

place one "fried fish shop" outside the barrack gate "out of bounds" to the troops in garrison. No fresh cases of enteric fever have since occurred in that locality. Many cases of diarrhoea occurred amongst the men in another quarter; on careful investigation it was traced to the unsoundness of the pork and other flesh used in the preparation of sausages and sold to the troops.

The attention of most people is attracted by the horrible stench coming from these "cook shops," but though the smell arising from the cooking of fried fish is a nuisance and objectionable, yet it does not appear to depend upon the soundness or otherwise of the fish, but may be increased by the medium in which the fish is fried, such as olive oil, pure lard, dripping, beef or mutton fats, margarine, and cottonseed oil. When cottonseed oil is used the odour is abominable. Lard is very heavily adulterated with cottonseed oil, and as such is unwholesome; margarine is distinctly a compound of fat not fit for use as a food or for cooking purposes. Cottonseed oil produces painful indigestion and irritation of the bowels, and as such should be prohibited. In tracing the source of the particular fish supply, it may be well at the same time to very thoroughly investigate the medium in which the fish has been cooked, as a particular source of the origin of the disease within suspected areas. The temporary closing of "cook shops" within particular localities is a matter for the sanitary medical authorities of cities and towns, and deserves further investigation.—I am, etc.,

Woolwich, May 20th.

J. J. LAMPREY,  
Lieutenant-Colonel A.M.S.

#### THE REPORT OF THE ANÆSTHETIC COMMITTEE.

SIR,—In a paper read before the British Medical Association meeting at Edinburgh in 1898 I showed that the Indian chloroform mortality probably does not exceed 1 in 8,000. I hope before long to supply fuller statistics.

May I be allowed a few words of criticism in connection with the report of the Chloroform Committee? The report gives many elaborate tables, and assures us that chloroform is eight times as dangerous as ether. But the actual deaths attributable directly or indirectly to the two anæsthetics are given as 18 deaths in 13,393 chloroform, and 6 deaths in 4,595 ether administrations. Evidently the actual mortality-rate is about equal. Then, how is the differential danger-rate arrived at? By a column of danger cases (B γ) which all recovered! The figures are indeed illusory. The true danger-rate is the mortality on the gross total, not that on complicated cases only, nor the mortality after deducting deaths due secondarily or only partially to the anæsthetic.

It has long been recognised that ether fatalities are less immediately and openly connected with the anæsthetic than are the fatal cases connected with chloroform. For this reason the advocates of ether have often claimed that its mortality is only 1 in 15,000.

We now know the true mortality, direct and indirect, as allowed by a Committee of experts, certainly not biased against ether. It is 6 in 4,595, equal to 1 in 765.8.—I am, etc.,

ARTHUR NEVE, F.R.C.S.E.

Kashmir Mission Hospital, March 18th.

#### THE PROVISIONAL REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE.

##### BRANCH SUBSCRIPTIONS.

SIR,—There is one point relating to the proposed subscription of members which I think requires explaining. Paragraph 20 proposes that the total subscription per member be 25s. per annum, and that of this sum a part be granted for "defraying the working expenses of Branches and Divisions." Are we to understand that the sum granted to each Branch shall be subdivided equally between a Branch and its Divisions? If a Branch contained, say, fifty Divisions, this subdivision of funds will cause great annoyance.

Next, the following paragraph proposes that "all Branches and Divisions be given power to defray, by means of special subscriptions from their own members, any extraordinary expenses of their local organisation, or the cost of any special privileges which they may decide to confer on their members." This is a very wide proposal. It gives a Branch power to make a levy upon its members; and next it empowers a Division to make a levy upon its members. And as a member

must be a member of both a Branch and a Division, it follows that he must pay whether he likes to or not. Next, I would suggest that the amount of this levy be a fixed sum. By its present reading a levy of any sum—say, up to £5 per annum—could be made; I would suggest that it be limited to 2s. 6d. per member. Further, I think the paragraph should be more carefully drawn, as its present wording—"local organisation"—might include medical defence or such-like.—I am, etc.,

Liverpool, May 18th.

ROBERT R. RENTOUL.

#### WHOOPIING-COUGH CURED BY IRRIGATION OF THE NARES.

SIR,—In the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of May 4th, Dr. Martin Payne, of Cricklewood, relates a case of whooping-cough cured by carbolic irrigation. I have used the irrigation method for many years, and always mentioned it as one of the most successful methods of treating the disease to the students attending the clinical instruction at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children. At p. 111 of my manual of *Disease in Children* irrigation is strongly commended. I do not claim originality in this method of treatment, for it has been long used by others, as by Henoch of Berlin.—I am, etc.,

JAS. GARMICHAEL,  
May 14th. Consulting Physician, Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children.

#### THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.

THE members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain held their annual dinner at the Hôtel Métropole on May 21st, when in the absence of the President owing to indisposition, the chair was taken by Mr. C. B. ALLEN, Vice-President.

Mr. R. A. ROBINSON, L.C.C., in proposing the toast of "The Houses of Parliament," remarked that the Lord Chancellor had said there was ground for the law in regard to pharmacy being altered, and to this the Pharmaceutical Society were quite willing to accede provided their rights were protected as well as the rights of the public. The toast was acknowledged by Mr. W. PALMER, M.P.

Mr. S. R. ATKINS (Treasurer), in giving the toast of "The Medical Profession," said that the Society had endeavoured to teach its members the line of demarcation between prescribing and dispensing. He frankly admitted there were great difficulties, because some medical men must in country towns dispense their own medicine, and occasionally the pharmacist on the spur of the moment had to say what was needed.

Dr. D. MACALISTER (Chairman of the Pharmacopœia Committee of the General Medical Council) replied to the toast, and pointed out that there were hundreds of pharmaceutical questions awaiting the earnest seeker after truth in relation to the properties and most eligible preparations of drugs. He hoped that the Senate of the University of Cambridge would pass estimates amounting to £26,000 for the building of a new pharmacological and public health laboratory for which the site was already secured.

Mr. W. MARTINDALE proposed "Science," and eulogised the work done by the Public Analyst at Somerset House and his assistants.

The toast was acknowledged by Professor THORPE, of the Institute of Chemistry, who declared that he did not share the pessimistic views that had been expressed in regard to the future of pharmacists.

Sir JAMES CRICHTON-BROWNE, in giving the toast of "The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain," said that pharmacy, like medicine, had advanced just in proportion as it had become more scientific and less empirical. Medical science and pharmacy were at one time united, but though they had not been divorced, they had agreed to a judicious and judicial separation, and were advancing now on parallel lines with science, still the great guide for each of them. He ventured to suggest to the Society that at some time it should direct its attention to the selling of drugs in hospitals. Every one desired that the poor should be freely supplied with drugs, but if out-patient hospital people could afford to pay for their medicines, then in his judgment they ought to pay the druggist. That was especially the case in hospitals where the drugs were sold below cost price. The difference between

the market price of the drugs sold and the amount charged to the patient must come out of the funds charitably subscribed to the hospital, and in that manner the bread was taken out of the mouth of the poor druggist.

The CHAIRMAN replied, and proposed "The Health of the Guests," which was responded to by Mr. DRUCE, the Mayor of Oxford.

## OBITUARY.

WILLIAM JOHNSTONE FYFFE, A.B., M.D. DUBL.,  
Deputy Surgeon-General, late Physician to Clifton College.

WILLIAM JOHNSTONE FYFFE died at his residence, 2, Rodney Place, Clifton, on May 17th. He was born on April 24th, 1826, at Baron Court, county Tyrone, of Scotch parents, and was educated at Foyle College, Londonderry. He entered the University of Dublin in 1843 as a student of Arts. He graduated A.B., and in 1847 M.D. In December, 1848, he was gazetted to an assistant-surgeoncy in the 3rd West India Regiment, and served in Barbadoes and Jamaica. Whilst stationed at the latter place a severe epidemic of cholera broke out, and Dr. Fyffe volunteered to attend the civil population in Falmouth; in acknowledgment of his services he received the thanks of the town council and a monetary gift. Invalided home in 1851, he was for some time quartered in the Royal Infirmary, Phoenix Park, Dublin, and in 1853 was gazetted to the 30th Regiment, then stationed at Dover. In 1854, being at Fermooy, he was ordered with his regiment to proceed to Turkey, sailing from Cork to Scutari, and thence to Bulgaria. On the outbreak of the Crimean war he sailed on H.M.S. *Vulcan*, and, landing in the Crimea, was present at the battle of the Alma and in the march to Sebastopol, and saw the earlier part of the siege, and was present at the battle on October 26th. For this he received two medals and clasps. Being seized with fever he was sent to Balaclava, and afterwards moved to the Scutari Hospital, and in January, 1855, was ordered to proceed home in charge of the transport *Sultana* with 200 sick and wounded. The voyage took 104 days, and was very stormy. On landing in England Dr. Fyffe was presented with an address by the men. The Director-General of the Army Medical Department offered him any appointment he chose to apply for, but on being told by Dr. Bright that his health was in a very precarious state he applied for and obtained six months' leave. Finding himself, however, much better, he again went on duty, and was sent to Fort Pitt, Chatham, being promoted to the rank of Staff Surgeon. At Chatham all the wounded returning from the war passed through his hands. In 1857 he was sent to report on the expediency of erecting a sanatorium at Bath for the army, and here he remained for a year and a-half in very poor health. In 1858 he was appointed Surgeon to the 2nd Battalion of the 13th Light Infantry. With this regiment he remained till 1859, when he exchanged into the 5th Dragoon Guards. Dr. Fyffe was appointed in 1863 Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Army Medical School, Netley, and he lived for the next ten years at Charlton Lodge, Woolston, near Southampton. In 1873 he retired from the army with the rank of Deputy Surgeon-General, having served for twenty-six years. He then settled in Clifton, and began private practice. In 1882 he was appointed by the then head master, the Rev. J. M. Wilson, Physician to Clifton College, which post he held till Midsummer, 1897. Dr. Fyffe was President of the Bristol Medico-Chirurgical Society in 1883-84, and President of the Bath and Bristol Branch of the British Medical Association in 1890-91.

Dr. Fyffe was married twice: first in 1858 to Catherine Elizabeth May Reid Duff, of Corsenvar House, Aberdeenshire, by whom he had one daughter. Mrs. Fyffe died in 1859. His second wife was Caroline Margaret Kington, daughter of Thomas Kington, of Charlton, Somerset, by whom he had eight children. He lost his second wife in 1897, and from this severe blow he never recovered, though he lingered on in very feeble health till May 17th.

No doubt there are many still in the army and on the retired list who remember Dr. Fyffe when he was in the army, but the medical profession of Bristol, as well as the residents of Clifton, will always associate his name more with his connection with Clifton College than with the Service.

During the fifteen years he was Physician to Clifton College he succeeded in making himself respected and beloved by everyone with whom he came in contact. Masters and boys alike felt that in him they had a true friend whose sole object was to guard the health of the great public school that was in his care. How faithfully he performed his duties many hundreds of Old Cliftonians, scattered all over the world, know full well, and the house-masters, whose confidence he had to the fullest degree, felt that his advice on all things pertaining to the hygiene of the school as well as the health could not be bettered. There was, too, a deeply religious side in Dr. Fyffe's character which gave additional force to the opinions he expressed, and marked him as a man above the ordinary. Though out of practice for several years his memory as a kind, upright, and able physician will remain for many years to come among the residents in Clifton.

The first part of the funeral ceremony was performed at Christ Church, Clifton, the church in which he had acted as churchwarden, on May 21st, when a large number of friends, medical and lay, were present.

CHARLES NATTRASS, M.D. ABERD., M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,  
Sunderland.

By the death of Dr. Charles Nattrass Sunderland has lost its oldest medical practitioner. He was born in Sunderland in 1822, and at the age of 17 was apprenticed to the late Dr. Mordey, one of the leading practitioners of the town, who at one time held the position of Mayor. Charles Nattrass afterwards entered as a student at Guy's Hospital, and obtained the diplomas of M.R.C.S. and L.S.A. in 1846; in 1856 he took the degree of M.D. at the University of Aberdeen.

Settling down in Sunderland, he was appointed Medical Officer to the Sunderland Union Workhouse, an office which he held for very many years, and soon gained a good and lucrative practice. He was trusted and held in the highest respect by his brother practitioners and his numerous patients. He was a man of the highest character and probity, possessed of a sound knowledge of his profession. He joined the Sunderland Rifle Volunteers as Surgeon on their formation and retired only a few years ago, having been one of the first to receive the V.D. He for many years had one of the largest practices in Sunderland, but of late years he took things more quietly as he did not require to work for his living, and enjoyed nothing more than to go out for a ride on his cob or have a chat with a friend in the club.

He was twice married, and his only child—a daughter of his first wife—died only a few months ago. He leaves a widow. He took a great interest in the Sunderland Infirmary and frequently visited the operating theatre and was most anxious to have all the new operations and instruments explained to him, and has given the very practical proof of his interest in it by bequeathing a sum of close upon £4,000, and he has also bequeathed sums to Eye Infirmary, Institute for the Blind, Orphans Asylum, District Nursing Association, etc.

WILLIAM HARRY DRAPER, M.D.,  
New York.

DR. WILLIAM H. DRAPER, of New York, who died recently of pneumonia was born in 1830 in Brattleboro, Vermont. He studied at Columbia College, where he graduated Bachelor of Arts in 1851 and Master in 1855. In the latter year he took his doctor's degree at the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons. He then went abroad and studied in Paris and London for about a year, when he returned to America and began the practice of his profession in New York. During the Civil War he made a trip of inspection to the Peninsula in connection with the Sanitary Commission. In 1869 he was appointed Clinical Professor of Diseases of the Skin at the College of Physicians and Surgeons. He retired from that Professorship after a time, and was appointed to the Chair of Clinical Medicine in the same College in 1879. That post he held until 1898, when he retired with the title of Emeritus Professor. He was a Trustee of the College of Physicians and Surgeons until it became part of Columbia University, and then he was made a Trustee of the University. He was appointed Attending Physician in the New York Hospital in 1862, and acted until 1889 when ill health compelled him to retire. In 1893 he was able to resume the active duties of the