"IN DARKEST AFRICA."

"In Darkest Africa."

In Mr. Stanley's book occurs the following passage:—

"Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome and Co., of Snow Hill Buildings, London, the well known chemists, furnished gratis nine beautiful chests replete with every medicament necessary to combat the epidemic diseases peculiar to Africa. Every drug was in 'tabloids' mixed with quick solvents; every compartment was well stocked with essentials for the doctor and surgeon. Nothing was omitted, and we all owe a deep debt of gratitude to these gentlemen, not only for the intrinsic value of these chests and excellent medicines, but also for the personal selection of the best that London could furnish, and the supervision of the packing by which means we were enabled to transport them to Zambuya without damage."

Surgeon Parke has personally informed us that the concentrated preparations and tabloids retained their efficiency throughout the whole journey, and were of the utmost value by reason of their efficiency and portability.

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THE PROTECTION OF DIPLOMAS.

DR. HUGH WOODS (Highgate) writes: Mr. Brodhurst, in his evidence before the House of Lords Committee on Hospitals, expressed his opinion that no distinguished men are excluded from hospital appointments in London by the present exclusive rules. He gave as reasons for this opinion the statement (according to the JOURNAL of June 28th) that the Fellowship of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons is open to anyone, being a question only of work and a certain amount of ability. He also said that the examinations in London were by far the most severe. Mr. Brodhurst ought to be aware that the present rules exclude all general practitioners from all hospital appointments in London. Does Mr. Brodhurst consider that no general practitioners in London were "distinguished men?" Even in hospitals where or the ridiculous rule requiring the Membership of the College of Physicians or the Fellowship of the College of Surgeons is not in force care is taken to exclude general practitioners by forbidding the practice of midwifery, pharmacy, or the like. The advantages of "specialism" are not so great that a man need be forced into "specialism" to qualify for a hospital post. There could be no harm, at least, in his retaining some knowledge of subjects which have to be studied in order to obtain a registrable degree. To obtain a post as obstetric physician at most London hospitals the diploma of M.R.C.P. Lond. is essential. Does the M.R.C.P. examination contemplate itself as a test of acquaintance with midwifery? Yet a Master of Obstetric Art of Dublin University is ineligible, while a Member of the College of Physicians of London, whose training in midwifery may have been only the minimum requisite to get on the Register, is a suitable candidate. The cost of obtaining the methods necessary to success at the examinations, the desirability (for more reasons than one) of being known to be in a position to obtain a hospi-M.R.C.P. or F.R.C.S. diplomas (£30 about), the time requisite for studying the methods necessary to success at the examinations, the desirability (for more reasons than one) of being known to be in a position to obtain a hospital appointment, in case the diploma should be granted, the innumerable certificates required, or the disabilities involved, are a few of the trifling difficulties which Mr. Brodhurst ignores. Besides, for a medical man whose abilities have acquired for him a large general practice to throw up his whole means of supporting himself and family—the whole result of his past labours—in order to go to school again and be taught the latest whims of more or less competent examiners is simply intolerable.

With regard to the responsibility for these iniquitous regulations, there can be no question but that the staffs of the hospitals are at the root responsible for them; because only medical men could have the acquaintance with minute detail which is evinced in the protective regulations in all their variety. These protective regulations are devised, enacted, and maintained with the object of excluding all who engage in general practice from hospital appointments. In any case they have this result. Whether Mr. Brodhurst thinks so or not, it is quite certain that very many men engaged in general practice are far more worthy of distinction, if not more distinguished, than the beardless youths who obtain hospital posts to the third and fourth gene-

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ration.

It seems ridiculous to have to argue against so iniquitous and pernicious a system; and perhaps the only way to overcome the selfish regard for their own interests, which induces the hospital staffs to encourage its continuance, will be to make it opposed to their interests. If hospital appointments are given only to those holding the M.R. C.P.Lond and F.R.C.S.Lond, diplomas it would be only fair if general practitioners were to recoup the remainder of the profession for the want of such advantages by calling into consultation only those who have not the above diplomas. If the general practitioners are forced to resert to strong measures it will be because justice is denied

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Indian Medical Service. By Wm. Wilfrid Webb, M.B. London: W. Thacker and Co. 1890.

Unlucky Lie. By Athol A. Johnstone. London: John Haddon and Co.

A Pharmacoporia for Diseases of the Skin. By James Startin. Second edition. London: Harrison and Sons. 1890.

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Hypnotism. By Albert Moll. London: W. Scott. 1890.

Hygiene and Public Health. By Louis C. Parkes, M.D. Second edition. London: H. K. Lewis. 1890.

Cyclopædia of the Diseases of Children. Edited by John M. Keating, M.D. Vol. III. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1890.

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