

one dismissal in the case of medical officers of workhouses, and two forced resignations among those connected with the metropolitan establishments.

SCIENTIFIC GRANTS OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE Scientific Grants Committee of the British Medical Association have this year received £300 for allotment amongst those who desire assistance in original researches in medical and the allied sciences. The following grants have already been made, and the Committee are prepared to allot the balance of £170. Applications, which must not be made later than the 29th December next, should be sent in at as early a date as possible to the General Secretary of the Association, 36, Great Queen-street, W.C.:—Drs. Braidswood and Vacher, on the Life History of Contagion, £25; Professor Rutherford, Researches on Biliary Secretion, £20; Dr. Crichton Browne, on the Antagonism of Medicines, £10; Dr. M'Kendrick and Professor Dewar, on the Physiological Action of Chinoline and Pyridine Compounds, £25; Dr. Mahomed, the Pathology of Albuminuria, £15; Dr. Munro, Cupar, Fife, an Antidote for Chloroform, £3; Dr. Caton, on the Electric Currents of the Brain, £15; Dr. Fothergill, the Effect of certain Agents on the Circulation, £10; Dr. Spencer Clifton, the Action of Uranium Salts on Diabetes, £10.

In addition to the scientific grants, Mr. Samuel Wood, of Shrewsbury, has generously presented £25, to be given for the best essay on Pyæmia, and there is also the Hastings prize medal of 20 guineas offered for the best paper on Diphtheria, its Pathology, Diagnosis, and Treatment.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

EPSOM COLLEGE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—On Thursday last we visited for the first time Epsom College, and, as our presence there was wholly unexpected, our testimony on the general as well as special aspects of that establishment, seeing that we possess no connexion with it, may be relied on. We are, however, anxious that the public, as well as the Governor who writes to you in your last number, should know the truth respecting "the badness of the water and the food."

As staff officers in H.M. Indian army, we have had considerable experience in sanitary matters, as well as in questions of food. We can therefore unhesitatingly assure the Governor that these complaints from the Epsom boys are wholly groundless; purer water and more wholesome food cannot be obtained than we partook of in the College. All the drinking-water is filtered through a large Lipscombe.

As our visit was more than an ordinary one, we will, with your sanction, do more than reply to the letter of the Governor.

We arrived at the College during school hours, and, being accompanied by one of the officials, we entered the school and class-rooms, and were very much gratified at finding the atmosphere in all perfectly free from odour, due to the free ventilation and open windows. School work was not interrupted. We were very much impressed with the healthy aspect of the boys, numbering in all upwards of 200. Somewhat later in the day we saw football and other games in full force; these enjoyed in such an open district in part explained the healthful appearance of the boys.

The baths and gymnasium, too, we found in excellent order, as well also the racket-court; and a more charming cricket-ground we have never seen. Whilst inspecting these the dinner-bell sounded—the first, which is served at 1 P.M., to which we were invited. At the upper table

several of the masters partake of luncheon, whilst at each table a master presides. The dinner consisted of beef (ribs and loins) and legs of mutton and plum pudding. The potatoes were small and rather waxy, and the beer somewhat sour. With these exceptions everything was of first-rate quality, and there was no stint to quantity. Our impression is that more animal food was eaten by most of the boys than is good for them.

After dinner we inspected the kitchens, and found everything clean and well ordered. Benham's stove was in full operation, the second dinner being cooked. The potatoes which were being steamed were of a better description than those of which we had partaken at the early dinner; indeed we were told that the stock was from a fresh contract.

Passing up-stairs we were shown the bedrooms, and more commodious and cleaner we had never seen.

In the infirmary—suites of rooms adjoining the pensioners', and as far as possible from the school,—we found five boys, four eating mutton-chops, and one enjoying a bason of beef-tea. These youths we were told had scarlet fever. Up a distant flight of stairs two other boys, who looked very well, were said to have had chicken-pox.

In conclusion, we cannot withhold our highest admiration and approval of this well-conducted and well-ordered public school.

Your obedient servants,

St. James's-square, W., Oct. 1875.

TWO STAFF OFFICERS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I was glad to see the letter in THE LANCET, signed "A Governor of the Medical Benevolent College," directing attention to the fact that several boys are now suffering from scarlet fever. It is quite true that this disease made its appearance at the College during last term, and as two or three boys were taken ill less than a fortnight after the vacation, I think we can come to no other conclusion than that necessary means were neglected to stamp out infection. My son is one of the victims, and has been seriously ill. An attack of scarlet fever must at all times be a source of great anxiety; in this case it is something more, to both parents and pupils. The pupil suffers the loss of the term, for which the parent has to pay. And as soon as the invalid is well enough, of course his parent must take him away. The question arises, Where to? I have other sons attending schools, one at Merchant Taylors'. A convalescent from scarlet fever must not come to my house. I shall have the additional expense and trouble of finding a home for my boy till Christmas.

I think two alterations are required at Epsom College. I am under the impression that the diet allowed is not equal to that of private establishments, and I think the boys should have more exercise out of the College grounds.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES COLLYER, L.R.C.P. Lond., &c.

Oak House, Enfield, Oct. 26th, 1875.

FATAL OUTBREAK OF TYPHOID FEVER IN UPPINGHAM SCHOOL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you allow me to draw your attention to the fatal outbreak of typhoid fever in Uppingham School, and to certain facts connected therewith. A fortnight ago yesterday, a relative of mine showed me a letter he had just received from Uppingham, telling him that his eldest son was suffering from a mild form of low fever, which was epidemic there, and which had been said to be due to atmospheric influences, from the excessive wet succeeding the drought in the Midland Counties, and this was given on the authority of a London physician. The parents were told not to alarm themselves, but that if any bad symptoms did make their appearance, they would be informed. I, naturally, translated it as typhoid fever, in spite of the eminent authority, and was asked to go down at once. I left by the next train from Euston-square, and on my arrival at Uppingham called on the master of the lower school, where my little friend was. I found him very reticent, repeating the above opinion, and adding