

MILITARY AND NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

A NEW ARMY MEDICAL WARRANT.

WE have reason to believe that a decision has been come to on the principal points to be embodied in the expected new Warrant for the Army Medical Department. The Warrant will be based on the recommendations contained in the report of the War-Office Committee on the want of candidates for commissions in the department, and the chief of these recommendations will be carried into effect. The new executive rank of brigade-surgeon is to be instituted, and fifty promotions to this grade will be provided for. Entrance to the department by open public competition will be the rule no longer, a system of nomination being substituted for it. Some of the recommendations of the Committee with regard to the increased rates of pay and retirement are said, however, to be still under the consideration of the Treasury; and it seems to be doubtful how long a time will elapse before these questions are settled.

HALF-PAY OFFICERS.

THERE has been a large increase in the number of the officers of the Army Medical Department on the non-effective or half-pay list during the last few years. The number, including all ranks, now exceeds three hundred and fifty.

OBITUARY.

JOHN MACROBIN, M.D.,

EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, ABERDEEN.

PROFESSOR MACROBIN was so well known and esteemed by a large number of the profession, that the announcement of his death on February 4th, at the age of 74, whilst it will not greatly surprise, will be regretted by many. John Macrobin was born at Edinburgh in 1804, and received his education at the High School and University of Edinburgh. He passed the College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, in 1826, and in the following year graduated M.D. Dr. Macrobin was clinical clerk to the late Dr. Alison, being a favourite pupil. He worked also with Dr. Alison in his dispensary practice, and the acquaintance thus begun ripened into a life-long friendship. In 1830, Dr. Macrobin went to Aberdeen in the capacity of Resident Physician to the Royal Lunatic Asylum. He shortly, however, was appointed Visiting Physician to the Asylum, and settled down to practice in the city. He was later on appointed Consulting Physician, which office he held up to the time of his death. In 1832 Dr. Macrobin was appointed assistant to the Professor of Medicine, Dr. Charles Skene; and on the death of the latter, in 1839, he succeeded him in the Chair of Medicine, by the gift of the Crown, Lord John Russell being then Home Secretary, and Francis Jeffrey Lord Advocate. He held the Chair of Medicine for thirty-six years, resigning it in 1875. When the new university system was instituted, with various Faculties, Dr. Macrobin was elected Dean of the medical faculty, and was re-elected twice in succession, the post being held for five years on each occasion. Dr. Macrobin was for five years the representative of the Universities of Edinburgh and Aberdeen in the General Medical Council, where his thorough knowledge of the details of the medical faculty of his university, and of the requirements of Scotch students, rendered his services very valuable, whilst his business habits and genial nature caused him to be held in general esteem by his colleagues in the Council.

Dr. Macrobin was not a large contributor to the literature of his profession, but his reading was very extensive. The only important work he published was *An Introduction to the Study of Practical Medicine*, an outline of his professorial teaching on the subject. It has been regretted that only the first part of the work, dealing with general pathology, was issued, for a competent contemporary judge has stated that there was not, perhaps, a better manual of the kind then available to students. It reflected, as may be imagined, the teaching of the illustrious Alison, who had very largely influenced his pupil.

Dr. Macrobin early made for himself a respected position in the city in which he elected to settle, and he became greatly esteemed for his knowledge and personal worth. His amiable and cheerful disposition and ready sympathy always made him warm friends. He carried his religion into his daily life. At the time of the disruption, he seceded from the Established Church, following his then pastor, the late Dr. Davidson; and he was an elder previously to the disruption, and until his death.

It is as a lecturer and as Dean of the Medical Faculty that he will be best remembered in the profession. Though not eloquent, his earnestness and care made him a successful teacher, his lectures being well arranged, and encyclopædic in their range. Year by year they underwent careful revision. We have heard students, who subsequently entered the public services, speak highly of those lectures in helping them at the test examinations. As Dean, Dr. Macrobin was necessarily brought into close personal relationship with the whole body of students, in whom he took the warmest interest, promoting their comfort and happiness by all the means in his power. When solicited, he was always ready to give advice, which was at all times characterised by good sense and shrewdness. He befriended many a friendless student, allowing the use of his library, and even his purse. He was extremely hospitable, especially to strangers temporarily resident in his city, and many graduates will look back with pleasure to the friendly *réunions* in Migvie House, and the kindly face and words of "the Dean". His kindness and hospitality caused many acquaintances, begun during studentship, to continue as friendships in after years. He devoted himself to the last to promote, by all the means in his power, the advancement and interests of the University of Aberdeen.

On his retirement from the Chair of Medicine and the Deanship in 1875, some of his former pupils and friends, desirous on the occasion to testify their respect and regard, subscribed to have his portrait painted in oils by his fellow townsman, Mr. George Reid, R.S.A. The artist was most happy in his efforts, and an excellent likeness now adorns the walls of Marischal College, and perpetuates Dr. Macrobin's long connection with the University.

For many months Dr. Macrobin had been in ill-health, and it was known that the end could not be long delayed. At length he became extremely prostrate, and died on February 4th, at the mature age of seventy-four.

Dr. Macrobin was twice married, and leaves a widow, one son, and four daughters. The estimation in which he was held by his late colleagues is shown by the Senate requesting that his funeral should proceed from the hall of Mareschal College. To this his family willingly assented, and the body of John Macrobin was carried from the hall where he had for so many years presided, to its last resting-place in Millfield Cemetery, followed by many friends and colleagues, amidst general signs of mourning and regret.

BENJAMIN F. McDOWELL, M.D., DUBLIN.

WE have to record again this week also the death of another well-known Dublin surgeon. Last week we mourned the sudden loss of a man well advanced in years; this week we have to deplore the untimely yet lingering and melancholy death of one in the prime of life. Dr. B. F. McDowell was—to his credit be it said—a self-made and self-educated surgeon. Like many other able and hard-working young men, he commenced his professional life in a medical establishment; and while thus engaged carried on his studies with unwearied ardour. Soon after obtaining the Licence of the Apothecaries' Hall, he was appointed apothecary to the Dublin Lock Hospital, an institution to which he was the senior surgeon at the time of his decease. While living in the Lock Hospital, he passed through Trinity College, and, overcoming difficulties which would have deterred many less able men, he took out the licences of the Royal College of Surgeons and the King and Queen's College of Physicians, and graduated in both arts and in medicine in the university. Dr. McDowell worked extremely hard in the earlier part of his career as a private teacher; and was always, from his good nature and affability, as well as from his more solid merits, a great favourite with his numerous pupils. He succeeded Mr. Butcher as surgeon to Mercer's Hospital on that gentleman's appointment to Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital; and at an early age rapidly made a practice which comparatively few of his seniors ever attained. Dr. McDowell was also Lecturer on *Materia Medica* in the Ledwich School of Medicine, and a member of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

JOHN JOSEPH HADLEY, M.R.C.S., BIRMINGHAM.

THIS old and respected member of the Association died, after a very brief illness, on January 27th, at his residence at Handsworth, aged 71 years. Educated at the Webb Street School of Medicine, and at Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospitals, he became M.R.C.S. and L.S.A. in 1837. He subsequently settled in general practice in Birmingham, where he secured a large *clientèle*. He was at work to the last. Two days before his death, he was seeing patients; on the next day, he was seized with apoplexy, and died comatose in a few hours. His goodness of heart and geniality of manner had made him widely beloved. He leaves two sons in practice in Birmingham.