

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF HEALTH OFFICERS.

SIR,—In the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of June 10th you very justly comment upon the terms of advertisement for a medical officer of health to the Croydon Union Rural Sanitary Authority, in which £400 per annum is offered (to include travelling and all other expenses) for an area comprising 21,872 acres. But, Sir, I see that for a district of 65,046 acres, the Guardians of the Guildford Union, acting as the rural sanitary authority, are advertising for a medical officer of health, and offering the magnificent salary of £200 per annum (to include travelling and all other expenses). If, therefore, it is in your opinion necessary to remodel the examination for a diploma in public health so as to include athletics and long distance marching that will enable a person to carry out the duties of the first mentioned of these appointments, it seems to me that the ability to fly also will be necessary for the second, as unless the official possessed the legs of the giraffe, and the speed of the gazelle, so as to obviate the necessity of cab hire, it will be impossible for him to "cover the ground" in any reasonable space of time if his points of destination are far apart. Two hundred pounds a year including travelling and all other expenses, with private practice disallowed within the area, is absurd, when the enormous space comprised in the district is considered, and if the official finds it necessary to drive very often, he will, I fear, find that this item alone will absorb a great deal of his £200 salary.

Why is it that sanitary authorities persist in underpaying their public health officials in this manner? Is it reasonable to expect that for such a wretched sum they can secure the services of well qualified and experienced men?

How for instance could one official with such a meagre salary afford to bestir himself and travel constantly throughout his district were it visited by a severe epidemic of small-pox or cholera?

It is the old "penny wise and pound foolish policy," and as such is very sad to witness in these advanced times, and in the question of public health, of which the poorer classes have very crude notions and ideas, is it acting fairly to them to make it impossible for a constant and thorough supervision to be kept from a sanitary point of view, owing to neglect of which in times past epidemics have arisen, and will assuredly do so again in the future?—I am, etc.,

D. P. H.

PSOROSPERMOSIS AND MALIGNANT DISEASE.

SIR,—Mr. Jackson Clarke, in his reply to my letter on this question, states that "Borrel has himself spared Wickham the trouble of replying by publishing a later work, in which he admits a change of opinion." It would appear from this sentence that Mr. Jackson Clarke, who has written a review of this subject, has not taken the trouble of reading Borrel's second paper, which, by the way, appeared two years after his scathing criticisms of Wickham's work. In his second paper Borrel maintains all his conclusions with regard to Wickham's work; he quotes, and again shows the fallacy of, Wickham's observations; he points out how Mr. Butlin's first interpretation of the figures afterwards described by Wickham is correct; he shows how the preparations of Malassez, whom Wickham quotes as supporting him, are absolutely different from those of Wickham; and, lastly, he allows that there are in cancer bodies, never described by Wickham, which can only be accounted for from the parasitic point of view, pointing out at the same time that Soudakewitch had accurately described such figures. Mr. Jackson Clarke's contention is therefore wholly incorrect.

With regard to Malassez, whom Wickham again quotes in his letter printed by Mr. Jackson Clarke in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of May 27th, this author, in his last paper, "Sur les Parasites du Cancer,"¹ does not appear to be ready to endorse Wickham's work, as he states that the only figures which appeared to him conclusive were those described by Albaran in one case of epithelioma of the jaw, and by Darier in molluscum contagiosum. He does not mention Wickham at all, nor even Darier's work on cancer. This last observer likewise has never answered the criticisms of Borrel and others on the work of his pupil Wickham.

¹ *Comptes Rendus Soc. de Biol.*, May 5th, 1893, p. 444.

I am glad to hear that the papers of Mr. Jackson Clarke are about to be published, and I shall look forward with the keenest interest to the next volume of the *Transactions* of the Pathological Society.—I am, etc.,
Sydenham, June 10th.

H. G. PLIMMER.

NAVAL AND MILITARY MEDICAL SERVICES.

THE NAVY.

STAFF-SURGEON LEONARD H. KELLETT and Surgeon JOHN L. THOMAS have been appointed to the *Australia*, June 8th.

Staff-Surgeon JOSEPH HALPIN, retired, died at Folkestone on June 6th, at the age of 56. He was appointed Surgeon, May 27th, 1859; Staff-Surgeon, December 16th, 1872; and retired from the service November 30th, 1877.

ARMY MEDICAL STAFF.

BRIGADE-SURGEON-LIEUTENANT-COLONEL WILLIAM KEIR, M.D., is placed on retired pay, June 3rd. His commission bears date as follows: Assistant-Surgeon, September 30th, 1864; Surgeon, March 1st, 1873; Surgeon-Major, September 30th, 1876; and Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel, January 14th, 1890. He was engaged in the Boer war in 1881. Surgeon-Major R. T. BEAMISH, M.D., has qualified for "special certificate" at the senior examination in military law, held recently in Dublin.

Brigade-Surgeon WALTER BASNETT RAMSBOTHAM, M.D., died on June 11th, suddenly, at his residence, Amwell Street, Myddelton Square, London, aged 60. He entered the service as Assistant-Surgeon, March 10th, 1855; became Surgeon, March 1st, 1873; Surgeon-Major, April 1st, 1873; and Brigade-Surgeon, October 1st, 1885. He left on retired pay, January 23rd, 1888. He served in the Afghan war in 1878-80 (medal), and in the Egyptian war of 1882 (medal, and Khedive's bronze star).

Surgeon-Captain L. WAY, who is serving in the Madras Command, has leave to England for six months, on medical certificate.

The following is a list of the officers present at the annual dinner of the Army Medical Staff held in the Whitehall Rooms of the Hôtel Métropole, London, on June 12th, 1893:

Directors-General: Sir T. Crawford, K.C.B.; Sir W. A. Mackinnon, K.C.B. (in the chair). *Surgeon-Major-Generals:* R. Bowen, J. G. Faught, A. H. Fraser, W. H. Muschamp, J. B. C. Reade, C.B., F. B. Smith, W. Stewart, J. J. Thompson, W. A. Thomson, F. Wade. *Surgeon-Colonels:* H. Cayley, A. F. Churchill, O. Codrington, W. G. Don, A. G. Elkington, A. A. Gore, J. B. Hamilton, C. H. Harvey, J. Inkson, J. Jameson, J. H. Jeffcoat, C. A. Maunsell, E. McGrath, T. F. O'Dwyer, E. H. Roberts, W. Sly, H. R. L. Veale, J. Watts. *Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonels:* J. F. Beattie, G. Evatt, J. E. Fishbourne, G. C. Gribbon, J. Hector, J. W. Hulseberg, J. G. Leask, C. Mackinnon, W. McWatters, T. R. Mould, H. S. Muir, A. B. Robinson, W. G. Ross, F. P. Staples, W. F. Stevenson, E. D. Tomlinson, W. W. Tomlinson, W. J. Wilson, T. Wright, T. W. Wright. *Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonels:* A. L. Browne, F. E. Barrow, J. M. Beamish, D. B. Brown, W. C. Grant, G. D. N. Leake, J. W. O'M. Martin, W. H. McNamara, C. F. Pollock. *Surgeon-Majors:* W. G. Bedford, J. T. Carey, W. A. Carte, J. P. Crean, P. M. Ellis, J. J. Falvey, T. J. Galloway, E. Grier, J. J. Greene, J. P. Hunt, G. A. Hughes, R. Jennings, J. J. Lamprey, T. Ligertwood, N. McCreery, T. W. Patterson, D. S. O., W. S. Pratt, E. R. Power, H. D. Rowan, H. Saunders, W. E. Webb. *Surgeon-Captains:* S. G. Allen, W. Baple, A. L. H. Dixon, H. P. Elkington, J. McLaughlin, S. C. Philson, R. J. Power, W. P. Squire, E. O. Wight. *Guests present:* Sir Joseph Fayer, K.C.S.I.; Director-General J. N. Dick, C.B., Royal Navy; Mr. V. Holt; Dr. Dawson Williams (of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL); and Mr. T. Wakley, jun. (of the *Lancet*). *Guests invited but unavoidably absent:* Sir A. Clark (President of the Royal College of Physicians) and Mr. T. Bryant (President of the Royal College of Surgeons).

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

The services of Surgeon-Captains F. C. CLARKSON, C. C. CASSIDY, and A. W. T. BUIST-SPARKS, of the Bengal Establishment, are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of Bengal.

Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. C. ROE, Bengal Establishment, is appointed to officiate as Sanitary Commissioner of the Punjab.

Surgeon-Captain W. VOST, M.B., Bengal Establishment, medical officer of the Mushkaf-Bolan State Railway, is transferred from the Public Works Department to the Home Department.

Surgeon-Captain H. SMITH, M.D., Bengal Establishment, is appointed Medical Officer of the Mushkaf-Bolan State Railway.

Surgeon-Captain A. W. ALCOCK, Bengal Establishment, Deputy Sanitary Commissioner of Bengal, is appointed to officiate as Superintendent of the Indian Museum from April 8th.

Surgeon-Lieutenant G. BIDIE, Madras Establishment, is appointed officiating Medical Officer 4th Infantry Hyderabad Contingent.

Surgeon-Lieutenant B. R. CHATTERTON, Bengal Establishment, is appointed to the officiating medical charge of the 24th Bengal Infantry, *vice* Surgeon-Captain H. F. Whitchurch.

Surgeon-Major W. COATES, M.D., Bengal Establishment, is appointed Civil Surgeon of Lahore, Superintendent of Lahore Lunatic Asylum, Professor of Midwifery and Forensic Medicine in Lahore Medical College, and Medical Officer in charge of the Government College at Lahore, from April 17th.

Surgeon-Captain E. HUDSON, 15th Bengal Lancers, is appointed to officiate temporarily as Civil Surgeon of Mooltan, in addition to his military duties.

Surgeon-Major G. M. J. GILES, M.B., Bengal Establishment, is appointed to officiate as Deputy Sanitary Commissioner 3rd Circle, North-West Provinces and Oude.

Surgeon-Captain W. G. THOROLD, Bengal Establishment, officiating