than a map of the world, marked with the different diseases peculiar to their various localities. In the expedition up the Niger, no dysentery was found to exist, although fever prevailed much; but months afterwards, dysenteric attacks came on in the fever patients. He (Dr. M'William) thought that the phrase "epidemic state of the atmosphere," or even "marsh miasm," had done much harm by arresting inquiry, especially hygrometrical surveys, &c. He did not mean to say that such terms were right or wrong, but he thought they served to prevent experiments, which, if constantly repeated in all parts of the world, might do much towards discovering the causes of epidemic diseases generally.

Dr. LEWIS said surely that after such a statement of melancholy facts as Dr. Bryson had read, the Government were morally responsible for not taking the advice of the very able medical authorities, both military and naval, respecting climate, clothing, and food of the soldier, &c. More of our best troops were destroyed by diseases, and by being badly accoutred, overloaded by knapsacks, &c., even now at the Cape, than from the bullets of the Caffres.

Dr. SIBSON hoped that this Society would map out the habitat of all diseases. He trusted that he might be allowed to explain that Sydenham, in using and giving us the phrase "epidemic constitution of the atmosphere," only meant, that when one particular disease was more prevalent than others, it gave to them its peculiar type. He should much like to know why dysentery should be so peculiarly a disease of camps, independent of climate almost, at the summer and autumnal seasons, in such assemblies. He hoped that something would be done by Government to clear up these matters, and to remedy them, if possible.

Dr. MILROY knew of no means so good as the publication of the valuable details sent by the medical officers of the army and navy to the Government; these ought to be published annually, and not kept hidden in the offices for years. He did hope that the Society would represent this to the proper authorities; he believed that all these valuable documents could be published at an expense of about £300 or £400 per annum.

Dr. JAMES BIRD said, that from his experience in India, he would draw the following inferences: 1st. That the men had bad food. 2nd. That they drunk hard; were exposed to great vicissitudes of temperature between night and day. 3rd. That the nature of the individual did much towards modifying the disease; for instance, a nervous, delicate man would have fever, a strong one would have dysentery—nature's effort, through the aggregated and solitary glands of the intestines, to expel the disease. So much did dysentery prevail at one station in India where he was four years, that Government were compelled to abandon it, although well adapted for the men in every other respect, buildings, &c.

Dr. BEATTIE remarked, that in 1824 and 1825, it fell to his lot, while serving with the naval and military forces at Arrakan, in India, to witness the intractable and fatal nature of a disease exactly similar to that so well described by Dr. Bryson as having prevailed during the campaign on the coast of China. The mortality at Arrakan was most melancholy. In the light infantry regiment, of which he had medical charge, (a native corps,) 280 men died the three months of August, September, and October; nor was it possible to do anything satisfactory for the relief of the sick, so long as the regiment remained surrounded by the sources of the pestilence. From the observation and experience he then had, he (Dr. Beattie) came to the conclusion that the fever and dysentery did not depend on any one cause, but on a combination of several—such as exposure to the influence of great heat during the daytime, and damp, chilly air at night, tainted by emanations from swamps, jungles, and animal and vegetable matter in a state of putrefaction, which had been exposed to the powerful influence of a tropical sun during the daytime; profuse perspiration during the day, checked during the chilly nights; improper clothing, bad water, inaction, and languor of spirits, &c. These he (Dr. Beattie) believed to be the causes of the fatal disease. Dr. Bryson had alluded to a state of inaction predisposing soldiers and sailors for the reception of disease. Of this there can be no doubt, there are so very many examples confirming the fact. During the Burmese war at Arrakan, there was but little sickness while the troops were actively engaged; but so soon as the town and country were taken, and the men were encamped, and had nothing of an exciting nature to do, fever and dysentery spread among them to a dreadful extent. A like effect took place at Athens during the second Peloponnesian war, so well described by Thucydides; and Prince Eugene, in his campaign in the beginning of the seventeenth century, was so well aware of the fact, that he was in the habit of exercising his men and horses within the camp, to preserve their health, when he could not carry on active operations against the enemy; and it would be

well if our modern generals, whether in camp or in garrison, would act in like manner.

Dr. SNOW would throw out a hint as to the communicability of the disease. He once saw a man have dysentery, who slept with his child in the same bed. This last had scarlet fever; after which it was attacked with dysentery. He merely put it before the Society as a curious coincidence.

Dr. BRYSON, in reply, said that the question for inquiry was the reason for the remarkable fact, that dysentery should prevail so much in the Chinese rivers, and so little, for instance, in the Niger. Did the filthy state of the former, the enormous use of human excrement there for manure, make the difference? Did the virgin state of the soil up the Niger conduce to fever? These were points thrown out for the consideration of the Society, and which could only be decided by the collection of a vast amount of experience.

After a vote of thanks to Dr. Bryson, it was announced that Dr. Gordon Latham would read a paper upon the Epidemics of the Second and Third Centuries, at the next meeting.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE ANALYTICAL SANITARY COMMISSION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—For the strictures contained from time to time in your widely circulated journal, upon the subject of adulterations of articles of food, &c., you are entitled to the deepest national gratitude.

One only regret has occurred to me in the perusal of those admirable and useful essays. It is, that in recording the fact of the existence of obnoxious principles in the staple commodities of life, it is impossible to distinguish, on the one hand, between the actual perpetrators of the villanies thus practised and the mere dispensers of the products of their cupidity; and, on the other hand, between the enlightened and intentional, and the more innocent but careless compounders of poisonous viands and condiments.

To these remarks I am more particularly led by the perusal of your article upon "Pickles and their Adulterations," especially as my attention had been almost simultaneously attracted to the means of preventing the *accidental* occurrence of such fearful realities.

There cannot exist a doubt upon the minds of intelligent persons that, even with the most carefully conducted manipulations, there is always a certain amount of risk of the formation of a cupreous salt when acids are boiled or otherwise treated in vessels of copper; it is also equally well known that all salts of this metal are poisonous—the injurious nature of pickles so prepared being, therefore, only a question of degree, according to the amount of care exercised by the manufacturer. Hitherto, I believe, the great difficulty has been to obtain an unexceptionable substitute for copper in the construction of boilers and pans—a difficulty which could hardly be considered fairly surmounted until the introduction of the utensils manufactured by Messrs. Selby and Johns, of Birmingham, under Paris's patent. These consist of iron vessels, of any required form, coated completely, internally and externally, with glass, some presenting a beautiful coloured vitreous appearance within. The glass, as I have incontestably proved by a series of carefully conducted experiments, resists the action of a very intense heat, many degrees higher than required in any culinary process, and is perfectly unaffected by contact with all vegetable acids, amongst which the acetic acid acts the most important part in the preparation of pickles.

Whilst to confectioners and manufacturers of pickles this ware peculiarly recommends itself by this feature, it may be further referred to as possessing the desiderata of excessive cheapness, durability, and cleanliness, a conductivity inferior to any metal, and non-action upon colours. In domestic economy, vessels of this construction will doubtless, ere long, supply the place of many of those which now adorn the well-appointed kitchen.

Your accredited character for fair play will, I am sure, permit me to add one word in exoneration of even those amongst whom a less justifiable excuse than ignorance or carelessness must be made for the cupreous re-action, in reply to your tests upon the late occasion.

Whilst the public demand a regard to appearance as well as taste or flavour, it cannot be a matter of surprise that manufacturers should seek to gratify this sense. In the instance of pickles, it is consulted to a degree sufficient for the most

fastidious. With the vast majority of purchasers of pickles, viridity is *the* criterion of merit, and every means, legitimate or otherwise, is employed to secure this object. The question remains, how can this appearance be permanently communicated without an appeal to the mineral kingdom, by the employment of halfpence, bell-metal, or verdigris, or the not less questionable auxiliary, the copper pan? To this subject I shall be glad, with your permission, to return hereafter.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
W. WHITE,
Consulting-Chemist.
Strand, Feb. 1852.

THE CASE OF MRS. CUMMING.
To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My attention having been drawn to a statement in THE LANCET, published on the 14th inst., in which you, on the authority of Mr. James's speech, describe my proceedings against Mrs. Cumming as a false accusation, will you allow me to state that I had the opinion of an eminent counsel that perjury had been committed by Mrs. Cumming in the denial of my employment as her agent, and also that there had been a subornation of perjury, in the affidavit of such statement. I had no course left open to me but to take proceedings; and although I was desirous that Mr. Haynes should have a fair trial by a jury of his country, yet I discontinued the same at the urgent request and solicitation of Mrs. Cumming's family, whose feelings I did not desire to wound. Mr. Haynes could not be reached without proceeding against Mrs. Cumming for the principal charge, or I should most certainly have gone on with my indictment against him.

May I request of you to give this explanation in your next number, as the statement to which I have referred amounts to an accusation against me of having improperly taken proceedings against Mrs. Cumming.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
EBENEZER JONES, of Abergavenny.
Castle Hotel, Falcon-square, Feb. 1852.

THE HYSTEROTOME.
To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you do me the favour to insert in the next number of your journal the following letter from Dr. Scott?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ROBERT LEE.
February 10th, 1852.

13, Stratton-street, February 9th, 1852.
DEAR DR. LEE,—I am sure you will be gratified to hear that the twelve *Hysterotomes* which were reported to you to have been sent to India in 1850, are the only set which have been demanded by the medical authorities or sanctioned by me. If any further demand had been forwarded, I should have replied, *not approved*, in consequence of the very kind and friendly manner in which you communicated your abhorrence of the instrument to me.

Yours most sincerely,
JOHN SCOTT.
To Robert Lee, M.D.

BATTLE AT LAGOS.—NOBLE CONDUCT OF ASSISTANT-SURGEONS IN THE NAVY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the following extract from the official dispatch of Commodore Bruce, respecting the late severe affair on the African coast, (in which twenty-five or thirty of our men were killed,) is another testimony, not only to the personal devotion and bravery of our brethren in the service, but also to the duties which that service requires of them, and of the estimation in which they are held by "their brave companions in arms."

"Penelope, off Lagos, Jan. 2nd, 1852.
" * * * * * Nothing could exceed the devotion of the officers of the medical staff to the exigencies of the day: Mr. Richard Carpenter, surgeon, Mr. Walling and Mr. Sproule, assistant-surgeons, of this ship; Dr. Barclay, acting surgeon of the *Sealark*; and Mr. Morgan and Mr. Pendrith, assistant-surgeons of the *Sampson*. Wherever a man was struck in the boats, a medical officer was immediately by his side, setting their own lives at nought when compared with the wants of their brave companions in arms. Mr. Walling and Mr. Sproule landed at the charge with their comrades under Captain Lyster. * * *

"R. W. BRUCE,
"Commodore, and Commander-in-Chief."
And these are the men, and these their functions, so long

deemed unworthy of military rank and honours, and to rescue whom from the insults and degradation they received from the Board of Admiralty, the House of Commons was at length obliged to interfere, but whose order is even now pertinaciously evaded and resisted by that board! Shame! Shame on it!

Yours obediently,
Trinity-square, Feb. 17th, 1852. H. I. FOTHERBY, M.B.

MEETINGS OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETIES IN LONDON DURING THE ENSUING WEEK.

NOTE.—When the day of the month is not specified, no meetings take place.

Societies.	—	Days of Meeting.
Epidemiological, 53, Berners-street	Mon. 8½ P.M.	Feb. 24
Chemical, 5, Cavendish-square.....	Mon. 8 P.M.	
Medico-Botanical, 32, Sackville-st.	Tuesday.	
Medico-Chirurgical, 53, Berners-st.	Tues. 8½ P.M.	
Pathological, 33, George-street, } Hanover-square.....	Tues. 8 P.M.	" 28
Hunterian, 4, Bloomfield-street, } Finsbury.....	Wed. 8 P.M.	
Pharmaceutical, 17, Bloomsbury-sq.	Wed. 9 P.M.	
Harveian, 64, Edgware-road.....	Thurs. 8 P.M.	
Western Medical and Surgical, } 44, Sloane-street.....	Fri. 8 P.M.	
Medical Society of London, 32A, } George-street Hanover-square }	Sat. 8 P.M.	

Medical News.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on

Thursday, Feb. 12th, 1852.
BIGGS, JAMES STRANGE, Devizes, Wilts.
BURMAN, WILLIAM MAXWELL, Wath-upon-Dearne.
SPENDER, JOHN KENT, Bath.

NEW MEDICAL COLLEGE.—It affords us much pleasure to state that the *first* sermon in aid of the funds of the College was preached on Sunday last, at St. Mary's, Brompton, by the Rev. J. Swale, the Incumbent, and that the proceeds resulting therefrom were highly satisfactory. The eloquent manner in which the reverend gentleman spoke of the claim which the profession had upon the public, and the very able way that claim was substantiated, showed him to be well acquainted with the public services of medical men. Other sermons, we are informed, will follow in quick succession; and now that an opportunity is afforded the public to testify their acknowledgments to the profession, it is hoped that medical men will not hesitate to exercise their influence, and induce parties to contribute towards the funds of an institution which is every way deserving of public support.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FEB. 12.—Sir William Jolliffe moved for a select committee to inquire into the contracts for the supply of preserved meats to the Royal Navy in the years from 1847 to 1852; and in doing so, took occasion to recapitulate the facts, which proved a considerable portion of these meats unfit for food, and which, of late, have obtained to much notoriety.—Mr. Jacob Bell obtained leave to bring in a Bill to regulate the qualifications of pharmaceutical chemists.

NAVAL APPOINTMENTS.—Mr. David Lyall, M.D., has been appointed to H.M.S. *Assistance*, and Mr. W. T. Donville, M.D., has been promoted from Greenwich Hospital to the *Resolute*; Frederick M. Rayner (1851), surgeon, to the *Herald*; A. McDonald (1841), assistant-surgeon, to the *Torch*.

FREE CANCER HOSPITAL.—The generous proposition of Mrs. Wolrige, of Reading, to give fifty guineas to the funds of this hospital, on or before the 31st of March next, provided that nineteen others would do the like, has been most kindly and promptly responded to by nine benevolent persons; and thus half of the proposed amount has been realized. We therefore sincerely trust that the sympathizing public will rally round this noble-minded lady, and assist in carrying out her philanthropic intentions. There are upwards of 100 cases in the hospital of the most distressing nature, and more than three-fourths are female sufferers.—*Advertiser*.