

Acting Surgeon D. J. SLATER, M.B., 18th Middlesex, has resigned his appointment, which bore date November 19th, 1887.

Mr. H. W. M'CONNEL, M.B., is appointed Surgeon to the Royal North Devon Yeomanry.

Acting Surgeon A. W. KNOX, M.B., 1st Volunteer Brigade, Eastern Division Royal Artillery (late the 1st Norfolk), has resigned his appointment, which bore date March 24th, 1888.

The appointment of Acting Surgeon C. S. HEAP to the 2nd Volunteer Brigade, Southern Division Royal Artillery, announced in the *London Gazette* of June 10th, 1887, is cancelled.

Acting Surgeon W. BARTER, M.D., of the 2nd East Riding of Yorkshire Artillery, is promoted to be Surgeon in the same corps.

Surgeon A. K. Richards, of the 3rd Volunteer Battalion, Hampshire Regiment (late the 3rd Hampshire), is promoted to be Surgeon-Major, ranking as Major.

Mr. J. K. BUTTER, M.D., is appointed Acting Surgeon to the 2nd Volunteer Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment (late the 3rd Stafford), and Mr. W. H. LLOYD to the same position in the 1st Volunteer Battalion, Welsh Regiment (late the 1st Pembroke).

### BIRTHDAY HONOURS.

A SUPPLEMENT to the *London Gazette*, issued on the 25th ultimo, among other notifications of honours and promotions, contains the following:

*War Office, May 25th.*—The Queen has been pleased to give orders for the following promotion in, and appointment to, the Most Honourable Order of the Bath: To be an Ordinary Member of the Civil Division of the First Class, or Knight Grand Cross of the said Most Honourable Order, namely: Sir WILLIAM JENNER, Bart., K.C.B., M.D., one of the Physicians in Ordinary to Her Majesty.

To be Ordinary Members of the Civil Division of the Third Class, or Companions of the said Most Honourable Order, namely: Dr. JAMES BELL, F.R.S., Principal of the Laboratory Department, Inland Revenue; Dr. JAMES REID, Physician Extraordinary to Her Majesty.

*India Office, May 25th.*—The Queen has been graciously pleased to make the following appointment to the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire: Brigade-Surgeon ISIDORE BERNADOTTE LYON, Bombay Medical Establishment.

*Chancery of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, Downing Street, May 24th.*—The Queen has been graciously pleased to give directions for the following promotion in the M.C.s: Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George: To be an Ordinary Member of the Second Class, or Knight Commander of the said Most Distinguished Order: WILLIAM MACGREGOR, Esq., M.D., C.M.G., Administrator of the Possession of British New Guinea.

To be an Ordinary Member of the Third Class, or Companion of the said Most Distinguished Order: CHARLES GAGE BROWN, Esq., M.D., Medical Adviser to the Colonial Office.

*Lord Chamberlain's Office, St. James's Palace, May 24th.*—The Queen has been pleased to appoint JAMES REID, Esq., M.D., Physician Extraordinary to Her Majesty, to be one of the Physicians in Ordinary to Her Majesty.

## OBITUARY.

WILLIAM McCULLOCH WATSON, M.D. EDIN., L.R.C.S. EDIN.

DR. WILLIAM McCULLOCH WATSON, a much esteemed medical practitioner of Montrose, died at his residence on May 8th, aged 49. About seven years ago the deceased sustained a sunstroke, since which time he had been in rather feeble health. He was a native of Montrose, and the eldest son of the late Mr. Alexander Watson, who, after amassing a fortune in the West Indies, returned and took up his residence in Montrose. Dr. Watson received his early education partly at the Montrose Academy, but removed to Edinburgh with his parents when quite a lad. After leaving school he entered the medical classes at the Edinburgh University. His college career was a very distinguished one, and he was a favourite student of Professor Gairdner, now of Glasgow.

After taking the degree of M.D., he was for some years assistant to Dr. Johnston, now of Kair. He then commenced practice on his own account, and his marked abilities, both as a physician and a surgeon, soon secured for him a wide circle of patients in all classes of the community. His gentlemanly and sympathetic manners were distinguished features in his character. He was brother of the late Professor Morrison Watson, whose brilliant career as Professor of Anatomy at the Owens College, Manchester, came to an untimely end some years ago.

He took no prominent part in public matters, but for several years acted as one of the house-surgeons of the infirmary. In private life he was genial and warm-hearted, and made a wide circle of friends, among whom his death at so comparatively early an age has excited deep sympathy. He was formerly President of the Royal Medical Society, and was member of the Medico-Chirurgical Society, Edinburgh. He leaves a wife and two daughter.

AUGUSTUS NICKSON, M.B., B.A., UNIV. DUB., L.R.C.S.I.

WE regret to announce the death, at the early age of 30, of Dr. Augustus Nickson, of Rock Ferry, Cheshire, which took place on May 21st at Ilkley, Yorkshire, where the deceased had gone to

stay, acting on medical advice. He had been in failing health for about two months, his illness commencing with obscure cerebral symptoms.

Dr. Nickson was the son of the Rev. A. Nickson, formerly vicar of Clurkeen, Co. Louth; he graduated in arts and medicine in the University of Dublin, and was a licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. He also had the licence in midwifery of the Coombe Hospital. He held the office of resident pupil in the Adelaide Hospital, Dublin, and during his term underwent a severe attack of diphtheria, contracted doubtless in the discharge of his duties. After a brief experience in the medical service of the mercantile marine, he settled about six years ago in Rock Ferry, and was succeeding well in practice up to the onset of his fatal illness. His kindly manner and obliging disposition endeared him to many friends and professional brethren. His remains were followed to their last resting-place at Bebington Cemetery by a large number of mourners, and the coffin and graveside were strewn with wreaths. He was much appreciated as an instructor of the St. John Ambulance Association, several of whose local officers and pupils attended his funeral.

During his fatal illness he received the unremitting attention of his valued friend, Dr. William Carter, of Liverpool, and while at Ilkley he was attended by Dr. Scott. He leaves a widow and one son to mourn his loss.

## INDIA AND THE COLONIES.

THE "PIONEER" OF INDIA ON ARMY MEDICAL ORGANISATION. OUR contemporary has a very able article on the above subject in its issue of March 13th, which, with a great deal that is true, contains some, no doubt, unintentional misstatements, which call for correction. The story of a breakdown in the medical department in the Egyptian war is to some extent repeated; but in this country, at all events, it is not necessary to refute it again. Let it suffice to say that in no war ever waged by England did the sick and wounded suffer less; in none was the field and hospital surgery more successful. Lord Wolseley's complaint of "want of initiative" in some small details of administration arose from no want of knowledge or zeal, but from a conflict of authority, and the shortcomings of another department over which the medical staff had no control.

The writer reviews the past and present state of the Army Medical School; accuses it, unjustly, as we think, of "living on its old reputation;" and charges the authorities with sacrificing its interests in the way of patronage "to the exigencies of Whitehall Yard." Let us see how this stands in point of fact. Of the four original professors, two remain, namely, Sir Thomas Longmore and Sir William Aitken. Parkes is dead, and Maclean has retired. When Parkes died, who took his vacant chair? Was it some unknown man put in to meet the "exigencies of Whitehall Yard?" The answer is, it was De Chaumont. When he went to a too early grave, did Whitehall Yard sacrifice the chair to its "exigencies?" The answer is, the chair was filled by Brigade-Surgeon Notter, one of Parkes's ablest pupils, who was five years assistant to De Chaumont, did an enormous amount of sanitary and chemical work in the laboratory, and took an active part in the hygienic teaching in the class-room and laboratory of the school. When Professor Maclean retired, did, we ask again, Whitehall Yard sacrifice his chair to meet its "exigencies?" Nothing of the kind. "Whitehall Yard" went to India for a successor to Maclean, and, acting under the best advice, selected a gentleman who had filled the post of President of the Calcutta Medical College, with that of professor of medicine, and who had about as much to do with "Whitehall Yard" as with, let us say, the editing of the *Pioneer* newspaper. No other professorial appointments have been made with or without an eye to the "exigencies of Whitehall Yard."

The writer of the article commits, as we think, a great injustice to the medical staff when he attributes the lessened amount of sickness and mortality in India entirely to "short service." The following extract from Professor Maclean's address, on retirement from the chair of Military Medicine, is, we think, the best answer to this statement.

"The price paid by this country in human life for its greatest possession has been, in the language of commerce, a 'long' one. As you have often been told on the authority of the Royal Commissioners, who reported on the health of the army of India in 1859-60, the mortality of the European portion of it oscillated