MEDICAL TREATMENT OF DISCHARGED DISABLED SAILORS AND SOLDIERS IN IRELAND.

FOR some weeks past the Irish Insurance Commission has had under discussion with representatives of the Irish Medical Committee a scheme for providing medical treatment for discharged disabled sailors, soldiers, and marines, and it is understood that the scheme proposed by the Commissioners, which has received general approval on behalf of the profession, is now under the consideration of the Treasury. The scheme presented greater difficulties in Ireland than in Great Britain owing to the exclusion of medical benefits from the Insurance Act in its application to Ireland. As there were no panels some other system of attendance had to be arranged, and the scheme as proposed follows closely on the lines of the scheme for certification of insured persons which has been working smoothly since the beginning of 1916. The total sums available for payment will be put into a common pool for the whole country, and medical practitioners will be paid quarterly in proportion to the work done by each. Each service rendered will have a definite "token value"—e.g., a consultation at medical practitioner's house, 1; at patient's residence, 2; with journey of defined distance, 3; operation, 4. The total sums available will accrue from a capitation rate for every discharged disabled sailor, soldier, or marine in Ireland, of 12s. 6d. for those resident in urban areas and 15s. for those in rural. As practitioners who join in the scheme will also receive the certification capitation grant, varying from 1s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. in different areas, the remuneration appears not to be unfair.

OBITUARY OF THE WAR.

FREDERICK ARTHUR JOHN ROBERTSON BROOKE,
M.R.C.S. ENG.,

CAPTAIN, ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

Captain F. A. J. R. Brooke, who was killed in action in France on May 27th, was elder son of the late Thomas George Brooke, surgeon, of Langport, Somerset. Educated at Epsom College and the London Hospital, he took the

qualifications of the Conjoint Board in 1894. In July, 1915, he accepted a commission in the R.A.M.C., and after taking charge of wards at Sidmouth Barracks he was appointed to the H.S. *Britannic*, and made many voyages with wounded in that vessel. Later he was at Thornhill Camp, Winchester, at a convalescent camp in France, and finally with a field ambulance.

From his student days Captain Brooke was at heart a soldier. He entered the R.A.M.C. with enthusiasm, and

would have been glad to accompany his men over the parapet. His friends speak of him as an exceptionally brave man and a gifted letter-writer. He married in 1895 Constance Blanche, daughter of the late Rev. Francis Wellington Moore, of Duffield, and leaves a widow and six children. His son Cecil was killed in action at Arras on April 24th, 1917.

WILLIAM FRASER HALE, M.D. BALTIMORE,
CAPTAIN, CANADIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

Captain W. F. Hale, who died as the result of accidental injuries on June 8th, the 42nd anniversary of his birthday, was son of the Rev. Joseph Hale, of Louisburgh, Nova Scotia. He was born at Springhill, Nova Scotia, and graduated in medicine at Baltimore, Maryland (U.S.A.), in 1902. In January, 1917, he joined the C.A.M.C., went to France, and later served with a general hospital.

FRANCIS GEOFFREY THATCHER, M.B., CH.B. EDIN.,

MILITARY CROSS,
CAPTAIN, ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

Captain F. G. Thatcher, who died of wounds on June 1st at the age of 27 years, was youngest son of Charles H. Thatcher, F.R.C.S., of Edinburgh. He was educated at the Edinburgh Academy and University, graduating M.B., Ch.B. in 1913. He passed into the Royal Army Medical Corps in July, 1914, and on the outbreak of war was sent almost immediately to France, attached to the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment. Wounded at the first battle of Ypres, he was on hospital duty in this country for a few months before being given command of a hospital ship. Being again sent to France, from May, 1917, he acted as D.A.D.M.S. to a division, and while so engaged was fatally wounded by a bomb, only surviving his injuries two days. Captain Thatcher was a keen sportsman, a member of the Edinburgh University O.T.C., and one of the team who won the Territorial Marathon race in 1910. He acted as first whip to the Edinburgh Beagle Hunt for several seasons. His cheerful disposition made him a pleasant companion and accentuates the loss felt by his colleagues and brother officers.

Captain Thatcher married, in 1915, Gladys, daughter of Maxwell Grayson, of Harrogate.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

ACUTE OEDEMA OF THE LUNGS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have only just seen in THE LANCET of May 11th Dr. F. de Havilland Hall's letter with reference to this subject. I should like to quote a case in point which I met with two years ago.

The patient, a girl aged 12, went to bed at 11 o'clock well, but became seriously ill about 12.30. I saw her at 2 A.M., when she was cyanosed, lying on her side, coughing and hawking; the frothy, tinged mucus which one finds in the trachea P.M. was pouring out of her mouth; there were râles all over lungs, and she died in about half an hour. I had never met with a description of the disease, but, strange to say, a few days after I came across an account of it in *Le Monde Médical*.

Two days ago I attended a sister of the above, aged 6 days. She had only been ill a few hours, but was slightly cyanosed, unable to swallow, no expectoration, fine râles all over both lungs. She died the following day. There is a great amount of whooping-cough about, and possibly an elder child is commencing with it.

As to the treatment by atropine, I should have been afraid to attempt it. I attended many years ago a young man for bronchitic asthma; he was spitting some three pints of frothy mucus a day. I gave atropine to check it and succeeded; but oh! how ill I made him! I had to do my best to neutralise it a few hours after, as he was nearly suffocating. I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

A. BOWES ELLIOTT, F.R.C.S. Eng.

Abergele. June 10th, 1918.

THE MEDICAL DIRECTORY, 1919.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The annual circular in connexion with the Medical Directory has been sent to every member of the medical profession. It will help the editors considerably if this circular is returned promptly. If in any instance it has failed to reach a practitioner, a duplicate will be forwarded on request. We are, Sir, yours faithfully,

THE EDITORS.

7, Great Marlborough-street, London, W. 1, July 2nd, 1918.