

2. They "took upon themselves the power of an inquiry to make judicial inquiry into the private character of the matron."

3. They "requested the house-physician to give a written statement of his reasons for resigning," and, as I stated, "of his opinion of the matron and nurses."

1. The customary rules of the Medical Committee allowed only the senior officers to vote. Setting aside these, they resolved themselves into a meeting of the staff, at which all were permitted to vote.

2. The inquiry into the private character of the matron appears in the details of the judicial inquiry entered fully in the minute-book of the Medical Committee.

3. In the discussion at the meeting alluded to it was urged, in opposition to my protest, that it was right to ask Dr. Gairdner the reasons for his resignation, and the resolution, correctly quoted by Dr. Meadows, resulted from that discussion.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

PROTHEROE SMITH.

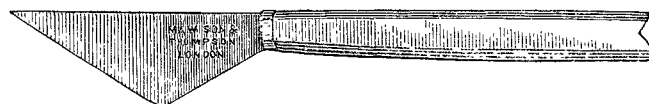
Park-street, Grosvenor-square, April 27th, 1874.

OPERATION KNIVES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—For some time past I have been using two instruments which I had made expressly for my own use; but from the great satisfaction they have given me I am induced to ask you to devote a small space in THE LANCET to bring them before the surgical public.

The one is a modified cornea knife, much shorter and somewhat thicker than the old ones. It is well known that



frequently before the old knife was well through the cornea its point was against the patient's nose; this was especially the case with patients whose eyes were deep set. My knife avoids this, acting as it does as a combined knife and chisel.

The other is a knife for the various amputations and ex-



cisions of the foot. Its merits to me are, that it is light, long, narrow, and very strong, enabling the operator to have his hand well away from his work, thus not obstructing his view; its narrowness enabling him to pass it readily between the bones; its proportionate strength precluding the chance

of its breaking. I have found this a most useful instrument and it is made for me by Messrs. Maw, Son, and Thompson, of Aldersgate-street, as is also the other instrument, from whom they can be procured.—I am, Sir, yours &c.,

JAMES NICHOLLS, F.R.C.S. (Exam.)

Obituary.

FLORENCE MCCARTHY, M.R.C.S., &c.

WE regret to record the death, under the distressing circumstances which have been already made public, of Surgeon Florence T. McCarthy, of the Army Medical Service. The sad event occurred while the deceased officer was on his way home from the Gold Coast, where he had well performed the duties devolving on him in connexion with the Ashantee expeditionary force. Mr. McCarthy had escaped the insidious poison of the climate until his embarkation on board the mail steamer *Liberia*, when, on the vessel's arrival at Sierra Leone, he felt so unwell that he landed, in order to return by the *Victor Emanuel* hospital-ship, then daily expected. While on board the latter ship, fever of a severe type was developed, and was accompanied with paroxysms of delirium, which rendered it necessary that he should be constantly watched. On March 15th, while the *Victor Emanuel* was at anchor, he managed to elude the vigilance of the two nurses placed over him, and threw himself into the sea, through a port-hole, at 9.15 P.M. Although the sea was literally swarming with sharks at the time, two officers immediately sprang in after him, and continued to swim and dive about for some considerable time—an act of heroism surely deserving recognition and reward in high quarters. The lifeboat was also lowered, and active search made for the unfortunate officer. No trace of him, however, was found.

Mr. McCarthy was the third son of Alexander McCarthy, solicitor, of Cork. He was born in October, 1835, and joined the army in April, 1859. He served with distinction in India, and his name was more than once mentioned in favourable terms in General Orders. His numerous friends in Cork intend erecting a monument to his memory, and a considerable sum has been already subscribed for the purpose. At a recent meeting of the Town Council of Cork, a warm tribute of respect was paid to his memory, and a vote of condolence passed to his bereaved family.

WILLIAM EDWARD DILLON, L.R.C.S.I.

AMONG the minor tragedies connected with Livingstone and the search expedition, the death of this promising naval officer by his own hand takes an outstanding place. Mr. Dillon had been appointed to the search expedition in 1872,

and his career in Central Africa was a succession of seizures of malarious fever. Recovering partially from the last attack, he had started with Lieutenant Murphy for Zanzibar with Livingstone's body, when a final and more formidable seizure supervened. In the delirious stage he destroyed himself.

Mr. Dillon took the licentiate-ship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland in 1859, and in 1860 entered the Royal Navy as an assistant-surgeon. After several years of foreign service, he obtained leave of absence to take part in the African expedition. He was the son of W. Sandys Dillon, Esq., of Brookfield, county Dublin, and nephew of the late Hon. Sir William Jeffcott, Recorder of Penang and Singapore, and of the late Sir John Jeffcott, Chief Justice of Adelaide. Before this expedition Mr. Dillon had made extensive travels in Africa, South America, and India, and displayed an enterprise, a cheerful intrepidity, and a fecundity of resource well qualifying him for his last and fatal mission. A wide circle of relatives and friends bewail his loss.

SURGEON H. A. BALE, R.N.

In the list of officers who lost their lives in the Ashantee Campaign must be included the name of Mr. H. A. Bale, Surgeon R.N., of H.M.S. *Bittern*, who volunteered for the Glover Expedition, and died at Ossoom, the last station along the road south of the Prah, whilst serving with it on the 19th of January last. In recording the death of this medical officer, we have been requested to bear testimony to the great regret which all the officers of Glover's force felt for his loss. We happen to know that Dr. Rowe, the principal medical officer of that force, had formed a very high opinion of his professional skill, and Captain Glover had officially recorded his thanks to Mr. Bale for the good service he had rendered, especially in having, from the 27th December to the 11th January, pushed forward in command of the advance, when Lieut. Cameron, who was nominally in command, was incapacitated by sickness from doing so.

At the meeting of the Academy of Medicine of Paris on the 14th ult., Professor Owen was elected Foreign Associate. Messrs. Donders and Hocker were his competitors. At the same meeting Sir Dominic Corrigan, Bart., was elected Foreign Correspondent over Dr. Schwann of Liège, and Dr. West of London.