

disembarking from a steamer in the Waitotari River, New Zealand. He proceeded with the British Ambulance to the Franco-German War of 1870-71, and was in charge of the B. Division of the ambulance, and attached to the 22nd Division of the Prussian Army, accompanying it during the operations consequent on the advance on Orleans, marched with it between 200 and 300 miles during the severe winter weather of November and December, and was present at several engagements. For his services, the gallant officer was thanked by General Von Wittich, Commandant of the Division, and received the steel war medal. At the request of the Crown Prince he was granted by the Emperor of Germany the second class of the Iron Cross, "on account of his devoted and excellent conduct in seeking out and caring for the wounded of the 22nd Prussian Division in the actions of Chateaufort and Bretoncelles on the 18th and 21st November, and the battles of Orleans and Cravant on the 2nd and 10th December, 1870." He has also received the Bavarian Order of Merit for 1870 and 1871. Subsequently he was present at the memorable siege of Paris, and on the declaration of the Armistice went into the city with supplies for the hospitals. Dr. Manley rendered valuable service during the late campaign in Egypt.

We regret to hear that Surgeon-General Holloway, C.B., Principal Medical Officer at Netley, died of acute bronchitis at his official residence, on Thursday, the 19th inst.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Sir,—As Dr. Littlejohn has narrowed his notification campaign into a personal attack upon us, and has not, after the lapse of several weeks, either attempted to justify his charges or to withdraw them, we wish to give him notice, through the medium of the JOURNAL that we intend to bring the matter before the Committee of Council of the Association.

Your obedient servants,

W. HONNER FITZ-PATRICK, M.D.
EWING WHITTLE, M.D.

Liverpool, April 14th, 1863.

CLUB-PATIENTS AND WORKHOUSES.

SIR,—Will you, in your next JOURNAL, enlighten me upon the following case? A number of navies are now employed in making a new line; each one pays a weekly allowance towards a sick fund and medical attendance, and yet, when an accident occurs, they are at once sent to the workhouse. The contractor considers himself perfectly justified in doing so, rather than pay towards the hospitals. Under the circumstances, I cannot see why the parish should be burdened with the expense, but our clerk appears to think otherwise. By answering the above, you will greatly oblige.—Yours very truly,

JUSTITIA.

* * * The "sudden or urgent necessity" which is occasioned by bodily accident frequently demands instant relief; and the fact of a pauper being entitled to a weekly allowance from a sick club does not, in any way, release the guardians and their officers from the responsibility of administering the necessary relief, where they find that the pauper is, notwithstanding his title to sick pay, in a condition of destitution. The attachment of sick pay, and the liability of the contractor, are questions secondary to that of meeting the circumstances of destitution. It is clear that there is no legal obligation upon the contractor to subscribe to a public hospital, or otherwise to provide for the relief of his employees in case of illness or accident.

REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

ISLINGTON.—The sanitary supervision of a district with considerably over a quarter of a million population, would tax the energy of a health officer with many less claims upon his time than Dr. Tidy has, and if the comparative baldness of the Islington annual reports is to be deplored, it is only fair to draw attention to the difficulties attending the administration of the parish. Dr. Tidy is fortunate in having the services of so trusty and able a lieutenant as Mr. Collingwood, who is the very model of a sanitary superintendent. The Islington statistics of 1861, as reflected in Dr. Tidy's report, call for no special comment. The birth-rate is given at 35.0 per 1,000 of the population (the smallest since 1862), and the death-rate as 18.0 per 1,000, the lowest for "many years." Notwithstanding the rapid increase of the population, the actual number of deaths is less than in any year since 1877. The epidemics of the year were small-pox, measles, scarlatina, and whooping-cough. Measles caused 161

deaths, as against the exceptionally small number of 48 in the previous year. Scarlatina caused 116 deaths, but it was less fatal as an epidemic than in any year since 1873. The epidemic of whooping-cough was comparatively mild in character, causing only 172 deaths, as compared with 299, 229, and 296 deaths in the three previous years. Typhoid fever was somewhat more prevalent than usual during a part of the year; altogether, 75 deaths were attributed to "fever." The renewed activity of small-pox in Islington became first decidedly apparent in December, 1860, and the numbers increased, with some little weekly variation, until the intensity of the disease culminated with 53 reported cases in the first week of June. By the end of that month the decline in the epidemic became apparent, although, as usual, signs of renewed vigour occasionally appeared. The total number of cases during the year was 797, with 129 deaths, or 16.2 per cent. Of 78 unvaccinated persons attacked, 39, or 50 per cent., died. Of the 719 persons said to have been vaccinated (however imperfectly), 90 died, or 12.5 per cent. 522 patients were removed to the various hospitals of the metropolis, and of these 69 died, or 13.2 per cent. 275 patients were treated at their own homes, and of these 60 died, or 21.8 per cent. Dr. Tidy speaks in the highest terms of the usefulness of the camp hospital set up by the vestry at Finchley, and expresses his strong conviction that the step taken by the Vestry was a wise one, and that "it would be still wiser never to be without such an invaluable resource as a camp hospital for use in times of emergency and danger." It must be confessed, however, that the cost of the hospital seems inordinate for the results achieved. In common with other metropolitan health officers, Dr. Tidy regards the transference of the duty of bakehouse inspection from the vestries to the factory inspectors of the Home Office as a retrograde step, and he thinks that what is wanted is "not centralization but registration, which should have been left in the hands of the local sanitary authority, for this it is which would alone absolutely prevent the use of unfit places as bakehouses, as it should also prevent the improper construction of places intended for houses."

OBITUARY.

JAMES KENDALL BURT, M.B., C.M., KENDAL.

THE sad news of this gentleman's death at sea reached this country about three weeks ago, and has been received with much regret by his many friends in Kendal and the Border Counties. Dr. Burt was an Edinburgh graduate of 1873, and soon afterwards commenced practice in Kendal, where his kindly disposition and professional abilities soon obtained for him a high place in public esteem. He was an active member of the Border Counties Branch, and, for the last four years, was one of the honorary secretaries. His interest in the Association and the Branch was very keen; and by the zealous manner in which he did his work, and by his regular attendance at meetings, he contributed much to the flourishing condition of the Association in this district. Soon after the annual meeting of the Border Counties Branch, last July, he went to Edinburgh, preparatory to taking his M.D., for which his thesis had been accepted. When there, he was seized by a severe attack of hæmoptysis. A short residence in the Highlands enabled him to resume work. But further symptoms of lung-disease showed themselves, and he was advised to try the influence of a long sea-voyage. He sailed for Sydney on November 9th. Great weakness showed itself during the passage; and, from the middle of December, he gradually sank, and expired off the Cape of Good Hope on January 2nd, at the age of thirty-four years. Dr. Burt was married to a daughter of the late Rev. J. W. Barnes, Vicar of Kendal, and leaves her a widow with three young children.

ALCOHOL FROM SMOKE.—The latest instance of the utilisation of waste products is that effected at Elk Rapids, Michigan, with the gaseous matter given forth by a blast-furnace in which are manufactured fifty tons of charcoal iron per day. In the case to which we refer, the vast amount of smoke from the pits, formerly lost in air, is now turned to account by being driven by suction or draught into stills surrounded by cold water, the result of the condensation being first, acetate of lime; second, methyl alcohol; third, tar; the fourth part produces gas, which is consumed under the boilers. Each cord of wood produces 29,000 cubic feet of smoke; 2,900,000 feet of smoke handled in twenty-four hours, producing 12,000 pounds of acetate of lime, 200 gallons of alcohol, 25 pounds of tar.—*Stearns, New Idea.*