

tion in the profession gives them authority to regulate the fees, and to remove this shameful state of affairs.—I am, etc.,
FLEUR-DE-LIS.

THE STAINING OF TUBERCLE BACILLI.

SIR,—Under the above heading there occurs, in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of May 30th, a notice of Prof. B. Fraenkel's communication to the *Deutsche med. Wochenschr.* on the subject of my modification of the Ziehl-Neelsen method. Permit me to mention, for the information of anyone who may be interested in the matter, that the *Wochenschrift* of April 30th publishes a reply from Dr. Immerwahr, whose article of March 26th (containing the statement that my method was selected for recent investigations at the Moabit Hospital) was the means of eliciting Professor Fraenkel's note. The *Wochenschrift* of April 30th also contains a short reply from me.—I am, etc.,

Eastbourne.

HENRY S. GABBETT.

THE "UNCONTROLLABLE" VOMITING OF PREGNANCY.

SIR,—In an editorial on the above subject in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of May 30th (p. 1192) allusion is made to a paper read by me at the Harveian Society in April, and I am stated to have "strenuously advocated the painting of the cervix with a strong solution of iodine." This is not quite correct. I advised that the iodine should be applied to the cervix and to the vaginal end of its canal; and stated that since 1883, when I first adopted the theory that the vomiting of pregnancy was reflexly due to a centre of irritation near the os uteri internum, I had used this method of counter-irritation in every severe case, and that I had not as yet failed to relieve the vomiting immediately. A few cases have needed one or two repetitions of the application at the end of from five to fifteen days, when the effect of the counter-irritation had worn away, but the relief then became permanent.

In the paper referred to I argued that a prompt use of this remedy in severe cases would prevent the occurrence of the so-called "uncontrollable" or "pernicious" type of the disease, which differs only in degree and not in kind from the milder forms. Many cases, "uncontrollable" when treated by drugs, local application of cocaine, etc., have yielded to this counter-irritation.

I have taught this method for some years at Charing Cross Hospital, and students have told me how useful it has proved to them afterwards in private practice, and I trust that others may now give it a trial, for I believe it to be perfectly safe, easy, and certain. Hitherto I have found that a solution of iodine made of equal parts of iodine, iodide of potassium, spirits of wine, and water gives the surest results.—I am, etc.,
Manchester Square, W.

AMAND ROUTH, M.D.

EXPERIMENTS IN FUMIGATION.

SIR,—The attempts which have been made during the recent recess to "purify" the House of Commons and a portion of the Law Courts afford interesting examples of the so-called "disinfection" of premises reputed to be infected, carried out upon a fairly large scale. With the exception of those strictly scientific branches of hygiene, which, for obvious reasons, are beyond the grasp of the popular mind, there are few, if any, in regard to which more misconception exists, and more absurd generalisations are commonly accepted than in this very subject of disinfection. It is assumed that "disinfection" has been accomplished when gases or vapours of some kind have been casually passed into or produced in a room or building, or even when some powder or liquid feebly impregnated with some antiseptic substance has been thrown about in a haphazard sort of manner. The public have been somewhat pompously informed that "the House of Commons, for the first time in its history, has been thoroughly and scientifically disinfected," but it seems to have been admitted that the primary object of the operations here and in the Courts, was to calm the fears of members of Parliament and of eminent lawyers, and to convince "non-scientific people" that everything possible had been done "to expel the germ of influenza." The First Commissioner of Works, who appears to have played the part of high priest in connection with the curious rites performed

in the House of Commons, informed Mr. Macartney, who questioned him on the subject, that the House was, "for the present, at all events, probably the best cleansed and purified house in London." It was natural that the members should receive with "laughter and cheers" and much satisfaction the First Commissioner's statement that after fumigation with sulphur the house and its precincts had been "sprinkled with eucalyptozone," while the libraries had been "purified with a new disinfectant of marvellous power called "thiocamf." These words must have produced a very soothing effect, similar no doubt to that experienced by the old lady who derived so much comfort from "that blessed word Mesopotamia." After the House had risen for the holidays, we are told by the *Daily Chronicle* that "the building was handed over to the experts, who had undertaken to annihilate the influenza microbes." That which weighed most heavily on their minds was how to avoid doing injury to the gilt decorations, and to the bindings of the books in the libraries, more especially as "the authorities declined to run any risk," and as the precious volumes could not be exposed to the possibility of any injury. It was therefore resolved, presumably by the "experts," that "some other agent than sulphur must be found," inasmuch as the "fumes of sulphur" (that is, sulphur dioxide) are injurious to the bindings and gilt letterings of books, and to other articles. Thereupon the substance barbarously named "thiocamf" was hit upon by the "experts." This is described as "a liquid combination of sulphur dioxide, camphor, and other powerful disinfectants, which gives off large volumes of effective germicides by mere exposure to the air of a room, or more rapidly when warmed," and is stated, furthermore, to have been "devised" by no less a person than the Professor of Chemistry in the University of Dublin. I hope that the distinguished chemist who fills this position is not also to be credited with "devising" such an atrocity in nomenclature as the word "thiocamf." The carpets, curtains, cushions, and other furniture having been removed from the house itself, large numbers of dishes containing the "thiocamf," together with sulphur candles, were placed in the chambers below the House, "and the vapour and gasses (*sic*) gradually rose through the perforated iron floor and seats till the chamber was filled with a horrible mixture." These proceedings remind one of those of Master Guy Fawkes, whose proposed method of disinfection, however, would have been far more effective and equally scientific.

In the result the House of Commons has had a good cleansing, and the sulphur fumigation, while it may not have troubled the microbes much, and certainly only those which were freely exposed, supposing them to have been present at all, and very probably did not grievously affect their spores, will have done no special harm, and may have done some good, if only by rendering it necessary to ventilate the place by "powerful gusts of air" from the balmy region of the Thames, driven in "by means of fans on the Embankment." Fumigation by sulphurous acid, unaccompanied by plenty of moisture, is well known to be one of the feeblest forms of purification, more especially in places which are not easily susceptible of proper preparation, and in which, accordingly, the unavoidable leakage is enormous. While the proceedings described may have been useful especially in calming the fears of British legislators, it is highly desirable that the principles on which they were based should not be regarded as capable of universal application whenever and wherever real and effective disinfection, after infectious disease, becomes necessary. The misuse of the term "disinfectant" and "disinfection" produces a dangerous state of false security, about which it is well to sound a note of warning.—I am, etc.,
A CHEMIST.

THE TRAINING AND TEACHING OF NURSES.

SIR,—There seems to be some misconception as to the terms in which the Board of Trade refused the application of the Royal British Nurses' Association. Will you be good enough to publish the exact text in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL?—I am, etc.,

Cavendish Square, W.

A. ERNEST SANSON, M.D.

Board of Trade, May 25th, 1891. SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 21st inst., I am directed by Sir Michael Hicks-Beach to say that, as the Board of Trade have declined to accede to the application of the Royal

British Nurses' Association "to register as a limited company without the use of the word 'Limited,'" it would appear to be unnecessary for him to see a deputation from your Committee on the subject. As desired, I enclose a copy of the communication sent to Mr. F. S. Randolph on the 6th inst.; also, if your Committee still think an interview with Sir Michael Hicks-Beach necessary, perhaps you will kindly let me know.—I am, yours faithfully, WALTER J. HOWELL. J. G. Wainwright, Esq., St. Thomas's Hospital.

(Copy.)

Board of Trade (Railway Department), London, S.W., May 6th, 1891. SIR,—I am directed by the Board of Trade to say that they have carefully considered the application for a licence under Section 23 of the Companies Act, 1867, authorising the Royal British Nurses' Association to register as a limited company without the use of the word "Limited." The Board of Trade have received a large number of communications from bodies of persons whose interest in hospital nursing is unquestionable, and whose experience entitles them to speak with authority, strongly objecting to the issue of a licence. After careful consideration of the objects of the Association and of the representations made in opposition thereto, the Board of Trade are unable to satisfy themselves that the means which the Association propose to adopt are either adequate to carry out their objects satisfactorily, or so free from objection as to warrant the Board of Trade in the issue of a licence, and, under these circumstances, they are unable to accede to the application. I am, however, to point out that this refusal in no way precludes the Association from registration as an ordinary joint stock company, under which registration they would enjoy the same powers and be subject to no greater responsibilities than would be the case if they were registered without the word "Limited."—I am, etc., HENRY G. CALCRAFT. F. S. Randolph, Esq., 3, Old Serjeant's Inn, W.C.

HOSPITAL SUNDAY FUND.

SIR,—I am anxious, by your courtesy, to remind the public that next Sunday, June 7th, is the day appointed for this year's collection on behalf of the Hospital Sunday Fund.

Hospital Sunday gives everyone an opportunity of making some contribution in aid of those noble institutions which do so much for the relief of human pain and suffering.

Nearly 200 hospitals, convalescent homes, and dispensaries participate in the distribution of this fund, and at least £100,000 is very really needed to meet the requirements of the next twelve months.

In consequence of the prevalence of influenza there has lately been a considerable strain upon our hospitals and dispensaries; may I therefore plead most earnestly for a generous response this year.

Those who may be absent from public worship next Sunday will, I hope, forward their contributions either to some local collection or direct to me here.

Cheques or postal orders should be crossed "Bank of England."—I am, etc.,
JOSEPH SAVORY,
The Mansion House, London. Lord Mayor.

NAVAL AND MILITARY MEDICAL SERVICES.

MADRAS MEDICAL SERVICE.

A MADRAS CORRESPONDENT informs us, with regard to a notice that appeared in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of April 11th, that the fourth deputy surgeon-general appointment, which had been practically abolished, has been restored to the service. This is satisfactory, and the service is thankful to the Government of Madras for this act of justice. It is also, we are given to understand, determined to establish another administrative officer of the same rank for service in Burmah, making five in all.

When the service was reorganised in 1880 a distinct promise was made that the office of Surgeon-General—or, as he is now officially called, Principal Medical Officer—should be held alternately by an officer of the Medical Staff and the Medical Service of the Madras Army. This promise has not been kept. This breach of faith has caused extreme dissatisfaction among the excluded officers. Justly, as we think, they point to the high position taken by the medical officers of Her Majesty's Indian Army both in the London and Netley examinations, and are aggrieved, not only at the breach of faith, but at the slight it more than implies. We unhesitatingly say that the action of the Government of Madras in this matter is as impolitic as it is unjust. There are three deputy surgeons-general of the Madras Service now serving in Burmah, yet when an administrative medical officer was required for the punitive force sent to Manipur, a medical officer of the Medical Staff was sent from Madras for this duty. This certainly needs explanation, and we are not surprised that the *amour*

propre of the Madras Service should be wounded by this—at all events, on the surface—additional slight on the medical officers of the Madras army.

ARMY MEDICAL STAFF: EXCHANGE.

The charge for inserting notices respecting Exchanges in the Army Medical Department is 3s. 6d., which should be forwarded in stamps or post office orders with the notice. The first post on Thursday mornings is the latest by which advertisements can be received.

WANTED, an exchange with a Surgeon home April, 1889, or September to December, 1889. Advertiser goes abroad some time next year.—Address Exchange 2,024, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL OFFICE, 429, Strand.

Wanted, by a Surgeon likely to go to India next trooping season, an exchange with an Officer of similar rank who has come home lately; liberal terms.—Apply "F. D. C.," 52, Manchester Street, Manchester Square.

THE NAVY.

THE following appointments have been made at the Admiralty:—WILLIAM E. ST. L. FINNY, to be surgeon and Agent at Baldoyle, Houth, and Sutton, May 21st; CHARLES A. MACAULEY, Staff-Surgeon to the *Thunderer*, May 22nd; EDWARD W. LUTHER, Staff-Surgeon to the *Belleisle*, May 22nd; HENRY T. COX, Staff-Surgeon to the *Malabar*, June 6th; COLIN M'CALLUM, M.B., to be Surgeon and Agent at Elie, May 22nd; JOHN JOHNSTONE WILSON, M.B., to be Surgeon and Agent at Anstruther, May 22nd; ROBERT F. YEO, Staff-Surgeon to the *Tamar*, May 27th; EDWARD FERGUSON, Staff-Surgeon to the *Swifsure*, June 6th; MATTHEW F. RYAN, Fleet-Surgeon, and EDGAR R. DIMSEY, Surgeon, to the *Boadicea*, when recommissioned, June 6th; JEREMIAH SUGRUE, Surgeon to the *Fearless*, when recommissioned, June 6th.

Deputy Inspector-General CHARLES HENRY FULLER died at Plympton on May 25th, at the age of 90. He entered the service as Surgeon January 11th, 1826; was made Fleet-Surgeon July 22nd, 1834; and Deputy Inspector-General January 23rd, 1863. He retired January 20th, 1863.

THE MEDICAL STAFF.

SURGEON HENRY MITCHELL, from the Grenadier Guards, is appointed Surgeon to the 2nd Life Guards, June 3rd. He joined the Medical Staff August 2nd, 1884, and was appointed to the Battalion of Grenadier Guards May 30th, 1888, from which he is now transferred. In 1885 he served in the Soudan campaign, receiving the medal with clasp and the Khedive's bronze star.

Surgeon-Major A. L. BROWNE, M.D., serving in the Bombay command, has leave of absence for six months on private affairs.

Surgeon A. A. FEHELL, M.B., has passed the examination in Hindustani by the lower standard.

Surgeon-Major R. D. HOBSON, serving in the Bombay command, is appointed to perform the medical duties of Lawrence School and Civil Establishment, Mount Abo.

Surgeon-Major H. T. BROWN, serving in the Bengal command, is appointed to the officiating administrative medical charge of the Peshawar District, *vice* Brigade-Surgeon R. Harvey, M.D., I.M.S., appointed principal medical officer, Miranzai Field Force.

The undermentioned officers, serving in the Bengal command, have leave of absence as specified: Deputy Surgeon-General S. A. LITBOW, C.B., D.S.O., M.D., for four months on private affairs; Surgeon-Major C. WHITE, for six months on private affairs; Surgeon G. W. BRAZIER-CREAGH, for six months on medical certificate.

ARMY MEDICAL RESERVE.

SURGEON EDWARD HEAD MOORE, Falmouth Volunteer Division Royal Engineers, is appointed Surgeon, ranking as Captain, May 30th.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

SURGEON-MAJOR H. J. HAZLETT, Madras Establishment, is promoted to be Brigade-Surgeon from March 7th. He dates as Assistant Surgeon from April 1st, 1867.

Surgeon S. H. HENDERSON, M.B., Bengal Establishment, in medical charge of temporary gaoles on North Lushai frontier, is posted on special duty to Cachar District for employment under the deputy commissioner of that district.

Surgeon-Major H. ARMSTRONG, Madras Establishment, is appointed to the medical charge of the 3rd Light Cavalry.

Surgeon A. F. FERGUSON, M.B., Bombay Establishment, is appointed to act as Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Central Registration District, during the absence on leave of Surgeon-Major A. W. F. Street.

Surgeon L. F. CHILDE, M.B., Bombay Establishment, is directed to act as Chemical Analyst to Government, in addition to his own duties, during the absence of Surgeon T. D. C. Barry on privilege leave.

Surgeon C. F. FEARNSIDE, Madras Establishment, has passed the examination in Hindustani by the lower standard.

Surgeon-Major W. MCCONAGHY, M.D., Bombay Establishment, is appointed Civil Surgeon of Poona, *vice* Brigade-Surgeon D. E. Hughes.

Surgeon-Major H. MCCALMAN, Bombay Establishment, is appointed Civil Surgeon of Dharwar, *vice* Surgeon-Major McConaghy.

Brigade-Surgeon D. E. HUGHES, M.D., Bombay Establishment, is appointed Deputy Surgeon-General with temporary rank during the absence of Deputy Surgeon-General P. S. Turnbull, M.D., Sind District.

Surgeon-Major A. K. STEWART, Bombay Establishment, is permitted to return to duty.

Surgeon T. W. SHAW, Bombay Establishment, officiating in medical charge of the 12th Native Infantry, is appointed to officiate in medical charge of the 30th Native Infantry (3rd Belooch Battalion) during the absence on leave of Surgeon H. D. Masani.

The services of Surgeon D. M. DAVIDSON, Bengal Establishment, are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Punjab Government.

The services of Surgeon W. K. CLARKE, Bengal Establishment, on special