

To the medical investigator, the pathology of diseases of the bladder, urethra, and, if you will, the "vesiculæ seminales," must be as interesting as that of diseases of the heart, the lungs, or the ear, in all which branches of medical science and in numerous others quacks are unfortunately to be found. The complaints treated at this institution are syphilis and all diseases of the generative and urinary organs. You say the hospitals are "sufficient" for the purpose. Doubtless they contain abundant ability and skill; but the upper and middle classes of society do not apply to them, nor are they intended for them. It may be objected that those classes could be attended at home in the ordinary way. To this I reply that many suffering from these diseases dislike to be treated at home, and remove to hotels and private lodgings, where their wants are very inadequately supplied. Besides, there are in this great metropolis numbers of single persons residing in apartments, and strangers, who, when ill, would be glad to find a place where they could obtain good medical attendance and all the requirements of a sick room, with every provision for their comfort under the same roof.

A similar principle has been adopted in private asylums for lunatics, with which gentlemen of high rank in the profession are connected; and if these asylums be deserving of attention, why should an establishment for the diseases treated by us merit censure? Another error into which you have been led is, that we assume in our prospectus that sufficient attention has not been paid by the profession to these diseases. We presume to make no such statement. To your remark, that we "may open a path to a new and dangerous field of quackery," I reply that the "field" is an old one, and hitherto has been chiefly in possession of the quacks; and we were desirous to perform a part in redeeming that field, by opening a private hospital, at which patients would receive honest advice, and hoped thereby to obtain the countenance of THE LANCET, and all other supporters of straightforward legitimate practice. I should add that Dr. Dick has no pecuniary interest in the *Maison de Santé*, nor any part in its management. He is merely the medical officer, and is paid for his services, and was selected solely on the ground that for many years he had devoted his attention and practice, here and abroad, to the diseases which we had it in contemplation to treat.

Whilst ascribing to you the best intentions regarding medical interests, I can only think your article was written under erroneous information. I beg to enclose you a prospectus, and trusting you will in fairness insert this reply in your ensuing publication,

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
Upper Norton-street, May, 1858. J. S. CONRAN.

* * Our article was written with a full knowledge of the character of the institution, and after a perusal of the prospectus, which is eminently open to the objections stated. If Dr. Dick is willing to connect himself with such a concern, he must be prepared to take the blame with the profit.—SUB-ED. L.

DISEASE AND DEATH IN THE FOOT-GUARDS.

[LETTER FROM DR. J. WEBSTER.]

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Under the above title, in THE LANCET of last week, an important mortuary report is given of the fatal casualties which occurred from 1839 to 1853, in the several regiments. The aggregate deaths therein mentioned are certainly large, and so very different from the amount more recently recorded, that it appears desirable to draw attention to the subject, since erroneous opinions prevail respecting the question mooted, not only amongst the public generally, but even the medical profession.

According to official statements often quoted, the household troops are reported to have been formerly unhealthy, especially in reference to consumption. Now, their condition must have become quite otherwise, if the total mortality which characterized the same regiments, subsequent to the Crimean campaign, be taken into account. For instance, during 1856, although the Foot-Guards stationed in London usually average about 3500 men, exclusive of officers, only 44 fatal cases were reported from all the battalions. In 1857, the total deaths fell to 29; while, during the first three months of the current year, 9 soldiers have died in the military hospitals.

The above authentic facts prove that few similarly large bodies of men enjoy better physical condition, when congre-

gated together in barracks, than the household troops quartered in the metropolis. Doubtless, it may be said, a number of guardsmen were invalidated after returning from the Crimea—at least 300 I have heard; but they were replaced by recruits who are often neither so strong nor able to undergo strict military duty like veterans, and hence disease might be thereby more easily developed. Notwithstanding such influences, the conclusion seems well founded that many assertions now prevalent respecting the sanitary *status* of her Majesty's Foot-Guards are greatly exaggerated, and not applicable to the present time. On the contrary, these troops must have lately enjoyed very good bodily health, seeing so few men have been cut off by disease during the last two years and three months throughout the several battalions.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

Brook-street, May, 1858.

JOHN WEBSTER, M.D., F.R.S.

THE PROPOSED STUDENTS' CLUB.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In THE LANCET of October 17th, 1857, you did me the favour to publish my letter, signed "Alpha," on the above subject. It is one that has occupied my attention for several years; and I was pleased to read, in your impression of the 1st instant, the admirable letter of Mr. Milton upon the same subject. It appears to me an object of very great interest, as the amelioration of the condition of medical students and assistants might be attained at a comparatively easy rate under the provisions of the Limited Liability Act. The requisite amount of capital might readily be raised in the form of shares; and, the scheme once fairly started, I do not doubt that the medical students would gladly embrace the change from the present comfortless system of lodgings.

Should any of your subscribers wish to assist in promoting the plan already suggested, I shall be happy to furnish them with what information I have been enabled to gather upon the subject.

Nottingham, May, 1858.

LORY MARSH.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the Diploma, were admitted members of the College at the meeting of the Court of Examiners on the 7th inst. :—

CODRINGTON, OLIVER, Castle-street, Falcon-square.
COOKE, GEORGE PARDOE, H.M.'s Dockyard, Woolwich.
DALTON, HENRY AUGUSTUS, Royal Navy.
DANIEL, RICHARD SYLVESTER, Manchester.
DRYSDALE, CHARLES ROBERT, London.
HALL, EGERTON FRANCIS, Middleton Cheney, Banbury.
HEELAS, NEWTON, Wokingham, Berks.
HUDSON, ARTHUR CORT, Manchester.
LEWER, ALFRED, Merley Hall, Wimborne, Dorset.
SEWELL, WILLIAM MALLETT, Barnsbury-park, Islington.
THOMAS, GRIFFITH ROBERT, Swansea, South Wales.

The following gentlemen were admitted members on the 10th inst. :—

DEVLIN, H. WM., Greenhill, Ballygawley, co. Tyrone.
EARLE, JAMES NEALE, Brunswick-street, Trinity-square.
FAWKNER, JOHN, Manchester.
GRIFFITH, THOMAS, Warrington, Lancashire.
HOLLINGS, ROBERT, Woodlesford, near Leeds.
JACKSON, JOHN, Leicester.
ORD, GEORGE RICHARD, Brixton-hill.
SPENCER, HENRY BANKS, Chippenham, Wilts.
TOWNSEND, EDWARD RICHARD, Cork.
WAIT, JOHN STUBBS, Bury, Lancashire.
WALKER, HENRY, Malton, Yorkshire.

NEW FELLOWS.—The following members of the College, having been elected at previous meeting of the Council, were admitted to the Fellowship on the 13th inst. :—

BOXALL, HENRY, Wisborough-green, Horsham, Sussex; diploma of membership dated July 19, 1839.
DAVIES, RICHARD EDWARD, Charles-street, Manchester-square; January 13, 1843.
EBBAGE, THOMAS, Leamington; April 21, 1835.
JOHNSON, EDWARD CHARLES, Savile row; Feb. 24, 1843.
LIDDERDALE, JOHN, Kintbury; April 26, 1826.
MEACHIN, JOHN, Dartmouth; April 12, 1843.
MOORE, EDWARD, Hales Owen; October 28, 1842.