

thirty-six during the eighth, and forty-four during the thirteenth. The mortality did not diminish so rapidly as might have been expected when spring water was substituted for Seine water; but this M. Brouardel attributes to the microbes deposited in the water-pipes by the Seine water. He considers it most essential that the Government authorities should immediately take the necessary measures to utilise the springs that were purchased four years ago, and considers that the immunity of the inhabitants of Paris from typhoid fever is more necessary than the establishment of a metropolitan railway, which the Government is bent upon carrying out before adopting any other measure.

BERLIN.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

WE are living under the sign of Cancer. Cancer is the subject of discussion in all medical assemblies, from the cancer-bacillus of Dr. Scheuerlen to the operative removal of carcinomata in the different organs. Cancer forms the subject of private conversation among medical men, and also among the laity. "What do you think of the illness of the Crown Prince?" the principal question till lately, has now been altered to: "What do you think about the illness of the Emperor?" Our Emperor Frederick enjoys an extraordinary popularity, and the whole interest of Germany is concentrated on the great question: "How long?" In these questions the position of Sir Morell Mackenzie is very much discussed. There is a large party of laymen and, unfortunately, also of medical men who hate him. The former do so from Chauvinism because they are foolish enough to believe that the honour of German science is wounded by an Englishman being the first physician of the German Emperor. His professional detractors accuse him of having, by his optimism, prevented a radical operation being undertaken whilst there was yet time. However, happily, there is a much larger number who are thankful to him for having prolonged for some time so precious a life; and he enjoys in full measure the confidence of His Majesty the Emperor himself, and of his illustrious consort. It is just announced that Dr. Herman Krause has been named Professor.

SWITZERLAND.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

The "Bund" on *English Practitioners in Switzerland; Memorandum of the Schweizerische Aerzte-Commission; Memorandum of the Société Vaudoise de Médecine.*

AN excellent paragraph on the recent decision of the Bundesrath (see the JOURNAL, March 3rd, 1888, p. 422) has just appeared in the *Bund* (March 19th, 1888). According to the correspondent (a Mr. "S." of Geneva—probably a Swiss medical man), the decision of the Federal Council "affords a striking proof that the questions relative to medical practice are still settled on the ground of a narrow-hearted protective-duties' theory (*Schutzalltheorie*), which might be logical enough with regard to commercial articles, but most assuredly appear quite absurd when applied to medical aid to sick and suffering fellow men..... The very fact that a medical man holding a British diploma can be prohibited from practising amidst his countrymen abroad is nothing but an obvious and untenable anachronism, though it might answer to the spirit of our (Swiss) medical laws. Or possibly the Swiss practitioner stands in sad need of legal protection in his business from foreign competition? Now, if there is anything on which competition and even over-supply might be useful to the community, it is just the medical help to the sick. As a matter of fact, however, there is no fear of competition or of over-supply of the sick market with skilled medical help from granting facilities to English practitioners to settle in the Swiss health-resorts, for the wish expressed by the Engadine colonies (*vide* the JOURNAL, February 18th, p. 334) is an outcome of a real necessity, and is most intimately connected with the foreign industry (*Fremdenindustrie*), that is, with a prosperous development of our foreigners' stations (*Fremdenstationen*). Foreign practitioners generally attract to us their countrymen, and give the widest possible publicity to the climatic advantages of our country, as well as to our health-resorts and hotels. Because a Swiss physician practises in London without an English qualification, scores of our health-resorts, hotels, summer stations, etc., are to suffer heavily by losing the largest element of their prosperity! It is simply absurd. Have Germany and Italy prohibited Sir Morell Mackenzie, and Italy Professor von Bergmann from practising in Berlin and San Remo, though

without local diplomas? Supposing that Her Majesty the Queen had come to Switzerland; would her medical attendant be prohibited from practising medicine? Or, given a British subject who did not happen to speak German or French; is he bound in duty to consult a Swiss practitioner, notwithstanding the fact that the patient cannot possibly understand the doctor, nor the doctor the patient? After alluding to other absurdities of the same kind, the correspondent of the *Bund* lays down a principle which will certainly find acceptance among enlightened members of the medical profession all over the world. "Science," he says, "is cosmopolitan, and the practice of any scientific calling must be founded on the most liberal basis, absolutely free from any degrading spirit of a caste or a trade corporation." A different spirit is shown in the two official documents which have been published here, one from the Swiss Medical Committee (*Schweizerische Aerzte-Commission*), the other from a Special Committee of the *Société Vaudoise de Médecine*. Both of them are addressed to the Swiss Ministry of Interior, which is urged absolutely to refuse the "reciprocity" between Great Britain and Switzerland as regards medical practice, which was a couple of months ago proposed to the Federal Council by the British ambassador at Berne. Both documents lay stress on the general inferiority of English medical men as regards scientific training and professional ability to Swiss practitioners, and argue that the proposed bargain would be altogether in favour of the former, whilst the latter would receive nothing like an equivalent in exchange. This attitude is, no doubt, admirably logical, but it is, perhaps, another mark of our inferior intellectual training that it strikes us as extremely unwise, from a practical point of view. Granting that English doctors are, on the whole, poor creatures, it is nevertheless true that their sick countrymen prefer them to the superior beings radiant with the culture of Berne, Zurich, and Geneva, who wish to supplant them. This is national prejudice, perhaps, but it is none the less a hard fact against which the most faultless logic is of no avail. Whatever may be thought of British qualifications, there can be but one opinion as to the effect of English visitors on the prosperity of Switzerland, and the Federal Government may be trusted not to drive away such useful guests, merely to gratify the jealousy of a few native doctors.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

SIR,—The result of the election of President of the Royal College of Physicians has given satisfaction to many; but a protest must be made against the means by which this result has been attained; to some extent they involve a departure from precedent. Canvassing was had recourse to, if not in favour of one candidate, yet against another. It is now known that a portion of what is called "the College party," supported by the popularity of the Registrar of the College, used its influence in a certain direction. It would, in my opinion, be more becoming if the officials of the College in future were to abstain from such interference, and to leave the Fellows entirely free in choosing their President.—I am, etc.,
ONE OF THE FELLOWS.

THE BUDGET.

SIR.—I think a strong, unanimous, and active opposition should be started at once against the proposal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to tax doctors' horses. If great efforts are not made during the Easter recess, the intolerable injustice will be completed. I at present pay £1 10s. tax for a groom and trap. Under this iniquitous scheme my taxes will be raised to £3 10s. for the one item of conveyance alone. Beside the monstrous income-tax, with trade as depressed as it has been, such a burden will be of serious import to many country doctors.—I am, etc.,
MEXBOROUGH, near Rotherham.
W. SYKES.

SIR,—The new budget of Mr. Goschen seems about to place another burden on our already overweighted profession. I see that it is proposed to exact a fresh tax of £1 for every pleasure horse, and doubtless, unless some steps are promptly taken, the absolutely necessary horses of struggling medical practitioners will be reckoned under this category. Surely something might be done, through our representatives in Parliament, to have it