Bengal Army), on the 29th ult., at his residence in London, aged eighty-two years.

Inspector-General of Hospitals John Murray, at Sheringham, Norfolk.

OUR INDIAN FRONTIER.

The latest news received at Simla regarding our Indian frontier is not altogether satisfactory. It points to possible future troubles in this direction and in the Tochi valley. There has been some fighting among the tribesmen and their chiefs. The Afridis are quiet as far as the Indian Government is concerned but are quarrelling among themselves.

THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS FOR INDIA.

The *Pioneer Mail* of the 22nd ult. states that in consequence of the publication in this country of the new warrant reconstituting the Army Medical Service the Indian Government have been asked to submit proposals in regard to the Indian Medical Service. This is only what might have been anticipated.

THE SOUDAN CAMPAIGN.

The Anglo-Egyptian Expeditionary force will soon be starting for Khartoum. The troops are in good health and fettle and all the necessary preparations for the campaign have been made.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE BATTLE OF THE CLUBS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Mr. Cecil Aloysius Corke of Wem, Salop, has been elected surgeon to the Court Vale of Evesham, No. 4648, of the Ancient Order of Foresters in lieu of my partner and myself who resigned, as you are aware, in consequence of our salary being reduced after twenty-five years. Six other medical men, so I am informed, made inquiries, but finding how we had been treated refused to have anything to do with a society which had behaved to us in such a manner.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Evesham, July 31st, 1898.

A. H. MARTIN.

* * There is no law, written or unwritten, to prevent Mr. Corke from putting his own value on his services. Perhaps Mr. Corke did not know the circumstances under which the vacancy occurred.—ED. L.

"PIPERIDINE AS A URIC ACID SOLVENT."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—We say in the conclusions which terminate our article in THE LANCET of July 23rd that the dose of piperidine tartrate is 15 gr. three times a day. We think it wiser, however, to state that we have for the most part employed it in 10 gr. doses as stated earlier in our paper and should suggest this as a dose for the commencement of treatment.

We have read with interest Dr. Luff's letter on "The Treatment of Gout by Piperidine" in THE LANCET of July 30th. We are afraid, however, that the differences between us, both with regard to technique and results, are too extensive to be adequately treated in letter form. We are perfectly acquainted with Dr. Luff's paper in THE LANCET of June 11th. It was not mentioned in our paper because although the latter only appeared on July 23rd it left our hands at the end of April. This later paper of Dr. Luff will be considered fully elsewhere.

We are unable to follow Dr. Luff's calculations. In THE LANCET of June 11th he says that in order to have a 0.1 per cent. solution of any drug in the blood 600 grains must be introduced into the circulation at once. If the figures in his letter of July 30th be calculated back it will be seen that he now says that 750 grains are necessary to produce this result. For our part the one statement is as extraordinary as the other. The blood in a man of average weight weighs about 5 kilos.¹ if 750 grains, that is, 50 grms., of any drug be introduced into the circulation at once the blood must contain 1 per cent. of it, not 0.1 per cent.; if 600 grains were introduced the amount would be 0.3 per

cent.—that is, about ten times the figure given by Dr. Luff. We made experiments with standard solvent exactly similar to the ones described, adding amounts of the respective drugs down to 0.01 per cent. In each case we found that the drug exerted a solvent action directly proportional to the results given in our table on p. 202 of THE LANCET of July 23rd, as also was the case in urine for uric acid and urinary sediments (pp. 200 and 201). When worked out this amounts to the fact that piperidine in 0.01 per cent. solution increases the solvent power of standard solvent for sodium biurate one and a half times.

With regard to the question of uric acid in bullock's serum. We maintain that our experiments show that this substance is contained in bullock's serum to the extent of 0.00029 per cent.; the manipulations to which we submitted the serum constituted not only a quantitative but a qualitative test for uric acid and rendered the murexide test unnecessary. The use of the murexide test would have cost us a certain quantity of serum and has already been applied with a positive result by Abeles. We are quite aware of the work of von Jaksch, Klemperer, and Sir Alfred Garrod. The consensus of opinion seems to us to be that there is uric acid in very small quantities in the blood of man and animals under normal conditions. This is stated in the following textbooks: Neumeister,² Hammarsten,³ and Schäfer,⁴ in addition to those mentioned in our original article.

We are, Sirs, yours faithfully,

F. W. TUNNICLIFFE.

Devonshire-street, W., Aug. 3rd, 1898.

OTTO ROSENHEIM.

"THE RECTAL INJECTION OF THE SERUMS."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In THE LANCET of July 30th, p. 279, a letter by Dr. J. E. O'Connor draws attention to the value of rectal injections in serum therapeutics, a plan evidently supposed to be original. A reference to the *Medical Digest and Appendix*, Section 886, 4, will enable those interested to obtain a large amount of information upon the subject, and in THE LANCET of Feb. 8th, 1896, p. 389, and of March 7th, 1896, p. 641, a paper published since the last issue of the *Medical Digest* enters fully into the subject.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

RICHARD NEALE, M.D. Lond.

Hampstead, N.W., Aug. 3rd, 1898.

"ON FAILURE OF BRAIN POWER."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I am well aware that in general critics must not be criticised, because if this were allowed it would often go very hard with them. At the same time, an author who finds his views materially misrepresented in a review of his book is unquestionably justified in protesting against palpably erroneous statements.

Such a one I find in the review of my book "On Failure of Brain Power" in THE LANCET of Aug. 6th, where I am credited with the opinion that the affection which I am discussing is due to *definite disease* of certain special areas of the brain. "Definite disease" is equivalent with "organic disease" or "structural lesion." Now I have been at particular pains in my book to show that no organic lesions occur in the affection under consideration, but that the malady is owing to the finer nutrition of the neurones of the brain being impaired through insufficient supply of blood and intracellular oxygen (p. 215). If my critic had used the word "disorder" instead of "disease" he would have more accurately represented my meaning.

I am really quite sorry to find he does not consider my teaching on the nature and treatment of the malady "well founded"; but surely an author must sometimes be a little in advance of his time, for why should otherwise books be written? I do not entertain the slightest doubt that in five or ten years time, if not sooner, my views on this subject will be generally accepted by the profession, as I find in practice every day fresh proofs for their correctness.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

JULIUS ALTHAUS, M.D. Berlin.

Queen Anne-street, Cavendish-square, W., Aug. 7th, 1898.

² Lehrbuch der Physiologischen Chemie, 1897, p. 587.

³ Ibid., 1895, p. 425.

⁴ Text-book of Physiology, page 160.

¹ Schäfer: Textbook of Physiology, p. 142.