has just been awarded to this gentleman, in addition to the half-pay of his rank. I am sure all who know him or have had the pleasure of serving under him, as I have done, will rejoice to hear it. It would be presumption on my part to suppose that my letter has had anything to do with this desirable result, or that my feeble voice and humble opinion have at all influenced the authorities in the matter; still I cannot help being much gratified that an act of injustice and apparent neglect, which I ventured to expose in your columns, has been so speedily redressed. I have only to add that it is surely high time that the present able Director-General was made a K.C.B. This honour would, doubtless, be more appreciated now than if conferred on his retirement from active service.

Those who know the value of this decoration and social distinction to the head of a great department will feel the force of this suggestion.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
Chesterfield, April 27th, 1871. JOHN ROSE, M.D.

GUNSHOT WOUNDS OF THE WAR.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have read with much interest Mr. Sandford Moore's remarks about the gunshot wounds of the late war, and have been much struck with his observations about the use of carbolic acid oil treatment as practised by the Prussian army surgeons.

The failure of the antiseptic treatment during the Franco-German war appears to have been caused by the inefficient way in which carbolic acid was used—that is, that the carbolic oil was not applied to gunshot wounds sufficiently early to ensure the beneficial results which experience leads to believe would have ensued had the application been made early, and even in a modified form, in accordance with Mr. Lister's recommendations.

This leads me now to draw attention to an easy and simple plan, by which, I think, all the advantages of the antiseptic system of treatment might be made available in the treatment of gunshot wounds in the event of our soldiers being engaged in active operations in the field.

In the present equipment of the British soldier a small bottle of Rangoon oil, for firelock purposes, forms a part; and I think were this oil carbolised, and the soldier instructed to wet the bandage—which also is a part of his equipment—and to apply it at once to his wounded limb, much good would result. A soldier would thus have at his command the very best application which the most experienced surgeon could apply, and at the same time have an oil which would equally suit him in paying attention to his rifle.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Richard Wolseley,
Glasgow, April 23rd, 1871. Surgeon, 5th Fusiliers.

OPERATIONS BY STUDENTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My attention has been drawn to the editorial notice contained in your impression of Saturday last in which attention is called to the fact that a dresser had performed an operation in the Guy's operating theatre before his fellow-students, and under the immediate eye of his teacher. You add also that such a proceeding was of some novelty. As the teacher referred to, I am anxious to assure you that all the members of the surgical staff at Guy's, for many years, have adopted the practice of allowing dressers to perform small operations under their supervision in the theatre, much to the advantage and appreciation of their dressers.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Finsbury-square, May 1st, 1871. THOMAS BRYANT.

ON BONE-SETTING.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I crave permission to tender my thanks to Mr. Prall for the assistance rendered to me by his valuable record of cases in which the movements practised by a bone-setter produced fatal mischief. I had heard of such cases as a matter of rumour, but had not previously been

able to obtain an authentic account of any particular instance. Mr. Prall's letter, therefore, fills a void that my own opportunities of observation had been unable to supply; and it fully bears out his conclusion (which, indeed, I myself had already laid down) that professional discrimination must be exercised in the selection of cases. I venture to think that it in no way diminishes the value of the treatment in the hands of an educated surgeon, who would know how to discover the existence of actual articular disease.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Upper Berkeley-street, May 3rd, 1871. WHARTON HOOD.

MANCHESTER MEDICO-ETHICAL ASSOCIATION AND MEDICAL REFORM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Your readers, and especially those of them who are members of the British Medical Association, will be interested to learn that our letter to the editor of the *Journal* of the Association, expressing the sense of our Committee on the question of medical reform, was so exceedingly unpalatable that we have not been able to obtain its insertion even as an advertisement. Such an abuse of editorial prerogative for the suppression of opinion tells its own tale so plainly that comment is needless.—We are, Sir, yours, &c.,

JAMES HARDIE, } Hon. Secs.
C. H. BRADDON, }

May 1st, 1871.

IRELAND.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

SMALL-POX IN IRELAND.

In Belfast, for the week ending April 22nd, there were 21 cases of small-pox under treatment in the Belfast Union Hospital, three having been admitted that week; one case proved fatal. Of the three fresh cases, two were brought by a vessel plying between Rotterdam and Belfast.

In Dalkey, near Dublin, a fatal case lately occurred, in a gentleman who had contracted the affection whilst stopping in Belfast.

In Dublin, in the Registrar-General's Report for the 22nd of April, two deaths are registered as taking place from small-pox; one of these, however, turns out on examination to have been a case of chicken-pox.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

In addition to Dr. Darby and Mr. Kirkpatrick, whom several weeks ago I mentioned as candidates for the vice-presidency of the College, another name must now be mentioned—namely, that of Dr. Mapother, surgeon to St. Vincent's Hospital, who has announced his intention to come forward and contest the vice-chair. I believe that Dr. Darby, if he lived in Dublin, would be successful, but the Fellows of the College have an objection, for more reasons than one, to choosing a provincial president. I therefore look on the contest as uncertain, unless another candidate offers himself in the meanwhile, who would be put forward by the general voice of the profession.

SECRETARY TO THE DUBLIN HOSPITAL BOARD.

This appointment, in the gift of the Government, worth £150 a year, with only nominal duties, has now become vacant by the resignation of Dr. Phelan. There are several members of our profession in the field, but in an appointment of this sort of course the merit of the candidates is a matter of perfect indifference, whilst their political interest and religious opinions will be the criteria by which each will be judged. I may, however, state that our city member, Mr. Jonathan Pim, one of the board, is strongly antagonistic to any appointment being made, as he does not consider that the vacancy should be filled up.

LUNACY REGULATION BILL.

Owing to the determined opposition of Sir D. Corrigan, the clause compelling medical practitioners to certify in cases of lunacy without any compensation has been withdrawn by the Lord Chancellor; consequently it will be no longer possible for the Government to thrust unpaid duties upon the medical profession in this country without protest.

Dublin, May 2nd, 1871.