

Special Correspondence.

BELFAST.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

FROM the nature of the combats during the recent riots, it is impossible to ascertain the exact number of killed and wounded; but it is supposed that about three hundred persons have been more or less injured. Of these, about sixty suffered from gunshot wounds, and seven have died. The gunshot wounds have been chiefly in the lower extremities and the abdomen. This is worthy of remark; and it might be inferred therefrom, that the shots were not only intended to take effect, but were fired by persons skilled in the use of firearms.

The General Hospital affords, at present, an ample and excellent field for the study of gunshot wounds. In one case which has just proved fatal, the bullet, after smashing both ulna and radius (the arm hanging down at the moment), passed through the posterior inferior spinous process of the ilium, through the gut, and lodged in the sacrum. Amongst the cases under treatment, is one in which the bullet passed superficially across the inside of one thigh, destroyed one testis, and passed through the second thigh behind the femur. Several persons were severely wounded in the lower extremities, some of which had to be amputated. There is one bad case of depressed fracture of the side of the skull, in which there has been some loss of brain-substance, and in which Dr. Browne removed portions of a felt hat and a newspaper and depressed bone from the wound. The opposite side is entirely paralysed. Another man was shot below the clavicle, and the bullet passed through the lung and scapula, and lodged beneath the integuments, whence Professor Gordon removed it. Several have had bullets passed through the soft parts about the shoulder-joint. There are a couple of cases where the bullet has lodged, and in which its position has not been ascertained. Some eyes have, also, been destroyed by gunshot wounds; and the scalp has, in some instances, been very severely injured by blows. The difference of appearance of the entrance and exit of the bullet is well marked in many of these cases; and the different effect of a spent ball to one in full speed may be well studied.

Since writing the foregoing, three cases have proved fatal in the General Hospital; viz., one man who was shot through the chest; another in whom the left parietal bone was smashed in, the brain protruding; and a third who died from tetanus, resulting from a gunshot wound in the front of the thigh. An immense number of persons—about 5,000—followed the remains of one of the deceased to the graveyard; but there was no disturbance of the peace. About 150 persons were injured during the riots, and in nine cases fatally.

THE MEDICAL CONGRESS AT LYONS opens proceedings on September 26th.

Correspondence.

THE TESTIMONIAL TO MR. GRIFFIN.

LETTER FROM D. GRAHAM NIVEN, Esq.

SIR,—I have observed with pleasure that the long and persevering efforts of our fellow associate, Mr. Griffin, to improve the position of the Poor-law medical officers, are at last about to be recognised by his fellow practitioners.

Although no longer a working member of the profession, I have as vivid and feeling a recollection of the "troubled waters" which beset the path of the "parish doctor", as a twenty years' experience can give—a recollection which will always command my ready and willing support to any movement which has for its object the ameliorating the position, both socially and financially, of that hard-worked and ill-paid public officer.

Having resided last winter at Weymouth, I had the pleasure of becoming personally acquainted with Mr. Griffin; and also an opportunity of forming some idea of the amount of labour he has for so many years and so generously undergone in the good cause. The result was a feeling of surprise that so great an amount of really hard work should have been allowed, for so long a time, to pass unrewarded. I felt assured, however, that, sooner or later, that reward must follow; and it affords me much pleasure to give the movement my humble but hearty support.

I have forwarded my subscription to Dr. Fowler; and I hope the present comparatively small amount subscribed will be largely increased; that the name not only of every Poor-law medical officer, but of all who wish well either to him or to the sick poor who are placed under his care, will be found in the list of subscribers.

I am, etc.,

D. GRAHAM NIVEN.

26, York Crescent, Clifton, Bristol, Aug. 26th, 1864.

THE INDIAN ARMY MEDICAL WARRANT.

[THE following extract from a letter, not written for publication, is from the pen of a gentleman who has served upwards of twenty years in India.]

"You will be anxious to know what I think of the new Medical Warrant for India. I can only say, as far as I am personally concerned, that though it has not given me all I should have asked for, or have liked, I feel it is a very great improvement. But, though I am a gainer in every way, still, I am sorry to say, there are others whom it will in a short time injure severely. Upon the whole, it must be looked upon as a great boon to the service. Whether it will induce good men to enter the service is another question, of which I can give no opinion. It certainly will not induce me to remain in it one day longer than I can help. I inclose a rough draft of the rates of pay, according to the new and old scales. It is difficult to make the old scale exact; for every branch of the service had a different scale of pay. Now, a man will be paid according to his rank or standing—no matter with what branch of the service he is engaged. From this draft (see below), you will see the surgeons with Europeans, and senior assistant-surgeons in charge of native corps, are the losers. It comes hard upon them; but then all assistant-surgeons now in the service will gain a year's promotion by it. If you calculate it in this way, and see what a man would receive in thirty years according to