

scarlet fever. The district is fortunate also in the quality of its articles of food, as of numerous samples of milk, arrow-root, coffee, mustard, tea, lard, honey, butter, and aerated water examined, one only, a sample of milk, was found to be adulterated.

WE observe that some of the metropolitan boards of guardians, with the view of limiting the increase of small-pox, have stopped for the present leave of absence to work-house inmates, and also suspended the rule permitting their visitation by friends. This is a wise measure of precaution, which might be adopted throughout London. The activity and intelligence which parish authorities generally show at the present crisis in coping with the evil contrasts very markedly with the vacillation and obstinacy exhibited on a similar occasion not many years ago, and furnishes gratifying evidence of the diffusion of knowledge regarding the laws of health.

Two or three weeks back we drew attention to the prevalence of zymotic diseases in Poplar. There are as yet no signs of improvement. At the last meeting of the District Board of Works 26 cases of scarlet fever, 3 of typhoid, and 2 of small-pox were reported, of which number 18 had proved fatal.

WE are informed that numerous cases of typhus and enteric fever have occurred lately in the East and West Ham districts, and that the local authorities are not taking adequate measures to arrest the extension of the maladies.

THE British Medical Association will meet next year in Manchester. Dr. Eason Wilkinson is the president elect.

THE KEIGHLEY GUARDIANS.

IN the Queen's Bench Division on Thursday, before Lord Chief Justice Cockburn and Justices Mellor and Lush, the case of the Keighley board of guardians again came before the Court on the Master's report. The defendants, who were on bail, were in attendance, having come up for judgment.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL observed that, inasmuch as the proper order had been made in compliance with the peremptory mandamus, the Local Government Board would be willing to consent that the defendants should be liberated on their own recognisances to come up for judgment when called upon, on their undertaking not to do any act either to rescind the order or to prevent its being carried into effect.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE.—That would be a happy ending of the matter, and it is a very liberal and generous suggestion on the part of the Local Government Board. Are the defendants willing to enter into the arrangement?

The defendants, having assented to the proposal, entered into their own recognisances in the sum of £1000 each to come up for judgment when called upon, it being intimated to them that while they remained on the board they must neither in their official nor private capacities do anything to obstruct the carrying out of the order by taking part in demonstrations or otherwise.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE.—I am very glad that this matter terminates in this way. There can be no doubt that all these persons are in contempt in consequence of the course they have pursued in refusing to obey the peremptory writ of mandamus issuing from this Court. They have no doubt been actuated by conscientious motives, but it is not for members of a constitutional community like ours to set up their individual judgments against that which is the law of the land. It may be that here and there some mischief may have resulted from the practice of vaccination to which those persons are so strenuously opposed; but when we bear in mind that which we historically know, although, perhaps, these defendants may not know it, that before vac-

ination was introduced the small-pox was one of the greatest plagues and horrors that ever desolated a land, that it swept away its victims by thousands and tens of thousands, that it was a source of the greatest terror to the whole community, and that this plague has—practically speaking—been put an end to by this mode of dealing with it, we feel that this fact should influence the minds of all persons in favour of vaccination, as it has the Legislature and the whole of the enlightened and educated portion of the nation. That, however, is not the ground upon which we proceed. We proceed upon the ground that it is for the subject to obey an Act of Parliament, and for this Court to enforce obedience to it. In disobeying the law and in refusing to comply with the mandamus of this Court, the defendants have been guilty of contempt, but at the same time they have now put an end to that contempt by undertaking not to resist the execution of the order which has been made by their Board. The matter having thus terminated, we are relieved from the necessity of passing the very severe sentence upon the defendants which otherwise it would have been our duty to pass upon them.

The defendants were then discharged.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

SCURVY AND THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In an able article on the above interesting and important subject, which appears in THE LANCET of the 11th instant, there are the following observations:—"It is proper to record our disagreement from Dr. Rae, and other writers, who have declared in effect that alcohol promotes rather than prevents scurvy. Alcohol is undoubtedly an antiscorbutic (although not a powerful one), and was so considered by the late Dr. Parkes," &c.

It would, indeed, be great presumption on my part to bring up my small experience in opposition to the opinions of those who may have seen many more cases of this curious disease under a variety of circumstances (climatic and otherwise) than I have done, and probably have had opportunities of experimenting upon them.

I must, however, guard myself by saying that in speaking of the injurious effects of alcohol, I confine my remarks entirely to its use or abuse in cold climates, of which I have had an experience of something like twenty winters, with temperatures varying from 10° to 50° below zero of Fabr.

When I first lived in these cold countries, and took long walks, sometimes of forty or fifty miles, on snow-shoes, I occasionally carried with me a small flask of spirits, according to the then prevalent custom when shooting in the Highlands of Scotland. I never used the spirits but twice, and on both occasions, although not far from home, I thought I never should have got there. The quantity taken was small, not above half a wineglassful, yet the very brief temporary stimulus was speedily succeeded by languor, faintness, and drowsiness, which I could with great difficulty shake off. I was then a healthy and moderately active young fellow of twenty-one, not easily reduced to the condition I have mentioned.

In many subsequent winter journeys over snow extending to thousands of miles, I usually carried in my canteen a flask of brandy as medicine, and have often as an experiment offered my men (old experienced travellers) some of it during the day's march. They, although fond of grog, invariably refused, asking leave to have it before going to bed, knowing that it would not then be so injurious. I observed, however, that the men to whom it was given were generally much more thirsty than the others, and not so well up to their work, during at least the early part of next day.

It may be asked, what has all this to do with scurvy? My reply is, that it has a great deal to do with it. The facts I have mentioned must, I think, be admitted to indicate that a continued use of even small quantities of alcohol in very cold weather has an injurious effect in causing a greater or

less loss of energy or vital power, without producing any compensating benefit that I am aware of; such loss of vital energy must lessen the resisting power of the constitution to the reception of scurvy, other conditions being favourable to the attack of this insidious disease.

Let me here mention the scale of diet for the sledging parties, arranged by the greatest known Arctic naval authorities, before this expedition left England, and on the use of which by the sledgers my supposition as to the cause of scurvy was based. Daily ration for each man:—1 lb. pemican, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. bacon, 14 oz. biscuit, 2 oz. preserved potatoes, $\frac{1}{2}$ gill concentrated rum (55 over proof), $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. pepper, tea, chocolate and sugar; $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. salt and 1 oz. onion powder per week. Salt, and I believe some spices, were added to at least a part of the pemican made for the expedition, which was called "savory pemican" to distinguish it from the other.

Yours, &c.,

Scientific Club, Nov. 13th, 1876.

JOHN RAE.

P.S.—The following extract is from the *Daily News* of Nov. 14th:—

"*Total Abstinence and the Arctic Expedition.*—Mr. T. W. Glover, District Chief Templar for South Hants, writes to us from Southampton: 'I see a correspondent in a contemporary, signing himself "An Old Arctic," says the teetotallers in the expedition suffered as much as those who took rum. This being considered an important trial of those principles, I beg to give the following facts in relation thereto. Four brethren of the Good-for-Evil Lodge of Good Templars, in Portsmouth, were amongst the crews, and from a letter to hand since their arrival home, I find three of them stood true to their principles all through, and the other one up to April last. Neither of them suffered from scurvy, frost-bite, or any other sickness, although one, Adam Ayles, was in the sledging party away from the ships 110 days, and another of them 98 days. These men have, therefore, proved that total abstinence is compatible with the hardest work in the coldest regions, and the principles of Good Templary have been carried by them to the farthest parts of the known world.'"

* * * We have not in our leading article alluded again to the antiscorbutic properties of alcohol, because it is a scientific question, and will be specially referred to in a future number.—ED. L.

THE REGISTRARSHIP OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The last action of the Medical Council, in their election of a Registrar, is one which has caused painful feelings and a sense of humiliation, which it is difficult to suppress, in the minds of many in the medical profession. If we examine the matter, what does it amount to? A notice is issued, mainly in the professional journals, inviting application for the office. Measures are taken to produce the impression that in all good faith the best man will be chosen. Numerous applicants come forward. Four are selected and recommended, some of these from the country, to appear before the Committee. Its choice falls upon one who is not in the remotest degree connected with or interested in the profession. Are we to interpret this to mean that among all the 21,000 medical men of the country not one was found willing or competent to undertake the duties of the office? We cannot believe it. Or are the duties of the Registrar so unimportant as to require no special qualification for their efficient discharge? Was there ever an instance of a scholastic, legal, or other purely professional appointment conferred on an outsider? We are often enough snubbed by various sections of society, but what are we to say when so open an affront is offered to us by our own legislative council? But so apathetic and subservient are we, that we silently submit, and that a journal which professes to have the interest and honour of medical men at heart in an especial manner, even commends the wisdom of the choice. To you, Sir, our warm thanks are due for raising your voice on our behalf. But if we ignore ourselves, if we renounce our own claims and honour, and forget our own *corps d'esprit*, who then shall help us?

I am, yours faithfully,

Nov. 14th, 1876.

F.L.S.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—The following gentlemen, having passed the required examination for the diploma, were duly admitted Members of the College at meetings of the Court of Examiners on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday last:—

Alford, Charles E., L.S.A., Crewkerne, Somerset.
 Bain, David S. E., L.S.A., Newbury.
 Blake, William H., Lymington, Hants.
 Blaker, Thomas F. J., L.S.A., Brighton.
 Buncombe, John D., Wellington, Somerset.
 Cambridge, Thomas A., L.S.A., Gower-street.
 Coates, William H., Hackney-road.
 Collins, William E., Brecon.
 Cree, Percy Kimbarn, L.S.A., St. John's-park, Holloway.
 Cuthbert, William W., L.S.A., Mendlesham.
 Dring, William E., L.R.C.P. Edin., Beacon-hill, Camden-road.
 Duggan, Mothwell, Durham.
 Elcum, Donald, L.S.A., Hampstead.
 Farbstain, Henry, Hull.
 Ferguson, John, Manchester.
 Gadsby, John T., Godmanchester.
 Gibson, Charles P., Leeds.
 Giles, George M. J., South Kensington.
 Goodchild, Francis, Ealing.
 Grant, James D., M.B. Edin., Edinburgh.
 Greenwood, Major, Dalston.
 Hassell, John, M.B. Edin., Northwich.
 Herbert, Ethelbert A. H., L.R.C.P. Ed., H.M. Dockyard, Devonport.
 Higgins, George H., L.R.C.P. Edin., Leeds.
 Hudson, James, L.S.A., Holt, Norfolk.
 Ingram, Ernest F., Worcester.
 Irwin, John A., M.B. Dub., Manchester.
 Jackson, Edwin, L.S.A., Manchester.
 Jolly, Robert W., L.S.A., Shooter's-hill.
 Kyan, John H., Preston.
 Lewis, Thomas P., Edinburgh.
 Mills, Robert J., M.B., Norwich.
 Montbrun, Domingo, M.D., Port of Spain, Trinidad.
 Newton, James, Fairfield, Manchester.
 Norman, John E., Durham.
 Procter, Henry C., Leeds.
 Proffitt, William J. W., Burton-on-Trent.
 Rean, William H., L.S.A., Poplar.
 Rees, Alfred, Maesteg.
 Richardson, Sidney L., Sydney, New South Wales.
 Rigby, William B., L.S.A., St. Helens, Lancashire.
 Rule, George F. H., L.S.A., Elgin-crescent.
 Sangster, John Ikin, Barnsley.
 Scott, William F., M.D. McGill College, Hull, Canada.
 Sedgefield, Arthur R. W., Hammersmith.
 Simpson, J. H., M.B., Pontefract.
 Skerman, Sidney, L.S.A., Waltham Abbey.
 Smelt, Frank H., L.R.C.P. Edin., Old Trafford.
 Symons, John, L.S.A., Penzance, Cornwall.
 Taylor, Henry E., L.S.A., Bradford.
 Thain, Leslie, L.S.A., Peckham-rye.
 Todd, Howard J. M.C., L.S.A., Kennington.
 Tucker, Milton M., M.D. Toronto, Ontario.
 Walker, Horace, L.R.C.P. Lond., Camberwell.
 Watson, Charles S., M.B. Edin., Forfar.
 Webb, William H., Wellington, Shropshire.
 Whitley, Francis G. H., L.S.A., Truro, Cornwall.
 Wickers, Henry A., Grosvenor-road, Pimlico.
 Wickham, Henry, L.S.A., Tetbury.
 Wilkie, David W. B., M.B., Melbourne, Australia.
 Young, Archibald P., Norwood.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—The following is a list of the candidates who have passed the recent Second M.B. examination:—

FIRST DIVISION.

Burton, Samuel Herbert, University College.
 Edwardes, Edward Joshua, St. Mary's Hospital.
 Ferrier, John Christian, Guy's Hospital.
 Fox, Thomas Colcott, University College.
 Hancock, John Gatehell, King's College.
 Harrison, Charles Edward, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
 Hellier, John Benjamin, Leeds and University College.
 Hunt, Joseph William, University College.
 Jones, Arthur Henry, Guy's Hospital.
 Kidd, Walter Aubrey, Guy's Hospital.
 Lamb, William Henry, Guy's Hospital.
 Pepp-r, Augustus Joseph, University College.
 Pinnell, Thomas Mark, University College.

SECOND DIVISION.

Blake, Henry, St. George's Hospital.
 Boddy, Hugh Walter, Royal School of Medicine, Manchester.
 Briggs, Harry Beecham, King's College.
 Duke, Herbert, Guy's Hospital.
 Langley, John Geoffrey, University College.
 Parry, Thomas Sharp, University College.
 Pughe, Rhinallt Navalw ap Joan, Liverpool Royal Infirmary.
 Rogers, Thomas King, University College.
 Rossiter, George Frederick, St. Thomas's Hospital.
 Seward, William Joseph, University College.