

appointment as inspector, under the plea "that all the duties formerly vested in them were relegated to the vestry." Consequently, for the next two years, the office was vacant; the cases of typhoid steadily increased till the autumn of 1869, when the maximum number of 26 was reached, entailing an expense of £30 on the parish. Vestries were still held, sanitary committees were appointed, inspections of the parish were made, and reports were drawn up, adopted by the vestry only to be ignored. At last, finding it perfectly hopeless to get any measures involving an outlay out of the vestry, I addressed a letter to the Local Government Office, asking if the board had rightly interpreted the amended Act. Six weeks passed, and no answer came. I then addressed a similar letter to Mr. Simon (copy enclosed). An answer came promptly enough, and letters were also sent to the vicar, requesting information as to the action of the vestry, and also to the Board of Guardians, ordering a sanitary report of the parish to be drawn up. The board therefore requested me to furnish one, and I at once set about it. The report I now send you, with plans of the village. After its reception in London, further communications to the vestry came from Mr. Simon, couched in peremptory terms.

Still nothing was done; and in the autumn of last year a more deadly enemy than fever invaded us; diphtheria broke out, thirty cases occurring, with fourteen deaths. Another urgent appeal of mine resulted in Dr. Thorne being sent down. His report I also enclose. The only result of his visit was the appointment by the board of an inspector, at a salary of £10 per annum, who found his hands tied just as mine had been tied previously.

To send you an account of all the vestry meetings held would be useless, save to illustrate the folly of the Legislature in entrusting such grave and life-preserving functions to bodies quite unable to appreciate their importance. I send a petition that was drawn up for presentation to the Home Secretary, as illustrating one phase of the struggle. It was not persisted in, as there seemed little chance of twenty householders being found to sign it.

At last we were passed over to the Local Government Office, and a notice of a public inquiry, to be held by Mr. Arnold Taylor, was posted all over the place. Mr. Taylor came, and was violently indignant with the inspector of nuisances that he was not at the appointed place to meet him; he rated him soundly, telling him he had been guilty of a gross dereliction of duty. Our hopes rose, and we began to think that, with an official who had such a high opinion of *duty*, the hoped-for end of the struggle was near. Mr. Taylor examined the vestry-books, walked round the parish, confirmed Dr. Thorne's report, and left, promising a report to the vestry as to what they would be required to do, and a private letter to one of the churchwardens, giving the name of an engineer who would give us an estimate, at a reasonable cost, of the outlay that would probably be necessary. No letter or report has ever come, and things remain practically just the same as they did four years ago when the struggle commenced. Nay, far worse, for the party of inaction have learnt they may set at defiance the threatened interference of the central authority; and I am disgusted and disheartened at the result of endeavours involving much anxiety, much personal labour, and in which I have incurred that odium which has always fallen to the lot of those whose evil genius prompts them to disturb the *status quo*.

In the meantime diphtheria has again broken out; four cases have occurred, with two deaths. I look forward with dread to the coming summer, and I ask, am I really to believe that the two inspections were, as far as regards their results, simply a farce? and if so, how comes it that public money is wasted on such futile and purposeless proceedings?—I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

Rolvenden, March 27th, 1871.

THOMAS JOYCE, M.D. Ed.

THE LICENCE OF THE APOTHECARIES' SOCIETY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It must have struck many readers with surprise that the Committee of the Bristol Lunatic Asylum should have made the qualification of apothecary an essential one in every candidate for the vacant post of superintendent.

It is not too late for them to reconsider this condition, and I think if they do so carefully, the result will be that they will cancel it. Far be it from me to attempt to throw discredit on the venerable qualification, for which I entertain the greatest respect; but the fact remains that there is a very large number of highly eligible men now devotedly engaged in lunacy practice whom this condition of the advertisement will exclude from the field of competition. To my knowledge the senior assistant medical officer of one of the largest and most famous of modern asylums is not allowed to apply for the vacant appointment because he is not an apothecary; although he is duly qualified as a surgeon, and a graduate of one of the most distinguished of our medical universities.

It cannot be pretended that the qualification in question is of special moment for the particular kind of duties. I could instance some of the most esteemed of our county asylum superintendents who are not apothecaries, and, if I mistake not, this remark would apply to the most revered of our Medical Lunacy Commissioners. The Committee of Visitors should surely desire the services of the ablest man they can get, and there is no reason why this man should not be the possessor of an apothecary's licence. But their limitation of the area of selection will certainly prevent some men of the highest qualifications and competency from applying; while at the same time it does not harmonise with that spirit of fairness and liberality which now happily prevails in the bestowal of nearly all similar medical appointments. The committee, by rescinding the condition, will not less vindicate their own character than take a praiseworthy step in the interest of the institution over which they preside.

I enclose my card, and am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

M.D., M.R.C.S., L.S.A., &c.

* * It is possible that the demand for an Apothecaries licence may be simply due to an old bye-law, framed at a time when this licence was the ordinary medical qualification of an English practitioner, and to which attention has only to be called in order to obtain its revision in accordance with the state of things existing at the present day. But, on the other hand, it may be a means of giving an advantage to some candidate whose election has been predetermined; and in that case our correspondent will probably protest in vain. There can be no question that such a condition can rest only upon inadvertence, ignorance, or favouritism.—ED. L.

IMPROVED SURGICAL BAG.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—For some years I have felt the desirability of possessing a convenient surgical bag capable of containing not only instruments required for any surgical emergency, but also those that are in daily use. The difficulty hitherto has been of two kinds—namely the size of the bag, and the facility of readily finding the instrument you require. Dr. Greenhalgh has fitted one of Messrs. Arnold and Sons' bags for obstetric purposes, and I have, after some thought, suggested to Mr. Arnold, of West Smithfield, who is the inventor of the bag, an interior arrangement by which every instrument can be immediately selected without disturbing the rest. This is made by a succession of wire trays, upon which the different cases are placed; the sides are fitted with loops to contain catheters, lithotrites, forceps, &c., and are always in view. The following list will show that in this *multum in parvo* there is almost everything that can be required in military or civil practice.

(1) A case containing two amputating knives, Butcher's amputating saw, and catlin. (2) A case containing 3 scalpels, 2 curved bistouries, a hernia knife, 2 lithotomy knives, 2 hare lip or tenotomy knives, probe, sharp-pointed pair of scissors, pair of artery forceps or tenaculum, pair of spring forceps, aneurism needle, double hook, and hernia director. (3) A case containing 3 cataract knives, Tyrrell's hook, 4 needles, silver curette and hook, Adam's eyelid retractor, set of Bowman's probes, Critchett's fine groove director, pair of cilia forceps, pair of iris forceps, and 2 pairs

of scissors. (4) Case containing complete set of Holt's dilators. (5) Tonsil guillotine in case. (6) Ophthalmoscope and laryngoscope combined in case. (7) A pocket case containing gum lancet, Syme's knife, finger knife, scalpel, dressing forceps, pair of scissors, silver caustic case, silver female catheter, probe, director, needles, exploring trocar, &c. (8) A case containing hydrocele trocar, trocar for paracentesis, half-ounce glass syringe with platinum point, and small bottle. (9) A case containing gum elastic catheters, Holt's india-rubber winged catheters, and folding needle-case. (10) A case for hare-lip pins, acupuncture needles, probes, &c. (11) A hypodermic syringe in case. (12) Small chloroform bottle in wood case. On the two sides of the bag are—2 lithotrites, silver double-channel catheter, 3 short-beaked sounds, prostate catheter, 5 silver catheters (Nos. 1, 2, 3, 8, and 10), Ponteau's curved trocar for puncturing the bladder, folding rectum speculum, vagina speculum, probang, clinical thermometer, polypus forceps, epistaxis catheter, écraseurs, tooth forceps, tracheotomy tubes, rectum bougies, lithotomy forceps, lithotomy scoops, lithotomy staffs, tourniquet, &c.

The bag is perfectly portable, has two locks, and is of a size not to offend the eye, or to be inconvenient to carry. The instruments may of course be varied to suit the taste of the surgeon.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Savile-row, April, 1871.

BARNARD HOLT.

A REQUEST.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you permit me to state, through the medium of your pages, that having been requested to contribute a quarterly letter on the Progress of Psychological Medicine, Anthropology, and Medical Jurisprudence in this country to the *New York Quarterly Journal of Psychological Medicine*, edited by Dr. Hammond, I shall esteem it a great favour if gentlemen writing on these subjects will kindly forward to my address any memoirs, books, &c., that they may wish me to notice.

With regard to books, I must request it to be distinctly understood that they will be duly returned to their respective authors, and that they cannot be accepted as presentation copies.—I am, Sir, yours &c.,

GEORGE E. DAY, M.D., F.R.C.P.,

Late Professor of Medicine in the University of St. Andrews. Furzewell House, Torquay, April 14th, 1871.

HILL STATIONS IN INDIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In a late number of THE LANCET you referred to some statistics by Dr. Ambrose which showed the good effect produced by a hill station on European troops in India. Although Dr. Bryden's figures on the health of the working parties in the Himalayas ought to have settled this question, it appears that there are still persons who doubt the desirability of locating European troops on elevated lands, and not on the plains of India. Every additional piece of evidence is of importance, and I therefore ask you to publish the following letter to me from Dr. Skeen, the Surgeon of the 85th Regiment, and the table enclosed with it. I have no doubt Dr. Skeen will excuse my making it public without his permission. The figures speak for themselves, and show in a very marked way how residence on the hills not only improves the health at the time, but continues to afford some protection for a considerable time afterwards.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Netley, April 8th, 1871.

E. A. PARKES.

Dugshai, 23rd February, 1871.

MY DEAR SIR,—About two years ago there was some newspaper war between two of the chiefs of the Department as to the effects of hill residence on the health of European troops in India. Having no personal knowledge of the matter, and with the view of acquiring an opinion of my own, I weighed the working party of the regiment proceeding to the hill station of Dalhousie in May, 1869, and a corresponding number of the men remaining at head quarters (Meean Meer).

On the return of the working party to the plains in November, I weighed again 100 men of both parties. The difference during the eight months was an average increase per man of twelve ounces in weight in the hill party, and an average loss of two pounds per man at head quarters. Ague was exceedingly prevalent in 1869, but the hill party in December were not attacked in any great degree.

In making up my annual report for 1870, I have again compared the admissions and deaths in the two parties, apparently with decisive results as to the benefit of the residence in 1869 in the hills of this individual party.

I remain, yours very truly,

Dr. Parkes.

W. SKEEN, 85th Regiment.

Comparison of the Effects of Hill Residence on the Health of a Working Party of the 85th Light Infantry with that of the remainder of the Regiment at Meean Meer in 1869.

| | Difference in Weight in 8 months per man. | Admissions at Hospital from Ague during December, 1869, when the men had returned from the hills. | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Dalhousie working party ... | Increase = 12 oz. | 7.8 per cent. | 100 men of the working party and 100 men of the remainder at Meean Meer were weighed in March before the working party left, and again on their return to station quarters in November. |
| Remainder of regiment at Meean Meer. | Decrease = 2 lb. | 50.8 per cent. | |

Health of the Dalhousie Working Party of 1869 during the year 1870 at Meean Meer compared with that of the remainder of the Regiment during the same period and at the same station.

| | Strength. | Admissions. | | Percentage. | | Deaths. | | November. | | |
|--|-----------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------------|-----------|---------------------|---|
| | | From all causes. | From Ague and Fevers. | From all causes. | From Ague and Fevers. | No. | Rate per 1000 per annum. | Strength. | Attacked by Ague. | |
| Dalhousie working party of 1869. | 138 | 237 | 141 | 171.8 | 102.1 | 0 | 0.00 | 111 | 11 = 10.0 per cent. | November has been during the residence of regiment at Meean Meer the most sickly month as regards ague. |
| Remainder of regiment on the plains for 2 years. | 380 | 1460 | 1093 | 384.2 | 287.6 | 17 | 44.73 | 295 | 95 = 32.2 per cent. | |
| Draft from England, arrived 5th May. | 98 | 149 | 84 | 182.4* | 102.8* | 2 | 24.00 | 87 | 26 = 30.0 per cent. | |

* For 12 months.

The hill party was composed of men who had suffered in health in 1868 from ague and typhoid fever.

VIENNA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

I HAVE to inform you that Professor Oppolzer, Professor of Special Pathology and Therapeutics in the University of Vienna, died on Sunday afternoon last, the 16th inst., of

typhus exanthematicus, after an illness of a week's duration. His death has thrown a deep gloom over Vienna, and over all connected with the medical school. He was lecturing in his new wards in which he succeeded Professor Skoda, as late as last Tuesday. Vienna has thus lost within a month its two most distinguished clinical teachers