 4000 men.	Fourth-class surgery, 2000 men.
Surgeon-lieutenant-colonel	1	—	—	—	—
„ major	2	1	—	—	—
„ captain	4	2	1	—	—
„ lieutenant	8	4	2	—	—
„ sub-lieutenant	16	8	4	2	1
Assistant surgeon	16	8	4	2	1
Apothecary lieutenant	2	1	—	—	—
„ sub-lieutenant	8	4	2	1	—
Assistant apothecary	8	4	2	1	1
Supply officer or steward, } “economical” officer }	2	1	—	—	—
Sergeant-major assistant to above } officer }	16	8	4	2	1
Sub-lieutenant transport	1	—	—	—	—
Surgeon-major „	2	1	—	—	—
Sergeant hospital orderly	16	8	4	2	1
Corporal „ „	32	16	8	4	2
Sub- (lance-) corporal hospital orderly	32	16	8	4	2
Sergeant transport	2	1	—	—	—
Corporal „ „	16	8	4	2	1
Sub- (lance-) corporal transport ...	8	4	2	1	1
Corporal farrier	2	1	—	—	—
Assistant „ „	4	2	1	1	—
Corporal saddler	4	2	1	1	—
Assistant „ „	4	2	1	1	—
Corporal blacksmith	4	2	1	1	—
Assistant „ „	4	2	1	1	—
Corporal carpenter	2	2	1	1	—
Assistant „ „	2	2	1	1	—
Corporal (“economic”) steward ...	16	8	4	2	1
Hospital orderlies and bearers, } soldiers }	320	160	80	40	20
Soldiers and drivers	334	167	84	41	21
Horses	11	5	1	—	—
Mules	334	167	84	41	21

Military infirmaries exist in Ithaca, Santa Maura, Zante, Pitras, Amphissa, Agrinion, Ogina, Colambaku, Carvassara, Carditza, Corinth, Pyrgo, Sparta, Tripoli, Lyra, and other places.

Uniform.—The medical officers have a blue-black tunic with reddish-lilac velvet collar; blue-black trousers; and blue-black cap with lilac velvet band. Non-commissioned officers and men of the hospital orderly and bearer companies are dressed like the infantry with the Geneva cross on the arm. The badges of rank are as for infantry.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

A QUARTERLY meeting of the Council was held on Jan. 8th, Mr. JOHN TWEEDY, the President, being in the chair.

Mr. Bernard Pitts was introduced and having made a declaration in the terms of the oath prescribed by the Charter of 1800 he was readmitted a member of the Court of Examiners.

The SECRETARY reported the death on Dec. 19th, 1904, at the age of 49 years, of Mr. A. Quarry Silcock, member of the Court of Examiners. A vote of condolence with the members of his family was passed.

The PRESIDENT stated that the vacancy in the Court of Examiners occasioned by the death of Mr. Silcock and the vacancy caused by the expiration of the period of office of Mr. W. H. A. Jacotson would be filled up at the next ordinary meeting of the Council on Feb. 9th.

It was resolved to refer to the Museum and General Purposes Committee to consider and to report upon the question of permanently installing the electric light in the museum.

A report was read from the President and the Vice-Presidents on the proposed foundation of scholarships in memory of the late Mr. E. Percy P. Macloghlin, M.R.C.S. The report was approved and adopted and it was resolved that the best thanks of the Council should be given to Mrs. Macloghlin for her munificent offer and that she should be informed that the Council gratefully accepts the trust and agrees to administer it upon the conditions mentioned in the report. The amount to be given to the trust of the College is £10,000.

The Council proceeded to discuss the case of a Member who had been removed from the Medical Register by the General Medical Council and after deliberation it was resolved that his name should be removed from the list of Members of the College.

The PRESIDENT reported that on behalf of himself and the Vice-Presidents, in pursuance of the authority given to them by the Council, they had appointed Dr. H. Timbrell Bulstrode to represent the College at the Conference on School Hygiene arranged by the Royal Sanitary Institute to be held in London from Feb. 7th to 10th, 1905.

Mr. Edmund Owen presented to the College on behalf of Mr. Edward Atkinson, M.R.C.S., of Leeds, six saws invented and used by Hey for operations on the skull. Its best thanks were voted by the Council to Mr. Atkinson for his very interesting gift.

A letter was read from the secretary of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses reporting the expiration in February next of Mr. T. Bryant's period of office as a member of the council of the institute and inquiring whether Mr. Bryant is to remain the representative of the College on the council of the institute for the next three years. The consideration of the matter was postponed.

A letter was read from the honorary secretaries to the committee for organising the visit of French physicians and surgeons to London expressing the thanks of the executive committee for the cordial reception extended by the President and the Council of the College to the French physicians and surgeons on the occasion of their visit to the College.

A letter was read from the Registrar of the General Medical Council reporting the adoption by that Council of the following resolution, in addition to the eight resolutions in regard to preliminary scientific education and examination adopted at the May session:—

That the synopsis or syllabus in elementary biology should include as necessary subjects of study the fundamental facts of vegetable and animal structure, life-history, and function, as exemplified by specified