

THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

SIR.—May I be permitted to correct an error which appeared in your impression of the 25th inst., regarding the last general order No. 370, by the Bengal Government, with reference to the Indian Medical Service?

The leading article states that provision has been made "so that the medical officer in charge of a jail or hospital may be properly and comfortably placed." A reference to the general order itself will show that this is a mistake, and that the "provision" which is represented in your columns as having been effected, is in fact, the *only one* upon which the intentions of Government are unde- fined, and which is still deferred *sine die*.

The medical officer of a jail is invariably a civil surgeon, and in the majority of instances he is also the administrative officer with magisterial powers. The general order states that charges of jails, lunatic asylums, etc., "will be fixed in the Civil Department," and thus the position of civil surgeons is still under consideration, a disgraceful testimony to the inefficiency of official warrants. In 1864, Sir Charles Wood, No. 1060, directed this matter to be settled as soon as possible. Three years have nearly passed, and a new general order has appeared, leaving the case untouched. It has been represented before in your columns, that under existing circumstances a civil surgeoncy is in most cases a loss, and that the retention of the same by medical officers is attributable solely to their love of their profession. Is this to be the reason for prolonged injustice, and is it a policy calculated to produce contentment, and increased efficiency in the service? I leave the question to be answered by others; meanwhile I would respectfully suggest to Sir Stafford Northcote, that, if he has honourable and just intentions towards the Indian medical department, it would be well for him to issue definite instructions, which a subordinate government dare not disobey. Officers would then know their real position and expectations, and would be free, either to retain, or resign, their civil charges, and be released from suspense, while the Secretary of State for India would have the pleasure to see that his orders from the India Office are not stultified by unjustifiable delays and opposite opinions.

I beg to subscribe myself,

A MEMBER OF A DEGRADED SERVICE.

May 29th, 1867.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, &c., have been received from:—Mr. Field; Mr. Nunneley, Leeds (with enclosure); Mr. S. E. Solly (with enclosure); Mr. Edward Garraway; Dr. James Atkinson, West Hartlepool (with enclosure); Dr. Thurston, Ashford (with enclosure); Mr. G. E. Stanger, Nottingham; Dr. W. L. Winterbotham, Bridgwater Infirmary; Dr. Williams, Wrexham (with enclosure); Dr. V. Bazire; Mr. R. L. Bowles, Folkestone (with enclosure); Dr. Humphry Sandwith, Winterton (with enclosure); Dr. McVeagh, Coventry (with enclosure); Dr. Lansdowne, Bristol (with enclosure); Dr. E. Burd, Shrewsbury (with enclosure); The Secretary of the Harveyan Society; Dr. W. F. Wade, Birmingham (with enclosure); Dr. J. B. Pitt, Norwich; Dr. G. M. Humphry, Cambridge; Mr. T. M. Stone; Mr. R. S. Fowler, Bath (with enclosure); Mr. J. T. Clover; Dr. Birkbeck Nevins, Liverpool (with enclosure); Mr. Callender (with enclosure); Dr. Gardner, Glasgow; Dr. E. S. Thompson; Dr. Markham; Dr. Sibson; Dr. George Johnson (with enclosure); Dr. Simpson, Manchester (with enclosure); Mr. E. Bellamy; Dr. Samelson, Manchester; John W. Learoyd, Redditch; Dr. Drysdale (with enclosure); Dr. Meadows; Dr. Marct; Mr. T. Watkin Williams, Birmingham (with enclosure); Dr. Holman, Reigate (with enclosure); Dr. Burnup; and Dr. G. H. Philipson, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED.

Photographs of Eminent Medical Men of all Countries, with Brief Analytical Notices of their Works. Edited by Wm. Tindal Robertson, M.D., M.R.C.P. London: 1867.

Observations on Medical Education. By John Hughes Bennett, M.D., F.R.S.E. Edinburgh: 1867.

The Elements of Natural Philosophy. By Charles Brooke, M.A., F.R.S. Based on the Treatise of the late Golding Bird, M.A., M.D., F.R.S. London: 1867.

Hospitals, Infirmarys, and Dispensaries. By F. Oppert, M.D. London: 1867.

Obstetric Aphorisms. By J. G. Swayne, M.D. Fourth edition. London: 1867.

The Prescriber's Companion. By A. Meadows, M.D. Lond. Second edition. London: 1867.

The Sunday Gazette, June 9th.

The Glasgow Weekly Herald, June 8th.

The Glasgow Herald, June 6th.

North British Daily Mail, May 17th.

South Durham Herald, June 8th.

The Bristol Daily Post, June 7th.

South Durham and Clevedon Mercury, May 25th.

The Friend of India, April 25th.

The Allahabad Government Gazette.

Eddowes' Shrewsbury Journal, June 5th.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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15, JUNE 1867.

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15, JUNE 1867.

PRIZE MEDAL, 1865.