distance is by walking over it myself, and think I am pretty correct. With regard to the hæmorrhage I cannot state accurately, but her pulse was extremely feeble on my first seeing her.

It might be interesting to know that a very heavy rain fell at intervals during the night, but more so a little before four o'clock, which, to my mind, seems to have been partially the means of restoring consciousness and enabling her to regain her feet.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Your article on the Indian Medical Service in THE LANCET of March 23rd is full of good sense and advice, and points to the true sources of our present grievances and the way in which they can be removed. It is not by growling and inveighing against the changes which have recently taken place in the administrative department of the Indian and British services. These changes were inevitable after the absorption of the white portion of the old Indian army into the British service proper, and it is a wonder to me that they have been so long coming into force. However that may be, they should be accepted by the Indian doctors as accomplished facts; and all should join in agitating for the speedy settlement of the salaries to be given to those officers holding civil, or what you have happily styled "non-regimental," appointments. It is on this that the future character and standing of the Indian medical service depend. As things are at present, there are very few prizes for high intellect and patient industry for the Indian doctor; indeed, the chances of a useful and honourable career are greater in the British service. In Bengal there are still a few civil appointments with a salary higher than the unemployed pay; but in Madras and Bombay I believe there are none, or at least they are so few that they are not worth taking into account. Some of the professorial appointments are so badly paid that one or two first-class men have had to resign because they could not live in the presidency city on their small salary. Nearly all the civil appointments in Bombay and Madras have salaries attached to them less than the unemployed pay as given in your article; so that a man has the choice of taking the greater or the less, or of resigning, breaking up his house and going to a regiment. The salary attached to the medical charge of a regiment is £45 a month under five years' service, £60 over five years', £80 over twelve years', and £100 over twenty years' service. Here I beg to correct a most grievous error which medical men at home and students seem to fall into—namely, that the salaries of appointments are given in addition to the unemployed pay, or pay of rank. That is not the case. When a man takes the salary of an appointment, he does not get his unemployed pay in addition; the salaries are consolidated—i.e., the unemployed pay is included in them. To young men in England £60 or £80 a month looks a large salary; but they will not think it so when they have been six or eight years in India, unless they are grovelling clodhoppers or muffs. Everything has a local value, and so has money; and our ideas on that and other subjects are mainly formed by comparison with surrounding objects. When the doctor sees the civil servants and the army officers of the same standing in the same station with him so much better paid, his ideas on the value of rupees and pounds are apt to undergo a not very agreeable change. I speak from personal experience of India, and of the Indian medical service, of which I am a member. If you should consider the matter suitable to your columns and for the medical profession in England, you will hear from me again.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

London, March 25th, 1867.

KHUBARDAR.

* * We regret that, owing to extreme pressure of other matter, the publication of this letter has been deferred. There is one advantage in its late publication—it is a clear statement of the condition of the Indian service at a time when the attention of the whole profession is being directed to it.—ED. L.

SUDDEN DEATH, AND MEDICAL DUTY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have just read, in THE LANCET of April 20th, a medical annotation on "Sudden Death, and Medical Duty," wherein the writer comments upon a statement contained in a letter which appeared in *The Times* of the 10th April, to the effect that the late Bishop of Rochester "had been informed last year by his physician that the heart disease from which he suffered rendered him liable at any moment to sudden death."

I do not write to controvert the ethics of that annotation; but as it indirectly imputes to me, the physician in question, something of blame or of indiscretion in the matter, I wish to relieve myself from the imputation by the easy method of denying the fact asserted by the correspondent of *The Times*.

Let me briefly relate the real facts.

The late Bishop consulted me in the early part of last November, wearing his usual look of perfect health. His complaint was, that he had suffered six or eight attacks of transient giddiness and faintness. They were attended with some feeling of shortness of breath, and they all appeared to have been produced by some bodily effort or quick movements. The first happened in the summer or autumn of that year, just as the Bishop had nearly reached the summit of the well-known Tête Noire, in Switzerland; when he sank down, and probably fainted. Again, he had become giddy and faintish while walking to a railway train. Twice, at least, he had staggered and fallen, and been for a short time scarcely conscious, in the streets. His pulse was soft, regular, and tranquil.

Upon examination of his chest, I heard a systolic murmur over the place of the aortic valves and along the track of the aorta. It was not audible at the apex of the heart, nor at the back of the chest.

Then, in reply to the inquiries of my patient—a man of calm and firm mind, with whom I had been familiarly acquainted for half a century,—I said that there was some flaw in the natural sounds of his heart; but I did not say that the heart-affection "rendered him liable at any moment to sudden death." I never in my life made such an announcement to any patient. I cannot conceive of any circumstances that would warrant such an announcement. I endeavoured, on the contrary, to inspire him with the hope that by careful management of himself any serious consequences might be averted. It would have been an unwarrantable neglect of a very imperative duty had I not impressed upon my patient certain cautions as to the future conduct and habits of his life, and enforced those cautions by explaining the necessity for them. That he might avoid danger, it was requisite that he should be made aware of its nature. I bade him refrain strictly from all hurry of movement, from running therefore, from ascending stairs or a hill otherwise than slowly, from all lifting and straining efforts, and active exertion of any kind—cautions of far more importance and value than the drugs which I prescribed for him. And the manner of his death justified, not the prognostic which I had not given, but the counsel which I had given. That counsel was not unnaturally forgotten or disregarded when he half led, half helped to carry up-stairs, one of his relations who had been seized with faintness. Immediately upon reaching the upper room, the Bishop fell back upon a couch, drew two or three breaths, and was dead.

It is no doubt a popular belief that a man having any disease of his heart is likely to drop down dead on a sudden. Of this "vulgar error," so far from encouraging it, I have again and again endeavoured to disabuse the minds of those by whom in my presence it has been broached.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

April, 1867.

T. W.

DRAINAGE IN BATTERSEA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Your issue of the 20th inst. contains a paragraph, copied from a local journal, stating that the main drainage scheme is a failure, as far as Battersea is concerned.

It is proper that a report so prejudicial to this parish, and so very much exaggerated as the one in question, should be sifted; and I have therefore made careful inquiries on the subject, and find that the servants of the Metropolitan Board of Works have, on one or two occasions, when a heavy rainfall has occurred, shut the penstocks, thus closing the main sewer,

for the purpose of forcing the water into the storm overflow and thence to the river; and three or four houses the drains of which have not been properly trapped, behind the point where the channel was closed, have had some water forced up them into the basements.

It is evident this may be easily remedied by not completely closing the penstocks or by trapping the drains; and, as the exception is said to prove the rule, we may infer that, as only a few houses have been affected, the failure cannot be called general.

The main sewer is thirteen to eighteen feet below the general level here, and the drainage as a whole is most efficient, as far as it has gone at present.

I may be permitted to add that our soil here, as shown by the recent sewer works, consists of fine clean sand and gravel; and further, that we have no endemic disease, I having seen but two cases of ague during the ten years I have resided here; both were imported, and got well immediately. Other diseases of an intermittent type are unknown, and our death-rate is very low.

As it has been the fashion among imaginative penny-a-liners, whenever they wish to describe a high tide, to say that the swamps of Battersea were overflowed as usual, it may be proper to inform these gentry that no such swamps exist, and that the river has not, since my residence here, inundated us once.

Reports of this class continually repeated injure the locality, and more particularly when copied into an influential and widely circulated paper like THE LANCET,—hence this letter.

I have the honour to be, Sir, yours very obediently,

W. H. KEMPSTER,

Medical Officer of St. Mary's, Battersea.

Oak House, Battersea, April 26th, 1867.

NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As one fact is worth a dozen theories, so do I hail with great satisfaction the following in proof of the sincere way that the Board of Admiralty seem determined the Circular of Feb. 8th, 1867, shall be carried out in perfect good faith.

Last week I went over that magnificent vessel, the *Minotaur*. In doing so I met an old friend, Mr. Siccamer, who, though only an assistant-surgeon in the navy, has had one of the best cabins on the quarter-deck allotted to him, and this over two lieutenants, in accordance with the Minute, "medical officers are to have cabins according to their relative rank in the service." His seniority gave him precedence over lieutenants. *Verbum sat.*

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

Savile-row, April 24th, 1867.

SAMUEL SOLLY.

THE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS OF PARIS.

THE *Gazette Hebdomadaire* published on the 19th and 26th ult. the lists of the home and foreign delegates of the Congress. We find that gentlemen holding such office have been appointed in England, Germany, Belgium, Spain, Greece, Holland, Italy, Portugal, the Principalities, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and America. The names mentioned for London are the following:—Mr. Henry Thompson, Dr. Beigel, Dr. Guéneau de Mussy, Mr. de Méric, Dr. Wynter, and Dr. Druitt. For Birmingham, Dr. Foster; Liverpool, Dr. Tannan (?); Edinburgh, Dr. Hughes Bennett and the editor of the *Edinburgh Medical Journal*; Dublin, Dr. Stokes and the editors of the *Dublin Quarterly* and of the *Medical Press*.

It should be remembered that the Congress will open on the 16th of August next, and the meetings will take place both in the morning and evening. The morning sittings will be occupied by the reading of papers referring to the subjects mentioned in the programme; and, if time allow, to subjects chosen by authors. The evening meetings will be exclusively devoted to papers treating of subjects selected by their authors. The latter should communicate with the committee, either directly or through the delegates, before the 26th of July, at which date the papers must be sent in. The papers will become the property of the Congress, and be subsequently printed by the instrumentality and at the discretion of the committee. Those medical men who mean to be present at this great medical gathering should apply for cards and programmes to any of the delegates. No kind of expense is incurred by members not residing in France.

THE METROPOLITAN GAS BILL.

MUCH objection has been made to the financial details of Sir Stafford Northcote's Bill to regulate the gas-supply of London; but no opposition is, we believe, offered to those essential details which affect the public health and the preservation of articles injuriously affected by the action of sulphuretted hydrogen. The Bill provides for the appointment of three scientific men by the Board of Trade, as a board with powers to prescribe and certify the mode to be adopted for testing and recording the illuminating power and for investigating the processes of manufacture, and to prescribe the maximum amount of impurity to be allowed; but the Bill absolutely prohibits any impurity in the form of sulphuretted hydrogen. Testers are to be appointed by the Corporation of the City and by the Metropolitan Board, to test daily the impurity and illuminating power; and the Bill provides for the proper discharge of these duties.

The evidence given before the Committee of the House of Commons last session by Dr. Letheby has mainly led to this change, supported as it was by the practical evidence of Mr. Medwin as to the deleterious action of gas on leather, and by that of Mr. Jeffery (of Messrs. Howell and James's) as to its action on silks and the finest kind of plated goods and *bijouterie*. Little evidence was offered on the health question, but we are gratified to find that the larger considerations of the public health are considered in the Bill.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted Members of the College at a meeting of the Court of Examiners on the 25th ult.:—

Anderson, William, Stockwell.
Calthrop, Christoph. W., Withern Alford, Lincolnshire.
Causton, William Henry, Woodbridge, Suffolk.
Cooke, James Wood, Barnstaple, Devon.
Dobson, Nelson Congreve, Holbeach.
Duke, Benjamin, Kennington-park-road.
Elliott, Arthur Bowes, Richmond, Yorkshire.
Hadley, George Percival, Birmingham.
Marshall, Henry Flamank, Birmingham.
Meadows, Chas. John Walford, Otley, near Ipswich.
Molecey, Octavius Twigg, Stamford.
Morison, Joshua William, Pembroke.
Munden, Charles, Ilminster.
Nevitt, John George, Leeds.
Newcombe, Frederick William, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Newth, Alfred Henry, Albert-street, Newington.
Orton, John, Foleshill, near Coventry.
Pern, Alfred Winchester.
Rouse, Richard Augustus, Great Torrington, N. Devon.
Sanders, Richard Careless, Moulton, Northampton.
Smith, Frederick Augustus Alfred, Cheltenham.
Smith, Walter, Hampton-court.
Stothard, W. Jebson, Withington, near Manchester.
Sunderland, Edward, Thornton, Yorkshire.
Toulmin, William Calvert, Lower Clapton.
Tracy, Thos. Bartholomew, M.D., Kingston, Canada.

The following were admitted Members on the 26th ult.:—

Anderson, James Goodridge, Theddlethorpe, Lincolnshire.
Bland, Henry, Bradford, Yorkshire.
Boyle, William Percival Magor, Penryn, Cornwall.
Bruorton, William, Paignton, Devon.
Buck, Alfred Henry, Camden-town.
Ceely, Robert Walter, Poplar.
Davis, John Levitt, Euston-road.
Evans, Septimus, Devonport.
Fisher, Frederic Richard, Salisbury.
Fox, Alexander, Stoke Newington.
Fraser, John James, Manchester.
Hines, Charles Henry, Sunderland.
King, Daniel, Stretton, Cornwall.
Morrill, Arthur Horatio, Richmond, Surrey.
Mules, Philip Henry, Cheddar, Somerset.
Parkinson, Edmund Wollaston, Sheare, near Guildford.
Parsons, Henry Franklin, Beckington, Somerset.
Powell, William, Shirley, Southampton.
Roberts, Thomas Andrew, Shaftesbury.
Taylor, William Frederick, Kingston, Canada.
Truman, Samuel John, Nottingham.
Wilkinson, Adam, Shaftesbury.
Wilks, George, Ashford, Kent.
Wood, William Henry, Woodhouse Eaves, Leicestershire.

It is stated that only 8 candidates out of the 100 who offered themselves for the pass examination failed to acquit themselves to the satisfaction of the Court, and were consequently referred to their studies for the full period of six months.