

seaman who was struck by a piece of iron at Ramleh. And when poor Maguire, a young sailor who had a leg shot off on board the *Invincible*, endeavoured to raise himself in his cot to receive the decoration which he had bravely won, the Queen quietly pressed his head back upon the pillow so that he should not suffer.

On leaving No. 4 Ward, Her Majesty was conducted to the left, or medical side, of the hospital into No. 7 Ward, in which the sick from the war were accommodated. To reach the ward in question without descending the stairs, it was necessary to pass through the central ward. This ward, which is empty at the present time, is a magnificent room, containing 19,000 cubic feet, and was much admired by the Royal visitors. In pinning on the medals in this ward the Queen was assisted by the Duke of Edinburgh. This concluded the visitation, whereupon the *cortège* was formed in the same order, the Queen driving back to Stokes Bay and embarking in the *Alberta*. Before leaving, Her Majesty expressed her satisfaction with everything she saw, and the arrangements which had been made for the comfort of the sick and wounded.

## ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

### COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL.

#### NOTICE OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS FOR 1883: ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

MEETINGS of the Committee of Council will be held on Wednesday, January 17th, April 11th, July 11th, and October 17th. Gentlemen desirous of becoming members must send in their forms of application for election to the General Secretary not later than 21 days before each meeting, viz., December 26th, March 21st, May 21st, September 26th, in accordance with the regulation for the election of members passed at the meeting of the Committee of Council of October 12th, 1881.

November 9th, 1882. FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary*.

### COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL.

#### NOTICE OF MEETING.

A MEETING of the Committee of Council will be held in the Council Room of Exeter Hall, Strand, London, on Wednesday, the 17th day of January next, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary*.  
161A, Strand, December 21st, 1882.

### COLLECTIVE INVESTIGATION OF DISEASE.

CARDS and explanatory memoranda for the inquiries concerning Acute Pneumonia, Chorea, and Acute Rheumatism, can be had by application to the Honorary Secretaries of the Local Committees appointed by the Branches, or to the Secretary of the Collective Investigation Committee. Of these diseases, each member of the Association is earnestly requested to record at least *one ordinary case* coming under observation during the year.

Inquiries concerning Diphtheria and Syphilis have been prepared, and can be had on application by those willing to contribute information on these subjects. There are two cards on Diphtheria, one containing clinical, the other etiological inquiries, together with an explanatory memorandum. One of these cards is intended to serve as a guide to the systematic examination of a house or district for sanitary purposes. There are also two sets of inquiries concerning Syphilis, one for acquired, the other for inherited disease. These are accompanied by an explanatory memorandum giving information concerning the most recently observed symptoms of the inherited disease.

It is proposed to publish in the *Journal* in January a list of the Contributions received up to the end of the present year. It is therefore desirable that members should at once forward any cards they may have filled up to the Secretary of the Collective Investigation Committee.

F. A. MAHOMED, Secretary to the Committee.  
12, St. Thomas's Street, S.E.

### BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

SOUTH-WESTERN BRANCH.—The next quarterly meeting will be held, at 2.30 P.M., on Thursday, January 11th, 1883, in the Board-room of the Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter. Members intending to make communications or show specimens are requested to give notice to S. REES PHILIPPS, M.D., Honorary Secretary, Wonford House, Exeter.

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

PALINURUS.—At page 362 of a legal publication, known as the *Weekly Reporter* for March 10th, 1877, will be found the decision of the Court of Appeal, in the case of Purcell v. Sowler, which is the judgment to which we referred in the remarks made by us in our issue of December 9th, and on which our correspondent "Palinurus" founds his question. As, however, the majority of our members are necessarily in ignorance of the important point settled thereby, we propose to go into the case somewhat in detail. It would appear that the medical officer of the workhouse of the Altrincham Union, Knutsford, felt that he was libelled by the chairman of the house committee, at a meeting of the board of guardians. The libellous matter was reported by the printers and publishers of a daily newspaper called the *Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser*. We learn that the medical officer incriminated by the statements elected to bring his action against the proprietors of the journal, who grounded their defence on the plea that their report was *bona fide*, and that the matter reported was privileged. The court below decided against the newspaper proprietors, and gave a verdict of forty shillings damages and costs. Against this decision the appeal was made. Four of the judges of the Court of Appeal gave in their judgments, to wit, Lord Justice Cockburn, Lord Justice Mellish, Justice Baggallay, and Justice Bramwell. They all concurred in supporting the decision of the Court of Common Pleas, and the appeal was dismissed with costs. It will be seen thereby that it is a very dangerous game for individual members of a board of guardians to play, when they proceed at their meetings to aspersion the character of their medical and other officers; and it is equally dangerous for the printers and publishers of local papers to print the highly seasoned matters which so frequently crop up at board meetings. We commend our reply especially to the members of the Poor-law Medical Officers' Association, many of whom, we are fully aware, too frequently have to chafe under the cruelly slanderous language so constantly made use of by guardians at their meetings. The names of the solicitors, etc., will be found in the report of the appeal and judgment.

## MILITARY AND NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

### THE ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE.

SIR.—Uneasiness has been caused by the remarks in your issue of the 16th instant, foreshadowing the results to the Army Medical Department of the Committee on Hospital Organisation now sitting; and it is felt by many that not a little blame is due to a section of the department in having led to this reaction. A general feeling is expressed by the seniors of the medical service, that amongst what I may term the "Aldershot school", the military as opposed to the medical element has run into extravagant extremes. The disciples of this school have apparently preferred to subordinate the professional part of their duties to what they consider the more important, viz., the military control over the Army Hospital Corps; and have taken a greater pleasure in battalion drill, sword exercise, and orderly-room minutiae, than in treating the sick and filling up clinical records. This being so, we can hardly be surprised that the military authorities have taken alarm at this "combatant" fever; and, dreading its consequences, have determined to put it down with a strong hand. Is it too late to prove that the large majority of the Army Medical Department are doctors rather than disciplinarians, and that all their desire in the military direction is a sufficient control over their subordinates in the Army Hospital Corps to enable them to manage their hospitals properly; and that they would prefer that drill manoeuvres be left to drill instructors?

The subject is too large a one for me to detail it within the limits of this letter: but I believe I may justly say, that if the votes of the members of the department were taken, the military authorities would find that they had taken fright at a shadow, and that we are in favour of a system that would develop our talents as surgeons, whilst we leave to "combatants" the dearly prized privileges of military control.—I am, etc.,  
A. M. D.

The Greenwich Hospital Pension of £50 a year, vacant by the death of Retired Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets Alexander Cross, on the 3rd instant, has been awarded to Retired Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets Andrew Murray, from that date.

To be Honorary Surgeon to Her Majesty: James Jenkins, Esq., C.B., M.D., Retired Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets, *vice* Dr. Johnston, deceased.—Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets Samuel Sloan Dalzell Wells has been promoted to the rank of Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets in Her Majesty's Fleet, with seniority of November 10th, 1882.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their Examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, December 21st, 1882.

Cuffe, Robert Ernest Gilhurst, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire.  
Davidson, Hugh Morgan, Aldeburgh, Suffolk.  
Dent, Harry Lord Richard, Wood Street, Woolwich.  
Griffin, Richard Paik, Padstow, Cornwall.  
Lyons, Thomas, 364, Brompton Road, W.  
Wingrave, Vitruvius Harold W., 55, Torrington Square, W.C.