the report is a death-rate of 1.41 per 1000 from "fever," including typhoid and simple or undefined fever. The report, on the whole, is to be commended for its excellent treatment of the varied statistics with which it deals.

THE SERVICES.

ADMIRALTY.—In accordance with the provisions of Her Majesty's Order in Council of April 1st, 1881, Staff Surgeon Alexander Flood has been allowed to withdraw from Her Majesty's Naval Service, with a gratuity.

The following appointments have been made: Fleet Surgeon R. Hay, to the *Eagle*; Fleet Surgeon W. D. Wodsworth, to the *Minotaur*; and Fleet Surgeon J. P. Courtney to the *Devastation*.

YEOMANRY CAVALRY.—Westmoreland and Cumberland: Thomas Drummond Sanderson, Gent., M.D., to be Surgeon.

ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS.—3rd Middlesex: Surgeon and Honorary Surgeon-Major E. G. Purcell, M.D., resigns his commission; also is permitted to retain his rank, and to continue to wear the uniform of the corps on his retirement.

RIFLE VOLUNTEERS.—2nd Cambridgeshire (Cambridge University): Surgeon E. Carver resigns his commission; also is granted the honorary rank of Surgeon-Major, and is permitted to continue to wear the uniform of the corps on his retirement.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE APOTHECARIES' SOCIETY AND THE CONJOINT SCHEME.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The Apothecaries' Society by its action under the present crisis is setting an example to all corporate bodies; it has sunk all private and selfish interests, and is appealing to its licentiates throughout the kingdom to express their opinions on the point at issue—whether to still endeavour to obtain its proper and legitimate position in the Conjoint Examining Board, or whether to obtain powers from the Privy Council to institute a complete examination entitling to practise in all branches. The Society has thus broken the ground in seeking counsel from its members, and the time is not far distant when the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons will have to do likewise. It seems preposterous that in the year 1886 an important question like the present, affecting the whole community, should be settled by a small sub-committee of the two Colleges, by men who have little in common with the general practitioner, and who know very little of the public requirements, but yet who, through their exalted position in the profession, have great power for good or evil. The time has now come when those in high places should hear the other side of the question from the general body of the profession, who on this particular subject are far more able to give a better opinion and sounder advice. Trusting that all members of the profession will shake off their apathy on this occasion (which I think they are doing, from the letters I am receiving), and join heart and soul in supporting the Society of Apothecaries during their present struggle,

I remain, Sir, yours truly,

Nov. 24th, 1886.

J. WICKHAM BARNES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I cannot say how pleased I was to read the letter of "L.S.A., &c.," in your last issue. He asks, "Is not an L.S.A. (*solus*) a practitioner of an inferior grade?" Inferior to what? I presume a surgeon. My answer is, "Certainly not." An apothecary, on historical grounds, is higher than a surgeon. I will try to prove this. If your correspondent will go to the British Museum, he will obtain access to a scarce and most interesting book entitled "Memorabilia," written by Mr. Wadd, surgeon to William IV. Let him turn to page 9. He will there read, "1617, Society of Apothecaries made independent of the Grocers." Let him turn to page 52, he will find, "Edward III. in the year 1461 granted the

Charter of Incorporation to Barber-Surgeons, and the barber and surgeon continued in the same firm for three centuries." Further, Mr. Pott, the eminent surgeon, after their separation, "being desirous of exercising his franchise, presented himself as a barber-surgeon liveryman. 'No, no,' said the scrutineer, 'you may still be a shaver, Mr. Pott, but you have not been a barber these five years.'" "Would heart of man e'er think it?" said Abernethy; "even I myself have doft my cap to barber-surgeons." That is to say, whereas the apothecaries repudiated the grocers as far back as 1617, the surgeons were associated with hairdressers and shavers till 1761.

The fact is the College of Physicians has made a blunder. They, to be consistent, should have said to the surgeons what they now say to the apothecaries: "Inasmuch as the examination conducted by the Royal College of Physicians of London, is a complete qualifying examination in medicine, surgery, and midwifery, conferring the right of registration under the Medical Act, ... a combination with the College of Surgeons is unnecessary." The proper persons to amalgamate with the apothecaries is, on historical grounds, the surgeons; and the physicians having created a precedent by an "unnecessary" combination with the surgeons, they can (and should) extend the same hand to the equally important apothecaries. In any case the "Hall" is master of the situation. They can exercise their undoubted rights of preventing physician and surgeons and unqualified persons from practising *pharmacy*—i.e., selling medicine to patients at a profit; and they can also refuse to protect the practices of persons who do not hold their licence from the incursions of quacks.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Nov. 18th, 1886.

"YE HUMBLE APOTHECARIE."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Looking at the important position that the Apothecaries' Society is likely to hold in the future as a separate examining body, would it not be a graceful act if in the year of Jubilee it promoted all its licentiates of ten or fifteen years' standing, upon payment of a nominal fee, to the degree of members? Such a step would not only give great satisfaction, but also prove a financial success. Hoping this suggestion may call forth the opinions of other licentiates,

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Nov. 1886.

L.S.A.

ASSOCIATION OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you allow us to state, in answer to inquiries which have been made, addressed to us in reference to the letter which you were good enough to publish in your columns of last week, that this Association has been formed for the purpose of advancing the interests and supporting the rights of the practitioner, and that in now taking steps to enlarge its organisation we are acting in no spirit hostile to any existing association, but desire to afford the practitioners a platform from which to maintain their own interests and those of the profession in relation to the great body of practitioners and their public and personal duties and rights. Among the work already in progress is the organisation of meetings to consider the course recently pursued by the Royal College of Surgeons and Royal College of Physicians in excluding the Apothecaries' Society from combination in the joint examining board for England and Wales; thus, without any consultation with their Members and Licentiates, creating under the Medical Act of 1886 a new and competing class of general practitioners, fully qualified as they will be under this Act by the Apothecaries' Society in medicine and surgery, and taking medical and surgical titles. Under any circumstances, it seems to us that in so momentous a matter, affecting deeply the interests of the whole body of general practitioners, they had a right to be consulted. We, in common we believe with the great body of the profession, feel that general practitioners ought no longer to be excluded from a voice in the management of their own affairs, but it is only by combination and force, which association gives, that they can assert those rights and give them effect. Self-help lies at the basis of independence, freedom, and just principles, and it is only by combination that general practitioners can relieve themselves from having their most

momentous interests dealt with by small and irresponsible councils, self-elected, or elected by some small constituency, of which the general practitioners, who form the immense majority of the profession, and who are the backbone, have no share. We should add that Mr. C. G. Wheelhouse of Leeds has consented to act as president, and that Dr. Alfred Carpenter (Croydon), Dr. Dolan (Halifax), Mr. Hugh Massey, Mr. George Ord (Brixton-hill), Mr. Wickham Barnes, Dr. Danford Thomas, Dr. Richard Paramore, Dr. Richard Neale, Mr. G. W. Crowe, Dr. Morris (Spalding), Mr. Gubb (London), Mr. Corner (Poplar), and Dr. Maurice Davis, are among the first members of council. It has not been thought advisable to complete the list of officers at this comparatively early stage of proceedings, but these names, among others, will afford adequate assurance that our objects and methods of proceeding will be guided by a single eye to the welfare of the profession.

We earnestly hope to be favoured by the personal adhesion of all who concur in these views.

We are, Sir, your obedient servants,

H. WALTER VERDON,
410, Brixton-road, S.W.

W. GIBSON BOTT,
414, Clapham-road, S.W.

Nov. 1886.

THE MICRO-ORGANISM OF BERI-BERI.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having read in the *Medical Press and Circular* of July 28th that Dr. Wallace Taylor, in Japan, has recently discovered in the blood of many sufferers from kakké, or beri-beri a micro-organism which he cultivated and inoculated, or administered internally, in monkeys, rabbits, rats, dogs, &c., producing in these animals the symptoms of kakké, and as it appears that these facts have been received as a novelty, I judge it my duty to recur to your journal to show that such facts, demonstrative of the cause of beri-beri, have already been produced by me in Brazil since 1883. I not only isolated the micro-organism from the blood of beri-beripatients, but cultivated it according to the methods of Koch and Pasteur, and, inoculating it in animals such as monkeys, rabbits, and guinea-pigs, I saw appear in these animals the symptoms of beri-beri, all dying after a greater or less time. Proceeding afterwards to a histological study of the viscera by the methods of colouring of Weigert and of Gram, I demonstrated the existence of the same micro-organisms in great quantities in the nerves, spinal medulla, heart, liver, spleen, and kidneys. In 1883 I published my first paper on the subject under the title of "Etiologia et Genesis de Beri-beri," which was the subject of a verbal communication to the Academy of Medicine of Paris by Dr. Jules Rochard, in the session of Jan. 29th, 1884. The *Journal d'Hygiène* of Paris of Feb. 7th, 1884, published a leading article on the subject of that communication, giving at the same time an analysis of my work. In order to continue my investigations on beri-beri, I shall start in a few days, at the head of an official commission, for the northern provinces of the empire—the principal centres of the disease in Brazil.

In presenting these facts and documents, Mr. Editor, I have only in view to save my right of priority in the discovery of the true cause of beri-beri.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. B. DE LACERDA,

Director of the Laboratory of Experimental Physiology
at the *Museo Nacional* of Rio de Janeiro.

Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 27th, 1886.

THE SANITARY SCIENCE CERTIFICATE AS AN ADDITIONAL REGISTRABLE QUALIFICATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I see the Medical Council have been occupied in discussing the desirability of having a uniform title for the certificate in Sanitary Science, so as to register the same as an additional qualification. I do not think their time was unprofitably spent in doing so. I think it is desirable to have some uniformity in registering this qualification, and would suggest that Sanitary Science Certificate is the most convenient and the most elegant form. Certificate in Public Health does not abbreviate so easily; and besides, we have already the first term in common use by the Cambridge Sanitary Science Certificate holders. For instance—S.Sc.C.

Camb.; S.Sc.C. R.C.P. Lond. or Edin., as the case may be; S.Sc.C. Fac. Glasg., or S.Sc.C. F.P.S. Glasg., and S.Sc.C. Durham. All these are much neater than Cert. Pub. Health Lond., or R.C.P. Lond., as the case may be. Then for the B.Sc. Edin. or Glasgow, you would have it as follows: B.Sc. Ed. (S.Sc.), or B.Sc. (S.Sc.) Edin. There would be no difficulty for the corporations to change their certificate from Public Health to one of Sanitary Science; and we have the additional advantage of the Cambridge men using this form for the last ten years.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

Wigan, Nov. 22nd, 1886.

WM. BERRY.

THE CHARTER OF CHARLES I.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It appears that some Members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England believe that they have a right to the collegiate electoral franchise under the provisions of the Charter granted by Charles I. in 1629 to the Company of Barbers and Surgeons, and that this right has since then been, and still is, unjustly withheld from them. From this reading of the Charter I entirely dissent. But the point is a purely legal one—for lawyers, and not for medical men, to decide upon. I would therefore suggest, as the most reasonable way of speedily and definitely settling this question, that those Members who believe that they are entitled to this right under the Charter of the 5th Charles I. should petition the Council of the College to take counsel's opinion on this point, or, better still, should institute a friendly suit against the College for the restitution of the alleged right.

I am, Sir, yours &c.,

Nov. 20th, 1886.

JOHN ERIC ERICHSEN.

THE DENTAL CURRICULUM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me in your pages to call the attention of all those interested in dental education to the recent decision of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, which materially affects the dental curriculum. At the last meeting of the Council it was resolved, on the recommendation of the Dental Board, that eighteen months of the three years' mechanical work required of candidates for the "L.D.S." may be taken before registration as dental students—i.e., before the preliminary examination has been passed. It, however, makes no change with regard to the four years' professional work required in the schedule, which must still be taken subsequently to registration. Under the old regulation the three years' mechanical work had to be taken subsequently to registration, and candidates who had through error done that work previously to passing the preliminary examination had to do it over again, but now one half of it will be recognised and the other half only has to be taken after registration. This is an important concession, and affects a large number of dental students, and will enable in the future those candidates who are unsuccessful at their "preliminary" to proceed with their apprenticeship during the time they are preparing themselves for re-examination.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

MORTON SMALE.

Dental Hospital, Leicester-square, Nov. 21st, 1886.

THE ENGLISH CONJOINT BOARD.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your editorial note to my letter in your issue of Nov. 13th, page 949, you say: "A student can pass his final examination in three years and a half after entering a medical school." The rules do not permit a student to enter for his second examination until he has spent eighteen months' professional study at a medical school; and these are sessional months, and take up two winter sessions of six months each, and two summer sessions of three months each, or, together, two educational years. These two years must elapse before the student can go up for his final examination, thus making four years' study at a medical school. This any student can do who goes direct to a London school at the commencement of his studies. We contend that a first year spent in work as dresser at a large provincial hospital, during which time he gets more practical work than four-fifths of the London dressers, is worthy of