

"Finally, the mortality in Boulogne has been, during the first eight months of 1856, less than during the corresponding period of 1855, at which period the angina had not appeared."

"THE MAYOR OF BOULOGNE, A. ADAM.

"Boulogne-sur-Mer, Sept. 5th.

"Deaths (excluding military) from 1st January to 31st

August 1855 739

"Ditto ditto for the same period in 1856 690"

The *Times* of September 11th contained the subjoined letter on the same subject.

"SIR,—I yesterday read in your paper a letter signed by some of the medical men at Boulogne, in which they endeavour to make it appear that the epidemic which has been raging in that town this year has been confined, with a very few exceptions, to the indigent population. That it has prevailed to a greater extent among the lower classes is probably the case; but to my certain knowledge many families, both English and French, belonging to the higher classes, and particularly visitors, have been sufferers from this fearful malady, for which at present no remedy seems to have been discovered. I have myself lost an only child while on a visit to some friends, after thirty-six hours illness only; and my friends lost a child a few days before her death. These cases and the numerous deaths that have appeared in the obituary of your paper during the past month are sufficient to prove that this fatal disease is by no means confined to the lower classes. The healthy state of the camp proves nothing as to the salubrity of the town, as it is at least two miles from Boulogne, and on airy and elevated ground fully exposed to the sea breeze.

"I will not trespass further on your valuable space, but will thank you to be kind enough to insert this letter, which may serve as a warning to those who might otherwise be misled by the assertions of persons who appear to be desirous of concealing the truth from the public.

"I enclose my card, but beg to subscribe myself merely,

"A SUFFERER FROM THE PREVAILING EPIDEMIC
AT BOULOGNE.

"September 9th."

COMMITTAL OF A SURGEON (?) FOR CAUSING THE DEATH OF A LADY.

On Friday last, September 5th, an inquest was concluded at Lowestoft, before the borough coroner, touching the death of Mrs. Mary Ann Jeckels, the wife of a sail-maker of that place. It appeared from the evidence that the unfortunate deceased was taken in labour on the 20th ult., when she sent for "Dr." Matcham, who attended her. When the pains of labour came on he attempted to deliver her, but, believing that there was some difficulty about the birth, instead of using the forceps he made use of a table-spoon. The consequence was that he frightfully lacerated the lady to such an extent that inflammation and hæmorrhage set in, from the effects of which she died. Dr. Worthington, one of the medical men who were called in, stated that the death of the deceased was caused by the great violence which had been used, not only by the adoption of the table spoon instead of the forceps, but by pressure or violence from without. From the *post-mortem* examination which he had made, he was of opinion that there was not the slightest reason for using the instrument. He had never heard of a table spoon being used before for such a purpose. When he made the *post-mortem* examination, Dr. Webb was present. There was a wound two inches in length, extending upwards and backwards. There was also another large wound. On the left side there was also a severe wound. The woman was in the most frightful state from the treatment she had received. Dr. Webb stated that the death of the unfortunate woman was caused by the violence used in the delivery, and more especially by the use of the table-spoon instead of the forceps. Instruments were not necessary. The wounds inflicted on the woman were of a nature as to entirely preclude any hope of her recovery.

The Coroner having summed up, the jury returned a verdict of "Manslaughter" against "Dr." Matcham, and the Coroner ordered him (being present) to be at once conveyed to the county gaol.

ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY. The Royal Humane Society at their last meeting awarded to Mr. John Laws Milton, Surgeon, of Castle Street, Falcon Square, City, their honorary bronze medallion, and a vote of thanks inscribed on parchment, for his successful exertions in plunging in and rescuing a child from out of the Medway Canal, near Gravesend, on the 9th ult., the child having fallen in while playing on the banks.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MILITIA MEDICAL OFFICERS.—A Correspondent asks:—"Are Militia Medical Officers, while in charge of the staff, consisting of two officers, and the usual number of non-commissioned officers and drummers, compelled to attend, during confinement, the wives of any of the above, without extra remuneration from the party so attended: or, are the two shillings per week allowed by Government, supposed to comprise midwifery, as well as all other ailments?"

Communications have been received from:—DR. E. LANKESTER; DR. LOTSKY; DR. C. W. BELL; MR. F. DAVIES; MR. T. HOLMES; DR. D. NICOL; DR. COCKLE; MR. R. GRIFFIN; DR. BRINTON; MR. H. W. RUMSEY; DR. KIDD; DR. ROUGH; DR. MONRO (Dundee); DR. J. ROULSTON; MR. J. Z. LAURENCE; and MR. KESTIVEN.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

East India House, August 27, 1856.

—NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the next EXAMINATION of CANDIDATES for the APPOINTMENT of ASSISTANT-SURGEON in the Service of the East India Company will be held at this House, on Monday, the 12th January next, and succeeding days, and that the probable number of Vacancies in the Medical Establishment to be then filled up will be Ten. Copies of the Regulations for the Admission of Candidates will be furnished, on application to the Secretary, Military Department at this House. J. D. DICKINSON, Deputy Secretary.

Royal College of Surgeons of England.

—The next PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION for the FELLOWSHIP of this College in Classics, Mathematics, and French, will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, the 8th and 9th of next month (October). Further information relating thereto may be obtained upon application at the College. EDMUND BELFOUR, Secretary.

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