

of age, he serves, say, ten years, takes his bonus, and presents himself at the next examination; he cannot be refused, and may repeat the game ten years later; for, so long as it is possible for him to complete ten years' service before he is fifty-five, he cannot, by the terms of the Warrant, be refused."

The detailed instructions on the qualifications required of candidates for commissions in the medical department of the army have never been included in medical warrants, but have always been issued separately. Fresh instructions on these particulars were published with the War Office circulars of the 1st of July last. The limit of age for candidates was then fixed at thirty-two years. The usual certificate of moral character was still required, but the old rule requiring the candidate to be a bachelor was abrogated. Instances have occurred in which bachelor candidates have married directly after passing their entrance examinations.

HOME AND FOREIGN SERVICE IN THE ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

ONE of the complaints most strongly urged against the administration of the Army Medical Department has been the inequality of home and foreign services done by different medical officers. Instances have been pointed to in which medical officers have performed nearly the whole period of their service in England, while others have been constantly serving in distant and unhealthy climates. On the other hand, complaints equally loud are made against exchanges not being permitted among medical officers. But it is evident that if exchanges are permitted, those who have the means at command to effect exchanges, and so to escape foreign service, must have a greater amount of home service than other officers in the department who have not the same advantages. The two things do not admit of being reconciled, that the inequality of home and foreign service among medical officers shall cease, and that exchanges between home and foreign service shall continue. Much may be said on each side, as well that exchanges should be allowed, as that all alike should take their turn of foreign service; and it must be admitted that it is not an easy matter to decide between the advocates for the two systems, if individual interests be alone considered. Looking at the subject, however, from a higher point of view, there is so much obvious injustice in allowing some medical officers to remain in England, while others are kept a long time abroad, and exposed to greater risks in consequence, the number of medical officers who have returned from foreign service broken down in health is known to be so large, and the appeals against protracted service abroad by others so strong and unanswerable, that the only just system seems to be the one which will ensure an equal share of home and foreign service to all alike. If equality of home and foreign service be declared to be the rule of the medical department, and it be strictly enforced, no real ground will be left for complaint; and were all the members of the department polled on the subject, we believe that the results would show this to be the view of a large majority of the army medical officers themselves.

ROYAL WARRANT FOR MILITIA SURGEONS.

THE long-expected Warrant for the medical officers of the Militia has just been published. It is a document of a most sweeping character, and entirely changes the existing state of things. All the duties hitherto performed by the Militia surgeon are to be transferred to the Army Medical Department. The Militia surgeon is, however, to attend the training of his regiment, the only work left for him to do. A new departmental list is to be formed of those Militia surgeons who elect to serve under the direct supervision of the Director-General of the Army Medical Department; and those who do not, before the 31st of December next, signify their wish to be placed on the list, shall not be entitled to any of the advantages specified in the Warrant. These advantages (being 2s. 6d. extra a day during the training, and the relative rank of lieutenant-colonel) are no very great inducements, truly, to join a department of the working of which he can know nothing. What is to happen to those who do not enter the new department is not stated, and it is impossible for many to do so; the majority must of necessity retire, and take the compensation for losses incurred so frequently promised by both Lord Cardwell and Mr. Hardy.

NAVAL MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

BETTS, Surgeon B. L., to the *Royal Adelaide*.
BURGESS, Staff-Surgeon, M.B., to the *Duke of Wellington*, for service at Haslar Hospital.
CURTIN, Surgeon P., to the *Philomel*.
ENRIGHT, Surgeon J. F., to the *Duke of Wellington*.

MEDICO-PARLIAMENTARY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Thursday, July 27th.

Ship-Surgeons.—Sir C. ADDERLEY, in reply to Captain Pim, said the number of non-registered surgeons who were permitted to proceed to sea in medical charge of passengers and crew was thirty-six. Of that number, twenty-five were on board ships where the number of passengers and crew were under one hundred, and that, consequently, the 230th Section of the Act of 1854 did not apply. In ten other cases, it arose from a misconception of the meaning of the Act, and had since May last been rectified; and, in the remaining case, the Board of Trade was then in communication with the owner of the ship.

Friday, July 28th.

Medical Officers of the Indian Army.—In answer to Colonel Jervis, Lord G. HAMILTON said no alteration had been made in the Furlough Regulations of 1796, in regard to the pensions of medical officers of the Indian army.

Water-Supply in Rural Districts.—Replying to Mr. A. Brown, Mr. SCLATER-BOOTH said that the attention of the Local Government Board had been directed to the polluted condition and inadequacy of the water-supply of some rural districts; first of all, in the most practical manner by the distress during the water famine of 1874; secondly, by the constant reports of mischief arising from the inadequate and polluted condition of the supply; and thirdly, by an influential deputation introduced to the Local Government Board by the right honourable member for the University of Edinburgh. The deputation desired that the Government should appoint a Royal Commission. After carefully considering the recommendation, the Government came to the determination that no Royal Commission was necessary; they had ample information as to facts, but the difficulty was how to apply a remedy. During the time he had been at the Local Government Board, he had passed two Bills, giving great facilities to authorities, both rural and urban, for supplying water to their districts. In the Act of 1874, powers of purchase were given; and in the Act of 1875 those powers were increased, one notable provision being that the sanitary authority could extend their mains out of their own district with the view of carrying water elsewhere. The rural sanitary authorities were rapidly awakening as to the necessity of exercising these improved powers. In the year 1873, no larger sum than £1,992 was sanctioned by the Local Government Office to be raised by loan in the rural districts; in 1874, that amount had increased to £16,628; in 1875, to £31,274; and in the current year, so far as it had gone, £73,000 had been sanctioned to be raised for the same purpose.

MEDICAL NEWS.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—The following is the list of candidates who have passed the recent Preliminary Scientific (M.B.) Examination.

First Division.

Atkinson, John Mitford, London Hospital
Ball, James, King's College
Barnes, George Frederic, Melcombe Regis School
Bayes, Frederic Thomas, Guy's Hospital
Booth, Edward Hargrave, private tuition.
Bowe, Francis, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Bull, George Coulson Robin, Epsom College
Chadwick, William Fitton, Owens College
Chisholm, William, B.A. Sydney, University College
Clarke, Ernest, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Clarke, Walter James, Queen's College, Birmingham
Colquhoun, Daniel, Charing Cross Hospital
Cook, Augustus Henry, University College
Cotton, Robert Hammond, B.A., Owens College
Cutfield, Arthur, Epsom College
Dallmeyer, Andrew William, University College
Dalton, Norman, King's College
Dawson, Arthur George, Owens College
Deane, Edwin, St. Thomas's Hospital
Edmonds, Henry, private study
Faulkner, Joseph, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Fooks, George Ernest, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Fox, Joseph Tregelles, London Hospital
Fream, William, Royal College of Science, Dublin
Groom, Henry Thomas, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Hartley, Robert Nightingale, private study
Holberton, Henry Nelson, St. Thomas's Hospital
Honeyburne, Richard, Liverpool Royal Infirmary School of Medicine
Hormazdji, Robert Nesbit, St. Mary's Hospital
Hoyle, William Evans, Owens College, and Christ Church, Oxford
King, David Alexander, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Kirsopp, Thomas, St. Bartholomew's Hospital

Larmuth, Leopold, Owens College
 Lukis, Charles Pardey, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
 Macartney, William Norton, Allesley Park College
 McDonnell, Denis, King's College
 Maguire, Robert, Owens College
 Milton, Herbert Meyrick Nelson, St. Thomas's Hospital
 Newsholme, Arthur, St. Thomas's Hospital
 Nicholson, John Williams, private tuition
 Norie, James, University College
 Northcote, Arthur, University College
 Parkes, Louis Colman, University College
 Paul, James Hugh, private study
 Permewan, Arthur Edward, University College
 Pratt, Reginald, University College
 Rake, Beavan Neave, Guy's Hospital
 Sayer, Mark Fetham, University College
 Silcock, Thomas Ball, private study
 Sisley, Richard, St. George's Hospital
 Spicer, Robert Henry Scanes, private study
 Sykes, William Ainley, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
 Walters, Frederick Rufenacht, St. Thomas's Hospital
 Yardley, Robert Blake, University College

Second Division.

Adams, William Coode, University College
 Adolphus, Theodore Frederick Pennington, King's College
 Anderson, W. E., University College
 Aimaram, Anundrao, University College
 Barling, Gilbert Harry, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
 Boswell, John Irvine, Guy's Hospital
 Burchell, James Lodwick, London Hospital
 Buxton, Dudley Wilnot, University College
 Chaffey, Wayland Charles, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
 Collingwood, David, Liverpool Royal Infirmary School of Medicine
 Davidson, John, King's College
 Dickinson, Thomas Vincent, St. George's Hospital and private study
 Diggle, John Arthur, Owens College and private study
 Dingley, Arthur William, University College
 Donovan, Denis William, University College
 Dummere, Howard Howse, St. George's Hospital
 Fenwick, Edwin Hurry, London Hospital
 Fielden, William Eckett, Guy's Hospital
 Forsbrook, William Henry Russell, Westminster Hospital
 Harper, James, University College and St. Bartholomew's Hospital
 Hawkins, Walter Robert Thomas, London Hospital
 Hodges, Edward James, private study
 Hope, William More, University College
 Hoskyn, Donald Templeton, University College
 Isherwood, Thomas, Owens College and private study
 Johnston, Edward Cocks, Queen's College, Birmingham
 Marsn, George Ryding, Guy's Hospital
 Maudsley, Henry, Giggleswick Grammar School
 Milligan, Robert Arthur, Guy's Hospital
 Norvill, Frederic Harvey, King's College
 Potts, Edward, Queen's College, Birmingham
 Rhodes, James Havelock Alexander, Liverpool Royal Infirmary School of Medicine
 Smith, Henry, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
 Snell, Bernard Joseph, B.A., New College
 Stephens, Julian, University College and private study
 Stonham, Thomas George, private study
 Sutton, Samuel Walter, St. Thomas's Hospital
 Wagstaff, Ernest Hamilton, King's College
 Walton, Robert Spence, University College
 Watkins, Christopher James, University College and private study
 Wickham, Walter, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
 Williams, Walter Treliving, London Hospital
 Wood, Louis Edmund, St. Thomas's Hospital

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.—The following gentlemen were admitted members on July 27th, 1876.

Burrell, Edwin, M.D. Aberdeen, 20, Endsleigh Street, W.C.
 Dixon, Edward Livesey, M.D. St. Andrew's, Preston
 Dreschfeld, Julius, M.D. Wurzburg, Manchester
 Holland, Edmund, M.D. London, 1, Titchfield Terrace, N.W.
 Warner, Francis, M.D. London, Birmingham

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted members of the College at a meeting of the Court of Examiners, on July 27th.

Messrs. Daniel G. Lewis, Merthyr Tydfil; Peter H. Metcalfe, Bungay; J. R. W. Webb, Fairford; Arthur W. May, Launceston; Thomas Johnson, Birmingham; George J. Kellie, Dunbar; Tom Smith, West Bromwich; Wm. M. Evans, Cardiff; John Price, Harrow; William R. Nicholson, Burnley; Alfred Chawner, Ryde; Joseph R. James, Showg, Monmouthshire; George S. Bayly, Launceston; Thomas Jones, Ningro; Walter Pratt, Billiesdon; Hyde E. Walker, L.S.A., Ealsall; and Chas. F. Middleton, Sydney, New South Wales.

The following gentlemen passed on July 28th.

Messrs. H. S. Michell, Truro; Wm. Norman, Adelaide, South Australia; R. Heald, Sleaford, Lincolnshire; J. Christian, Barrow; J. A. Richardson, Newport, Pembrokeshire; J. G. Garbutt, L.S.A., Princes Square, Bayswater; E. T. Smith, Stanhope Street, W.; E. B. Turner, Sussex Gardens, W.; A. D. Blackader, M.D. McGill, Montreal; J. Brett, North Kensington; A. B. Harris, Wootton-under-Edge; W. P. Reynolds, Norwood Road; G. C. Bouton, L.S.A., Dinan, France; H. R. O. Sankey, Cheltenham; E. A. Roche, L.S.A., Sunderland Terrace, W.; H. L. Gilbert, M.D. McGill, Sher-

brooke, Canada; J. Davies, L.S.A., Treveky, South Wales; J. B. James Hackney Road; C. W. Lacey, Cotes, Loughborough, Leicestershire.

Two candidates passed the examination in Surgery, and when qualified in Medicine will be admitted members of the College. Four candidates were referred to their professional studies for a period of not less than six months.

The following gentlemen passed on July 31st.

Messrs. J. C. Irving, Dinnington, Spalding; C. Gross, Erith, Kent; D. Jones, Llandysul; T. K. Fell, L.S.A., Ulverstone; W. Strover, L.S.A., Jersey; W. Pye, Ealing; H. L. Palmer, Haverfordwest; E. A. Snell, L.S.A., St. Wilfrids, Richmond Road; F. H. Low, L.S.A., M. B. Aberd., Blackheath; J. R. Thomas, Llanelly; J. Whitsed, Sutton, St. Edmonds.

Five candidates passed the examination in Surgery, and when qualified in Medicine will be admitted members of the College. Eight candidates were referred to their professional studies for a period of not less than six months.

The following gentlemen passed on August 1st.

Messrs. O. T. Slatter, Chepstow; H. F. Weiss, Chester Terrace, N.W.; C. W. E. Gay, L.S.A., St. Albans; M. Gaisford, Ilfracombe; W. Walker, L.S.A., Bath; F. F. Perry, Hornsey Rise; H. P. Dunn, Warkworth; J. Mortimer, Exeter; R. F. Cumming, Exeter; G. S. Johnson, Savile Row; J. Todd, L.S.A., Blackheath; W. H. Packer, L.S.A., Cheltenham; K. Clapp, Teignmouth.

Five candidates passed the examination in Surgery, and when qualified in Medicine will be admitted members of the College. Six other candidates were referred to their professional studies for a period of not less than six months.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, July 27th, 1876.

Bain, David Stuart Erskine, The Elms, Newbury
 Bourke, Ulick Joseph, Castlebar, Ireland
 Harris, William Spencer Claber, Middenhall, Suffolk
 McCarthy, Justin McCullum, Oakengate, Salop
 Moullin, James Alfred Mansell, Porchester Terrace, W.

The following gentlemen also on the same day passed their primary professional examination.

Andrew, John Edward, Manchester Hospital
 Browne, Henry, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
 Denby, Timothy Curtis, Leeds Hospital
 Harrison, James, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
 Smith, Herbert Arthur, Middlesex Hospital

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

BALLATER, Aberdeenshire—Parochial Medical Officer. Salary, £30 per annum. Applications on or before August 7th.
 BELGRAVE HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN—Physician. Applications on or before August 7th.
 BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND FREE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN—Acting Physician. Salary, £60 per annum. Applications on or before August 4th.
 BRIGHTON AND HOVE DISPENSARY—Resident Medical Officer and Dispenser. Salary, £130 per annum, with furnished apartments, etc. Applications on or before September 4th.
 DAVENTRY UNION—Medical Officer. Salary, £25 per annum, and fees. Applications on or before August 8th.
 HALIFAX INFIRMARY—House-Surgeon. Salary, £80 per annum, with board, lodging, etc.—Also, Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £50 per annum, with board, etc. Applications on or before August 15th.
 IPSWICH BOROUGH ASYLUM—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, lodging, etc. Applications to the Superintendent.
 NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE INFIRMARY, Stoke-upon-Trent—House-Surgeon. Salary, £120 per annum, with furnished apartments, etc.—Also, House-Physician. Salary, £80 per annum, with furnished apartments, etc. Applications on or before August 30th.
 ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST, City Road—Physician. Applications on or before August 9th.
 ROYAL SOUTH HANTS INFIRMARY—House-Surgeon. Salary, £85 per annum, with board, lodging, etc. Applications to the Secretary.
 SUSSEX COUNTY HOSPITAL, Brighton—House-Surgeon. Salary, £80 per annum, with board and lodging. Applications on or before August 23rd.
 SWANSEA HOSPITAL—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, furnished apartments, etc. Applications on or before August 16th.
 WESTERN GENERAL DISPENSARY, Marylebone Road, N.W. Honorary Physician. Applications on or before August 14th.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

Names marked with an asterisk are those of Members of the Association.

BURNES, Alexander G., M.D., appointed Medical Registrar to the Hospital for Sick Children, *vice* Thomas Barlow, M.D., resigned.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

The charge for inserting announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, is 3s. 6d., which should be forwarded in stamps with the communication.

DEATH.

DAVEY, Edward Myhill, M.R.C.S.E., L.R.C.P. Ed., of Florence Villa, Old Ford Road, Bow, aged 43, at Eastbourne, on July 29th.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAYMetropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's, 9 A.M. and 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.

TUESDAYGuy's, 1.30 P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—West London, 3 P.M.—National Orthopaedic, 2 P.M.

WEDNESDAY ..St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—St. Mary's, 1.30 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—St. Thomas's, 1.30 P.M.—London, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—Samaritan Free Hospital for Women and Children, 2.30 P.M.—Cancer Hospital, Brompton, 3 P.M.—King's College, 2 P.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.

THURSDAYSt. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—Royal Orthopaedic, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, 2 P.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—Hospital for Women, 2 P.M.—St. Thomas's (Ophthalmic Department), 3 P.M.

FRIDAY.....Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 2 P.M.—Royal South London Ophthalmic, 2 P.M.—Guy's, 1.30 P.M.

SATURDAYSt. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1.30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—East London Hospital for Children, 2 P.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—St. Thomas's, 9.30 A.M. and 1.30 P.M.—Royal Free, 9 A.M. and 2 P.M.

LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS
TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CORRESPONDENTS not answered, are requested to look to the Notices to Correspondents of the following week.

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the JOURNAL, are requested to communicate beforehand with the printer, Mr. T. Richards, 37, Great Queen Street, W.C.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.—We shall be much obliged to Medical Officers of Health if they will, in forwarding their Annual and other Reports, favour us with *Duplicate Copies*.

CORRESPONDENTS, who wish notice to be taken of their communications, should authenticate them with their names—of course not necessarily for publication.

WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO RETURN MANUSCRIPTS NOT USED.

COMMUNICATIONS respecting editorial matters, should be addressed to the Editor; those concerning business matters, non-delivery of the JOURNAL, etc., should be addressed to the General Manager, at the Office, 36, Great Queen Street, W.C.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE "JOURNAL".

WE have again to impress upon our correspondents that, as the bulk of communications addressed to the JOURNAL is considerably in excess of its space, the task of selection will be greatly facilitated by the observance of studied conciseness.

MEDICAL ETIQUETTE.

SIR,—There is no "perhaps" about my prudence in declining to stoop to have my statements attested as Mr. Jackson has done his. I hope it is not customary for the medical men in England to hawk about the medical journals, and canvass for signatures to attest their statements. I have already mentioned the names of two medical gentlemen in connection with this case. I could give one or two more, who would be able to speak as to the amount of trust to be placed in the attesters; but as Mr. Jackson declines any further correspondence, I need not bring forward any more facts.

Thanking you for your courtesy in opening your columns to this correspondence, I remain, yours truly,
DAVID ALEXANDER.
Clydesdale House, Hull, July 31st, 1876.

CHRONIC DIARRHŒA.

SIR,—I should feel thankful if any of your numerous correspondents will tender me a little advice in the following case.

Mr. A., aged 70, came under my care two months ago, suffering from diarrhœa, with slight tenesmus, which had continued for three months. There never had been any blood in the stools. He had had a similar attack five years ago, which, after resisting all treatment, ceased spontaneously at the end of eighteen months. On examination, I found nothing about the rectum likely to account for the mischief, except one small pile and an enlarged and tender prostate.

In my treatment of this case, I have tried all the usual remedies for diarrhœa in vain. I have tried suppositories of morphia, tannic acid, and acetate of lead with belladonna, with the same result: in short, the only remedy which I have found of the least benefit is injections of opium and chloral hydrate by the rectum; and the good effect of these is only temporary. I am now at a loss what to do, and a little advice from some one of more experience would be acceptable.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

A YOUNG PRACTITIONER.

DR. W. M. BRETT's letter shall be handed to the JOURNAL Committee.

EXAMINATIONS OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.
SIR,—In a recent number of the JOURNAL, you published the annual report of the Royal College of Surgeons relative to the number of candidates from the various metropolitan schools who have presented themselves for examination during the past year. Several hospitals, according to this document, have forwarded to the College decimal parts of a candidate to undergo the ordeal. Now, I can suppose, sir, that, under peculiar circumstances, the intrinsic value of an unsuccessful candidate might advantageously be noted by the decimal 0.5; but how, in the name of wonder, an examiner, far less a whole board of them, can arrive at the conclusion that the total number of candidates from a school is best represented by the figures 11.83 or 41.41, utterly exceeds the feeble powers of
Brighton, July 30th, 1876.
YOUR PUZZLED READER.

CORRESPONDENTS are particularly requested by the Editor to observe that communications relating to Advertisements, changes of address, and other business matters, should be addressed to Mr. Francis Fowke, General Secretary and Manager, at the Journal Office, 36, Great Queen Street, W.C., and not to the Editor.

MEDICAL EVIDENCE.

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—Sir William Gull has been unfortunate lately in his evidence at coroners' inquests. Your comment of last week expressed the general opinion of the profession on the subject of his evidence at the Bravo inquest. His evidence at an inquest on a Mr. G. Todd is thus reported.

"Sir William Gull was sworn, and deposed he had known Mr. Todd since July 15th, 1875, when he came to witness to consult him, being in a dreadfully low state of nervous depression, and suffering from internal disorders. He used to bring strange written reports of his several maladies, and was most eccentric. Witness fully expected the suicide."

When a physician "fully expects" suicide, it is usual to take some steps to prevent it. It does not appear whether any such steps were taken, and this gentleman does not seem to have been under any guard. Possibly the report is incomplete: it certainly does not leave a favourable impression on the public mind.

[Similar comments have been forwarded to us from more than one correspondent. We imagine, however, that the defect here is rather in the form of language used. It seems probable that Sir William Gull meant that, looking back now at the peculiarities of the deceased, he regards the suicide as capable of explanation on the ground of melancholia. Had he fully expected suicide, he probably would have exerted himself to have the patient placed under restraint. Possibly he did so ineffectually.—Ed.]

GRADUATION WITHOUT RESIDENCE AT DURHAM UNIVERSITY.

SIR,—That "half a loaf is better than no bread", is doubtless a true proverb, and on this ground the Durham University authorities deserve the thanks of the profession for the facilities offered by them to practitioners desirous of obtaining the degree of M.D.; but I would venture to point out that, had they proceeded more in the spirit of the Hippocratic aphorism, "Ὁ βίος βραχύς, ἡ δὲ τέχνη μακρά", and made their age-limit shorter and their "technical" examination longer, they would have secured more numerous candidates, and, perhaps, more accomplished graduates. Surely, fifteen years' experience in his profession (and I would suggest that in this term be included the years spent in the study as well as in the practice of medicine) should be enough to guarantee a practitioner's fitness to be promoted, after a stringent examination, to a medical degree, without the further requirement that he must "not be under forty years of age". I am not aware that the fortieth is a "grand climacteric" for the practitioner (except, indeed, in the popular sense, that "every man is at forty either a fool or a physician"); rather should I think that most practitioners of ability and ambition have made by their thirtieth the turning point of their career. I believe I am right in saying, that of the foreign graduates who lately signed a memorial to the Medical Council with reference to the registration of their degrees, a majority were under forty years of age, although men of good professional standing and position. From such as these it seems to me that the ranks of Durham graduates should be recruited; and it would appear unwise to draw the line so arbitrarily as to leave these men, who feel the desirability of possessing a registrable degree, and other mature practitioners whose very prosperity in their profession debars them from complying with the conditions of residence, ineligible for graduation until they have reached forty years of age.

With regard to the examination requirements for the Durham degree, I will only observe that it is desirable on every ground that a high standard be maintained, and that it is not obvious from the regulations (though of course much depends upon the manner in which they are carried out) that the degree will be of equal examinational value with those conferred on practitioners by the best continental universities.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,
July 1876.

UNDER FORTY.

E. W. W. ASKS: What is the best application for the semi-erysipelatous state, caused by exposure to the sun?

ANIMAL VACCINATION.

SIR,—Let Medicus apply either to Mr. Greene, Friday Bridge, Birmingham, or to M. le Docteur Warlomont, Rue Royale, Bruxelles, who is director of the National Vaccine Institution there, and he will get a supply of pure vaccine lymph from the heifer, but not from the cow. The resulting inflammation in children from this latter kind of lymph is always alarming, and not free from the possibility of danger; but, after cow-pox lymph passes through the body of the younger animal, it becomes very much modified in its action, both locally and generally, without having its protective power weakened. Pure heifer-lymph is, however, very active in its effects, much more so than ordinary human lymph; but even the former loses much of that activity, and, doubtless, a large share of its power as a protective, after it becomes humanised by passing through the body of the young child. Even though the effects of the pure heifer-lymph be severe, there is no danger from them, and no after ill results.

On this subject I may be allowed to speak with some little authority, for not only have I been myself vaccinated with heifer-lymph, but my wife, all my children and friends' children, have been done with the same; and further, for many years before I gave up general practice, I was an "animal" vaccinator, to the exclusion of the "arm-to-arm" method: indeed, as the first one to introduce this method of vaccination from the heifer, and the only one to practise it in Scotland, I can say that out of the hundreds, young and old, whom I have vaccinated with this lymph, no ill effects resulted.

In conclusion, I may say that the results of the experience gained from this practice, carried on with the strictest regard to scientific accuracy, was to convince me that arm-to-arm vaccination in these days was mostly unreliable as a protective, a delusion and a snare; and that the nearest approach to complete protection from the influence of small-pox was obtainable and only is obtainable from pure and fresh heifer-lymph; and further, that it is not possible to exterminate small-pox till the practice of vaccination from the heifer becomes general.—Yours obediently,
JAS. PATTERSON CASSELLS.

2, Newton Terrace, Glasgow, July 22nd, 1876.