

treatment. Of the 93 patients whose cases were completed, 61, or 65·5 per cent., had either pericarditis or a valvular murmur. In 54 cases it was the first attack; of these 34 had some heart affection, 28 had it on admission, in 6 only it supervened after admission. Thirty-nine cases had suffered from one or more previous attacks; of these 22 had some cardiac affection on admission, 6 after admission, and 1 had heart-affection on admission and also a fresh complication afterwards. Of 47 cases, in which reliable information was obtained, there was a rheumatic family history in 23, and none in 24. The average total duration of illness of those whose cases were completed was 45 days. Similar tables are given of 15 cases of chorea, many of which appeared to point to the connexion between that disease and rheumatism. A section is devoted to cancer and allied diseases.

The report of Mr. Henry Arnott, the Surgical Registrar, is no less important. There is, as in the medical report, a general table of diseases. The prominent feature of Mr. Arnott's report is an elaborate and very valuable cancer table, including 157 cases which were under treatment in the surgical wards. Many others attend the special cancer out-patient department of this hospital, whilst not a few patients are sent to the hospital merely to obtain an opinion as to the nature of their case, and with no intention of remaining. These tables give the age, sex, civil state, nature of case, relatives affected, duration of symptoms before admission, operation, intercurrent diseases, result and length of stay in hospital, secondary deposits, and on each case remarks. A table of cases of pyæmia and of cellulose-cutaneous erysipelas admitted into the surgical wards is published, followed by a table of diseases originating in these wards, with appended notes; also a table of the operations performed and the results, a table of compound fractures and one of strangulated hernia, all of which are of great value and show much care on the part of the author. A table giving the post-mortem appearances in 98 examinations completes the report.

The labour which is bestowed by registrars in preparing such reports as those of the Middlesex Hospital is, we think, not sufficiently appreciated. Unprepossessing they undoubtedly are, but they contain a mass of valuable information which ought to be more extensively and frequently utilised than is the custom.

### CHARING-CROSS HOSPITAL.

THE annual distribution of prizes to the students of the medical school attached to this hospital took place on Monday afternoon in the Board-room of the hospital. The Dean of Westminster presided. The prizemen were as follows:—

Llewellyn Scholarship: Mr. Noakes. Golding Scholarship: Mr. Chittenden. Gold Medal: Mr. Noakes. Senior Anatomy: Silver Medal, Mr. Lea; Certificates of Honour, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Crouch. Junior Anatomy: Bronze Medal, Mr. Hartley; Certificates, Mr. Orwin and Mr. Stephens. Senior Physiology: Silver Medal, Mr. Lea; Certificate, Mr. Chittenden. Junior Physiology: Bronze Medal, Mr. Gray. Chemistry: Silver Medal, Mr. Leeds; Certificate, Mr. Couldrey. Senior Medicine: Silver Medal, Mr. Walker; Certificate, Mr. Noakes. Junior Medicine: Bronze Medal, Mr. Routh; Certificate, Mr. Lea. Senior Surgery: Silver Medal, Mr. Noakes; Certificate, Mr. Burroughs. Junior Surgery: Bronze Medal, Mr. Routh; Certificate, Mr. Lea. Botany: Silver Medal, Mr. Whitlam; Certificate, Mr. Taylor. Materia Medica: Silver Medal, Mr. Lea; Certificates, Mr. Whitlam and Mr. Chittenden. Midwifery: Silver Medal, Mr. Burroughs; Certificates, Mr. Noakes and Mr. Leigh. Forensic Medicine: Silver Medal, Mr. Leigh; Certificate, Mr. Weston. Pathology: Silver Medal, Mr. Leigh; Certificate, Mr. Hanson. Practical Chemistry: Silver Medal, Mr. Lea; Certificate, Mr. Champneys.

Dr. POLLOCK (the Dean), in presenting his annual report, congratulated the school upon its continued prosperity, and especially adverted to the cordial co-operation and good feeling of the hospital authorities, as shown more especially by the improvements which they are about to make in the school premises. The governors having secured the possession of two more houses in Chandos-street would shortly increase the number of beds to 150. The addition to, and enlargement of, the school accommodation would include a new museum, dissecting-room, laboratory, and offices, the whole of which are expected to be completed by the 1st of next October. The increase in the number of beds would necessitate an enlargement of the staff, which would strengthen the school, as well as increase the efficiency of the hospital. After speaking of other matters of congratulation and satisfaction, Dr. Pollock concluded his

report by observing that at the Charing-cross Hospital the medical student would now find every means of acquiring a thorough knowledge of his profession.

## Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

### AID TO THE WOUNDED IN BATTLE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have received so many letters, more than I can fully reply to, from medical gentlemen as well as others, making inquiries on the subject of volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of the hostile armies on the Continent, in consequence of my name and address having been mentioned by Colonel Loyd Lindsay, V.C., in a recent letter to *The Times*, on this subject, that I shall feel obliged if you will make the following information known through your columns. A full account of the constitution and regulations of the help-societies existing in the various countries of Europe may be found in a little book entitled "Help to Sick and Wounded," recently published by Messrs. Hotten, Piccadilly. A provisional committee for forming a central national society for help to sick and wounded in time of war, in connexion with the other national societies of Europe, has just been constituted in London, Lord Eliot, Captain Burgess, and Mr. Furley, acting as secretaries. The present address of this Committee is 8, St. Martin's-place, Trafalgar-square, London.

I am, Sir, obediently yours,

Netley, July 27th, 1870.

THOMAS LONGMORE.

### THE OPEN-AIR TREATMENT OF DISEASE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It is with feelings of lively satisfaction that I read your paragraph in *THE LANCET* of July 23rd on the open-air treatment of disease. You refer more especially to the treatment of typhus fever in the open air. I have for some years been endeavouring to urge this upon the profession, and I was, I believe, the first to draw attention to the plan, or, at any rate, to carry it out systematically. I forward to you by this post a pamphlet upon the open-air treatment of typhus, which is a reprint of an article I published on this subject in *St. George's Hospital Reports*, vol. i., 1868. I had then the charge of the fever wards in the Leeds Fever Hospital, and I was gradually led by experience so to increase "ventilation" that at length I had the windows in all the wards fastened by nails, so that they could not be closed. During the whole of the winter of a severe epidemic of typhus we had open air in the wards, so that the nurses had to wear bonnets or other head-coverings, and the breezes played freely about the beds. You will see from the statistics that the mortality was remarkably lessened, and we never had any chest or other internal "complications." When I gave up the charge of the wards our resident officer, Mr. Libbey, also retired, and routine and prejudice regained the upper hand. Under Dr. Eddison's care, however, I believe something like the old system is now restored. Many private persons—several members of the Board of Guardians, for example—have said repeatedly to me of their own accord of late that the diminution in mortality during the time of the open-air treatment had made a strong impression upon them. It was not until I had the plan in full operation that Professor Rolleston called my attention to the facts noted in the Irish fever, to which you published further testimony on Saturday. It will be a great satisfaction to me if you will keep the matter before the profession, as I am sure it is of greater moment than the present cold water system. It probably acts somewhat similarly, and it is easy of management, while the cold water system presents almost insuperable difficulties in extensive hospital practice.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Leeds, July 25th, 1870.

T. CLIFFORD ALLBUTT.