

takes over the duties of the Principal Medical Officer, Bombay Command, in addition to his own duties, from Surgeon-Major-General Warren. Surgeon-Captain J. L. T. Jones and Surgeon-Lieutenant R. F. Standage have respectively delivered over and received charge of the Aden Prison.

#### NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICE.

Staff-Surgeon Christopher Pearson, M.A., M.D., has been promoted to the rank of Fleet-Surgeon in Her Majesty's Fleet.

#### VOLUNTEER CORPS.

The following appointments have been announced:—*Engineer: Fortress and Railway Forces, Royal Engineers:* 1st Sussex: Surgeon-Lieutenant W. P. Morgan, M.B., to be Surgeon-Captain. *Rifle:* 1st Volunteer Battalion the Royal Warwickshire Regiment: Gerald Wheatley Adams, gent., to be Surgeon-Lieutenant. 1st Tower Hamlets: John Francis Woods, M.D., to be Surgeon-Lieutenant.

#### DEATHS IN THE SERVICES.

Surgeon-Captain John Ernest Trask, who died at Kosheh on July 25th, aged thirty-three years, from cholera, was the second son of the late Mr. James Trask of Bath, formerly one of the auditors of the Local Government Board. He was educated at the Bristol Medical School and there obtained the gold medal in medicine and surgery and also the Crosby Leonard prize in surgery. In 1886 he took the qualifications of L.R.C.P. Lond. and M.R.C.S. Eng., and after holding the appointments of house surgeon at the Bristol Eye Hospital and the Royal United Hospital, Bath, entered the Army Medical Department, and after some home service was ordered to India, where he was appointed on the staff of Lord Harris. Surgeon-Captain Trask arrived home on furlough last year and volunteered for the Soudan at the commencement of the present campaign. During the recent action at Firket he behaved with great coolness and bravery whilst attending the wounded under a heavy fire. The deceased officer arrived at Kosheh from Koroski on the morning of the 25th ult., where he had for some weeks past been actively engaged with the cholera epidemic. On his arrival he complained of fatigue and was shortly after attacked with cholera and died in the course of the afternoon. Surgeon-Captain Trask was a keen cricketer and had on many occasions been included in the Somerset county team. He was extremely popular both in Bristol and in the army, and much sympathy will be felt for his mother and relatives in their sad loss.

#### THE SOUTH WALES VOLUNTEER INFANTRY BRIGADE BEARER COMPANY.

On Saturday, the 25th ult., the regimental bearer companies of the 1st and 3rd Volunteer Battalions South Wales Borderers, comprising two sections, paraded in review order in front of the Town Hall, Crickhowell, for their annual parade. The bearer company having been formed up by Surgeon-Captain Davies (Ebbw Vale) was, headed by the band, marched to the parade-ground under the command of Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Hill, V.D. On arrival the company was drawn up in open order and inspected by the commanding officer, who expressed himself as being well pleased with the general smart appearance of the men and their equipment. The company were put through the stretcher-bearer drill in close and extended order with closed and prepared stretchers, advancing by detachments in succession from the right, changing the direction to the right and left, moving to a flank, and resuming the march to the front or rear. Hand-seat drill, or the formation of hand-seats for the transport of the wounded soldier for short distances, was also gone through.

#### A MILITARY BOOT COMPETITION.

The *Admiralty and Horse Guards Gazette* announces a competition for the best military boot, and offers a gold medal for the one that fulfils to the greatest extent the conditions that must necessarily be required of a service boot. "Material, shape, and make will be primary considerations, but it must be shown to our satisfaction that the pattern sent in can be reproduced in large quantities with absolute certainty on the machine employed by the competing firm. .... The award will be made the second week in September, and all samples sent in to us will be open to inspection by officers and others interested in the matter on the production of their cards at our offices after Aug. 31st, between the hours of 3 and 6 P.M."

## Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

### "OPTIC NEURITIS AND CHOKED DISC."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In THE LANCET of July 25th I observed an annotation on this subject, in which you say: "It is hardly to be expected that in any case of optic neuritis in which the function of the optic nerve has been interfered with to such a degree as to cause complete blindness, any operative measure will lead to a restoration of vision." Will you permit me to remind you that in 1883, when I first pointed out the way in which incision of the optic nerve sheath behind the eye might be performed under the guidance of vision, I operated in St. George's Hospital on a woman seventy years of age, who had been described as "blind" for ten days, and in whom for at least three days there had been no perception of light? In her case vision was so far restored that she was able to read an ordinary book or newspaper with comfort. I need not enter into details, as these were fully published in the proceedings of the Medical Society of London; but I should like to express my conviction that timely incision of the optic nerve sheath would save sight in many instances in which it is now permitted to be lost. I have performed what I think I am entitled to call my operation on five persons, on four of them with marked benefit, but in the fifth, on account of the depth of the orbit and other difficulties, I was not successful in bringing the nerve into view and am not certain that the sheath was effectually divided. No effect, at any rate, was noticeable. These cases, however, are like glaucoma to this extent, that if the right time for action is suffered to pass away it can never afterwards be recalled. I believe that the sheath should be divided in every case of swollen optic disc in which sight is suffering, and in which prompt improvement is not produced by mercurial or other treatment. The division cannot fail to relieve compression.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Harley-street, July 26th, 1896.

R. BRUDENELL CARTER.

### THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF DERMATOLOGY.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—At the request of some of my colleagues in charge of the arrangements for the International Congress of Dermatology to be held in London next week I have to ask you to allow me to say a few words. We are, in the first place, most anxious that this Congress should not be regarded as an affair in which the non-specialist practitioner will have no part. Dermatology has taken its place as one of the most interesting and instructive departments of medical science. We hope, therefore, that none will be prevented by any considerations such as those hinted at from joining us and availing himself of the opportunities for gaining knowledge which will be afforded. There will be on every day of the Congress (Aug. 5th, 6th, and 7th) two demonstrations (at 9 and at 2) of living patients, and it is expected that several hundreds of such will be produced and that opportunities will thus be afforded of eliciting the diagnosis and comments of some of the most distinguished authorities. These occasions cannot fail to be most instructive to all, and, let me add, it is probable that on the scale now attempted they will never occur again. A subscription of one guinea will entitle to attendance at all these demonstrations as well as at the meetings of the Congress, and also to a volume of Transactions which will be published when the Congress is over. The subscription should be sent to the secretary-general, Dr. Pringle, 23, Lower Seymour-street, or direct to the treasurer, Mr. Malcolm Morris, 8, Harley-street.

Next I have to ask attention to the fact that the demonstrations above referred to will offer excellent opportunities for obtaining opinions on rare and unusual cases, and at the same time to say that we shall be greatly obliged to all those who can send us such. I appeal especially to the medical officers of public institutions, but not to them exclusively. We ask for the coöperation of the