

The Welsh Hospital is expected to leave England in about ten days, Professor Thomas Jones, M.B. Lond., F.R.C.S. Eng., Mr. J. Lynn Thomas, F.R.C.S. Eng., and Mr. R. Mills-Roberts, F.R.C.S. Edin., will act as surgeons, and Mr. Laming Evans, M.B. Cantab., F.R.C.S., late house surgeon, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and Mr. Herbert Davies, M.B., Ch.B. Vict., senior house surgeon, Stoke-on-Trent Infirmary, as assistant surgeons. Five dressers and nine or ten nurses will complete the staff. The hospital funds now amount to over £6000 and among the subscribers during the past week have been H.M. the Queen £100, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales £50, and H.R.H. the Duke of York £20.

#### THE LATE SIR WILLIAM LOCKHART.

In the death of the Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's forces in India the country and the army have sustained a great loss, and we cannot refrain from paying a sincere tribute of respect on the part of the British and Indian medical services to his memory. The late Sir William Lockhart had a very distinguished career and was a very brave man of quite exceptional qualities. He came of a good stock; his uncle was John Gibson Lockhart, the son-in-law and biographer of Sir Walter Scott, and Sir William Lockhart was himself, apart from his high military reputation, a man of ability and culture and possessed an excellent knowledge of German. He was very wise in counsel, decided and prompt in action, and eminently honest and considerate in his dealings with all—and not least so in the case of officers of the medical services. Notwithstanding that he was known to have been for a long time in delicate health his death was a surprise and a real grief to all who had the privilege of his acquaintance. He looked as he was, every inch a soldier—a handsome man of fine physique, to whom independence, courage, and self-sacrifice were natural and instinctive.

#### A ROYAL NAVAL MEDICAL RESERVE.

Our contemporary the *Army and Navy Gazette* contains a communication signed Louis Vintras, M.D., B.Sc., medical officer R.M.S. *Orinoco*, regarding the value of having competent reserves in all branches of the services. Dr. Vintras suggests, *apropos* of the call that has been made on the civil profession to supplement the Army Medical Service during the campaign in South Africa, that a Royal Naval Medical Reserve might be organised with very little expense to the State out of the number of medical men who have passed several years of their career in the service of one or another of the mail lines, who are used to the sea, have a knowledge of the medical aspects and hygiene of medical life, who are experienced in tropical diseases, and thoroughly inured to rapid changes of climate. The idea seems a good one and fits in with that of the Naval Medical Reserve composed of officers of the large mail companies. Dr. Vintras asks for communications from persons in sympathy with such a movement, or who have suggestions to offer concerning it, to be addressed to him at 19A, Hanover-square, W.

#### MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES.

In a despatch from Lord Methuen on the action at Magersfontein on Dec. 10th and 11th, sent by Lord Roberts to the Secretary of State for War, occur the following passages:—

"Major O'Donnell, Royal Army Medical Corps, and Lieutenant Delap, Royal Army Medical Corps, were indefatigable in attending wounded under fire." Black Watch.—Lieutenant Douglas, Royal Army Medical Corps, showed great gallantry and devotion, under a very severe fire, in advancing in the open and attending to Captain Gordon (Gordon Highlanders), who was wounded; also attending to Major Robinson and other wounded men under a fearful fire."

#### SIR GEORGE WHITE.

It will be remembered that the gallant defender of Ladysmith in a brief public speech of thanks for the congratulations tendered to him after the relief of that garrison incidentally adverted to the fact that he was at the time suffering from fever with a temperature of 102° F. Everybody will have learned with regret that Sir George White did not recover his health so rapidly as could be desired and that he has wisely embarked and is returning to this country where all, without exception, wish for his speedy recovery. Sir George White, it is needless to add, went through a most trying time during the long siege, and, in addition to the hardships and privations he underwent, he had all the care

and great responsibility of the position. The part he played was worthy of him, and the siege will hereafter occupy a prominent place in military history.

#### FRUIT FOR THE MILITARY HOSPITALS.

Lady Haliburton in a letter to the *Times* says: "..... I have undertaken to send weekly to Netley Hospital a small supply of fresh fruit for the use of the invalids returning from South Africa. Many others, if aware that they might enjoy this privilege, would no doubt gladly avail themselves of such an opportunity of usefulness by sending regular supplies of fruit to the various large military hospitals scattered throughout the United Kingdom. ...." It is to be hoped that many others will follow Lady Haliburton's example.

The total number of conscripts for the French army last year, says the *Army and Navy Gazette*, shows a reduction of nearly 15,000 on that of the previous year. This noticeable drop has caused some uneasiness. The fundamental cause of the diminution is doubtless due to the stationary state of the population, but it is also a fact that there has been a special cause at work. The medical examination of the conscripts has been far more severe than for several years past.

Major W. Dick, M.B., F.R.C.S. Edin., R.A.M.C. (who is acting for Colonel W. F. Stevenson, M.B. Dub., R.A.M.C., as Professor of Military Surgery in the Army Medical School, Netley), having been relieved of the charge of the Surgical Division of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Major Birt, R.A.M.C., has been appointed to the office.

The following gentlemen have been ordered to join the Army Medical School as surgeons on probation for the Royal Army Medical Corps:—Mr. H. E. Weston, L.S.A., St. George's Hospital; Mr. J. G. Churton, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond.; Mr. A. E. Hamerton, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., Leeds School of Medicine.

Royal Army Medical Corps messes have now been established in India to which the Government grant 80 and 100 rupees per mensem respectively where eight or ten officers form the mess.

The following civil surgeons having arrived at Netley are posted as stated: Mr. Marriott to the huts for duty, and Dr. A. C. Profeit to the surgical division.

## Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

### "CROOK v. CROOK AND HORROCKS."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Will you permit me through your columns to thank all those who have written to me letters of sympathy and congratulation and also to thank Dr. William Duncan and many others who have expressed a desire to help to defray my costs. I quite appreciate the kind motive and am very grateful, but I prefer that no subscription list should be started on my behalf.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,  
Brook-street, W., March 19th, 1900. PETER HORROCKS.

### "THE NITRO-PROPIOL TEST FOR SUGAR IN URINE."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In THE LANCET of Feb. 17th there was a notice of Teusch's Nitro-Propiol Test for sugar which induced me to send for a bottle of the tablets in order to compare it with the ordinary method by Fehling's solution. According to the directions supplied with the tablets we are told to dissolve one tablet in about three drachms of water, add 10 drops of the suspected urine, and boil slowly for from three to five minutes. A fine colouration of indigo blue is said to take place if sugar be present, the indigo being deposited when the fluid is allowed to stand. It is at once obvious that boiling for from three to five minutes is a disadvantage for two reasons: it takes up a good deal of time and it is impossible to boil continuously for so long in a test tube without explosions of steam, so that the process must be carried out in a flask or capsule. But this is not a serious