

produces no such symptoms." Dr. Stevenson, in *Guy's Hospital Reports* records this kind of coma without acetonæmia, and Dr. Campbell one of acetonæmia without coma; the latter would seem to invoke sudden failure of the excretory power of the kidney as concerned in diabetic coma. But MM. Cornillon and Mallet (*Prog. Méd.*, Dec. 1883) give an instance where the kidneys were healthy, with a large excretion of sugar and the normal amount of urea, to show that the coma in this case was not uræmic. Professor Jaccoud, in his lately published clinical lectures, speaking of Kussmaul's coma as diabetic poisoning, says that acetonæmia is not concerned in it. Of course any acid reaction of the blood is an impossibility.—I am, etc.

WILLIAM SQUIRE, M.D.

Orchard Street, Portman Square, W., July 14th.

EXECUTIONS.

SIR,—The Home Secretary seems, by his reply to Mr. Brookfield in the House last night, to be very imperfectly informed of the results "from time to time" of the present haphazard system of executing criminals. So late as April and August of last year the murderers Currell and Lipski (whose executions I witnessed) had quite narrow escapes of decapitation, the former getting a drop of seven and the latter of eight feet, though Berry informed the Governor of Newgate that the drops had been arranged at five feet six inches and six feet respectively. In Currell's case all the veins leading from the brain, together with the œsophagus and many muscles, were ruptured, large quantities of venous blood escaping through the mouth into the white cap, the lower border of which, being included in the constricting noose, pent up the fluid, so that it only filtered through in a small stream to the bottom of the pit, where the prison surgeons and myself were taking the pulse. In Lipski's case the damage to the integument, muscles and spine was extensive, as may be easily imagined, but there was only superficial bleeding of small extent. I may add that Lipski's pulse beat for thirteen minutes (stopping once at the end of five minutes) at the rate of 160, the quickness proving (according to Professor Haughton) complete insensibility. All others whose executions I have witnessed had good, normal pulses (80) for about ten minutes, strangulation being the cause of death.

—I am, etc.,

JOHN J. DE ZOUCHE MARSHALL, L.R.C.S.I.

Hastings, July 24th.

"M.S. DURHAM," FOR PRACTITIONERS.

SIR,—The gratitude which prompts your correspondent "M.D., DURHAM," to speak of his "Alma Mater" in such gushing terms is the natural outcome of the exceptional and charitable manner in which the University deals with qualified practitioners of fifteen years' standing; so also is his desire to derive further favours from an already too liberal hand.

I venture to submit that quite enough injustice results from the fact of granting the degree of M.D. without residence, without permitting that of M.S. to be obtained in the same way.

The possession of the surgical degree alone denotes that the M.D. has been obtained by residence, which to the majority of its holders has involved an additional year of hospital practice and study, after becoming qualified, to say nothing of extra expense and loss of time. Surely, therefore, it would be a gross injustice to these men to admit general practitioners without residence also to the surgical degree and its advantages, simply because they have spent a few more years in acquiring the means of existence and a pecuniary advantage over their juniors.

It is a matter for regret that the law does not prevent universities and examining bodies, regardless of their honour and dignity, from interfering with established regulations in order to compete for those who have neglected their opportunities, and in this way depreciating the value of the degrees already conferred.—I am, etc.

M.D., M.S. DURHAM, M.R.C.S. ENG.

THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION AND THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

SIR,—A paragraph in the *JOURNAL* of July 21st seems to imply that the medical profession should have been represented on July 18th, when H.R.H. the Prince of Wales was installed as Grand Prior of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, and that their services in the work of the St. John Ambulance Association have not been sufficiently appreciated.

In the first place, I may remark that on the occasion to which reference has been made, only members of the Chapter had the right to attend, and no invitation could be given to anyone else.

Secondly, the highest honour which the Order has hitherto had the power to grant is that of Honorary Associate, a distinction which has been conferred on several representative physicians and surgeons. Thirdly, the St. John Ambulance Association has recognised the services of 355 surgeons by enrolling them on the list of honorary life members.

During the last ten years I have attended meetings—which, for brevity, are called "ambulance meetings"—in every part of England, and I can positively assert that I have never been present at one at which it was not publicly acknowledged that the existence of the Association is entirely dependent on the support which the medical profession has so willingly and liberally accorded. This is felt and acknowledged by the thousands who have attended the classes, and I believe that the professional instructors have felt as great a pleasure in imparting the useful rudiments of "first aid" as the pupils have done in receiving it; and I know that the doctors who have given us such invaluable assistance are the first to admit that the satisfaction afforded is not a one-sided arrangement.—I am, etc.,

JOHN FURLEY.

* * The name of the function is a trivial detail; it was the most important function which the Order has yet held in England, and the complete absence of the name of any member of the medical profession, and of any reference to the all-important services rendered by the profession to the Order has caused the great dissatisfaction at which our paragraph hinted.

THE LIFE-HISTORY OF A HÆMATOZOÛN.

SIR,—In giving a preliminary account of the result of my researches on the life-history of a hæmatozoön of the dog in the *JOURNAL* of July 14th, I find I have been guilty of an oversight, which I wish to correct in order not to mislead others who may wish to verify the facts which I set forth. The common louse, in which I have found the embryos and the larval forms of the nematode hæmatozoön of the dog, I must say that it is not *Tricodectes latus*, but *Hæmatopinus piliferus*, which here seems more common than his other commensal before-named; but as *Tricodectes latus* too can suck blood, though generally it does not do so, being a mallophagus (as is said by Claus and others), so it remains to be proved whether *Tricodectes* too be or not one of the entozoa that concurs to the cycle of life of the hæmatozoön as well as pulex and hæmatopinus.—I am, etc.,

P. SONSINO, M.D.
Pisa, July 22nd.

NAVAL AND MILITARY MEDICAL SERVICES.

THE NAVY.

MR. JOHN G. HARRIES has been appointed Surgeon and Agent at St. David's Head.

THE MEDICAL STAFF.

SURGEON-MAJOR H. G. GARDNER, who is serving in the Bengal command, has leave of absence for six months on urgent private affairs.

Surgeon W. H. BEAN, serving in the Madras command, is appointed to the civil medical charge of the Bhamo district, Burmah, and its police, *vice* Surgeon D. B. Spencer, relieved.

ARMY MEDICAL RESERVE.

SURGEON-MAJOR W. R. BRUNTON, 1st Surrey Rifle Volunteers, to be Surgeon-Major (ranking as Lieutenant-Colonel).

THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

SURGEON S. H. HENDERSON, Bengal Establishment, is appointed to the officiating medical charge of the 1st Native Infantry, *vice* Surgeon E. Cretin, M.B., transferred temporarily to civil employ.

Surgeon J. T. DALY, M.B., Bengal Establishment, is appointed to the officiating medical charge of the 6th Native Infantry, *vice* Surgeon-Major J. Moran, transferred temporarily to civil employ.

Surgeon H. E. BANATYALA, Bengal Establishment, is appointed to the permanent medical charge of the 33rd Native Infantry, *vice* Surgeon-Major F. W. Wright, M.D., D.S.O.

Surgeon G. B. IRVINE, Bengal Establishment, officiating in medical charge 1st Battalion 2nd Goorkhas, is appointed officiating medical officer to the 8th Bengal Cavalry, *vice* Surgeon J. R. Adie, M.B., transferred temporarily to civil employ.

Surgeon G. M. NIXON, Bengal Establishment, civil surgeon of Boolundshuhur, is granted furlough to Europe for one year.

Surgeon J. F. MACLAREN, M.B., Bengal Establishment, civil surgeon of Azimghur, is transferred to the civil medical charge of Ghazeeপুর.

Surgeon F. MAIDMENT, Madras Establishment, is appointed to the civil medical charge of the Bhamo District, Burmah, and its police, *vice* Surgeon H. B. Briggs, relieved.

Surgeon H. M. HAKIM, Madras Establishment, is appointed to the civil medical charge of the Myingyan district, Burmah, and its police, *vice* Surgeon J. M. Cadell, relieved.

Surgeon-Major J. A. LAING, Madras Establishment, is appointed Sanitary Commissioner, Madras.