

if chosen from the Medical Staff, would be more suitable judges of the qualification of the candidate for duties of the staff.—I am, etc.,

Erdington, August 2nd.

WILLIAM DONOVAN, M.D.

GALL STONES AND CANCER.

SIR,—In a recently-published memorandum referring to the presence of gall stones in the insane, Mr. Beadles says: "In different institutions the percentage may vary considerably, but I believe the want of uniformity is greatly due to the fact that the necropsies are performed by different persons, and with a variable amount of exactness. As much reliance can never be placed on a number of figures drawn from several sources, as on those obtained by the observer himself, even though the latter be fewer in number," etc. In this I entirely concur. The difference between the statistics to which Mr. Beadles refers and mine is probably due to this cause.

A large proportion of the forty-four breast cancer necropsies, on which my remarks are based, were made and recorded by myself, and I paid special attention to the presence of gall stones. Had I made the whole series, the percentage of gall stones would probably have been higher, for tired pathologists are only too apt to regard gall stones as hardly worth the *gêne* of recording.

A singular fact brought out by my analysis is, that gall stones are much more frequently found in association with cancer of the breast than with cancer of most other parts of the body.—I am, etc.,

Preston, September 2nd.

W. ROGER WILLIAMS.

ABUSE OF MEDICAL CHARITIES.

SIR,—Dr. Jacob's arguments as to the course adopted by the fifty deserving cases, and their treatment by the medical men they go to, are weak. The very consciousness of their honourable position as legitimate applicants would lead them to apply to the nearest practitioner they know, and this of itself would effect distributions of applications for endorsement. Further, any attempt to obtain hospital benefits dishonourably could easily be checked in the detail of the scheme, the endorsement distinctly stating either that the applicant was resident in his immediate district, or was personally known to the medical man.

If, as Dr. Jacob admits, general practitioners have been and still are grossly wronged by the hospital system, it is only reasonable to grant them a voice and a hand in preventing the continuance of the evil; and so far, the endorsement scheme of prevention has the best of the argument.—I am, etc.,

West Kensington, September 2nd.

C. R. ILLINGWORTH.

NAVAL AND MILITARY MEDICAL SERVICES.

ARMY MEDICAL STAFF EXCHANGE.

The charge for inserting notices respecting Exchanges in the Army Medical Department is 3s. 6d., which should be forwarded in stamps or post office order with the notice. The first post on Thursday mornings is the latest by which these announcements can be received.

A SURGEON-MAJOR, with nearly two years of foreign tour completed, due to return to Bombay Presidency in December next, wishes to exchange with a Surgeon-Major having a good position on home roster.—Apply to "India," care of Messrs. Holt and Co.

THE EXAMINATION FOR ADMISSION INTO THE ARMY AND INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICES.

The papers set at the recent examinations for the admission to the Army and the Indian Medical Services were identical, as is the custom, and appear to have been on the whole well drawn up, with the exception of that on Chemistry and Pharmacy. This was not a practical paper and contained little pharmacy. The questions set were as follows:

- Describe fully experiments by which you can prove—
 - That atmospheric air is a mixture and not a chemical compound.
 - That its approximate composition by volume is $O = 21$, $N = 79$.
 - That its composition by weight is about $O = 23.14$, $N = 76.86$.
- Enunciate and explain the "periodic law" of Mendeléeff. Illustrate the scientific importance of this law.
- Describe how ordinary ethylic alcohol can be synthetically prepared. Mention the chief products of the oxidation of ordinary alcohol, and show how they can be prepared from it.

4. Mention the alkaloids and organic acids contained in the cinchona barks. What are the tests for the more important alkaloids? Enumerate the official preparations made from the barks and their alkaloids.

It would be well if the examiners before the next examination would consider well whether some alteration might not be made in the kind of question set in order to render the paper more practical. It must be remembered that among the duties of medical officers is the examination of drugs and other medical stores on receipt from contractors; they are required to express an opinion as to whether the drugs supplied are pure or otherwise of the quality contracted for. It would, we believe, be far better that the questions should be directed to test practical knowledge rather than an acquaintance with theories.

The paper ought to be designed to test especially a candidate's knowledge of the analysis of potable water and of foods, not going into minute details even here, but ascertaining whether he has such a preliminary acquaintance with the subjects as will enable him to take full advantage of the special instruction given at Netley. Further, some practical knowledge of drugs, their appearance and common impurities, ought to be required.

THE NAVY.

STAFF-SURGEON T. D. GIMLETTE is promoted to be Fleet-Surgeon, August 13th. He was appointed Surgeon October 1st, 1879, and Staff-Surgeon April 1st, 1885. He was Surgeon of the *Seahorse* during the Egyptian war in 1882 (medal and Khedive's bronze staa). As Surgeon of the *Euryalus*, flag ship, he landed with the Naval Brigade in the Soudan in 1884, and was present at the battles of El Teb and Tamaai, where he highly distinguished himself (mentioned in despatches, promoted to Staff-Surgeon for these services, April 1st, 1885, Suakin and El Teb-Tamaai clasps). He accompanied Admiral Sir W. Hewett as Medical Officer on his mission to King John of Abyssinia in 1884.

The following appointments have been made at the Admiralty:—P. W. BASSETT SMITH, Surgeon to the *President*, additional, August 28th; G. T. COLLINGWOOD, Surgeon to the *Widgeon*, August 30th; ERNEST D. MINTER, Surgeon to the *Pembroke*, August 30th; R. W. ANDERSON, Staff Surgeon to the *Lion*, August 31st; FRANK BRADSHAW, Surgeon to the *Vernon*, additional, September 12th; W. H. STEWART, Fleet Surgeon to the *Empress of India*, September 11th; T. D. GIMLETTE, Fleet Surgeon to the *Caledonia*, September 11th; C. L. VASEY, Staff Surgeon to the *Anson*, September 12th; H. P. SHUTTLEWORTH, Surgeon to the *Empress of India*, September 11th; C. J. MANSFIELD, Surgeon to the *Anson*, September 12th; J. A. MOON, Surgeon to the *Britannia*, September 12th; JAMES M. ROGERS, Surgeon to the *Cockatrice*, September 2nd; GEORGE WELCH, Surgeon to Portsmouth Dockyard, September 2nd; HUGH ST. D. GRIFFITHS, Surgeon to the *President*, additional, September 14th; CHARLES W. SHARPLES, Staff Surgeon to R.N. Rendezvous, Spring Gardens, temporarily, September 5th.

ARMY MEDICAL STAFF.

SURGEON-CAPTAINS A. M. DAVIES, H. W. HUBBARD, T. E. NODING, J. R. YOUNG, M.B., J. C. CULLING, R. I. D. HACKETT, M.D., G. T. TREWMAN, M.B., H. H. JOHNSTON, M.B., E. M. WILSON, E. J. E. RISK, W. G. BIRRELL, M.B., MICHAEL DUNDON, M.D., C. W. S. MAGRATH, M.D., A. V. LANE, J. W. BEATTY, M.D., G. E. WESTON, G. H. YOUNGE, F.R.C.S.I., W. G. CLEMENTS, WILLIAM BABTIE, M.B., R. F. O'BRIEN, C. W. THIELE, M.B., F. P. NICHOLS, M.B., JOHN M'LAUGHLIN, M.D., S. H. CREAGH, F. J. LAMBKEN, W. L. READE, H. J. FEARD, S. J. RENNIE, JOHN CARMICHAEL, F.R.C.S.I., G. W. BRAZIER-CREAGH, F. T. WILKINSON, and JOHN SEMPLE, who date as Surgeon-Captains from July 30th, 1881, are now promoted to be Surgeon-Majors from July 30th last.

Surgeon-Captain R. H. S. SAWYER, M.B., F.R.C.S.I., having completed twelve years' full-pay service, is promoted to be Surgeon-Major from August 15th. He entered the service as Surgeon February 5th, 1881, and was six months from November 16th, 1884, to May 26th, 1885, on half-pay on account of ill-health.

Surgeon-Major F. B. MACLEAN, who is serving in the Madras Command, is granted an extension of leave from July 26th to September 3rd on medical certificate.

Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. ROBINSON, serving in the Madras Command in medical charge of the station hospital at Wellington, is transferred to the medical charge of the South Station Hospital, Secunderabad, in the same command.

Surgeon-Major P. M. CARLETON, M.D., on his return from England, is appointed to the medical charge of the station hospital at Mandalay, in the Madras Command.

The undermentioned officers, borne on the strength of the Bombay Establishment, are granted leave of absence to remain in England, in extension, as follows: Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. BROWNE, M.D., from July 29th to October 28th, on medical certificate; Surgeon-Major J. H. DAY, M.B., from August 7th to the date of embarkation of the officer with whom he exchanges; Surgeon-Major W. J. BAKER, from August 7th to December 6th, on medical certificate.

Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel C. A. ATKINS obtains promotion to the rank of Surgeon-Colonel on the approaching advancement of Surgeon-Colonel J. Warren.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

The promotion of Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonels G. G. MACLAREN, M.D., Bengal Establishment, and C. W. MACRURY, Bombay Est. bishment, to be Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel, and which has been already announced in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, has received the approval of the Queen.