

change to the sea-side in two or three days, and other cases I have seen equally benefited by change of locality. We know the benefit of a run out to sea by ships having cholera cases on board. We know, also, the benefit of change of locality by patients suffering from whooping-cough. We must choose a part where the disease does not reign; and, happily, there are many neighbourhoods up and down, surrounding a suffering locality, where those who can manage the change can repair. My impression is, that these diseases are attributable to a magnetic derangement of the locality where they exist, and if a move can be made where the magnetism of a place is in a state of integrity, then we go far to cure the disease. If we can only succeed in placing the patient thus favourably, then we may dispense with all other treatment. I have an apparatus now almost perfected whereby I can show the condition of two magnetic forces—viz., the attractive force and the repellant force. This year the attractive force has been nearly steady; and thus, as I have always maintained, that when this force should become steady, we would find the potato disease to cease; but the repellant force has shown much variation, and to-day, and for a few days past (September 12th), the loss of repellant force is greater than it has been for some time, though this force has shown much unsteadiness for a long period. The attractive force has of late had a slight tendency downwards, which may tell a little on the potato crop, though the advanced period of the autumn leaves little for us to fear on that head. I think I have made out to my own satisfaction, that the potato disease in the vegetable world, and that the low fever, commonly called the "famine fever,"—a kind of low typhoid fever,—are the results of defective or lessened magnetic attractive force; that cholera is the result of a sudden rise and continued oscillation of the needle upwards; and from what I have lately observed, diphtheria, measles, and scarlatina are owing to a lessened repellant force equally demonstrable as the other forces. These magnetic forces, and others which at present exist to us almost without a meaning, may ultimately be proved to regulate life, health, and disease, and otherwise balance vitality in its relationship to the earth &c.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Carlisle, Sept. 1863.

WM. REEVES, M.R.C.S.

SYPHILIS IN THE ARMY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Army surgeons ought to be deeply grateful to THE LANCET for its able leaders on the prevention of venereal disease, which is doing so much to destroy the *physique* of the British Army. I was not at all surprised at reading the statistics of syphilis quoted in your article on the health of our army and navy. Nothing can be more easy than to stay this plague, if Government will only listen to army surgeons. The system in India only wants a little administration to make it work well, as shown in the instance at Secundrabad. Each regiment is allowed to retain a certain number of women in the bazaar under the care of a woman paid and made responsible; they are periodically inspected by the native hospital compounder. In all stations, however, there is a Sudder bazaar, with of course a large number of prostitutes plying their trade, and under no espionage or sanitary regulations. Why cannot Government issue orders to the cantonment joint-magistrate to institute a system similar to regimental bazaars, and establish a Lock hospital, which would only cost a very trifling sum? By organizing such a co-operative system I am convinced that a wonderful check would be given. Unhappily for India, this outcry has come too late. Syphilis is spreading far and wide amongst the native population. Even in the heart of Cashmere, where no soldier has ever been, I have seen frightful cases of this disease. If the English Raj has been productive of many blessings to the Hindoo, it has also given him a scourge. At home it is only now dawning on England what ravages this disease is making on its population. Army surgeons, if asked, could tell a tale which would startle the nation, especially surgeons of dépôt battalions. The magistrates and police of such places as Chatham could display a long roll of prostitutes preying upon the young recruit who is training for service in India—a training, I feel assured, more suited to fill the Indian graveyards. Take any garrison town, and stroll along the barrack road towards watchsetting, and observe the consummate tact of those women in waylaying and enticing the soldier returning home, infatuated and fevered with drink. Then trace the consequences in the medical history and default sheets.

I quite concur with the summing up of your journal except

as regards the increase of married men: that becomes a formidable financial question at home, and a great clog upon a regiment taking the field. Every encouragement is given the soldier in India to marry, with a view to colonization. His more regular habits keep him in health; but I think the colonizing part is a myth. Frame sanitary laws with regard to those unhappy women, and let Government organize a new system with their recruits; let them take the advice of competent judges upon recruit training, and follow the example of European armies.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

C. A. INNES, M.D.,
Assistant-Surgeon 16th Lancers.

York, Sept. 1863.

POISONING BY OPIUM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I shall feel obliged if you will allow me to offer a few remarks in reply to Mr Ellis's letter of the 12th inst., as from its tenor it may be imagined that I was actuated by some illiberal motive in criticizing it in my former letter of the 5th inst.

Now, when I questioned the probability of the child taking twelve grains of solid opium, I did so relying on the improbability of the laudanum procured at a little huckster's shop being of P.L. strength; and, further, I did not think that the child living for eight hours and a half was at all extraordinary, as Taylor, Beck, and others all speak of seven hours being the minimum time before death takes place in a case of poisoning by opium.

I am willing to give Mr. Ellis credit for endeavouring to enlighten his professional brethren when he records what he considers an extraordinary case. But does he really suppose that no one has the right to challenge his opinions or conclusions if his narrative is not clear as noon-day? Mr. Ellis is not a very old practitioner, nor as yet known to fame as an authority to be relied on in a question of medical jurisprudence. I beg to tell Mr. Ellis that his history of the case is very different from Dr. Scott's or Mr. Gell's, on whose authority I append the following:—That a pennyworth of tincture of rhubarb was asked for, and two drachms of laudanum given in mistake for it. Dr. Scott and Mr. Gell both say that not much more than a teaspoonful was given. About two or three hours after taking the poison, the mother, becoming alarmed at the stupor of the child, sent for Mr. Gell, who immediately attended, and endeavoured to restore sensibility to the child for an hour and a half before he (Mr. Gell) sent for Mr. Ellis to assist him. In the interim Dr. Scott arrived. On the suggestion of Dr. Scott, galvanism and other remedies were tried for some time. Dr. Scott and Mr. Ellis then left, and Mr. Gell stayed for two hours after, till the case terminated in death.

Now as both Dr. Scott and Mr. Gell tell me that the patient neither vomited nor was purged, and that very little if any of the laudanum remained, I should like to know "what it was" that Mr. Ellis analyzed to make out his twelve grains of solid opium. Till he answers this question satisfactorily, his reports, however extraordinary (if read at all), will only be received as of a doubtful character. Mr. Ellis may have seen, as he says he has, other cases of opium poisoning; but I doubt very much if he treated any so far back as the year 1840—which I have.

I am, Sir, not a very "young practitioner,"

but your obedient servant,

T. MAY, L.F.P. & S. Glasg.

Hinde-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Sept. 1863.

AMPUTATION OF THE THIGH.—QUESTION OF FEE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The relations between railway companies and the medical profession are far from satisfactory. Dr. Mackinder's letter has opened a subject that requires some attention. The question is not limited to the amount of fee to be expected for a certain operation; but I would give it a wider scope, and ask whether we have any legal claim on any railway company for attendance on the *employés* injured in their service?

The Bristol and Exeter Railway Company have rejected my claim for an amputation of the thigh, through their superintendent, in the following terms: "That it could not be entertained by the Company. I do not understand on what grounds such claim has been made."

This is the case. A porter at the Watchet Station attempted to jump on a truck that was in motion, and missed his footing.

His left leg caught in the spokes of a wheel, and was crushed, first at the middle of the leg, then at the knee, and lastly at the lower third of the thigh. This occurred at the distance of two miles from my house. I immediately had recourse to amputation, as there was considerable venous hæmorrhage with the slightest motion of the body; and I stayed in attendance on the poor fellow for nine consecutive hours, when he died from exhaustion. He was not a member of the Great Western Railway Provident Society, of which I am one of the medical staff; and I consequently turned to his employers (the Bristol and Exeter Railway Company) for remuneration, with the result stated above.

I may add, that the fee named was £5 5s.; and that I gave a full statement of the case when I first applied. The accident occurred in September, 1862.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Williton, Taunton, Sept. 1863. W. T. GAYE, M.B.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SINCE my last communication the British Maternity Charity in this capital has secured the services of men of high scientific and practical knowledge in Medicine and Surgery. Two consulting physicians have been appointed: one educated in Paris, at present Professor of Materia Medica at the Imperial Medical College; the other, a gentleman educated in America. There are also two consulting physician-accoucheurs, the first of whom may be said to be the father of obstetric practice in Constantinople, and the second holds a deservedly high reputation. The ordinary physician is Dr. Sava, president of the Greek Medical Society, physician to H.E. Sir H. Bulwer, G.C.B.; the surgeon, Dr. Stampa, a young man of great promise and a skilful operator. The physician-accoucheur is Dr. Foote, M.R.C.P. Lond., and formerly assistant to Dr. Murphy, of University College, London. With such a staff there can be no doubt that this Charity will receive the support of the public, and be a means of producing much benefit. The accompanying circular, issued by the Committee, will clearly show its objects:—

“The British Maternity Charity of Constantinople—Established June, 1863—For the relief of poor women of all nations and creeds; for the treatment of all diseases, especially those peculiar to women and children.

“Medical attendance will be given for the present at the Charity, on and after October 1st, between one and two o'clock P.M., on the recommendation of a subscriber, at No. 2, Rue Yazydjy Pera, near the site of the proposed Memorial Church, as follows:—Diseases of women: Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. Diseases of children: Tuesday and Thursday.

“A list of qualified midwives, nurses, and monthly nurses, may be had on application.

“A course of lectures on the Theory and Practice of Midwifery will be commenced on November 2nd, at two P.M.

“Consulting Physicians: Dr. Edwards, Dr. Stamatiades. Consulting Physician-Accoucheurs: Dr. Schinas, Dr. Pardo. Physician: Dr. Sava. Surgeon: Dr. Stampa. Physician-Accoucheur: Dr. Foote. Treasurer: Rev. C. B. Gribble, M.A. Apothecary: M. Madella.”

I regret to add that the physician-accoucheur lately, in paying a visit on board a steamer in the Golden Horn, at night, unfortunately struck his leg, and broke the tibia at the upper end of the lower third, and the fibula in two places—one directly opposite, the other higher up. He is, I am happy to say, doing well.

LIVERPOOL “FEVER COURTS.”—A correspondent of the *Liverpool Mercury* proposes to give £1000 towards mitigating the evils arising from the state of what he calls the “Fever Courts” of Liverpool, provided a general subscription be opened for that purpose. There are many places in Liverpool where fever is said to be always present, winter and summer. The philanthropic individual who makes the above munificent offer is entitled to the highest praise. Under proper sanitary regulations there is no reason to doubt that the “Fever Courts” will cease to enjoy an unenviable notoriety. It will be a disgrace to the great commercial town of Liverpool if proper means are not taken to mitigate the avoidable sufferings of its poor inhabitants.

Medical News.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise, on the 10th inst.:—

Becker, John Leigh, Maidstone.
Miles, Thomas, Totness, Devon.
Rigg, John, Southport.

The following gentlemen also on the same day passed their first examination:—

Booth, Wm. Reuben, St. George's Hospital.
Ray, Edward Reynolds, Guy's Hospital.

The following gentlemen passed their examination and received certificates to practise on the 17th inst.:—

Henson, Sidney Rossell, Hull.
Wall, George, Stourbridge.

The following gentlemen also on the same day passed their first examination:—

Pearse, Geo. E. Legge, Westminster Hospital.
Cowen, Philip, St. Thomas's Hospital.

At the recent examination for prizes in Botany given by the Society of Apothecaries, the successful candidates were:—

1. Henry Greenway Howse, Guy's Hospital. Gold Medal.
2. Ralph Gooding, King's College. Silver Medal and a Book.

COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUMS.—The expense last year of the County Lunatic Asylums in the United Kingdom amounted to £107,663 5s. 10½d.

PRESTWICH LUNATIC ASYLUM.—The county magistrates of Lancashire have voted £6500 for the completion of the Prestwich County Lunatic Asylum, and for other expenses connected with it.

RANGOON.—The medical authorities of the Indian army have decided that the climate of Rangoon has been found to admit of European troops being sent there direct from Europe, without undergoing any previous Indian acclimatization.

EVIDENCE AS TO MAN'S PLACE IN THE CREATION.—Prof. Halford, of the University of Melbourne, has been delivering lectures there in reply to those of Prof. Huxley; with what success remains to be shown.

REMOVAL OF ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.—At a meeting of the St. Olave's District Board of Works, Southwark, it was resolved that the removal of the hospital to Stangate should be resisted, and that a union with other parishes of Southwark for the same purpose should be formed. £50 was voted for this object.

THE MEDICAL OFFICERS OF THE CHANNEL FLEET were entertained by the members of the Ulster Medical Society at a sumptuous dinner at the Society's house, in High-street, Dublin, on the 9th inst. The chair was occupied by the president of the Society, Dr. Patterson. A large number of medical gentlemen were present.

GUY'S HOSPITAL.—The governors of Guy's Hospital have just erected two large and elegant houses, in the immediate vicinity of the hospital, as residences for two of the medical staff, whose services may be required in cases of emergency. These houses are not only convenient, but have received the commendation of architects as models of house architecture.

COMPOUNDS OF THALLIUM.—M. Lamy, in a communication to the Academy of Sciences, states that after working on some compounds of this metal he has experienced extreme lassitude and pain in the lower extremities. With a view of determining the real properties of this metal, he has since tried a series of experiments on animals. The result has been, that a decigramme of the sulphate given to a young dog caused death in forty hours.

EDUCATIONAL VACCINE STATIONS.—In order to provide for the granting of those special certificates of proficiency in vaccination which, under the regulations of the Privy Council, are required to be part of the medical qualification for entering into contracts for the performance of public vaccination, or for acting as deputy to a contractor, the following arrangements are made:—1. The vaccinating stations enumerated in the subjoined list are open, under conditions appointed by the Privy Council, for the purposes of teaching and examination. 2. The public vaccinators officiating at these stations are authorized by the Privy Council to give the required certificates of proficiency in vaccination to persons