

THE SERVICES.

ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.—Surgeon-Major Edmund Greswold McDowell to be Brigade Surgeon, vice A. G. Young, granted retired pay. Surgeon-Major Curtiss Martin to be Brigade Surgeon, vice C. A. Innes, M.D., granted retired pay. Surgeon-Major William Broughton Davies, M.D., African Medical Service, has been granted retired pay. Surgeon-Major Alexander Francis Preston, M.B., has retired on temporary half-pay. Surgeon-Major Tyler Oughton has been granted retired pay, with the honorary rank of Brigade Surgeon. Brigade Surgeon Theobald Ringer, M.D., Surgeon-Major Simon Mackertich, M.D., and Surgeon-Major Alexander Dugald Campbell, M.D., have retired from the service. Brigade Surgeon Samuel Jardine Wyndowe, M.D., of the Madras Army, to be Deputy Surgeon-General. Surgeon-Major John Barclay Scriven, of the Bengal Army, to be Brigade Surgeon.

MILITIA MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.—Surgeon-Major Henry Charles Garde, West Cork Artillery Militia, retires under the provisions of Clause 16, Army Circulars, 1881; also has been permitted to retain his rank, and to wear the prescribed uniform on his retirement; dated 29th October, 1881.—Royal Cornwall and Devon Miners: Surgeon Frederick Charles Bullmore resigns his commission; also has been permitted to retain his rank, and to wear the prescribed uniform on his retirement; dated 29th October, 1881.

RIFLE VOLUNTEERS.—2nd Lincolnshire Corps: The services of Acting Surgeon John Kilshaw Kenyon are dispensed with; dated 29th October, 1881.

ADMIRALTY.—In accordance with the provisions of Her Majesty's Order in Council of 1st April, 1881, Fleet Surgeon William Redmond has been placed on the retired list of his rank. Staff Surgeon John Mockridge has been promoted to Fleet Surgeon in Her Majesty's Fleet, with seniority of 22nd October. Mr. E. K. Parson, Visiting Surgeon for Portsmouth, has been appointed, in addition, Assistant Visiting Surgeon at Southampton for the purposes of the Contagious Diseases Act, 1866 to 1869.

The following appointments have been made:—William Conolly, Fleet Surgeon, to the *Repulse*, vice Redmond; Surgeon William Hayes to the *Zephyr*, vice Pollard, whose appointment is cancelled, and who will remain in the *Boadicea*; Surgeon Charles F. Newland to the *Pembroke*, additional, for temporary service; Staff-Surgeon Arthur V. Smyth to the *Urgent*, vice Isaac, invalided; Surgeon John Acheson, M.D., to the *Urgent*, vice Biddulph, time expired; Surgeon Samuel Keays to the *Algerine*, commissioned; Surgeon James T. W. S. Kellard to the *Ganges*.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE POISON OF THE COBRA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—M. Lacerda claims to have discovered that permanganate of potash is an antidote for cobra venom. The action of potassic permanganate on the poison had, however, been studied in England before the publication of M. Lacerda's experiments. In a paper communicated to the Society of Analysts and published in *The Analyst*, vol. i., p. 294, 1877, detailing a method of separation of the active principle in a crystalline form, I remarked: "Out of the body a weak solution of alkaline permanganate of potash destroys at once and for ever the poison, and renders it as harmless as water; a wound of course may be advantageously washed with such an agent, but, as might be expected, it is of no use to inject it into the body as a true antidote." This opinion was based upon a number of experiments undertaken before the Vivisection Act stopped all researches of the kind in private laboratories. The animals selected were kittens, rabbits, chickens, and sparrows. It was found that if a fatal dose of cobra poison was injected by the ordinary subcutaneous syringe beneath the skin, and immediately afterwards some solution of permanganate likewise injected into the same wound, no fatal effects followed. If, however, the ordinary symptoms of poisoning were allowed to develop, then, whether the permanganate was injected into the wound itself or into the veins, death invariably resulted. In

nine experiments undertaken in this way, with various percentages of permanganate, both in acid and alkaline solution, the result was in every case the same, and gave me no hope that permanganate would ever be useful save as a local agent; and, indeed, there are theoretical grounds for believing in the impossibility of an oxidising agent overtaking the poison as it were in the midst of the blood-current after the venom has been carried to the nervous centres.

It would indeed be a great boon to our tropical brethren if M. Lacerda's experiments should prove to be rightly interpreted. They are, however, so contrary to my own with the same substance and experimenting in quite a similar way, that at present I decline to accept them.—Yours, &c.,

A. WYNTER BLYTH.

The Court House, St. Marylebone, W., Oct. 20th, 1881.

PROFESSOR VIRCHOW'S TESTIMONIAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Kindly allow me, through your columns, to inform the many admirers and pupils of Virchow in this country that I have undertaken to receive subscriptions towards the testimonial which our brethren of Germany are intending to present him with on the occasion of the completion of the twenty-fifth year of his Professorship in the University of Berlin, and of his sixtieth birthday. The presentation is to take place on the 19th instant. It is important, therefore, that subscriptions should be sent to me in sufficient time to be transmitted to Germany before that date. For the guidance of subscribers I may mention that the subscriptions in Germany range from 20s. upwards, with an average of 50s., and that I shall be happy to receive either cheques crossed Bank of England, or Post Office orders, to the office in Vigo-street, London, W., made payable to myself.

The following subscriptions have been received:—

Sir Jas. Paget	£5	0	0
Sir Wm. MacCormac	2	10	0
Dr. Gerald Yeo	2	2	0
Dr. Bristowe	2	2	0
Dr. Ord	1	1	0

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Old Burlington-street, Nov. 2nd, 1881.

J. S. BRISTOWE.

THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Doubtless others better qualified than myself will reply to the queries of "A Country Practitioner" on the above subject; allow me, however, to mention two facts which may assist him in his search for information. In the first place, up to the present date, I believe over one hundred centres have been formed in the leading towns of England and Scotland, in each of which at least two or three of the leading medical men are engaged in instructing the classes and otherwise assisting the local committee, thereby showing their appreciation of the value of the movement. Secondly, on the 26th instant, at the very time when "A Country Practitioner" must have been committing his letter to the post, the London medical men connected with the Ambulance Association were entertaining Major F. Duncan, R.A., at a banquet at Limmer's Hotel, as an expression of their hearty co-operation with him in his humanitarian work. I may add that among those who regretted their inability to attend were Dr. Lionel Beale, Surgeon-General Longmore, Surgeon-Major Moore, Mr. Pye, Dr. Julius Pollock, Mr. A. J. Norton, Mr. A. P. Gould, Dr. Collingridge, Mr. Sandwith, &c.; whilst those present at the dinner included Dr. Sieveking, Sir Wm. MacCormac, Mr. Edmund Owen, Surgeon-Major Baker, Mr. Cantlie, Mr. Wm. Rose, Mr. Herbert Page, Dr. E. O. Day, Mr. Street, Mr. Eve, Dr. Colquhoun, Mr. Samuel Benton, Dr. Eccles, Mr. Potter, Mr. Whitehead, Mr. Tyrrell, Mr. Leahy, Mr. Bruce, and Your obedient servant,

HARRY CROOKSHANK,

Science Club, Savile-row, Oct. 31st, 1881. Hon. Sec. for the Dinner.

TINEA VERSICOLOR (LICHEN CIRCINATUS).

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I am interested to learn that Dr. Crocker is of opinion that the affection thus named is really Tinea versicolor. I have for a long period been accustomed to