

### THE DIRECT INFLUENCE OF THE HEART OVER THE SOUNDS AND ACTION OF THE LUNGS.

SIR,—Dr. Bristowe's very interesting paper on the above subject recalls to my mind a fact with which I have been acquainted for some years, and which is not mentioned in his communication.

In many persons there is a distinctly audible rhythmical wave or beat in the production of sustained musical notes of extreme pianissimo.

It is generally only noticeable at close quarters, and is usually clearest towards, but not quite at the end of, a prolonged expiration. It is synchronous with the pulse, and sometimes has a triple, cantering character, the secondary wave of greatest intensity being, so far as I can roughly make out in my own case, at the commencement of cardiac diastole.

Not possessing a physician's habit of thought and inquiry I have not regarded it as a point of interest or importance, as if the kind of manifestation which *a priori* one might expect: but if there is any value in such diagnostic signs I should consider at least as sensitive as Dr. Drummond's auscultation, or Dr. Evans's tobacco smoke.—I am, etc.,

Leeds.

EDWARD WARD.

### AFFAIRS IN EGYPT.

SIR,—At page 1109 of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of November 15th there is a statement to the effect that Cairo contains "nearly half the present population of Egypt:" and from the context it is evidently not a misprint! The Mena water alluded to in same paragraph is neither more nor less than Nile water strained through the subsoil. There is no other water in Egypt than Nile water.—I am, etc.,

Cairo.

H. R. GREENE.

## NAVAL AND MILITARY MEDICAL SERVICES.

### THE LATE SURGEON SYMS, MEDICAL STAFF.

A MEMORIAL brass has been erected in Christ Church, Kingstown, county Dublin, to the late Surgeon G. H. Syms, who died on the West Coast of Africa in January last. The tablet, which is 3 feet 7 inches by 2 feet 8 inches, has a Gothic border, an inner border of leaves, church text letters with Gothic capitals. The engraving (by Sawier, Dublin), has been done in a very neat manner, and is much admired by all who have seen it. The following is a list of subscribers:—Surgeon-Major P. W. L. Kilroy, R. C. Eaton, J. J. Lamprey; Surgeons A. M. Kavanagh, W. J. Macnamara, J. H. Nicholas, A. S. Harpe, A. H. Morgan, J. Hickman, H. C. Gordon, B. F. Zimmerman, R. Crofts, S. G. Allen, J. S. Green, H. D. Rowan, P. L. Carte, A. A. Sutton, J. G. Dracon, W. C. Poole.

### THE OFFICE OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN SCOTLAND AND ARMY MEDICAL OFFICERS.

AN ARMY MEDICAL OFFICER sends the following extract from the *Army and Navy Gazette* and the *Broad Arrow*, and asks for further information:

"Our medical readers in both services should be made aware that excellent opportunities in Scotland are open to them as trained sanitarians under the Local Government Act of last session. These are the offices of county sanitary medical officers, and every county in Scotland, either singly or in combination with another, must shortly make a selection. The salaries offered are from £400 to £700 or more, and we believe that few more pleasant or useful positions could be found by an army or navy surgeon whose service enabled him to claim a pension."

\*.\* As similar inquiries have reached us from other correspondents, it may be as well to state that it is compulsory, under the Scottish Local Government Act, for County Councils to elect a medical officer. Unfortunately, the option is permitted them of allowing this official to engage in private practice. This provision, although formally objected to by the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of Edinburgh, has been taken advantage of in a few instances, and appointments have been made of medical men practising in their respective districts. Other County Councils, however, are evidently determined to restrict their health officers to their official duties. The proposed salaries are as stated. There can be no doubt that the sanitary duties devolving on officers of the army and navy specially qualify them in certain respects for such appointments, not to mention the habits of method and decision acquired in the services. In addition, we should recommend the possession of a health diploma of recent date, as this would undoubtedly enable these gentlemen to meet competitors on more equal footing than if they could only appeal to their military or naval experience. In all cases we should advise that the clerks to the various County Councils should be communicated with.

### THE NAVY.

DEPUTY INSPECTOR-GENERAL WILLIAM HARRIS LLOYD, M.D., has been promoted to be Inspector-General, November 25th. His previous commissions are thus dated:—Surgeon, December 12th, 1856; Staff-Surgeon, August 20th, 1862; Fleet-Surgeon, May 31st, 1877; and Deputy Inspector-General, November 27th, 1884. He served as Assistant-Surgeon in the *Calcutta* flagship during the China war in 1857-58 (medal with clasps for Canton and Taku). While serving in the flagship *Nile* he took charge of yellow fever cases of the *Rinaldo* during the epi-

demic in August, 1862, and was promoted the same month into the *Petrel*. He was Secretary to the Section of Military Surgeons at the International Military Congress of London in 1881.

The following appointments have been made at the Admiralty:—CHARLES W. BUCHANAN-HAMILTON, Staff-Surgeon, to the *Iron Duke*, for temporary service, December 11th; WILLIAM P. M. BOYLE, Staff-Surgeon, to the *Howe*, December 12th; J. ANDREWS, Surgeon, to the *Belleisle*, December 15th; M. A. S. JAMESON, to be Surgeon and Agent at Collieston.

Fleet-Surgeons T. H. ATKINSON and C. HARVEY have been placed on the retired list at their own request.

### MEDICAL STAFF.

DEPUTY SURGEON-GENERAL J. G. FAUGHT is promoted to be Surgeon-General, ranking as Major-General, *vice* T. Tarant, M.D., who has retired. In the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of November 15th we gave full particulars of the commissions and services of Surgeon-General Faught, on the occasion of his appointment as principal medical officer at Aldershot; it is not necessary, therefore, now to repeat them here.

Quartermaster WILLIAM MCCALLUM is granted the honorary rank of Captain. Surgeon C. A. WEBB, serving in the Bombay command, is transferred from general duty in the Bombay district to general duty in the Mhow district.

### INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

The services of Surgeon-Major W. COATES, M.D., Bengal Establishment, civil surgeon of Murree, are placed at the disposal of the Government of India in the Home Department.

The services of Surgeon H. C. L. ARNIM, Bombay Establishment, are placed at the disposal of the Government of India for employment in the Civil Department.

Surgeon S. E. PRALL, Bombay Establishment, having returned from leave, is placed on general duty in the Bombay district.

Surgeon J. B. SMITH, Bombay Establishment, is transferred from general duty in the Poona district to general duty in the Sind district.

The undermentioned promotions, which have been already announced in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, have received the approval of the Queen:—Bengal: Surgeon-Major D. O'C. RAYE, M.D., to be Brigade-Surgeon, September 26th. Madras: Surgeon-Major T. J. M'GANN, to be Brigade-Surgeon, July 25th; Surgeon C. MALLINS, M.D., E. M. DAMLA, and H. ST. C. CARRUTHERS, to be Surgeons-Major, September 30th. Bombay: Surgeons C. G. W. LOWDELL, H. B. BRIGGS, W. P. CARSON, and A. S. FAULKNER to be Surgeons-Major, September 30th.

### THE VOLUNTEERS.

ACTING-SURGEON J. DRUMMOND, M.D., 3rd Durham Artillery (Western Division Royal Artillery), is promoted to be Surgeon, December 13th.

Mr. ROBERT JAFFRAY HUGHES is appointed Acting-Surgeon to the 1st Volunteer Battalion Royal Fusiliers (late the 10th Middlesex), December 13th.

Mr. ROBERT JOHN BURNS is appointed Acting-Surgeon to the 3rd Volunteer Battalion Durham Light Infantry (late the 3rd Durham), December 13th.

Acting-Surgeon G. B. CURRIE, M.B., 4th Volunteer Battalion Gordon Highlanders (late the 4th Aberdeenshire), is promoted to be Surgeon, December 13th.

## MEDICO-LEGAL AND MEDICO-ETHICAL.

### WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

X. Y. Z. asks for an opinion as to the wisdom of fighting the following in the county court: A person, a stranger called P., comes to consult me, feeling indisposed. She tells me she is the sister-in-law of a man A., who resides in the neighbourhood, and whom I had seen professionally a few days before. I prescribe for her, and on calling to see her in a day or two A.'s wife expresses her satisfaction at seeing me, being anxious about her sister. P. develops typhoid fever; I attend her for it, find that she is married, and lives with her husband near Birmingham, and has come here on a visit. The illness is traced to her own house, faulty drains, which induces her husband, I believe, to move into another house. She recovers her health, and goes home in due course. I attend at A.'s house for so-and-so, and at the end of the year A.'s wife tells me (verbally) to send the account for her sister to them. "She supposed it would have to be paid, and they would see to it." This was accordingly done. The account was sent to A. with his own at the beginning of the year (1890). I attended at the house during the spring, and then about the end of June I find that A. has removed to Birmingham without in any way intimating any such intention or leaving any address for himself or P. I find out A.'s address, and write after some months, pointing out that these accounts are still unpaid and request payment. A. pays no attention whatsoever. I then cause A. to be served with a default summons in the County Court for both accounts rendered in one sum. A. thereupon pays into court the amount of his own account, and announces his intention to defend the rest.

\*.\* We are advised that our correspondent cannot recover his charges for attending Mrs. P. from A., as there is not a sufficient consideration to support the subsequent promise by A.'s wife, even if she had the power to make it on her husband's behalf. We think X. Y. Z. would be well advised to accept the amount paid into court in respect of A.'s account, and to claim from Mr. P. the charges for attending his wife, for it may be taken as a general rule that a wife has an implied authority to bind her husband for necessities.

### PROFESSIONAL CHARGES.

H.—If our correspondent will refer to the *Medico-Chirurgical Tariffs*, he will find on pages 12, 13, 20, and 21, under the heading of Special Visit, Night Visit, Mileage, Detention, Subcutaneous Injection, and Night-charge of Patients, such information as should enable him to arrange, with but little difficulty, fair charges for professional attendance on the cases in question.