

following: Lord Derby, Lord Granville, Lord Belper, Marquis of Ripon, Mr. Gathorne Hardy, Sir Wm. Jenner, Sir James Paget, Sir Wm. Gull, Sir Thomas Watson, Sir H. Thompson, Mr. R. Q. Iain, Mr. Erichsen, Dr. Reynolds, Dr. Wilson Fox, Dr. Hare, Dr. Bucknill, Dr. Sankey, Mr. Prescott Hewett, Dr. Weber, Mr. Erasmus Wilson, Mr. F. Symonds (Oxford), Mr. John Fowler, C.E. The list also included donations from Sir Thomas Fairbairn, Dr. Sharpey, Dr. Sanderson, Miss Nightingale, Mr. Rogers Field, Dr. Sibson, Dr. Sieveking, Dr. Wilks, Dr. Wm. Farr, Mr. George Dixon (Birmingham), Dr. Aitken, Dr. de Chaumont, and others.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE forty-fourth annual meeting of the Association will be held at Sheffield on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, August 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. The President for the year is Sir Robert Christison, Bart., M.D., and the President-elect Dr. O. de Bartolomè. The Address in Medicine will be delivered by Dr. Sieveking, that in Surgery by Mr. W. F. Favell, and that in Public Medicine by Dr. Alfred Carpenter. The officers of sections are as follows:—Medicine, Dr. Chadwick; Surgery, Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson; Obstetric Medicine, Dr. Lombe Atthill; Public Medicine, Dr. J. B. Russell. The programme for the week includes a soirée, a public dinner, a promenade concert, and excursions to Chatsworth, Wentworth, Wharfedale, and other places. A museum of the Association will be held in the Cutlers' Hall, where there will be exhibited new instruments and appliances, new drugs and new preparations, pathological specimens with photographs, microscopes, and new inventions relating to public health.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

MR. GLADSTONE ON MEDICAL EDUCATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The address delivered by Mr. Gladstone at the London Hospital was of extreme interest as containing the matured thoughts of a man who, having, as he said, no practical knowledge of the working of our profession, yet was enabled, from general considerations and reflections, to offer valuable opinions on many subjects of interest to us. His remarks, for example, on specialism, are worthy of great attention, and more particularly the observations which he made on experience as our only guide to practice. He said, "The public began to comprehend that the medical profession laid no claim to what he might call cabalistic methods—that is to say, it did not depend upon formulæ, but relied upon experience, endeavoured to track the truth, and followed the laws of common sense."

At different periods in the history of medicine many systems of treatment have been in vogue, but at the present time, when thinking of formulæ, we naturally revert to homœopathy. This system is no doubt perpetuated because to some minds it presents the charm of a precise scientific method—the very reason why, to a higher order of intellect like Mr. Gladstone's, it is fallacious. The professors of the system allow their supporters to be enamoured of the doctrine, whilst they constantly deny to their opponents the right of objecting to it on theoretical grounds; but it may be shown to be open to attack on the more general principle of offering a formula for the cure of disease.

For, let the proposition be maintained that there is a formula of the kind, it must represent a law of nature and be as fixed as gravitation or any other natural law. It must always have existed and must necessarily continue to do so. But let us ask ourselves what are the probabilities of such a law having been discovered? We must remember, in the first place, that Mill and some other great philosophic

writers have regarded physiology, or a knowledge of the organisation of man, as amongst the last which will be placed on a perfect scientific basis, and, therefore, it is only just to suppose that the discovery of a law (if possible) which should regulate or restore the deranged machinery of the body would also be amongst the latest of our achievements. But we are told that we are already in possession of it. We may be still in ignorance of many laws which regulate inorganic matter, and of many more which operate in the complex processes of the animal body, but we have at once jumped over all these and reached the highest point of discovery. We ask if this is probable in the present stage of scientific progress? Grant that there may be a flaw in the argument, and let us take the law as given us; then let us ask if it be possible that it can have been before the scientific world for half a century and not accepted by the best educated men in the profession? Its rejection alone proves its falsity. Can it be conceived that a newly discovered law in physics or chemistry could be discarded by the professors on those subjects for fifty years after its propagation? They must have accepted it, and they would have done so gladly. They could not have been men of science and ignored it; the very words are contradictory.

Considering, then, the complex machinery of the animal body and the thousand influences acting upon it for good or for evil, and then considering the present imperfect state of knowledge of minor things, the proposition of a formula for curing disease is beyond credence. Mr. Gladstone clearly saw this, and therefore homœopathy may at once be rejected, without offending its supporters or even mentioning its name, by simply denying the possibility of any formula whatever for curing disease.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Grosvenor-street, W.

S. W.

SANITARY STATISTICS OF H.M. CUSTOMS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg leave to correct a numerical error which has crept into your notice, in last week's number, of the annual report on the health of the Customs officers. The mean daily number incapacitated by disease and accident is stated to constitute 36 per cent., whereas it is in reality only 3.6 per cent., or 36 per 1000. And that is a rather high proportion, the ratio for many years being about 3 per cent. The sick-list in 1875 was heavy, but the mortality was remarkably small, being at the rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per 1000, and, excluding death from accident, only $6\frac{1}{2}$ per 1000. We have thus an instance of what is believed to be not uncommon—viz, much sickness with a low mortality, as in other years there have been sometimes found a comparatively small amount of sickness and an unusually high mortality. As a contribution to the much desiderated registration of disease, these statistics, which are unique in their way, possess a certain value as indicating the general health-condition of adult males resident in the metropolis.

A salient point in last year's report was a general summary of many years in a comparative table of the sanitary state of the military and naval forces, on the home station, and the Customs officers of the port of London as probably a fair type of the civil community. The results are:—

	Army.	Navy.	Customs.
Mean daily number on sick-list, } per 1000	48 ...	41 ...	29
Deaths, per 1000	$9\frac{1}{2}$...	9 ...	$12\frac{1}{2}$
Invaliding and superannuation, } per 1000	34 ...	28 ...	8
Annual loss of time per man, in } days	17 ...	15 ...	11

The higher mortality in the Customs force is explained by the fact that in it are many men from 50 to 70 years of age, a class unknown in the army or navy, and also that most cases likely to terminate fatally from phthisis and other chronic diseases are invalided at an early date from the army or navy and do not die in the service. Notwithstanding their youthful vigour and comparatively easy lives, soldiers and sailors, even on the home station, show a much larger proportion of sickness and, more especially, of invaliding than those who, with the responsibilities, enjoy

the domestic comforts of ordinary citizens as well as the regularity of life promoted by wholesome discipline.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

Custom House, July, 1876.

WALTER DICKSON, M.D.

* * By an accident the decimal point between the numbers 3 and 6, in our abstract of last week, became obliterated in the process of striking off. Dr. Dickson cannot have observed the space between the figures.—ED. L.

THE DRESS OF THE POLICE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Permit me respectfully to call your attention to the absurd and unhealthy practice, enforced by the Police authorities, of clothing the constables of Great Britain, in the hottest period of the year, in thick, heavy broadcloth, admirably suited, but not just at present, for an expedition to the North Pole, and of fastening their necks with tight-fitting black stocks, which attract heat, impede natural respiration, and debilitate the constitution of the strongest. At the time I am writing the thermometer stands at 120° in the sun. Imagine the sufferings of our town and country policemen, who may, in the course of their duties, be called upon to walk ten or twenty miles a day; and they dare not unbutton their coats or relax their suffocating black chokers without an order from head-quarters. Pray, Sir—to use a familiar expression of our Premier—endeavour to educate our police rulers in the spirit of this simple truth, “that there is a time for all things,” and that it is cruel in practice and at variance with sanitary principles to clothe working men in the summer with the same garments which they use in winter. My experience tells me that working men and women, be their labours great or little, know when to put on a warm dress, and when to exchange it for a cooler; and why it should be supposed that our policemen are incapable of judging of the effects of weather, and why a light serge coat and summer trousers should predispose them to fever and rheumatism, I am at a loss to understand; for this is the line of argument adopted by absolute lovers of routine “for wishing matters to remain as they are.” A word in season by you in support of my suggestion would ensure ultimately the means of giving comfort and relief to nearly 30,000 fine, brave fellows who are now sweltering and weakened by excessive perspiration.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

R. ARTHUR KINGLAKE,

Taunton, July 17th, 1876.

Magistrate of the County of Somerset.

Obituary.

SIR JAMES LOMAX BARDSLEY, M.D.

By the death of Sir James Bardsley, which we briefly announced last week, Manchester has lost one of its most prominent citizens, and the profession a distinguished member. Sir James was a native of Nottingham, where he was born in 1801. He received his education in Scotland, studying at the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, and graduating Doctor of Medicine of the former University in 1823. Soon after, he settled in Manchester, where he was fortunate enough to secure the appointments of physician to the Infirmary, and lecturer on the Practice of Medicine, &c., at the School of Medicine. He speedily established a good connexion in the town. In 1853 he received the honour of knighthood, at the same time that a similar distinction was conferred upon a London physician, Sir John Forbes. He continued to fill the appointment of physician to the infirmary for many years, and when, in consequence of his arduous private engagements, he resigned, he received at the hands of the Board of Management a well-merited recognition of his diligent and valuable services during the period he had been connected with the institution.

Sir James enriched medical literature with contributions of proved and acknowledged merit, some of which are of

permanent value. In 1850 he was elected president of the Manchester Medico-Ethical Association, an office which he held for some years. Although he was a justice of the peace and a deputy-lieutenant for the county, he seldom took any part in public affairs. In private life the deceased was greatly esteemed by a large circle of friends. “It would not be correct,” says one who knew him, “to attribute to him great intellectual acquirements; for he did not possess them. What distinguished him was the possession of good common sense and sound judgment rather than deep learning. He was essentially a practical man.” For some years Sir James, conscious of failing health, had gradually reduced the extent of his work, and during the last twelve months had not engaged in any medical labour. He had been slowly sinking for some time, and more than a week before his death all hope of his recovery was abandoned. He died from disease of the heart, having at the last suffered greatly.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.—The following gentlemen were admitted Licentiates on July 18th:—

Batchelor, Henry Thomas, Worcester, Cape of Good Hope.
Bowen, Alfred Longmore, Guy's Hospital.
Buckell, Leonard Martin, Romsey.
Collenette, Frank de Beauchamp, Guernsey.
Fisher, Stephen Henry, London Hospital.
Footner, John Bulkley, Bethlem Hospital.
Gibbes, Cuthbert Chapman, Surbiton.
Hames, George Henry, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
Hancock, John Gatchell, Downshire-hill.
Harvey, William Yeo, Stanhope-street.
Hayes, Francis George, Cathcart-road.
Jackson, Robert Alexander, Notting-hill-square.
Kirtikar, Kanoba Ranchoddas, Euston-square.
Lang, Henry Charles, Berners-street.
Makuna, Manikji Dosabhai, Norman House, Prince of Wales-road.
Morshead, Ernest Garstin Anderson, Salcombe Regis.
Perry, Edward Verdon, St. George's Hospital.
Pronger, Charles Ernest, Crawley, Sussex.
Rees, David Valentine, London Hospital.
Ritchie, John Lichtenstein, St. Thomas's Hospital.
Sawtell, Tom Henry, River-street.
Sellon, John William Gore, Budleigh Salterton.
Upton, Alfred, Halton-road.
Vernon, Mark Henry Herbert, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
Verrall, Thomas Jenner, Dane's-inn.
Walker, George, jun., Cottenham, Wimbledon.
Williams, William Henry, Grafton-street, Fitzroy-square.
Woodward, Frederick Edward, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

The following candidates having passed in Medicine and Midwifery, will receive the College Licence on obtaining a qualification in Surgery recognised by this College:—

Eve, Frederic Samuel, Lady Margaret-road.
Lithgow, Thomas George, Kensington-park-road.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—The following gentlemen passed the Primary Examination in Anatomy and Physiology, at meetings of the Board of Examiners on the 14th, 17th, and 18th inst.:—

C. A. Everest and S. V. Theed, Guy's Hospital; D. Williams, A. Blair, J. Homes, J. E. Pritchard, J. H. Oldroyd, H. E. Davis, A. A. Robinson, W. E. Davies, W. H. Copley, A. D. Maitland, A. H. Robinson, W. G. Burnie, J. O. Connor, and C. D. Briggs, University College; G. Shaw, Westminster Hospital; E. M. Harrison, J. Brown, H. C. Rowbotham, E. S. Pattison, and H. Hoole, Charing-cross Hospital; W. J. Jolliffe, L. A. Cantin, A. Weakley, H. D. Halliday, J. B. Rusher, A. Hepburn, and G. A. Farrer, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; R. Norman and P. Warwick, St. George's Hospital; R. B. Bothamley, A. J. Jefferson, and J. R. Lunn, St. Thomas's Hospital; P. F. Solomons, Calcutta and St. Thomas's Hospital; W. R. Scroggie, Bombay and St. Bartholomew's Hospital; J. F. H. Bottrell and H. C. Allinson, King's College; A. J. Bisdee, St. Mary's Hospital; M. E. Ling, J. S. Nicholl, and G. H. Harvey, London Hospital; M. J. Verdon, Liverpool and King's College; and E. G. Betts, Middlesex Hospital.

Of the 147 candidates examined during the last and present week, 51 failed to satisfy the Board of Examiners, and were referred for three months' further anatomical and physiological study.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine and received certificates to practise on July 13th:—

Blackman, Josiah George, Southampton.
Blakie, John Robert, Oswestry, Salop.
Goodsall, Frederick Walter William, Dryland-road, Canonbury.
Mears, William Pope, Bromley, E.
Phillips, Alfred, The Ferns, Primrose-hill-road.
Roberts, John Thomas, New Romney, Kent.
Tunley, John, Mayfield Ashbourne, Derby.
White William Robert, King's College Hospital.