sporadic cases at Lucknow and Allahabad, the European Army is free from that disease.

Alfred Allen, M.D., has been appointed Acting Surgeon to the 1st Lincolnshire Corps of Light Horse, Volunteers.

ADMIRALTY.—The following appointments have been made:—Fleet-Surgeon W. A. Lloyd, M.D., to the *Nankin*; Fleet-Surgeon D. O'Connor, and Surgeons A. R. Joyce and J. A. McAdam, to the *Superb*; Fleet-Surgeon J. F. Mitchell to the *Lord Warden*; Staff-Surgeon S. Sweetman to the *P. Night*; Staff-Surgeon J. D. A. Harvey to the *Royal Adelaide*; Surgeon J. Jennings to the *Asia*; Surgeon H. M. Levinge, M.B., to the *Belleisle*; Surgeon F. R. Loftie to the *Hercules*; Surgeon W. M. Long to the *Agincourt*, additional; Surgeon D. B. Bookey to the *Cambridge*; Surgeon John Hunter to the *Flamingo*; Surgeon A. W. Russell to the *Zephyr*; J. A. Spencer to be surgeon and agent at Rutland, Arranmore, Cruit, and Cruit Head.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

CHIAN TURPENTINE IN CANCER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Professor Clay tells us, in your number of last Saturday, that he "feels justified in stating that uterine cancer may be removed by Chian turpentine."

In THE LANCET of the 19th of June I wrote, that having treated eight cases with Chian turpentine, I had found no effect whatever from its use. In the article of Saturday Mr. Clay has thus alluded to some of the cases to which I referred. He says: "In an institution in this town the impure drug was first used, when, after a trial of the pure drug for about three weeks, letters appeared in a medical journal, declaring that the remedy was of no benefit in the treatment of cancer." Mr. Clay infers, therefore, that sufficient time had not elapsed for the admittedly pure drug to have produced any well-marked beneficial result.

That the professor is wrong in his facts with regard to the turpentine used in the Women's Hospital by my colleagues and myself, the subjoined letter from Mr. Lawson Tait, will, I think, abundantly prove. But for the sake of argument, admitting him to be right, allow me to remark that in the only four cases of which he had given any detailed account, and upon which his advocacy of the remedy seems (see THE LANCET, March 28th) to be chiefly based, most clearly marked and surprising results were recorded as having been observed in an even shorter period.

His first case was one of "scirrhus of the cervix and body of the uterus, in which hæmorrhage was excessive, pain of the back and abdomen agonising, and the uterus was so extensively destroyed by the cancerous ulceration that its cavity readily admitted three fingers." Mr. Clay tells us that in four days "she was greatly relieved from pain, the os was quite contracted, and would scarcely admit the finger, and the surrounding swelling or cancerous infiltration of the cervix much reduced."

In his second case, in which "the os and cervix were enlarged from carcinoma, to the size of a hen's egg, the os dilated, and the cavity of the cervix filled with epithelial growths, sacral pain severe, and hæmorrhage had been continuous for six weeks." On the seventh day "the pain was entirely relieved, the hæmorrhage stopped, and the patient in excellent spirits." The turpentine acted upon the growth with great vigour in this case, "literally melting it away in four or five weeks."

The third case, one of epithelioma of os, cervix, and body, in a woman of fifty-two. "The mass larger than a cricket-ball, almost filling the vagina." On the fourteenth day "the swelling of the os and cervix was diminished, and the tumour, rough and shrunken, did not project so much."

In the fourth case, an epithelial cancer, "the size of a goose's egg,"—"so rapidly diminished that by the sixteenth day it had almost entirely disappeared."

Now, Sir, with these results before me—results utterly unequalled in the annals of therapeutics—results well-marked, definite, and unequivocal—and all in sixteen days, I may be excused for feeling sorely disappointed when the

same drug, the same formula, and under (as far as possible) the same conditions, I found my own results simply negative. However, I have up to this time deliberately and conscientiously persevered in the use of the drug, and I have now a large number of patients who are taking it. My cases, which have all been open to the observation of my colleagues, include the three classes referred to by Mr. Clay, "scirrhus," "epithelioma," and "ulceration after previous operation." I grieve to have to say that in no case has there been relief of pain, suppression of hæmorrhage, or diminution of the diseased tissues. In short, I may repeat emphatically the conclusion expressed in my letter of June 19th, that "in no case has the progress of the cancer been checked or in any way affected by the use of Chian turpentine."

In conclusion, let me add that although I have inquired carefully as to the effect of the treatment in the hands of others, I can hear of no successful case, except the one published in THE LANCET of July 3rd, by Dr. Drury, who, however, in answer to my questions this week, writes that his patient is dead "having succumbed to a dysenteric attack." Dr. Drury offers no hypothesis as to the causation of the "dysenteric attack," but expresses himself "quite satisfied with Chian turpentine." I am not! Now, Sir, the utter discrepancy between Mr. Clay's results and my own is so remarkable, that I am willing to believe that it must be due to some circumstances which, in spite of all my care, have been overlooked; I shall therefore be glad if he will allow me to place a case or cases entirely and completely under his management, in order that all possible sources of fallacy may be excluded! Or, on the other hand, I, or one of my colleagues, will, with his permission, watch any of the many cases now under his care in the Queen's Hospital.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. HICKINBOTHAM.

DEAR HICKINBOTHAM,—In answer to your inquiry I may say that I have, both in hospital and in private practice, been consulted in quite a number of cases, nearly approaching twelve, which have been under Mr. Clay's treatment by Chian turpentine, and in Mr. Clay's own hands, without in any instance benefit of any kind having been derived. These include cancer of breast, vulva, rectum, and uterus. Besides these, I have, as you know, tried the drug in a large number of hospital cases, many of which you have seen, without in any instance having observed benefit of any kind from it, not even the relief of pain, in a single instance.

The drug used had been approved by Mr. Clay, having been submitted to him by Messrs. Southall; and it is not true, as stated by Mr. Clay, that the right drug had been used for only three weeks. The sample first supplied, and which had not been submitted to Mr. Clay, was hardly used at all, for most of it was wasted in futile efforts to make the sulphur pills.

Yours truly,

LAWSON TAIT.

Great Charles-street, Birmingham, Oct. 4th, 1880.

THE IMMEDIATE TREATMENT OF STRICTURE OF THE URETHRA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As bearing upon the discussion that is now taking place in your columns on Holt's operation for stricture by divulsion, permit me to quote the following paragraph from a lecture of mine, published over two years ago:—"I have practised this operation (Holt's) on something like seventy cases. I never met with any difficulty in performing the operation; I have never had a fatal result; it has never been followed by serious hæmorrhage or other distress, such as extravasation of urine; and though I cannot speak as to the ultimate result in anything like the majority of my cases, I know of many patients upon whom I operated eight and ten years ago who are living in complete comfort and, to all intents and purposes, are rid of those urgent symptoms which necessitated this mode of treatment."

Since this was published I have increased the number of my cases thus operated on to over one hundred, my conclusions remaining the same.

I therefore regret that I cannot agree with Sir Henry Thompson and other speakers at the Cambridge meeting in their estimate of this plan of treating strictures.

The large number of bad cases of stricture presenting