

OBITUARY.

FRANCIS LINDESAY CARTE, L.R.C.P. AND S.I.,
Surgeon-Captain A.M.S.

DR. F. L. CARTE, whose premature death we announced last week, was born in November, 1862. He obtained his commission August 1st, 1885, when not yet 23. In 1886-7, when the death-rate was alarmingly high, he served in Assouan, and his "record of service" contains an entry marking how thoroughly and devotedly he performed his heavy duties during this trying period. The *Tasmania*, in which ship he was returning home, was wrecked in the Straits of Bonifacio, when the captain and twenty-four officers and men were drowned or died from exposure. For a considerable time subsequent to this Surgeon-Captain Carte suffered from a severe attack of rheumatic fever, the result of more than thirty-six hours' exposure on the sinking vessel when he was already in an indifferent state of health after his arduous service in Egypt.

In February, 1889, he proceeded to India, and served with distinction in the Burmah campaign of 1889-90, for which he obtained the medal and clasp. Subsequently he did duty at Rawul Pindi during the cholera outbreak, which carried off several medical officers. He was himself struck down by fever, and returned to England in April, 1893, greatly broken down in health. On September 30th, 1893, he once more embarked for India, having to complete his six years' tour. We are informed that during the whole period he was abroad he was unable to enjoy any leave or rest, for, although granted a short furlough in 1892, he was recalled after a few days, when he completely broke down, and was sent home when strong enough to bear the voyage. His case is therefore a very sad and striking example of the system which works medical officers to death in India.

Surgeon-Captain F. L. Carte was the third son of Dr. Wm. Carte, J.P., F.R.C.S.I., medical officer to the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, and Headquarters Staff in Ireland, who has faithfully served his country for forty years. His eldest brother is Surgeon-Major W. A. Carte, of the Grenadier Guards.

His numerous friends will be greatly shocked by the news of his early death, and his loss will be sincerely deplored, for he was beloved by all who knew him. There was no more popular or more promising officer in the Army Medical Department.

DR. HENRY WELCH, who has just died at the early age of 37, graduated M.B. and C.M. at Edinburgh in 1878. In 1882 he took the degree of B.Sc. (Public Health), and in 1887 the degree of M.D. with honours. After serving as house-physician at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary and house-surgeon at the Royal Southern Hospital, he was appointed medical officer of health at Blackpool in 1883. Here he worked most assiduously, and it was on his initiative that the corporation built the Sanatorium (an infectious hospital) and the refuse destructor, and resolved upon the erection of the public abattoir not yet completed. He contributed a paper on the Relation of Diphtheria to Scarlet Fever to the *Practitioner* in 1886, and another to the same periodical on the Etiology of Phthisis in 1890, and took much interest in the work of the North-Western Association of Medical Officers of Health, of which he was elected president in 1890. The following year he suffered so much from pulmonary phthisis that on medical advice he resigned his appointment and retired to a little property at Halton which he had inherited. He spent two winters at Davos Platz, and the winter of 1892-93 at Bloemfontein, in the Transvaal, but gradually declined in health, and the end came peacefully at Halton on April 2nd. Dr. Welch had a versatile mind and a most amiable disposition. He was never married, and was the last of a family of five, all of whom died of consumption.

A CAREER of great promise was prematurely closed on April 11th by the sudden death, in her 27th year, of Miss JESSIE FLEWITT HATCH, M.B.Lond., one of the resident medical officers at the North-Eastern Fever Hospital at Tottenham. A distinguished student of the London School of

Medicine for Women, Miss Hatch graduated last year at the University of London, taking high honours in medicine and the gold medal obstetrics. She subsequently became a member of the staff of the new Hospital for Women in the Euston Road. She was the daughter of Mr. S. C. Hatch, of Blackheath.

DR. O'MEARA, J.P., of Carlow, who was in his 78th year, succumbed to a brief illness last week, after practising in his native town for more than half a century. For years the deceased took an active interest in public affairs, and in matters affecting the interests of Carlow. He leaves two sons, both medical men, and two daughters.

MEDICO-PARLIAMENTARY.

[SPECIALLY REPORTED FOR THE "BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL."
HOUSE OF LORDS.

Marking of Foreign Produce.—There was a short discussion on this subject on Monday, when Lord RIBBLESDALE, on behalf of the Government, moved for a Select Committee to consider whether legislation was desirable for the purpose of requiring the foreign or colonial origin of imported agricultural produce, and especially meat, cheese, and fruit, to be marked thereon or otherwise indicated.—Lord TEYNHAM observed that only last week, in the other House, Mr. Mundella had ridiculed a similar proposal that had been brought forward in the interests of British fruit growers. He should, however, welcome the appointment of a Committee.—The Earl of ONSLOW laid great stress on the widespread misrepresentation that had been shown to exist as to the origin of meat sold in this country, giving evidence of the customary and habitual sale of American or New Zealand meat as English beef or mutton. Similar frauds were very common in regard to butter, cheese, and bacon. The Board of Trade rarely used their powers of prosecution, powers which should also be extended to the Board of Agriculture. Whatever method were adopted for the protection of the consumer, such as marking of meat, or the compulsory registration of importers and dealers in foreign meat, those who paid a proper price for English meat were entitled to get it.—Lord PLAYFAIR replied that the Government would do all in their power to secure the object in view. The Board of Agriculture might well be entrusted with the power of prosecution in these matters, though, as the Board of Trade had found, it was difficult to get cases likely to lead to convictions. Cases of wilful misrepresentation might be taken up by local authorities. When the proposed Select Committee had reported a Bill would, no doubt, be founded on their recommendations.—The motion for a Select Committee was then agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Clothing of the Police.—In answer to Mr. E. H. BAYLEY, the HOME SECRETARY stated that, after consultation with the chief surgeon of the Metropolitan Police, the Commissioner had come to the conclusion that the variable character of our climate and the nature of the various duties of the London police rendered it inadvisable to provide the men with light clothing during the summer months.

Richmond Lunatic Asylum, Dublin.—In reply to Mr. W. KENNY, Mr. J. MORLEY said he was aware that this asylum was overcrowded, its inmates numbering about 1,500, while there was proper accommodation for only 1,000. Steps, however, had been taken to acquire a site for an auxiliary asylum at Malahide. The question of cost as between the three counties served by the asylum—namely, the City and County of Dublin and the Counties of Louth and Wicklow—was to be considered immediately by the Privy Council, and, when that matter was settled, there would be no unnecessary delay in regard to the works.

Vivisection.—On the motion of Mr. G. RUSSELL, a return was agreed to showing the number of experiments performed on living animals during the year 1893 under licences granted under the Act 39 and 40 Vict., c. 77, distinguishing painful from painless experiments.

Leave was obtained to introduce the following Bill, which was brought up and read a first time by Mr. P. A. M'HUGH: Bill to Amend the Law relating to the Qualification of Members of Dispensary Committees in Ireland.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

THE TRUE DEATH-RATES OF LONDON DISTRICTS DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1894.

In the accompanying table will be found summarised the vital and mortal statistics of the forty-three sanitary districts of the metropolis, based upon the Registrar-General's returns for the first or winter quarter of this year. The mortality figures in the table relate to the deaths of persons actually belonging to the various sanitary districts, and are the result of a complete system of distribution of the deaths occurring in the institutions of London among the various sanitary districts in which the patient had previously resided.

The 34,058 births registered in London during the three months ending March last were equal to an annual rate of 31.4 per 1,000 of the population, estimated at 4,349,166 persons in the middle of the year. In the corresponding periods of the preceding three years the birth-rates were 33.9, 31.6, and