Tolls.

22. The Poor-law medical officer, whilst on duty visiting pauper patients, to be free from tolls.

Assessed Taxes.

23. The Poor-law medical officer to be free of the taxes assessed on one horse, carriage, and man-servant.

Meat, Wine, &c.

24. The relieving officer and master of the workhouse to obey the directions of the medical officer in regard to diet for a sick patient, until ordered to the contrary by the board of guardians.

Wine, brandy, and gin to be kept at the workhouse, dispensary, or some other convenient place, and given out by the relieving officer, master of the workhouse, dispenser, or such other person as the guardians may direct.

All meat to be inspected by the relieving officer, or some other person to be named by the guardians, before given to the poor, and not to be given out for a longer period than three or four days at one time.

Medical Relief not to be a Disqualification.

25. Medical relief, if unaccompanied by other relief, not to be deemed parochial relief, &c.

Medical Disbursements whence Payable—Drugs.

26. Disbursements for medical relief to be paid in equal proportions out of the common fund of the union, and such moneys as may be provided by Parliament for the purpose. Poor-law Board to have the power to order the establishment of dispensaries, and, if they deem it expedient, provide drugs, and pay for them out of the moneys voted by Parliament towards medical disbursements. Guardians not carrying out this Act are not to participate in any Parliamentary grant.

Register of Diseases.

27. Relieving officer to affix a mark weekly, in red ink, against the names of all persons in the receipt of medical relief only.

Medical officers to give an account half-yearly to the clerk of the guardians of the number of deaths, number of cases of diphtheria, cholera, diarrhoea, continued fever, scarlet fever, measles, whooping-cough, small-pox, or any other disease which the Poor-law Board may deem it desirable to record.

Clerk of union to report these cases to the Poor-law Board. Poor-law Board to report them to Parliament.

Medical Secretary.

28. Poor-law Board to appoint a medical secretary, who shall be a registered medical man, and have been a Poor-law medical officer. His duty shall be to conduct the medical correspondence, prepare the medical report for Parliament, and adjudicate on all matters in reference to medical relief, subject to the confirmation of the Poor-law Board. His salary to be fixed by the Lord High Treasurer, or the Commissioners of the Treasury.

Officers of Health.

29. Where medical officers of health have not been appointed, the Poor-law medical officers shall be the medical officers of health for their respective districts, and receive such salaries from the Consolidated Fund or the poor's-rate as the Poor-law Board shall direct.

Superannuation Allowance.

30. On the resignation of a medical officer, after not less than ten years' service, from some infirmity of mind or body, which renders him incapable to discharge the duties of his office, the guardians shall pay him such a superannuation allowance as the Poor-law Board may direct, the said allowance to be not less in amount than one-third of the salary he was receiving at the time of his resignation. The allowance to be considered as a disbursement for medical relief.

Appointments Contrary to Regulation.

31. The Poor-law Board annually to lay before Parliament a list of all appointments made contrary to their rules and regulations, and state the reasons which have induced them to confirm the said appointments.

Duties of a Medical Officer.

32. The regulations are nearly similar to those now in force.

Vaccination Regulations.

33. These have not yet been laid before the Committee, but

are published in the pamphlet headed "Evidence, 1861," copies of which have been forwarded to all subscribers to the Association since 1861, and new subscribers shall have copies, so far as those in hand will permit.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE NEW ARMY MEDICAL WARRANT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The new Warrant, after all, leaves many evils undressed. It is all very well and good that the medical officers should not be allowed to be presidents of courts-martial; but then comes the order that they must not be presidents of committees, courts of inquiry, boards of survey, &c.

Now, that word "committee" opens the door to any future amount of unpleasantness and snubbing. We do not ask for command of any kind, but we are justified in asking for as powerful a voice in the mess and band arrangements of a regiment as any other officer of the same rank.

We pay the same subscription as other officers; why, therefore, should we be debarred from all influence in a matter purely social and not military? If we are not allowed to preside at mess-committees, why are we forced to pay the same subscription as other officers? Moreover, on boards of survey—such as coals, wood, linen, clothes, and other matters issued to the troops—a medical officer is surely as good a judge as a captain, or an officer of any other rank. When the exercise of actual command of men is required we do not wish to interfere; but when it is merely the result of individual opinion of officers, without reference to the men, then it is we say that officers of all denominations should take precedence according to relative rank.

Although mention is made in the Warrant of light, fuel, servants, quarters, &c., not a word is said about forage—a serious omission, which will give rise to endless bickerings. The medicals may not always require to have horses, but it is an appanage of rank, and, as such, should not be withheld.

We are deeply indebted to you, Sir, who, to a great extent, replace Sidney Herbert in the desire to see justice done to us, and the valuable aid you have afforded.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

March, 1863.

SURGEON-MAJOR.

VALUE OF ANTIMONY IN BRONCHITIS, ETC.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—We are indebted to Mr. Broke Gallwey for his successful case of tracheotomy, the particulars of which were given in your valuable journal of the 21st ult.; but when he says, "I consider we have so little proof of the beneficial tendency of loss of blood, of mercury, and of antimony in morbid conditions of the mucous membrane (aye, even of antimony in bronchitis), that I did not entertain the first of these at all in the sergeant's case, and only sanctioned the second, during the acute stage, in compliance with the orthodox notions of the day," I must wholly dissent from such an opinion with respect to antimony. Tartar emetic is one of the most powerful resources of the physician; its efficacy in inflammation of mucous membranes, and its pre eminent efficacy in the treatment of croup and laryngitis, are facts as fully established as any facts in medicine—yes, as certainly as the value of bark in ague; and no wonder that a practitioner should be "at sea" who denies all this. There are the most weighty objections possible to such an opinion as Mr. Gallwey's on the use of "antimony in morbid conditions of the mucous membrane," because, denying the most certain facts, it tends to mystify plain matters, to lead young practitioners in a wrong direction, and to introduce doubt and uncertainty where there actually exists every reason for confidence and hope. Of course it would be an easy thing to establish my position by a reference to the writings of the most accomplished and experienced physicians of the age, but I have no wish to trespass so long on your pages. All I shall add, in conclusion, is, that had an emetic of tartarized antimony been given in this case at the onset, followed by free doses of that invaluable medicine, I cannot question that the patient would have been instantly relieved, and the progress of the case might have been very much more favourable. It is a sound and established principle in practical medicine that in

all acute or serious affections of the throat or windpipe an emetic is the very first means to be employed, because it is almost invariably followed by great relief.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Epsom, April, 1863. THOS. J. GRAHAM, M.D.

THE LANCASHIRE DISTRESS MEDICAL FUND.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have directed Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co. to send you by this mail a bill of exchange for £40, which I will thank you to make use of as you think best in aid of the "Lancashire Distress Medical Fund," which you so nobly and liberally set on foot. I hope it may prove acceptable. I have collected it principally on the ground of the comfort and assistance such aid must afford to our hard-worked and much-tried medical brethren in the famine districts. Please to acknowledge it as follows:—

Collection in church at Ootacamund, by the Rev.			
W. B. Ottley, 170 rupees, or	£17	0	0
Collected from a few sympathizing friends, by			
Surgeon W. A. Leslie, 230 rupees, or	23	0	0
Total	£40	0	0

I would that we could do more to assist our brethren at home; but our service is not what it used to be, and it is with difficulty that we can save enough money to enable us to return to England after our seventeen years' service with anything like comfort.

Our fund (which was the great advantage of the service in former days) will be utterly unable to give off any extra annuities from time to time, as no new members are joining it. At present it takes about twenty-five years to get a small annuity, and about thirty-two years to get a large one. When the numbers given off are decreased,—as they must be if the income is decreased,—it is impossible to say how long it may take to get a large annuity; for my own part, I scarcely look forward to it at all.

I have troubled you with these remarks as you often kindly advocate our cause, and I dare say that from time to time you will continue to do so.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Coonoor, Madras Presidency, Feb. 1863. WALTER A. LESLIE,
Surgeon Madras Army, and Medical Officer,
Coonoor, Nielgherry-hills.

* * Since the above letter was received, another bill of exchange for £9 has been forwarded to us from the same gentleman.

Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MARCH 29TH, 1863.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION (IRELAND) BILL.

On the motion for the third reading of this Bill,

The Earl of BANDON proposed an amendment of which he had privately given notice to the noble earl opposite, the effect of which was to assimilate the machinery of registration in Ireland to that of England. It was said that if his amendment were carried the Bill would be lost, but he hoped their lordships would judge it upon its own merits.

The Earl of ST. GERMAN hoped that their lordships would not agree to the amendment.

The Earl of LEITRIM supported the amendment.

The Earl of DERBY thought that there might be an objection to limiting the choice of the guardians to dispensary surgeons, because in some cases, especially in large towns, those gentlemen might be too much occupied to be able efficiently to discharge the duties of the office of registrar. He would, however, suggest to his noble friend behind him that it would be as well he should not press his amendment, but that he should allow the Bill to pass as it had been agreed to in the House of Commons.

The amendment was then withdrawn, and the Bill passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MARCH 27TH, 1863.

THE CHATHAM MURDER.

Mr. BLAKE asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in the case of the convict Burton, now un-

der sentence of death at Maidstone Gaol for the murder of a child at Chatham Lines, an application was not made at the trial for the examination of the prisoner by Dr. Forbes Winslow, or some other physician of experience in insanity, and refused by the judge; and whether, taking into consideration the fact of Burton's mother being confined in a lunatic asylum, and his brother not being of sound mind, it was his intention to order such an examination to be now made? He was informed that the prisoner's counsel applied to the judge to order that the evidence of eminent medical men should be procured to show whether, when the prisoner committed the act, he was labouring under insanity or not. Mr. Justice Wightman, however, stated that he had no funds at his disposal for such a purpose. He trusted that the right hon. gentleman would satisfy himself whether this unhappy man was insane or not.

Sir G. GREY was not aware that any application had been made to the judge of the nature described by the hon. member. The defence of the prisoner was his alleged insanity. Evidence was adduced on the subject, and the judge laid down the law in accordance with the highest legal authorities. The jury, after full and patient consideration, were of opinion that the prisoner was morally responsible for his actions. In answer to the second question, he had to state that no facts had come under his notice which would justify such an examination.

DEARTH OF ARMY SURGEONS.

OUR witty contemporary *Punch* pungently expresses the views which have been put forth in these columns, in the following words. We commend *Mr. Punch's* observations to the attention of medical students, of whom he has always been the friend:—

"TO MEDICAL GENTS.—Wanted, a considerable number of Clever Young Snobs to compete for the Commission of Surgeon in the Army, for which there is at present, and has been for some time, an extreme Scarcity of Eligible Candidates, owing to the circumstance that men of education and ability sufficient to qualify them for the office, refuse to accept it, unless upon the impossible condition of being treated as gentlemen. All applicants must be Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons, and Doctors of Medicine who have received diplomas recognised under the Medical Registration Act. In addition to their professional qualifications, they must possess a capability of being continually and contentedly Snubbed, and patiently submitting to any amount of Insult. They will be required at the mess-table to occupy a position subordinate to that of every combatant officer, even the youngest Ensign, whose permission it will be necessary for them to ask for the purpose of giving the band or the attendants any kind of order. It will be necessary for them to be regardless of those petty annoyances unavoidably inflicted by junior officers on their inferiors in rank, but superiors in age and attainments. No Thin-Skinned Persons, endowed with any Self-Respect whatever, or animated in the least degree by the Feelings of a Gentleman, need apply. For further particulars inquiry may be made at Head Quarters.

"Horse Guards, March 25th, 1863.

"BY ORDER."

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.—At a general meeting of the Fellows held on the 30th ult., THOMAS WATSON, M.D. Cantab., was elected President of the College for the ensuing year.

At the same meeting, the following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examination, were duly admitted Members of the College:—

Crucknell, Henry Heanes, M.B., King's College Hospital.
Sturges, Octavius, M.B., 35, Connaught-square.
Williams, Henry Llewellyn, M.D., 9, Leonard-place, Kensington.

The following gentlemen passed the Preliminary Examination in the subjects of General Education on the 28th ult.:—

Bradford, Robert Mark, Exeter.
Branson, Walter, Worthing.
Cheesman, Henry, 2, Finsbury-square.
Churchill, Frederick, Backham-terrace, Lambeth.
Elliott, Arthur Bowes, Richmond, Yorkshire.
Hay, Richard, Bridport, Dorset.
Smith, Walter, Ringwood, Hants.
Winslow Lyttleton Stewart, Caius College, Cambridge.