

creative of a "rush," that too many subjects are taken up, and that it is difficult to exclude faddists. Be this as it may, there is no doubt that the institution of a military section at such congresses is not altogether satisfactory. There are, no doubt, a sufficient number and variety of important matters to be considered in connexion with modern warfare to occupy the attention of a congress devoted exclusively to questions of military hygiene and medicine.

#### VOLUNTEER OFFICERS' DECORATION.

The Queen has conferred the Volunteer Officers' Decoration upon the under-mentioned officers:—*North-Eastern District: Rifle: 2nd Volunteer Battalion the East Yorkshire Regiment: Surgeon-Captain Alexander Theodore Brand, M.D. Scottish District: Rifle: 1st Volunteer Battalion the Royal Scots Fusiliers: Surgeon-Major William Wilson; Surgeon-Major William Frew, M.D. 3rd (The Buchan) Volunteer Battalion the Gordon Highlanders: Surgeon-Captain James Stephen, M.D.*

#### SOUTHAMPTON AND THE TROOP TRANSPORT SERVICE.

According to a Reuter telegram, the whole of the transport service will in future be carried out at Southampton instead of at Portsmouth. The facilities afforded at Southampton, its nearness to Netley Hospital, and the efficient manner in which the embarkation of troops has been carried out at the port have led the authorities to decide that next season the transports will embark troops in the Empress Dock and disembark there all invalids, time-expired men, and others returning home.

#### THE HEALTH OF CALCUTTA.

Scarcely has the news reached us that small-pox is epidemic in Calcutta than advices come to hand stating that typhoid fever has broken out among the Europeans of that city. The fever, it is feared, will take an epidemic form, and a scare may possibly be created as cholera is said to be on the increase. The absence of heavy rains and consequent dearth of water is probably in a great measure responsible for this state of things.

#### EXTENDED TENURE OF APPOINTMENTS.

Surgeon-Major-General J. Warren has, it is stated, been granted an extension of the tenure of his appointment of Principal Medical Officer, Bombay, until July 6th, 1896. The frequency with which these extensions of service occur in the senior administrative rank of the medical department must, we imagine, seriously affect the prospects of many medical officers by impeding the flow of promotion.

#### THE WAZIRISTAN CAMPAIGN.

Among the names of political and military officers that have been mentioned in General Sir William Lockhart's despatches concerning the recent campaign in Waziristan are the following medical officers:—Surgeon-Colonels Spencer and Bookey and Surgeon-Major Shearer.

## Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

### MEDICAL QUESTIONS AND THE "ECHO."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—You having alluded to the correspondence on medical questions conducted in the columns of the *Echo*, I shall be exceedingly obliged if you will give me the opportunity of disclaiming identity with the person who, under the name of "Lennox," is responsible for the answers. This is not a case of *qui s'excuse s'accuse*, for it has been a subject of constant inquiry from my medical friends for many years, and I am still frequently receiving letters from patients introducing themselves to me in the belief that I am the individual whose aid they have sought through the columns of this paper. I frequently applied in vain to the editor to publish my disclaimer of identity, and only on the threat of legal proceedings succeeded at last in obtaining the following, under date of Dec. 16th, 1892: "Dr. Lennox Browne wishes us to say that he is not the 'Lennox' who answers queries in this column. We willingly comply with his request for two reasons—first, because it pleases him, and, secondly, because it is rather advantageous than otherwise that our readers should know that the correspondent

'Lennox' is not Dr. Lennox Browne." The annoyance, however, still continues, and I may add that the real name of the person bears no resemblance to the pseudonym, nor is he, according to the name given in a published book on deafness by "Lennox," to be found in the Medical Directory.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

LENNOX BROWNE.

Mansfield-street, Portland-place, W., May 13th, 1895.

### A PREVENTIVE OF HYDROPHOBIA.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS—In the course of a conversation which I had with an intelligent Haussa native a few days ago I was informed that the following method is adopted here with the view of preventing hydrophobia following the bite of a rabid dog or other animal. When a person is bitten by a dog supposed to be suffering from rabies the animal is instantly caught, killed, and cut open, the liver is taken out and slightly browned by being held to the fire, after which the whole of the organ is eaten by the patient. I have made further inquiries, and I find that it is generally believed here that this treatment in many instances prevents the onset of the disease. If it is so, it is interesting to notice the similarity which exists between it and that of M. Pasteur.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

THOMAS J. TONKIN, L.R.C.P. & S. Edin.,

Medical Officer, Haussa Association, Soudan Expedition, Kano, Haussa State, Western Soudan, Feb. 6th, 1895.

### "THE POSSIBLE ANTAGONISM BETWEEN MALARIA AND PHTHISIS."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—At the Indian Medical Congress Mr. Ardaseer Dossabhoj Cooper read a paper on the Possible Antagonism between Malaria and Phtthisis.<sup>1</sup> He asserts that in 1811 it was put forth by Wells that malaria and phtthisis were opposed to each other, and that M. Bedouine formulated the views that where malarial endemic fevers are prevalent phtthisis is rare, and that phtthisis is more curable in malarious regions than in others. The last Medical Report of the Surgeon-General of Trinidad completely disproves these formulated views. For the year there were 1452 cases of intermittent fever and 315 cases of remittent fever treated in the public hospitals of Trinidad. When we look under the heading of phtthisis pulmonalis in the same report we find 430 cases recorded, with a mortality of 48 per cent. The following return of deaths during the year is instructive: dysentery and diarrhoea, 242; phtthisis pulmonalis, 207; malarial fevers, 57. There were 13,092 patients under treatment. It is curious to note that there was only one case of rheumatic fever.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

HENRY ALSTON,

Trinidad Medical Service.

April 20th, 1895.

### ARE APOTHECARIES, OLD OR NEW, ENTITLED TO ADVERTISE?

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I am prompted, along with many others whose professional interest will soon be vitally affected, to ask this difficult but very important question. We know that graduates and diplomates of the universities and colleges, whether they be also apothecaries or not, cannot advertise with impunity. Can more particularly the new L.S.A. only advertise his skill? I will briefly, with your permission, discuss the medico-legal arguments of this latter case.

An apothecary is licensed by a society which, by Act of Parliament dated 1815, can keep open shop for the retailing of drugs or other wares and for affording medical advice and treatment. He may argue from this that he can legally advertise the sale of his wares and also the sale of his services. It does not appear that the legal powers to retail and advertise have been repealed by subsequent Acts, although new privileges have been conferred. An L.S.A. only may contend that, not being a graduate or diplomate of other corporations, he need not concern himself with their ideas of conduct and etiquette, as they have no power to penalise

<sup>1</sup> THE LANCET, Jan. 19th, 1895.