

NAVAL AND MILITARY MEDICAL SERVICES.

WE are asked by the Director-General of the Medical Department of the War Office to state that no examinations for commissions in the medical staff of the army will be held during the month of August next.

MIDLAND VOLUNTEER MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE second annual meeting and mess of the Association was held at the Great Western Hotel, Birmingham, on April 14th. Among those present were: Surgeon-Major Thompson (1st Volunteer Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment, President), Surgeons T. S. Gentles (1st Volunteer Battalion Derbyshire Regiment), H. M. Morgan and W. G. Lowe (1st Volunteer Battalion North Staffordshire Regiment), J. P. Massingham (1st Shropshire and Staffordshire Artillery Volunteers), W. R. Edginton (1st Worcestershire Artillery Volunteers), T. Richards (1st Volunteer Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment), F. Underhill (1st Cadet Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment), and E. L. Freer (1st Volunteer Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment, Honorary Secretary).

The Honorary Secretary read the first annual report, which stated that the Association had been eminently successful in carrying out the objects for which it was formed. The manoeuvres at Streetly Wood during the encampment of the 1st Volunteer Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment had been most instructive, the commanding officer (Colonel Jervis) and company officers made the movements of the battalion fall in with the requirements of ambulance work as in action, detailed men to fall out at intervals with various supposed wounds, and in every way assisted the medical officers engaged, who, with the men, were afterwards entertained by them. Since last year several additional battalions had taken up ambulance work, and it was hoped that members would induce all medical officers of Midland battalions and batteries to join the Association. After all initial expenses there was a small balance in favour of the Association. An invitation was received from Surgeon Manby, 3rd Volunteer Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment, to hold the second annual field-day at the annual encampment at Oxley Manor in August next, and was unanimously accepted.

Surgeon Manby was elected President for the ensuing year.

Surgeon-Major Thompson addressed the members, and several matters affecting medical officers were discussed, among others the refusal of the War Office authorities to allow pay to those anxious to attend schools of instruction at Aldershot or elsewhere, for the purpose of making themselves proficient; the absence of inducements for filling vacancies in the medical staffs of regiments, owing to there being but one surgeon on the establishments of each battalion, the others only holding acting rank irrespective of length of service; and the much-debated subject of relative rank, respecting which it was decided that the Association should take such steps as might be deemed advisable, in consequence of the anomalous position in which all medical officers are placed thereby.

The routine business of election of committee, etc., was executed, and the members afterwards messed together.

INSTRUCTION TO VOLUNTEER MEDICAL OFFICERS.

A COURSE of lectures to volunteer medical officers is now being given by Dr. Walter Pearce at the headquarters of the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps. At the lecture on Barrack and Camp Hygiene, to be delivered in the Parkes Museum on Wednesday, May 25th, at 7.30 P.M., Dr. Farquharson, M.P., has promised to take the chair.

HONORARY RANK FOR THE ARMY MEDICAL STAFF.

ROYAL SURGEON writes: In order that the fight for honorary rank may be carried on to a successful issue, it would be highly desirable, as you suggest, that a summary of the whole question should be drawn up in the form of a pamphlet for distribution to leading persons in the medical schools and corporations, Members of Parliament, and others likely to aid us in carrying on this struggle, which promises to be unusually severe and prolonged. I and many others would be glad to aid in defraying the expense of printing, and would assist in distributing the pamphlets. No doubt our opponents calculate that in time this movement will wear itself out; but this idea we junior officers can view with complacency. Time is with us, and we are firmly determined to devote ourselves to persistent active agitation until our present intolerable grievance is removed.

* * * Medical officers of the army and retired medical officers desiring to take part in distributing such documents, and willing to assist in the matter in this way, and by communicating to their medical schools, universities, and corpora-

tions, are requested to forward their names to the office. It is obvious that to ensure the end in view some energetic and persistent action must be taken.

CHAS. R. FRANCIS, M.B., Surgeon-General Indian Medical Service (Retired) writes: Acting upon your excellent suggestion made in the JOURNAL of May 7th, referring to the "relative rank" of medical officers in the army, I have written to the dean of the school attached to my old hospital—the Middlesex—and offered, in the event of the War Minister's action still continuing to be unsatisfactory, to address the students (should a meeting be convened), or to write a letter for circulation amongst them, or both. I have forwarded to the dean all the recent leaders, letters, and proceedings contained in the JOURNAL, and will let you know the result in due course. It is of paramount importance that every honourable inducement should be held out to good medical students to enter the army; but I am sure that the abolition of definite rank will have the effect of deterring them from doing so.

NAVAL SURGEON.

WE have ascertained that the courses of instruction at Haslar and at Netley are by no means similar, and that the course of instruction at one of these institutions would not be regarded as a substitute for the course of instruction at the other. Neither is there any precedent for service in the Royal Navy counting as service towards pension or for promotion in the Medical Department of the army or in the Indian Medical Service.

YET ANOTHER MEDICAL SCHOOL.

ARMY MEDICAL STUDENT writes: I have read with interest and satisfaction your comments upon the condition of the Army Medical Service, and I trust its officers will, as a result, meet with that amount of respect which is their due. Still, if you will allow me to offer a suggestion, I would say that thorough efficiency in that important department of the British army will never be ensured until the army takes the training of its own medical officers into its own hands.

That a London medical student, on the completion of his four years' hospital course, can, even though he call himself an army medical student, know simply nothing of the after-life for which he is certainly doing his best to qualify himself, is surely too plain to need more than the mere mention of the fact; but, I would ask, is it right that this should be so? By the system of training for qualification as an officer in the army, a student can pass direct from school to a military college, where from the very first his naturalisation to the army may be said to commence. It is, however, deemed sufficient that, for an army medical student, the brief fag end of his educational career should be devoted to the practical acquaintance with army discipline and military training which is necessary.

I write to urge the foundation of an Army Medical College, to be presided over by a governing body of army medical officers, with power to conduct their own examinations, fitting them rather for intended army-surgeons than for general medical practitioners. Let the army medical student's career be ruled by that system of living, drilling, and discipline which governs that of the Woolwich cadet; that the student, passing direct from school into the college, may from the very first be educated as an "army man."

BRIGADE-SURGEONS IN INDIA.

THE following document sets out a grievance with which we have before expressed our sympathy, and which we consider presses for remedy.

To the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, the petition of Brigade-Surgeon _____, Medical Staff, humbly sheweth that:

1. When the present warrant, under which officers of the Medical Staff drew consolidated pay in India, was compiled (about twenty-two years ago), the rate of promotion for all ranks was far more rapid than now; medical officers obtained field-rank at about ten years' service, and frequently became deputy surgeons-general before twenty-five years' service, and on this rate of promotion the scale was drawn up.
2. The pay of surgeon-major ranking as lieutenant-colonel after twenty years' full-pay service was laid down at 1,056 rupees.
3. After five years' service this rate was increased to 1,093 rupees, an increment of but 37 rupees; no doubt because it was then calculated that few officers would remain surgeons-major after twenty-five years' service.
4. Beyond this no arrangement for an increase was made, as it was then looked on as improbable that an officer would remain much over twenty-five years in the executive grade.
5. At the present time medical officers do not obtain administrative rank till about thirty years' full-pay service, so that they have to serve from twenty years' service to thirty years' service, with but one small increment of 37 rupees after twenty-five years' service.
6. When the present Indian pay-warrant was granted, the rank of brigade-surgeon was not contemplated, and therefore no provision was made for it in the pay-code.
7. Consequent on the reorganisation of the department, a Royal Warrant was promulgated on December 2nd, 1879, in which was introduced the new rank of brigade-surgeon.
8. The rank of brigade-surgeon is now only obtained after the most rigid selection, a selection unexampled in any other branch of this, or probably of any other army.
9. This selection is founded on (1) physical fitness; (2) reports of superior officers, both military and departmental; and (3) the results of a most severe and exhaustive examination; in addition to which, officers must have a certain proportion of foreign service, eight years being the minimum.
10. Surgeons-major in charge of regiments of the mounted branches formerly drew 90 rupees extra for horse-allowance.
11. Your petitioner being in medical charge of all the European troops of the _____ garrison; namely—regiment British cavalry, one division Royal Artillery, and two battalions of infantry—has all the responsibility that was formerly divided between four surgeons-major, while at the same time he draws 90 rupees *per mensem* less than the officers formerly in medical charge of the cavalry or artillery.
12. The duties of your petitioner as brigade-surgeon are far in excess of those formerly performed by surgeons-major in charge of regiments, and his responsi-

bilities are much greater. Your petitioner is posted to the head-quarters of the division, and holds charge of the station-hospital, in two sections, and performs duties formerly divided among four senior officers. In addition to this, he has to carry on the duties of the deputy surgeon-general in his absence, without pay or allowances, in addition to his other duties.

13. In every part of Her Majesty's dominions, except India, the rank of brigade-surgeon is recognised, and a very substantial addition is made to the pay.

14. In India no recognition whatever is given to the rank beyond being permitted to wear a frock-coat.

15. In the Royal Warrant of December 2nd, 1879, it is laid down that "the foregoing warrant will not be applicable to army medical officers" serving in India, or on the Indian Establishment, and no additional emolument will, under its provisions, accrue to medical officers serving in that country.

16. This provision has never been rescinded, and, as a consequence, your petitioner has been put to the extra expense of new uniform, while, on the other hand, the State strictly adheres to the rule by which he is debarred from receiving extra pay or allowances. In addition, the present strict system of selection has been instituted, so that the conditions of service have been greatly modified since the promulgation of the warrant of 1879.

17. In the Royal Warrant of 1879 it is also laid down that principal medical officers will make the best arrangement the service will admit of, to avoid throwing mere routine duties on senior executive officers.

18. In India this clause is not in operation, and your petitioner is liable to be called on to perform duties of the most routine nature.

19. No distinction is made between your petitioner and surgeons-major who have not been selected, beyond your petitioner being permitted to wear a braided coat at his own expense. Both draw a maximum of 1,093 rupees, though your petitioner performs much more important and arduous duties.

20. Your petitioner would also bring to notice the fact that when on active service he was only granted consolidated pay for charge of a general hospital in the field, at the same rate as a surgeon-major of twenty years' service; and as his pay as brigade-surgeon is 37 rupees per *mensum* more than that of an officer of twenty years' standing, your petitioner was placed in the position of drawing 37 rupees less staff-allowance than his junior.

21. As brigade-surgeon in charge of a large station-hospital, your petitioner has not only an enormous pecuniary responsibility which is strictly enforced in the case of loss of stores, or errors in pay-questions, but also exercises military command over all other medical officers, subordinates, orderlies, patients and native establishment, often amounting to 400 or 500 men in the aggregate, and though every other branch of the army in India, combatant and departmental, receives command, charge, or staff allowance, your petitioner receives nothing extra for this great responsibility.

22. In conclusion, your petitioner prays that he may receive:

First: Recognition of his rank while serving in India;

Second: Exemption from routine duties; and,

Third: A staff-allowance sufficient to mark the importance of his duties and compensate him for his responsibilities, professional, pecuniary, and military; and as in duty bound your petitioner will ever pray.

THE NAVY.

The following appointments have been made at the Admiralty during the past week:—FLEETWOOD BUCKLE, Fleet-Surgeon, to the *Unicorn*; H. E. MARSH, Staff Surgeon, to the *Thunderer*; A. W. B. BARRETT, Surgeon, to Haslar Hospital JOHN MENARY, Surgeon, to the *Forester*.

THE MEDICAL STAFF.

SURGEON-MAJOR C. S. WILLS, C.B., is promoted to be Brigade-Surgeon, *vice* W. A. Gardiner, who has retired. Brigade-Surgeon Wills entered the service as Assistant-Surgeon, August 7th, 1866; became Surgeon, March 1st, 1873; and Surgeon-Major December 10th, 1875. During the Zulu war in 1879 he was Senior Medical Officer at the base of operations and of the lines of communication between Durban and the Lower Tugela; he was also Sanitary Embarking and Disembarking Medical Officer; he received the medal for the campaign, and was nominated a Commander of the Bath in November, 1879. He is at present stationed at Canterbury.

SURGEON-MAJOR R. P. FERGUSON is also promoted to be Brigade-Surgeon, *vice* W. O'Halloran, retired. His previous commissions are dated: Assistant-Surgeon, March 31st, 1862; Surgeon, March 1st, 1873; and Surgeon-Major, April 28th, 1876. He served in Bhootan in medical charge of the Royal Artillery during the campaign of 1864-65, and was present at the attack and capture of Bala and Buxa Doons (medal with clasp); in the Afghan war in 1878-79 with the second division Peshawar Valley Field Force (medal); and in the Egyptian war in 1882 (medal and Egyptian bronze star). He is now serving as Senior Medical Officer of the Station Hospital at Belgaum, Madras Presidency.

SURGEON CHARLES WILLIAMSON has been placed upon temporary half-pay on account of ill-health. His commission bears date March 6th, 1880.

SURGEONS-MAJOR F. W. L. HODDGE and R. V. ASH, who are serving in Bengal, have each received leave of absence for six months on medical certificate.

Deputy Surgeon-General J. LANDALE, M.D., serving in Bengal, is appointed to the administrative medical charge of the Sirhind Division.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

BRIGADE-SURGEON HENRY CAYLEY, of the Bengal Establishment, has retired from the service, which he entered January 29th, 1857. He served in the Indian Mutiny campaign in 1857-58 in the Benares, Allahabad, and Goruckpore districts (medal).

Brigade-Surgeon C. J. F. MACDOWALL, of the Bombay Establishment, whose retirement we recently announced, has been granted the honorary rank of Deputy Surgeon-General.

SURGEON-MAJOR G. P. MACKENZIE, M.B., Bengal Establishment, medical officer of the 4th Native Infantry, is appointed to officiate as senior medical officer at Fort Blair, during the absence of Surgeon-Major W. N. Keefer, on furlough.

SURGEON W. A. SYKES, Bengal Establishment, is placed in civil medical charge of the Ruby Mines District, Burmah, from the date on which he assumed charge from Surgeon Shewan.

SURGEONS G. C. HALL and M. J. T. J. BLANCARD, of the Madras Establishment, having arrived from England, are directed to report themselves to the Principal Medical Officer, Burmah Field Force, Mandalay.

SURGEON R. H. CASTOR, Madras Establishment, is appointed to the officiating medical charge of the 3rd Light Infantry.

SURGEON F. G. MAIDMENT, Madras Establishment, on arrival from England, is directed to report himself to the Deputy Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces, Bangalore Division, Belgaum and Ceded Districts, for general duty.

SURGEON I. P. DOYLE, Madras Establishment, on arrival from England, is ordered to report himself to the Deputy Surgeon-General Her Majesty's Forces, Eastern District, for general duty.

SURGEON A. T. L. PATCH, M.B., Madras Establishment, whose services have been placed at the disposal of the Military Department, is directed to report himself to the Principal Medical Officer, Burmah Field Force, Mandalay, for orders.

SURGEONS B. B. GRAYFOOT and T. E. DYSON, Bombay Establishment, are appointed, the former to do general duty in the Poona Circle, the latter to do general duty in the Mhow Circle.

SURGEON P. B. PANK, Bengal Establishment, Civil Surgeon, of Bikaner, is directed to officiate as Agency Surgeon at Ulwur, during the absence on furlough of Surgeon-Major T. Ff. Mullen, M.D.

The services of Surgeon-Major B. FRANKLIN, Bengal Establishment, are replaced at the disposal of the Government of India, in the Home Department.

SURGEON-MAJOR C. W. CALTHROP, M.D., Bengal Establishment, medical officer of the 4th Native Cavalry, is appointed to officiate as Civil Surgeon of Fyzabad during the absence on leave of Surgeon-Major B. O'Brien, M.D.

SURGEON A. G. E. NEWLAND, Bombay Establishment, is appointed to be Civil Surgeon of Pagan, Burmah.

SURGEON G. J. SHAND, M.D., Bengal Establishment, Superintendent of the Chenawan Central Gaol, died at Chenawan on April 1st, aged 32. Dr. Shand entered the service October 1st, 1881.

DEPUTY SURGEON-GENERAL W. WALKER, Bengal Establishment, Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, North-West Provinces and Oude, is appointed to officiate as Surgeon-General and Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India during the absence on leave of Surgeon-General Sir B. Simpson, M.D., K.C.I.E., who has privilege leave for two months and twenty-one days.

BRIGADE-SURGEON W. R. RICE, M.D., Bengal Establishment, is to officiate as Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, North-West Provinces and Oude, during the deputation of Deputy Surgeon-General Walker.

SURGEON-MAJOR B. FRANKLIN, Bengal Establishment, is appointed to officiate as Civil Surgeon of Jubulpore, *vice* Brigade-Surgeon Rice.

SURGEON T. E. DYSON, Bombay Establishment, is directed to officiate in medical charge of the 2nd Native Infantry, during the absence of Surgeon G. C. W. Lowdell.

SURGEON B. B. GRAYFOOT, Bombay Establishment, is directed to officiate in medical charge of the 3rd Native Infantry, *vice* Surgeon Quicke, appointed to the officiating medical charge of the 14th Bombay Infantry.

SURGEON W. H. QUICKER, Bombay Establishment, is directed to officiate in medical charge of the 4th Native Infantry, *vice* Surgeon C. J. Sarkies, M.B., who has been ordered on field service, Burmah.

SURGEON C. F. WELLS, Bombay Establishment, in medical charge of the 9th Native Infantry, is appointed to act as Port Surgeon at Aden, during the absence of Surgeon-Major G. W. R. Hay, M.D.

The undermentioned officers have leave of absence for the periods specified:—SURGEON-MAJOR J. REID, M.B., Bengal Establishment, Principal Medical Store-keeper, for 245 days on medical certificate; SURGEON A. W. MACKENZIE, Bengal Establishment, for five months on urgent private affairs; SURGEON B. N. KOJAJI, Bombay Establishment, in medical charge of the 27th Light Infantry, for 182 days on medical certificate; SURGEON J. E. FERGUSON, Bombay Establishment, for three months on medical certificate; SURGEON-MAJOR W. CENTER, M.B., Bengal Establishment, for one year on private affairs; SURGEON-MAJOR J. E. C. FERRIS, Bengal Establishment, for 270 days on medical certificate; SURGEON-MAJOR H. DE TATHAM, M.D., civil surgeon of Nasick, for one year on medical certificate.

A CORRECTION.—SURGEON-MAJOR J. R. CROKER, referring to a statement in the JOURNAL of May 7th, page 1019, that the Army Lists do not credit him with war service, informs us that he served in the Ashantee war in 1873 and 1874, for which he holds a medal.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

MR. JAMES DRUMMOND, M.D., has been appointed Acting Surgeon to the 3rd Durham Artillery, and Mr. W. L. CHUBB to the 1st Kent Artillery.

SURGEON R. YOUNG, M.D., of the 1st Newcastle-on-Tyne Artillery, has resigned his commission, which bears date June 27th, 1883.

SURGEON and Honorary Surgeon-Major R. DOBBIE, M.D., of the 2nd Ayrshire, has also resigned his commission, which is dated June 29th, 1878; he is permitted to retain his rank and uniform.

SURGEON and Honorary Surgeon-Major D. H. MONCKTON, M.D., from the 2nd Volunteer Battalion of the Prince of Wales's North Staffordshire Regiment (late the 5th Staffordshire) is appointed Surgeon to the Maidstone Division of the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps.

The undermentioned gentlemen have been appointed Acting-Surgeons in the corps specified:—F. W. GIBSON, 1st Newcastle and Durham Engineers; DUNCAN CARMICHAEL, M.B., 3rd Volunteer Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders (late the 3rd Aberdeenshire); J. M. CAMPBELL, M.B., 1st Fifeshire Rifles.

SURGEON E. S. PEARSE, of the 1st Volunteer Battalion of the South Staffordshire Regiment (formerly the 1st Stafford Volunteers), has resigned his commission, but is granted the honorary rank of Surgeon-Major, and permitted to retain his uniform.

The transfer of Surgeon and Honorary Surgeon-Major A. T. NORTON from the 12th Middlesex (Civil Service) Volunteers to the London Division of the Volunteer Medical Staff is to bear date from June 11th, 1885, and not August 22nd, 1885, as previously stated.

The transfer of Surgeon and Honorary Surgeon-Major W. H. PLATT from the Tower Hamlets Rifle Volunteers Brigade to the London Division of the Volunteer Medical Staff is to bear date June 12th, and not June 13th, 1885, as previously stated.

DR. MILLSON has offered to discharge the duties of medical officer of health for the parish of St. Mary, Newington, vacant by the death of Dr. Iliff, gratuitously, *pro tem*; and the vestry, at their last meeting, accepted the offer for six months, after which a permanent appointment is to be made.