

Turkish Contingent would take the field together, as he was sure they would distinguish themselves against the common enemy. "The Health of the Deputy Inspector-General," "The Surgeons of the French Army", and other toasts connected with the occasion, concluded the entertainment.

**FESTIVAL OF THE GERMAN HOSPITAL.** The eleventh anniversary festival of the German Hospital at Dalston was celebrated on March 5th at the London Tavern. The presidential chair was, in the absence of the Earl Granville, filled by the sub-treasurer, Mr. D. Meinertzhagen. Mr. Meinertzhagen was supported by Count Bernstorff (the Prussian ambassador), the Count Vitzthum, Dr. A. Walbaum, and a highly respectable body of the leading merchants of the city of London. After proposing the usual toasts, the chairman rose to advocate the interests of the hospital, with some fear, and no little anxiety. He came before them with a bankrupt treasury, and a debt of £1,500. He gave a lucid history of the affairs of the hospital during the last ten years, and proceeded to say that, notwithstanding all the obstacles which it had encountered, the charity had, year by year, extended its sphere of usefulness. But its financial state is so far from satisfactory, that the working of the institution must have been wholly suspended for the last few months but for the kindness of friends, who have made liberal advances, and, by so doing, as a matter of course, have involved the hospital in debt. The German hospital is cosmopolitan, both in the letter and the spirit; for, while it is more especially designed for the relief of Germans, it has been the means of affording assistance to the natives of this (its adopted) country. Out of 809 in-patients received in 1855, nearly all were English; and out of 5,824 in patients, and 43,505 out-patients received since the opening of the hospital, more than 21,000 were English. The out-door patients treated in 1855 amounted, at the Eastern Dispensary, to 1,918, and at the Western Dispensary to 752, making a total of 2,670 (besides the in-patients already noted), to say nothing of several thousand dental cases. A total subscription of about £2,300 was announced from the chair. Madame Jenny Lind Goldschmidt's donation of fifty guineas was announced in the course of the evening amid loud cheers.

**MEDICAL SOCIETY IN THE CRIMEA.** The "Military Medical and Surgical Society of the First Division" is dissolved, and revives as the "Medical and Surgical Society of the British Army". At the first meeting of the new society, thirty-three medical officers were present, and following elections took place:—*President* (for one year): Dr. Hall, Inspector-General. *Vice-Presidents*: Deputy-Inspectors Williams and Taylor. *Council*: Deputy-Inspector Alexander, Staff-Surgeons Gordon and Menzies, Surgeons Shelton, Barry, and Crawford, and Assistant-Surgeon De Chaumont. *Treasurer*: Surgeon Blenkins, Grenadier Guards. *Secretaries*: Surgeon Thornton, 9th Regiment, and Assistant-Surgeon Wyatt, Coldstream Guards. (*Times*, March 6th.)

**THE DISCOVERER OF GUTTA PERCHA.** The President of the India Board, Mr. Vernon Smith, has placed on his list of military nominations for November next the son of the discoverer of this insipidated sap of an Indian tree, by which we are able to know in five minutes' time what transpires in Crim-Tartary, 3000 miles off. The discoverer was Dr. William Montgomerie, of the Indian medical service, and this only in the year 1845, although many of the countries producing the article have been in European occupation for above three hundred years. The mode in which the discovery was made is worth mentioning. Dr. Montgomerie observing certain Malay knife and kris handles, inquired the nature of the material from which they were made, and from the crude native manufacture inferred at once the extensive uses to which the gutta percha might be put in the arts of Europe. He purchased a quantity of the raw material, sending from Singapore part of it to Bengal and part to Europe, and suggesting some of the uses to which he fancied it might be applied. The quantity sent to England secured to him at once, as the discoverer, the gold medal of the Society of Arts, his sole reward, until the President of the India Board, on no other ground whatever than his discovery, liberally bestowed his patronage on his son.

**EXTRAORDINARY BIRTH OF FOUR CHILDREN AT ONE TIME.** Mrs. Sherratt, wife of John Sherratt, porter, of 2, Newton Street, Brook Street, Chorlton-upon-Medlock, was yesterday afternoon delivered, by Mr. A. W. Close, Surgeon, of four living children—three girls and one boy. (*Manchester Guardian*, March 8th.)

**MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.** On this evening, March 15th, Dr. F. W. Headland will read a paper "On Poisoning by Aconite Root".

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

LETTERS and other COMMUNICATIONS for the JOURNAL should be directed to the private address of the Editor, 39, Curzon Street, May Fair.

**TO CONTRIBUTORS.** The Editor would feel glad if Members of the Association and others, would cooperate with him in establishing as a rule, that in future no paper for publication shall exceed two pages of the Journal in length. If the writers of long communications knew as well as the Editor does, that lengthy papers always deter the reader from commencing them, this great evil would never arise. Brevity is the soul of medical writing—still more than of wit.

Members should remember that corrections for the current week's JOURNAL should not arrive later than Wednesday.

Mr. J. E. BECKINGSALE.—Your letter arrived too late for insertion in the present number; it shall appear next week.

The Report of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh on the Medical Bill shall receive our best attention next week.

ASSOCIATES are particularly requested to send Post-office orders for subscriptions to Dr. P. H. WILLIAMS, Worcester, and not to the Editor.

A CORRESPONDENT.—Mr. Headland will present the petitions in the manner, and at the time you advise.

NEXT FRIDAY being Good Friday, correspondents are requested to forward their communications earlier.

Communications have been received from:—MR. RICHARD GRIFFIN; MR. J. HATTON; DR. W. H. POWELL; MR. J. V. SOLOMON; DR. S. B. BIRCH; MR. THOMAS THURSFIELD (Kidderrminster); MR. JOHN K. SPENDER; MR. C. KIDD; DR. J. M. SUTTON; MR. C. HALL; MR. R. C. DAVIES; MR. ERIN CLARK; DR. P. M. DUNCAN; SIR CHARLES HASTINGS; DR. S. W. J. MERRIMAN; AN EYE WITNESS; DR. RADFORD; MR. P. CHAVASSE; MR. E. L. HUSSEY; DR. F. J. BROWN; MR. R. W. WATKINS; MR. S. M. TURNER; MR. JOHN SCOTT (Edinburgh); MR. W. F. CLEVELAND; MR. G. B. MARFEN; MR. R. TURNER; DR. SYLVESTER; DR. JAMES HEYGATE; MR. STONE; A CONSTANT READER; MR. JOHN WILLIAMS; MR. HUGH R. HUGHES; THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH; MR. H. W. LEY; MR. J. E. BECKINGSALE; MR. EDWARD BOULGER.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

[\* An Asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.]

1. Surgical Anatomy. By Joseph MacLise. Second Edition. Fasciculus XI. London: 1856.
2. Medical Anatomy. By \*Francis Sibson, M.D., F.R.S. Fasciculus IV. London: 1856.
3. Throat Ailments: more especially the Enlarged Tonsil and Elongated Uvula. By \*James Yearsley. Sixth Edition. pp. 112. London: 1856.
4. Consumption: what it is and what it is not: its Causation and its Remediability. By J. C. Ferguson, A.M., M.B. Pamphlet. pp. 24. Belfast: 1856.

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