

it soon got noised abroad that a hakim (doctor) was aboard, and the halt and the blind literally flocked for help, the very poor coming empty-handed, those better off bringing sheep, meat, bread, fruit, vegetables, trinkets, whilst the well-to-do brought money, gold finger-rings, and nose-rings, all of the unalloyed metal, for these are the gold coin of the Soudan. One woman, a widow-farmer, owning many slaves—though it is commonly supposed that slavery is non-existent in Egypt—applied (just in time for amputation) with a fractured forearm, the bones protruding, and gangrene creeping beyond the elbow. Two men with stone were promptly lithotomised, and Dr. Lowe performed three operations for cataract. He found excellent assistants in two engineers of the expedition, one of whom chloroformed the patients, and the other, having lived in a doctorless district in India, where he conducted an extensive amateur practice, held the staff in the lithotomy operations, and otherwise rendered efficient assistance. Dr. Lowe was constrained to depart the day after these operations, leaving them to chance, though confident they would do well, owing to the surprising power of recovery from surgical injury manifested by the Arab constitution. Three months afterwards he learnt that, excepting one case of cataract with rotten cornea, all these patients made good recoveries.

As the expedition could only stay a few hours at each town, Dr. Lowe found it impossible to attend to half the cases, and he was obliged reluctantly to deny assistance to a large number of miserable sufferers. It was piteous to be forced to turn a deaf ear to their supplications. Some pursued Dr. Lowe in boats, others chased him on camels along the river-side for two days; and one poor old man was carried for three days on camel-back, in the vain hope of obtaining surgical help.

For the sake of patients sent to Egypt, who, when seized with illness, fare but badly under native nursing at eastern hotels, it may be serviceable to direct attention to Dr. Grant's sanatorium, situated in the healthiest and pleasantest part of Cairo. It is intended for the winter charge of invalids, and for the reception of travellers seized with illness. I brought down to Cairo, from the first cataract, an American gentleman, well-nigh moribund from sunstroke and dysentery, and, after some days' unsatisfactory experience of native nursing, and being obliged to leave for England, I had the satisfaction of transferring him to Dr. Grant's establishment, where excellent English nursing and domestic comforts soon improved my patient's plight.

Should any surgeon feel moved to undertake the enterprise I have suggested, Dr. Lowe or Dr. Grant would, I venture to state, give information regarding it.

Welbeck Street, January 7th, 1877.

GEORGE BIRD, M.D.

#### THE BEATTY MEMORIAL.

SIR,—May I request the favour of your kindly transferring to your columns the accompanying letter, and thus communicate to the members of the profession the grateful feelings of the family of the late Dr. Thomas Edward Beatty. I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JOLIFFE TUFNELL, Hon. Secretary, Beatty Memorial.

58, Lower Mount Street, Dublin, January 1st, 1877.

"10, Bayhill Terrace, Cheltenham, Dec. 28th, 1876.

"Dear Mr. Tufnell,—On behalf of the members of the family of the late Dr. Thomas Edward Beatty, I write to express our deepest thanks for the compliment paid to his memory by the erection of the tablet which has recently been unveiled in St. Patrick's Cathedral by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Dublin; and we would ask you (as Honorary Secretary) to be pleased to communicate in whatever way you deem most appropriate, this our expression of gratitude to the members of his profession, and their kind remembrance of him.

"Believe me, dear Mr. Tufnell, faithfully yours,

"WILLIAM C. BEATTY, M.D.

"To Joliffe Tufnell, Esq., M.D., Honorary Secretary,  
Beatty Memorial Committee."

## PUBLIC HEALTH

AND

## POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

### THE SOCIETY OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

FROM the Report for 1875-76, of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, we learn that eight ordinary and six Council meetings were held during the year, and that the days of meeting have been altered to Fridays to suit the country members. The Society has scarcely increased in numbers during the year, as only six new members have been elected, against losses by death or resignation; which

is to be regretted, as, if it were more numerous, the Society might exercise a more powerful influence than it has done on the progress of sanitary science. The Report contains a brief *résumé* of the President's address and of the various papers read during the session. As regards the presidential address on some Directions of Scientific Work by Medical Officers of Health, we have already referred to it, as well as to Dr. Dudfield's paper on the proposed Regulations for Slaughter-houses and Cowsheds, and therefore need do no more than mention them. The paper on Sanitary Administration in India, by Mr. Cornish, shows that a very great deal must be done in India before we can obtain even moderately reliable returns of births and deaths, and that, in practice, sanitary matters are at so low an ebb that we cannot expect the inhabitants to derive much benefit for some time to come from sanitary work. The chief feature of importance in Mr. Netten Radcliffe's paper on the Future Reappearance of the Plague in England is the opinion that, if it should ever be imported here, its spread could be as easily prevented as that of typhus. The paper by Dr. Wilson, since published separately, pointed out the enormous amount of work which will have to be done in rural districts to render houses fairly habitable and the water-supply moderately drinkable. Dr. Tidy's Story of Parish Dusting and Slopping, and Dr. Baylis's on the Best Method of Arresting Scarlet Fever, conclude the list for the year. A Subcommittee, consisting of Drs. Stevenson, Dudfield, and Tripe, was appointed to investigate the effects of food on the milk of cows; but they have not presented any report on this important subject. Dr. Tidy was also requested to continue the monthly water analyses for the Society, in the place of the late Dr. Letheby, but with some additions. A goodly list of papers is announced for next year, which, we trust, will be more successful than the last.

LEEDS.—There were 845 births and 487 deaths registered in Leeds during the month of September. Of these, 159 occurred amongst infants under one year, and 76 of children between one and five years. There were 31 deaths from fever, 49 from diarrhoea, 25 from scarlatina, 6 from measles, and 2 from whooping-cough, and 11 deaths not certified. The excessive death-rate of children under one year, which was 18.8 per 100 births, was caused chiefly by diarrhoea. Mr. Goldie complains of the difficulty of disposing of the so-called dry rubbish, a large proportion of which consists of decaying vegetable matters; and he suggests that all these should be separated and burnt. He believes that several cases of typhoid fever were induced by these deposits.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

ROBERTS, J. Lloyd, M.B., appointed Medical Officer of Health to the Ruthin Urban Sanitary Authority.

SUTTON, Frederick, M.R.C.S.Eng., elected Medical Officer of Health by the Rural Sanitary Authority, Gainsborough Union.

#### POOR-LAW MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

MONTGOMERY, Edwin C., L.R.C.S.I., appointed Medical Officer to the Cookham District of the Cookham Union, Berks; Medical Officer to the Workhouse, Cookham Union; and Public Vaccinator to the Borough of Maidenhead, *vice* S. A. Plumbe, M.D., deceased.

## MILITARY AND NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

ACCORDING to a general order just issued from the Horse Guards, medical officers will not in future be called upon to contribute or subscribe to regimental messes and bands. This order is to take effect from January 1st, 1877, and any contributions or subscriptions which may have been paid in advance beyond December 31st, 1876, are to be refunded.

#### ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,—In reading the preface to Guthrie's *Treatise on Injuries of the Chest*, written in 1848, it struck me that his remarks on the Army Medical Service are peculiarly appropriate to the condition of the Department at the present time, and if wisdom may be gained from experience of the past, the attention of the authorities might be drawn to them with advantage. As a recognised authority on military surgery, he says:—"The precepts I have endeavoured to enforce cannot, however, be carried into execution on any of the great occasions in which they are most wanted. They require greater attention, a greater degree of labour, on the part of the medical men than the number usually allowed can give. They generally have been totally unequal, from their scarcity, and oftentimes from their age, to the duties required of them. The sick and wounded, when in great numbers, have been neglected;