

Sutherland Highlanders): Surgeon-Captain Alexander Leitch to be Surgeon-Major (dated March 23rd, 1908).

Royal Garrison Artillery (Volunteers): 1st Kent: Surgeon-Lieutenant Sanderson Mellor resigns his commission (dated March 31st, 1908).

Rifle: 3rd Volunteer Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire Regiment): Surgeon-Lieutenant George E. St. C. Stockwell resigns his commission (dated March 31st, 1908). George Ephraim St. Clair Stockwell (late Surgeon-Lieutenant) to be Lieutenant (dated March 31st, 1908). 2nd Volunteer Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment): The under-mentioned officer resigns his commission: Surgeon-Lieutenant Herbert Shipton (dated March 31st, 1908). 1st Volunteer Battalion, Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire Regiment): Surgeon-Captain William M. Parham, resigns his commission (dated March 28th, 1908). 2nd Volunteer Battalion, The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment): The undermentioned officer resigns his commission, with permission to retain his rank and to wear the prescribed uniform: Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel and Honorary Surgeon-Colonel Henry W. Roberts (dated March 31st, 1908). 4th (Donside Highland) Volunteer Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders: Surgeon-Captain David Maver resigns his commission, with permission to retain his rank and to wear the prescribed uniform (dated March 25th, 1908).

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS (VOLUNTEERS).

Northern Command: Leeds Companies: Captain Herbert J. Robson resigns his commission (dated March 31st, 1908). North-East Lancashire Bearer Company: William Fraser Munro to be Lieutenant (dated March 23rd, 1908).

DEATHS IN THE SERVICES.

Brigade-Surgeon William Pierce Kelly, retired pay, I.M.S., on May 2nd, at Dublin, aged 73 years. He entered the service as assistant surgeon in 1857, became surgeon in 1869, surgeon-major in 1873, and retired with the rank of brigade-surgeon in 1884. He took part in the Indian Mutiny campaign of 1858 and served with the North Canara Field Force (medal).

Brigade-Surgeon Edward Harford Lloyd, retired pay, Army Medical Service, on May 3rd, aged 72 years, at the Royal Naval Hospital, Chatham. He entered the service as assistant surgeon in 1859, became surgeon in 1873, surgeon-major in 1875, and retired with the honorary rank of brigade-surgeon in 1885. He served in the Soudan during the Nile expedition, 1884-85, and was in charge of the field hospital at Kaibar (medal with clasp and Khedive's bronze star).

THE TERRITORIAL FORCE AND THE RED CROSS SOCIETY.

The Army Council has directed the attention of the County Territorial Force Associations to the proposals made by the committee of the British Red Cross Society and approved by the Army Council for assisting in the relief of suffering and the care and disposal of the sick and wounded when the Territorial Force is mobilised for war. It is now desired to bring all county associations into communication with the Red Cross Society's county branches; and though the Army Council is not prepared to say at present what assistance the society may in the future be able to render to the first and second lines of medical assistance in the field, it is suggested that consideration may be given to the work that the society can undertake in respect to the general hospitals of the third line, and on the lines of communication, all in rear of the field army. The work in which the society can participate is summarised as provision of quarters and equipment for 23 general hospitals and of a certain proportion of the staff to supplement the permanent nucleus maintained and trained in peace time; arranging for the transport of sick and wounded; the establishment of refreshment stations on the lines of communication; and the formation of convalescent homes for officers and men.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS.

An examination for not less than 20 commissions in His Majesty's Indian Medical Service will be held in London on Monday, July 27th, and the five following days. Particulars regarding pay, promotion, &c., in the Service and the necessary forms of application can be obtained from the Military Secretary, India Office, London, S.W. Applications must reach the India Office on or before July 14th.

CHOLERA IN INDIA.

A *Times* telegram, dated Peshawar, May 12th, states that: "Owing to a few additional cases of cholera the 1st

Northumberland Fusiliers and the Munster Fusiliers will not accompany General Willcocks's force against the Mohmands."

Count Benekendorf, the Russian Ambassador, through General Yermaloff, Military Attaché, by special order of the Empress Marie Feodorovna, President of the Imperial Russian Red Cross Society, has presented Major E. Hantonville Richardson with the war medal of the society, together with a letter conveying the heartfelt thanks of the society, for the services of his ambulance dogs in Manchuria during the Russo-Japanese War.

A Colonial Office telegram from Singapore states that Mr. C. T. Raikes, M.B. Oxon., M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., Government medical officer, has died from plague contracted while performing a post-mortem examination. Mr. Wray, an assistant of Dr. Raikes, is also reported to have died.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

RESEARCH DEFENCE SOCIETY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The committee of the Research Defence Society will be greatly obliged to you if you will make known the following facts. The society has at present about 1100 members, of whom about 100 are ladies. The following gentlemen have recently consented to be Vice-Presidents of the society: The Marquis of Salisbury, Lord Ludlow, Mr. Briton Rivière, Earl Egerton, Sir William Turner, Lord Fortescue, Sir Thomas Fraser, Sir John Banks, the Bishop of Chester, and Count Plunkett. By the death of Lord Poltimore, who also was a vice-president, the society has lost a good friend.

The *minimum* subscription for membership is 5s. yearly; but medical students are eligible for membership for a subscription of 2s. 6d. and it is to be hoped that a very large number of students will join the society. Branch societies are already being formed in many parts of the country. A considerable quantity of leaflets and pamphlets has been sent out in reply to requests for them; and the printing of other leaflets and pamphlets is going on rapidly. These publications include an essay by Colonel David Bruce on the Extinction of Malta Fever, an essay by Professor Cushny on the Experimental Study of the Action of Drugs, reprints of Lord Justice Fletcher Moulton's evidence before the Royal Commission, and of Professor Osler's evidence on Yellow Fever and Malaria; and leaflets on diphtheria antitoxin, the administration of the Act, the character and extent of the researches made in this country at the present time, the facts about curare, &c.

Arrangements are being made for an inaugural meeting of the society at an early date in London. Arrangements are also being made for debates in London or elsewhere, but, of course, the committee do not think it necessary to accept every "challenge" to a debate. The committee feel very strongly the urgent need of branch societies, and of corresponding members in those places which are not large enough for a branch society. They are well aware that the work of the Research Defence Society must be done all over the country and that no further advance can be made except by united and organised effort. They will be very happy to receive promises of help in this matter. The Research Defence Society has had a magnificent welcome and is bound to justify the confidence which the public has given to it.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

STEPHEN PAGET, Hon. Sec.

70, Harley-street, London, W., May 13th, 1908

THE PAN-ANGLICAN THANKOFFERING: FEMALE MEDICAL MISSIONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—If it is true that a country's wealth consists not in her Consols and hard cash but in her sons and daughters—and one is thankful to know that on every side this is being increasingly recognised—still more is this true of the Church

of Christ. One cannot, therefore, help attaching primary importance to the living portion of the thankoffering of June 24th. I dislike using the word "success" in this connexion, yet one must feel that the true measure of success of the Church's offering that day will be, under God, in proportion to the number of living members of the Body of Christ who then offer themselves for the work of the Church in far distant lands. And I want, while there is yet time, to call attention to one special direction in which most urgent need exists in the hope that it may then be supplied. I refer to the work of female medical missions.

I will not attempt to dilate on the importance of that particular agency for the spread of the Kingdom of our Blessed Lord. I will only say that each year of added experience and work in India deepens in my heart the conviction of its extreme value and of the impossibility of attaining similar results in any other way. May I, therefore, express my most earnest hope—a hope shared by so many now in the front of the Church's battle—that amongst those who then offer themselves for the King's service there may be not a few thoroughly qualified lady doctors and nurses. It is with deep regret that I learn that so far no offers of this kind have been received. Within the last few months some grievous gaps have occurred in the ranks of my own old mission at Delhi in this particular department, and one longs intensely to see these filled. But why particularise when the need is so widespread and so urgent! Will many join in prayer that it may be at this time largely met?

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Kilney, May, 1908.

G. A. LAHORE.

THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF DIPHTHERIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the above question I have always been most interested, more especially when there has been a possible relationship between the diphtheria of man and the diphtheria of the lower animals. For many years I had noticed the affection called roup, a laryngeal affection of the fowl, simulating in many ways the affection diphtheria in the child, and I had hoped some time or another to find a connexion between the two diseases.

Some few years ago I was medical officer of health of an urban district in the north of London; I was also in general practice. On one occasion I was called to see a child who suffered with a severe attack of laryngeal and tracheal diphtheria; within a few hours another child, a sister of the first child infected, became ill with true diphtheria. In tracing the cause of illness I found in the back yard of the house some fowls confined in the usual cramped chicken run in which was scattered the contents of ashbin, dust, cinders, and particles of food, mixed with chicken soft food and excreta, the whole wetted with rain-water and smelling most offensively. Two of the fowls had died from what the owner called the "croup," because the noise made by the fowl resembled the sound made by the breathing of a child with croup and similar to the child who was suffering with diphtheria. Two other fowls in the run were standing with ruffled feathers and heads tucked under wings, and appeared very ill. As the two children with diphtheria had been allowed to sit in the run and play with the fowls on several days up to the time they were ill I thought now my opportunity had come to prove the connexion between chicken roup and diphtheria of the human being. I purchased one of the sick fowls and had it conveyed in a basket with all haste to Professor G. S. Woodhead, then chief of the laboratories for research of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of London. I related to him my suspicions. The fowl was examined by him, the mucous membrane of the throat was scraped and further examined; the fowl was killed and examined again after death. Professor Woodhead reported that after every kind of examination he could find no organism resembling in any way the Löffler bacillus of diphtheria in the fowl's mucous membrane. This evidence convinced me that the illness in the fowl somewhat resembling the diphtheria of the human being had no connexion the one with the other.

Since I have been medical officer of health in East Sussex I have also given this matter attention because of the large trade in poultry carried on in Sussex, this trade requiring a number of fowls to be kept in close confinement and fed by hand, &c., as well as the employment of women, men, and children at times in picking the feathers from the dead fowls

and the process known in the trade as stubbing. The chief nuisance in connexion with this fattening of fowls is that caused by the offensive smells from the collection of the excreta. In the outbreaks of diphtheria, especially where poultry has been kept, I have tried to find some connexion between the poultry illness and the diphtheria and have failed. I have found those persons closely engaged in the fattening and feeding of poultry, &c., free from the illness diphtheria, while those not engaged in this trade have suffered from diphtheria.

With regard to this question of the possible relationship of diphtheria between fowls and human beings it is interesting to read the classical report to the Local Government Board by Dr. Airy on an epidemic of diphtheria at Buxted and Maresfield in the Uckfield rural sanitary district, July, 1888. The Uckfield rural sanitary district forms part of the sanitary combined districts of East Sussex, to which I was appointed in the year 1897. Early in the report Dr. Airy states: "At many of the small farms in the district, especially where cows are kept, chicken are fattened in large numbers for the London market. At one of them, not the cleanest, a child died of diphtheria early in the outbreak, but the illness could be otherwise accounted for, and there seemed no reason to attribute it to the fowls." Again, "In one or two instances, in answer to my inquiries, mention was made of some ailment or other among fowls, but in no case was there anything suggestive of dependence of the human disease upon any such ailment nor upon any disease of the lower animals."

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

HUGH STOTT,

Medical Officer of Health of the Combined Sanitary Districts of East Sussex.

Lewes, Sussex, May 5th, 1908.

THE LONDON DIOCESAN CHURCH LADS' BRIGADE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having the honour to be principal medical officer of the London Diocesan Church Lads' Brigade I wish to point out to the members of my profession the voluntary and excellent work being done by the officers of the brigade in gathering together the lads of the diocese and promoting amongst them habits of reverence, obedience, self-control, and all that tends towards Christian manliness. It is not for me to dwell upon the splendid results already attained, but as principal medical officer I take a keen interest in that branch of the work which comes immediately under my supervision—namely, ambulance and first aid.

There are at present 43 companies in which instruction in ambulance and first aid is being given, and it is only the lack of qualified medical men to act as lecturers that prevents the work being enormously extended. Companies in every part of London are eagerly waiting to welcome instructors, and I shall be glad if any medical men who can spare the time to give lectures weekly or fortnightly would communicate with the honorary secretary for ambulance, Captain Fred. W. Jones, 28, Sach-road, Upper Clapton, N.E.

Gentlemen offering their services have the option of being gazetted officers in the Brigade or not, as they wish. On receipt of any such names I shall be glad to interview or write very fully, giving all details, for the importance of this work cannot be over-estimated. The Brigade consists of 170 companies who meet together every Sunday for religious instruction and are also regularly trained in all branches of military drill, in addition to which seaside camps are held in August at Bexhill and Eastbourne.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

J. FAYREER, M.D. St. And.,

Lieutenant-Colonel, R.A.M.C., Principal Medical Officer L.D.C.L. Brigade.

Duke of York's Royal Military School,
Chelsea, S.W., May 6th, 1908.

PRESENTATION TO A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER.—

At the distribution of prizes and certificates to the members of the Bristol branch of the Midland Railway Corps of the St. John Ambulance Association, which took place at Bristol on May 6th, Mr. James Smith Mather, M.B., C.M. Aberd., was presented with a clock as a mark of esteem and in recognition of his valuable services to the corps.