

3. Mr. Thompson read a paper on Deligation of the Umbilical Cord at Parturition, in which he expressed his opinion that there was no necessity to tie the cord. He seldom applied any ligature, and never had any hæmorrhage.—Mr. Barton and others did not agree with Mr. Thompson, and considered it unsafe not to apply the usual ligature.

4. The President read notes of a case of Uterine Fibroid, and exhibited a patient whose Knee-joint he had excised some years before. The youth was in good health, was able to play cricket, and run for himself.

5. The President also exhibited a patient whose Os Calcis he excised some years ago.

Dinner.—The members afterwards dined at the Great Northern Hotel; the Mayors of Lincoln and Derby, and several other gentlemen, being present as guests.

MILITARY AND NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

THE SUCCESSOR TO SURGEON-GENERAL BEATSON.

WE understand that the vacancy created by the death of Surgeon-General Beatson will shortly be filled up by the promotion of Deputy Surgeon-General Bent, who now occupies the senior place in his rank. This, in addition to other recent evidence, seems to show that the authorities are now disposed, in all ordinary cases, to adopt the principle of seniority in preference to so-called selection. The picking out of special men from among these elders to occupy posts of honour and emolument is always an invidious process, and must be conducted with peculiar care, to avoid the imputation of favouritism. The act of supercession is a very painful one, and very deep and lasting heart-burnings have been caused in the Department by the way in which hard-working men have frequently been passed over when their turn for promotion came. It would seem, therefore, to be decidedly a popular step to return to the old plan and to give every competent medical officer an equal prospect of attaining some day to the higher branches of his profession. Mr. Bent's promotion will absorb Deputy Surgeon-General Mackenzie, and it is rumoured that Deputy Surgeon-General Woolfreys may undergo the same process before long, by the retirement of Surgeon-General O'Flaherty. It is now settled that Surgeon Currie, C.B., succeeds Dr. Beatson in charge of the Bombay Division and Principal Medical Officer of India, and Surgeon-General Gordon, C.B., proceeds from Aldershot to take up the reins of power at Madras. These Indian appointments are among the best paid, and consequently the most coveted, appointments in the Department, and the senior of the three does not exceed the others so much now as formerly in the way of emolument, on account of the manner in which the supreme medical command has recently been vested in the officer in charge of a division, instead of being, as in the case of the Director-General at home, a separate and distinct office.

NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICE.

SIR,—A deputation from the Parliamentary Committee of the British Medical Association lately waited on the First Lord of the Admiralty to propose measures in the hope of putting an end to the existing unpopularity of this service, and were civilly received by him.

That an exodus of young officers is progressive and still unchecked, is shown by a decrease of ten in the navy list, published to-day; and as there are officially notified only one death, and two retirements from age, the remainder are to be accounted for from other causes. I think they must have been by resignation of commissions.

There are only three names given as "resigned"; but at a glance I know of at least three others who have resigned, and whose names have disappeared from the navy list without comment of any kind on the reason; these are,

1. Richard Beamish, B.A., M.D., 1866.
2. C. F. K. Murray, M.D., 1869, late *Rattlesnake*.*
3. James McCarthy, M.D., 1871, late *Victor Emmanuel*.

From this I infer that these inconvenient facts are intentionally concealed; and, after the prominence taken by the question before Parliament and the public press, it appears to me to be a clear case of *suppressio veri*, if not one of *suggestio falsi*, with intent to deceive through the channel of a semi-official navy list.

Nothing can be gained by such disingenuous practices, however natural to the performers; for, if the Admiralty are thereby quieted in

* It is a fact pregnant in its meaning, that this young officer, having gained the highest honour in examination of his year, had secured to himself promotion after five years' service, which had nearly expired, when, after general as well as war service, he prefers to resign his commission, rather than to take his promised promotion.

their apprehensions, no one outside the sea-horses, who takes the trouble to sift statements for facts, will feel it to be a sadly weak and unworthy cause or condition that resorts to such means to deceive the public. I am, etc.,

Medical Club, 1st July, 1874.

A NAVAL DOCTOR.

NAVAL MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

SURGEON N. F. H. Fitzmaurice, from half-pay, to H.M.S. *Victor Emmanuel*, for appointment to *Thistle*, on China station.

Surgeon Robert Atkinson, from H.M.S. *Dromedary* (paying off) to H.M.S. *Implacable*, additional for *Sealark*.

Surgeon Edward Thomas Lloyd, from H.M.S. *Vanguard* to H.M.S. *Fly*, commissioned.

Surgeon Septimus Sexton, from H.M.S. *Jackal* to H.M.S. *Beacon*, vice Leech.

Staff-Surgeon Geo. Mason, M.D., from H.M.S. *Achilles* to H.M.S. *Durham*, vice MacClinton (period of service expired).

Staff-Surgeon Jacob E. Dyas, from half-pay, to H.M.S. *Achilles*, vice Mason.

Staff-Surgeon (second class) James W. Fisher, M.D., from half-pay to H.M.S. *Vanguard*, in lieu of surgeon for temporary service, vice Lloyd, to *Fly*.

OBITUARY.

WILLIAM CARSON, M.D.,

DEPUTY INSPECTOR-GENERAL, ROYAL ARMY.

AT Grove Lodge, Merchiston, Edinburgh, on May 16th, died Dr. William Carson, Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, aged 60. Dr. Carson was appointed in 1836 assistant-surgeon to the 85th Regiment of Foot, then stationed at Plymouth. He continued with it, at home and abroad, until made full surgeon, when he was ordered to the Mauritius, where he served for about nine years on the staff of Sir William Gomm, then Governor and Commander-in-chief. He became staff-surgeon of the first class in 1855, and did duty for two or three years chiefly in and around London, and finally retired on half-pay in 1862. He afterwards accepted the appointment of resident medical officer to the new military prison then being formed in Southwark. When on the point of entering on this duty, he was seized with paralysis, which led to his immediate resignation, and from which he never recovered.

JAMES COTTON BYLES, L.R.C.P.Ed.

WE regret to announce the death of Dr. James Cotton Byles, which took place at his residence, Victoria Park Road, Hackney, on May 21st, when he had but a month previously completed his 36th year. He was educated at Bancroft's and the City of London Schools, and entered as pupil at the London Hospital in October 1856. As a student, he was remarkable as a quiet steady worker, doing well and thoroughly all he undertook. He became a member of the College of Surgeons in 1857, after which he went to Melbourne as a surgeon to an emigrant ship, and subsequently took two voyages to Madras in a similar capacity. He returned to England in 1864, and soon afterwards became a Licentiate of the Apothecaries' Company. In April 1865, he married Edith Adeline, the youngest daughter of Charles Dinham, Esq., who, with three sons, the issue of the marriage, survive him. In 1866, Dr. Byles became a Licentiate of the Edinburgh College of Physicians, and also a Licentiate in Midwifery of the College of Surgeons of England. He was Surgeon to the French Hospital, and for several years a Member of the British Medical Association.

In 1864, upon his return from Madras, Dr. Byles settled at Hackney, succeeding Dr. Giles in practice there; and soon, by his devotion to his work, his kindness and gentleness of manner, increased his professional connection, so that during the last few years of his life his health was seriously damaged by the large demands made upon the hours he should have set apart for rest. In the autumn of 1871 his health gave way, and some indications of kidney-disease gave anxiety to his friends; and acting under the advice of his old teacher Dr. Andrew Clark, and Dr. Palfrey (having received Mr. F. G. M. Brittin into partnership), he took a voyage to the Cape of Good Hope. He returned in July, 1872, in restored health, and entered with all his accustomed energy again in practice. He continued to work until September of last year, when, during a short trip to Devonshire, he was attacked with some alarming symptoms, referable chiefly to his heart and kidney. Upon his return to town, his illness increased, and confirmed manifestations of Bright's disease appeared. Sir William Gull joined his advisers; and at the