sence of any well-defined or scientific course to be adopted pending the arrival of that stage when the cervix uteri will admit of the introduction of the hand for the purpose of effecting delivery. But before this stage the woman may perish.

We are, therefore, pleased to learn, that the question of the treatment of placenta prævia is shortly to be formally brought under the discussion of the profession, at the London Medical Society, by Dr. Barnes, whose well-known researches in placental pathology so well entitle him to be heard upon this subject.

TESTIMONIAL TO SURGEONS IN THE CRIMEA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As I think the medical profession will be gratified to know of the handsome conduct of the French towards one of our medical officers, I enclose copies of a letter and accompanying documents received from Mr. Wyatt, senior assistant-surgeon of the Coldstream Guards. It seems to me very desirable that the profession and the public should know, that though the services of our medical brethren in the Crimea are ignored and neglected by our own authorities, they are readily appreciated and acknowledged by our gallant and more generous allies. Wishing to publish this, while the interest about the terrible explosion is yet fresh in the public mind, I do not await the permission of my friend—the last man on earth to sound his own praises.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Harley-street, December, 1855. HENRY HANCOCK.

Camp, November 18th, 1855.

MY DEAR HANCOCK,—As I know it always gives you great pleasure to hear of anything gratifying to me, I write to tell you of a circumstance which has occurred to me, showing the generous feeling which actuates the French army with reference to the services of medical officers. The papers will have detailed to you the facts of the terrible and disastrous explosion which occurred in the French camp on the 15th. Being convinced that many casualties must have occurred to those who were in the vicinity of the explosion, which I knew was near the large ambulance where some hundreds of French sick were then under treatment, I mounted my horse and rode on to the front, and, with Mr. Trotter, made our way to the French ambulance of the Second Division, and offered our services, as the wounded were being brought in in litters. I happened to have a previous acquaintance with the “Médecin en Chef,” who availed himself gladly of any assistance at hand, and we had the pleasure of rendering some little service. The more pressing duties being over, we were invited to partake of their dinner, which we accepted, but from the violent succussion of the whole buildings all the crockery had been broke, and, worse still, the dinner savoured strongly of gunpowder; however, the remarks on all sides expressed *Ce n'est que la guerre*, and an additional bottle of Médoc appeased all. We returned to camp about ten P.M., feeling contented that we had gone to the help of our generous-hearted allies, and thought no more about it. However, yesterday, I received the enclosed communication from Dr. Hall, with the accompanying handsome tribute of thanks from the French head-quarters, which had been forwarded through our Commander-in-Chief. I am sure you will agree with me, that if the English Government were accustomed to estimate the medical profession in the army as the French do, there would not be the dissatisfaction that now pervades the ranks of the army medical officers. Kind regards.—Believe me, yours truly,

JOHN WYATT.

Head Quarters, Camp, Crimea, November 17th, 1855.

SIR,—By the Commander-in-Chief's desire, I have the honour to forward the enclosed letter of thanks from the Intendant Général of the French army, to you and Mr. Trotter, for your aid to the French wounded on the 15th instant. And in doing so, I beg to express to you and Mr. Trotter the pleasure it gives me to be made the medium of communicating this gratifying tribute to your professional zeal and humanity.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

J. HALL,

John Wyatt, Esq., Assist.-Surgeon,
Coldstream Guards.

Inspector-General of Hospitals.

Grand Quartier Général, le 16 Novembre, 1855.

MON GENERAL,—M. l'Intendant du deuxième corps d'armée me rend compte, qu'à la suite de l'explosion du magasin à poudre du parc d'artillerie, qui a eu lieu le 15 de ce mois, Messieurs John Wyatt et John William Trotter, médecins dans l'armée Anglaise, sont venus offrir avec empressement leurs soins à nos blessés. Je suis heureux, mon Général, d'avoir à porter à votre connaissance la conduite honorable de ces officiers de santé, et j'ai l'honneur de vous prier, de vouloir bien leur transmettre mes sincères remerciements. Ce juste témoignage de gratitude aura pour eux bien plus de prix, en passant par votre intermédiaire.

Je suis, avec respect, mon Général,

Votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

L'INTENDANT GENERAL DE L'ARMÉE FRANÇAISE.

A Monsieur le Général en Chef
de l'Armée Anglaise.

REMUNERATION OF MEDICAL OFFICERS IN THE EAST INDIA COMPANY'S SERVICE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Considerable misapprehension existing as to the pay and allowances of medical officers in the service of the East India Company, I beg to offer trustworthy information on the subject.

The pay and allowances of an assistant-surgeon during the first two years of service are, free of all deductions, as nearly as possible, at a full batta station, £245; at a half batta station, £209 per annum. After the expiration of two years of service—sometimes earlier, sometimes later—the assistant-surgeon is appointed to the charge of a native regiment, when his pay and allowances, free of deductions, are, at a full batta station, £450; at a half batta station, £414. Promotion to the rank of full surgeon occurs at the expiration of thirteen years' service as an assistant. The pay and allowances of a full surgeon, free of deductions, are, at a full batta station, about £774; at a half batta station, about £721 per annum.

Subscription to the funds, which is deducted monthly by the paymaster, is, in fact, a compulsory insurance—for the benefit of the officer's widow and orphans in the event of his death; for himself in the event of ill-health rendering necessary a return to England, as well as providing him an annuity of £300 at the expiration of twenty-two years' service. After fifteen years' service in India, the medical officer can, under the new furlough regulations, return permanently to England on a pension of £190, increased in eight years by the annuity from the fund (provided that he has continued his subscription) to £490.

I wish it to be understood that what I have stated above is to be looked upon as the minimum that a medical officer is likely to receive. Additional charges, such as those of a gaol, of the brigade or division staff, of commissariat and ordnance establishments, entitle the medical officer holding them to additional pay. In corroboration of my statement, I may mention that the senior assistant-surgeon at this station (of five years' service) is at present receiving, free of all deductions, pay and allowances equal to £790 per annum. Life in India is undoubtedly *monotonous*, but to a man of simple tastes and studious habits may not be an undesirable mode of existence.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

Bengal, Sept. 22nd, 1855.

A BENGAL ASSISTANT-SURGEON.

THE ASSISTANT-SURGEONS' PETITION

THE following is the reply of Lord Panmure to the late memorial of the army assistant-surgeons in the Crimea:—

[COPY.]

War Department, Oct. 30.

SIR,—I am desired by Lord Panmure to convey to you his Lordship's views on the memorial recently submitted by the assistant-surgeons of the army in the Crimea, and to request that you will adopt such measures as you may see fit, to cause these views to be made known to the memorialists.

Lord Panmure cannot but remark that very few of the signatures attached to the memorial represent individuals who have had more than two and a quarter years' experience in the service—a large proportion much less time—when they thus combined to criticise its alleged defects, and suggest