

the Army Medical School, describes very fully the method of invaliding soldiers as carried out at Netley. Inspector-General Muir gives a sketch of Sherman's celebrated march. A number of cases of resection, fracture of the skull, aneurism, lithotomy, hernia, intussusception, stricture, typhoid fever at Secunderabad, and other papers follow, and the medical section of the Blue-book concludes with circulars, lists of officers who have passed through the Army Medical School at Netley, with the questions put at Netley and Chelsea, and a complete list of all army medical officers on full pay. We learn from this last list that there were 7 inspectors-general, 28 deputy inspectors-general, 102 surgeons-major, 230 surgeons, and 708 assistant-surgeons, making a grand total of 1075 medical officers doing duty in the army in 1864.

We cannot be wrong in anticipating that with such a medium of publication as the annual Blue-book affords, we shall find the names of more and more medical officers every year in its pages. The Department has shown what it can do; it may rest assured that nothing will tend more to procure it consideration and respect from the rest of the army than publications of such great scientific merit as those which characterize the work we have now noticed.

ABSOLON VERSUS STATHAM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—No one can read the details of this important trial (reported in full in the last number of your journal) without feeling great sympathy for the professional gentleman who was compelled to defend himself against so unjust and cruel an action.

I have the pleasure of knowing Mr. Statham. I believe him to be an upright, honourable, generous, and noble-hearted man, ever ready to listen to any tale of distress, and always willing with his purse to administer to the necessities of others.

I firmly believe that in this case his well-known kindness of heart has been tampered with, and that in an unguarded moment he gave money to his patient from the purest motives, little dreaming to what extent his act of benevolence would, in a court of law, be misconstrued to his disadvantage.

It is impossible for the profession to close their eyes to Mr. Statham's position. It is our duty to exhibit some tangible sympathy in his behalf. The most sensible way of carrying this idea into effect is by liquidating the expenses unavoidably incurred in defending himself in the late action.

I suggest that a subscription should be at once commenced for this purpose, and I send a trifle to be so appropriated. To my professional brethren I would say, "Bis dat qui cito dat."

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

Canvish-square, Nov. 19th, 1866. FORBES WINSLOW, M.D.

* * We have received a cheque for £5 5s. from Dr. Winslow for the above object.

VOLUNTEER SURGEONS IN BELGIUM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The War Office regulations for the medical officers of the army apply equally to those of the volunteers, and therefore an "appreciation of the non-combatant arm of his forces" does not depend upon the "civility" of any commanding officer. The medical officers of the volunteers have their rights fully defined, and it will be their own fault if they allow them to be ignored as in the late ill-judged proceedings in Brussels, or if they do not seek reparation for the wrong.

I forward the information which my friend Dr. Ree requires as to the "real rank and privileges" of medical officers, taken from the Warrant of Oct. 1858 (p. 6):—

"The relative rank of the medical officers of our army shall be as follows:—

"Staff or regimental assistant-surgeon, as a lieutenant, according to the date of his commission; and after six years' full-pay service, as captain, according to the date of the completion of such service.

"Staff or regimental surgeon, as major, according to the date of his commission; and surgeon-major, as lieutenant-colonel, but junior of that rank.

"Deputy inspector-general of hospitals, as lieutenant-colonel, according to the date of his commission; and after five years' full-pay service as deputy inspector-general, as colonel, according to the date of the completion of such service.

"Inspector-general of hospitals as brigadier-general, according to the date of his commission, if with an army in the field, or after three years' full-pay service as inspector-general, as a major-general, from the date of his joining such army in the field, or according to the date of the completion of such service.

"Such relative rank shall carry with it all precedence and advantages attaching to the rank with which it corresponds (except as regards the presidency of courts-martial, where our will and pleasure is, that the senior combatant officer be always president), and shall regulate the choice of quarters, rates of lodging money, servants, forage, fuel and light, or allowances in their stead, detention and prize-money. But when a medical officer is serving with a regiment or detachment, the officer commanding, though he be junior in rank to such medical officer, is entitled to a preference in the choice of quarters.

"Medical officers shall be entitled to all allowances granted by our Warrant of 13th July, 1857, on account of wounds and injuries received in action, as combatant officers holding the same relative ranks.

"Their families shall in like manner be entitled to all the allowances granted by our Warrant of the 15th June, 1855, to the families of combatant officers holding the same relative ranks."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. BURKE RYAN, M.D. Lond. F.R.C.S.,
South Middlesex R.V.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In a letter in the *Volunteer Service Gazette* of the 3rd inst., signed by Colonel Loyd Lindsay, there is the following:—

"The invitations from the King were distributed strictly according to seniority." How the gallant colonel can reconcile his statement with the complaints of your correspondents, Dr. Griffith and Dr. Ree, I am quite at a loss to understand.

As a medical man, I consider that a most unwarrantable insult has been offered to the volunteer medical staff of England, and through it to the whole medical profession.

I think the time has arrived for every gentleman who holds a commission as surgeon in the volunteer force to ascertain whether Colonel Lindsay's treatment of their brother officers at Brussels is sanctioned by any rule or order from the War Office; if so, I can scarcely think it possible anyone will be found willing to remain in a service where his rank in it is only a name.

Nov. 1866.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

F.R.C.S. ENG.

SPECIAL INFIRMARIES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The admirable article published in your journal of the 17th instant, on the practice in London of establishing small infirmaries for the treatment of particular diseases, and on the motive which has led practitioners to establish such institutions, ought to be written in letters of gold. I think the observations might be extended to the establishment of small infirmaries for the treatment of general diseases, in which the motive is a similar one. The latter are extending in every quarter of London, and are brought into existence by needy men, many of whom possess only foreign diplomas. The injury these infirmaries have done to the large hospitals and to the general practitioner is very great, as all classes of patients are admitted to these infirmaries without any inquiry being made as to the circumstances or position of the parties applying for medical aid.

Begging a corner in your journal for the above remarks,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

November, 1866.

OBSERVER.

MEDICAL STUDENTS ARRESTED IN PARIS.—The *Gazette Hebdomadaire* of the 16th inst. states that out of the forty persons arrested the other day, in the neighbourhood of the medical schools, only fifteen actually belong, as students, to law and medicine.