

THE GUARD-ROOM AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

WE rejoice to find that great improvements are in progress at the guard-room at Buckingham Palace. In consequence of representations made last year, proposals were submitted in the estimates for new windows to give light and air, new Galton's stoves, a plentiful introduction of ventilators, and a new cooking apparatus, all of which were sanctioned by the War Office, and confirmed by Parliament. The improvements have been nearly completed. Unfortunately, however, we have to relate an instance of the weakness and want of harmony in our Government, which we hope will attract the attention of Lord Garlies, who has already manifested interest in the question now in hand. It appears that, whilst the interior of the guard-room is under the authority of the War Department, the exterior is under the exclusive control of the Board of Works. No sooner were the necessary windows inserted in place of the wretched ventilators which previously existed than a complaint was made by the Board of Works that the new windows were a disfigurement to the architectural appearance of the Palace; and, spite of all attempts to meet the difficulty, peremptory orders have been issued to compel the War Office to restore the *status quo*. This is the more sad in the case of the sergeant's rooms, because, although permission has been given to insert ventilators, one, at least, is not really fit for human habitation without a window. It is thus that the health and comfort of our soldiers are sacrificed to the caprices of architects and the supposed exigencies of architectural effect, and the public money is wasted in making improvements one day and destroying them the next.

We are also informed that the barrack-room at the Horse Guards, to the state of which we drew attention several months ago, is in the hands of the Board of Works—a fact which fully accounts for its disgraceful condition, since it is clear that, whatever may be their zeal for the external appearance of our public buildings, they have but small consideration for those who occupy them.

REPRESENTATION OF OBSTETRIC MEDICINE IN THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

A DEPUTATION from the Obstetrical Society of London waited on Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department on Tuesday, May 11th, to represent the grave defect in the constitution of the General Medical Council, resulting from the want of adequate representation in that body of obstetric medicine.

The deputation, which was accompanied by Dr. Lush, M.P., Mr. Finnie, M.P., and Mr. E. N. Fowler, M.P., was introduced by Dr. Lyon Playfair, M.P.; and consisted of the President, Dr. Graily Hewitt, and the following members of the Council of the Society—Drs. J. C. Langmore, E. J. Tilt, J. Hall Davis, Robert Barnes, J. Braxton Hicks, G. C. P. Murray, Henry Gervis, A. Meadows, Tyler Smith, W. S. Playfair, C. Holman, F. C. Cory, and Messrs. J. M. Burton and J. Scott.

Dr. Graily Hewitt said that the Obstetrical Society was a body of gentlemen interested in the cultivation of obstetric medicine, numbering nearly 600 members, and including the most eminent practitioners in this department in Great Britain and the Colonies. The Society had been in existence for ten years, and had effected much in furtherance of the cultivation of this branch of medicine.

Dr. Barnes then directed the attention of the Home Secretary to the memorial presented by the deputation.

Mr. Bruce received the deputation with much courtesy, and expressed his opinion that the matter now brought before his attention was one of great importance, and promised that it should receive his best consideration.

MEMORIAL.

1. The Obstetrical Society of London begs leave most respectfully to invite the attention of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department to the general defect in the constitution of the General Medical Council, re-

sulting from the want of adequate representation in that body of obstetric medicine.

2. The General Medical Council is constituted of seventeen representatives, elected by the Universities, the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, and the Apothecaries' Societies; by six nominees of the Government; and by a president elected by the Council itself.

3. Owing to the constitution of the governing bodies of the Universities and Colleges, these bodies have always elected representatives who neither teach nor practise obstetrics.

4. Amongst the members nominated by the Government there is not one who teaches or practises obstetrics.

5. The result is that at the present moment the General Medical Council does not contain a single member who has ever been a public teacher of obstetrics, and only two or three members who actually practise obstetrics.

6. The position and claims of obstetric medicine in reference to the Examining Boards, and the licence to practise, are very unsettled; the provision of competent midwives for the poorer classes and the public services is in the highest degree unsatisfactory; the encouragement of obstetric science, and the regulation of obstetric practice, are duties of undeniable importance to the public interest.

7. Your memorialists submit that these duties can hardly be efficiently discharged to the public interest, or so as to command the confidence of the great bulk of the medical profession, by a body from which teachers and practitioners of obstetrics are practically excluded.

8. Your memorialists therefore earnestly pray that the constitution of the General Medical Council may be so remodelled as to make due provision for the appointment of members conversant with, and capable of informing the Council upon, matters relating to the science and practice of obstetrics.

(Signed)

SIR CHARLES LOCOCK, BART.,
GRAILY HEWITT, M.D.,
GEORGE THOMPSON GREAM, M.D.,
W. TYLER SMITH, M.D.,
T. SPENCER WELLS, F.R.C.S.,
T. W. NUNN, F.R.C.S.,
G. C. P. MURRAY, M.D.,
WILLIAM PLAYFAIR, M.D.,
WILLIAM O. PRIESTLEY, M.D.,
HENRY OLDHAM, M.D.,
ROBERT BARNES, M.D.,
J. BRAXTON HICKS, M.D., F.R.S.,
J. C. LANGMORE, M.D.,
E. J. TILT, M.D.,
J. HALL DAVIS, M.D.,
HENRY GERVIS, M.D.,
ALFRED MEADOWS, M.D.,
C. HOLMAN, M.D.,
F. C. CORY, M.D.,
J. M. BURTON, F.R.C.S.,
J. SCOTT, F.R.C.S.

VACCINATION DIRECT FROM THE COW.

It is a matter of much regret that so little has been done in England towards the determination of the value of the practice of what is known as "animal vaccination." We learn from Dr. H. Blanc, who has made personal inquiries upon the subject on the continent, that experimenters abroad seem at length to have satisfactorily vindicated the superiority of the mode of protecting the human subject against small-pox by transmitting to him cow-pox direct from the heifer, and that animal vaccination is now generally encouraged in Paris, Brussels, Naples, Marseilles, and other places, on that account. As in this country we are, one and all, dissatisfied with the scanty supply of lymph, and its indifferent character, in the face of the greater need of a large extension of vaccination and revaccination, and of widespread prejudice in the public mind as to the possible transmission of serious disease by these operations, we should earnestly ask ourselves whether we cannot at once profit by the doings of our continental brethren, and rid ourselves of our present inconvenient position in regard to the general