

after six months' *hard* reading succeeded in passing, the 1st standard new rules, for which I got Rs. 180. How little of that I put in my pocket, after paying two moonshees, you may easily guess.

What good did it do me? None at all, I reply.

On two occasions I held charge of a Native Regiment, some 800 strong, and I naturally thought I would get the difference between my Royal pay and that of an Assistant Surgeon (ranking as Captain) in the Indian Army. Nothing of the sort. I got the liberal amount of 2 annas a head per man per month, about Rs. 120 or 130, though I was the only Medical Officer who could possibly have performed the work.

I was relieved by an Assistant-Surgeon of the Indian Army; he is about my own service, and for charge of the Regiment he draws Rs. 600 a month. Now compare his work with mine: he generally has an average of five to ten in hospital with nothing the matter with them, *i.e.*, he has a few cases of sore-feet and an odd febris intermittens. He has really no documentary work to do, as I can testify, having been four months with the regiment. In one week I have more writing to do with my battery of 120 men than he has in three months with 800. Well, he draws Rs. 600 for his modicum. Now compare with me. Assistant-Surgeon over six years' service, Rs. 433-10-2; horse allowance, Rs. 30 (out of which, at the present prices, not one pice is to be made); Station Staff and Departments and Garrison Prison, Rs. 30; Detachment of Irregular Cavalry, about 100 men, Rs. 12-8-0; and when I had his regiment *in addition*, Rs. 120 more, total Rs. 596-2-2; as I do not count the horse allowance. So I actually, with fully five times more to do than he has, drew some Rs. 4 a month less, and I *had* passed in the languages. Now, I ask you, is that fair? I now draw about Rs. 125 less than he does, and no one could possibly for a moment compare our relative labours. What will it come to by-and-bye?*

Yours faithfully,
M. A.

14th October, 1866.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR,—It is a long time since a circular letter was sent by Government to all medical officers in civil employ, informing them that the question of their pay, &c., was going to be enquired into by a Commission ordered to meet for the purpose at Fort William. The Commission met, deliberated, and submitted their report to Government, and yet up to the present time we know not what fate awaits us. Those in charge of regiments have been for some time in the enjoyment of the allowances of their rank, which they well deserve; but their brethren in civil employ have all this tedious while been living on *bare hope*. If you will, therefore, kindly enlighten us as to when we may *actually receive* what we have been so long quietly looking for, you will confer a favor on every medical officer who, like your humble servant, is†

A CIVIL SURGEON.

25th September, 1866.

Extract.

EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIMENTS.

DR. DEWAR, of Kirkaldy, has recently been led to form some very important conclusions as to the effect of sulphur fumigations as a preventive of the cattle plague. He caused the

* We really cannot decide which has most grievances, the British or the Indian Medical Service. We think they are BOTH treated far short of their merits! We offer M. A. our hearty condolence; but we cannot help asking the question, what has he, by right, to do with Station Staff, with Detachments of Irregular Cavalry, or with Native Infantry Regiments? He says—"I belong to the Royal Army."—Ed., I. M. G.

† We have reason to believe that the Salaries Commission Report is now before a Committee of the Indian Council, and that it is likely to be passed, as it left India, *i.e.*, after the alterations it was subjected to by the Indian Government.—Ed., I. M. G.

cattle byres to be fumigated with sulphur four times a day, and in no case, where this plan was regularly carried out, did a single case of cattle plague or any other epidemic occur. The therapeutic effect of the treatment, however, by no means ended here. Ringworm, anglo berries, mange, and lice disappeared, and a horse which had been accidentally fumigated a few times was cured of obstinate grease in the heels. In a dairy of 30 cows, where cases of pleuro-pneumonia had been frequent for 30 years, and where for eight years past the disease had never been absent a month together, and the tenant had buried 16 cows in the year preceding the commencement of the fumigation, the disease has entirely ceased since its employment. If ventilation be attended to, the attendant may shut himself in with the cattle during the fumigation, not only without injury, but with, it would appear in many cases, great benefit to his health. In the case of a groom of Dr. Dewar's who was afflicted with phthisis, within a week the night sweats ceased, his cough gradually got better, expectoration lessened, and he gained two stone in weight within four months, and now looks nearly as strong, and is as able to do his work as before his illness, though dependent for existence upon little more than one lung. These statements are so extraordinary that we should have deemed them deserving of but little credit were they not supported by the testimony of a medical man of high character, and confirmed by the opinion of several others by whom the case was observed. In diphtheria and various other complaints, sulphur fumigation has almost immediately been productive of great benefit, whilst, in one instance, an attack of hospital gangrene, in the wards of the Edinburgh Infirmary, was almost immediately cut short by it. Dr. Dewar's theory of the curative influence of sulphur fumigations is that the great proportions of disease are caused by cryptogamic spores, the vitality of which is destroyed by the vapour of the sulphurous acid gas. It is a curious circumstance, not unworthy of note, that Hahnemann's theory of disease led him to regard sulphur as the proper remedy for tuberculosis. For the disinfection of inanimate material, Dr. Dewar recommends the addition of a little nitre to the sulphur, and then to combine the fumes with the vapour of boiling water. The result is a disinfectant, the most active, searching, and efficacious that can be devised, utterly destructive of every form of contagion and insect life. Sulphur fumigations have also a remarkable effect in retarding putrefaction. During the hot weather of June a sheep's head was kept by Dr. Dewar fresh and sweet for 18 days; a crab eight days. Dr. Dewar recently entertained a party of friends with viands preserved in this manner, and one and all expressed their satisfaction with the fare, and their conviction of the perfect success of the process.—*London Review*.

Short Notices of Recent Books.

Idiocy, and its Treatment by the Physiological Method. By EDWARD SEGUIN, M.D. New York: Ward and Co.

This is an American book, written in a style which is not unfrequent among our Trans-Atlantic brethren, but which is hardly commendable. The author spends a good deal of time and words in showing us that we ought to give more attention to the subject of the treatment of idiocy, but though he calls his system the physiological one, we cannot see in what it differs from the ordinary routine method. Certainly Dr. Seguin has not been as felicitous in his treatment of this important subject as has Mr. Millard in the little volume we noticed in one of our late numbers. A physiological method, to be so properly, should be based upon a thorough knowledge of the cerebral anatomy of the idiot, and that Dr. Seguin does not seem to possess. Unquestionably he deserves considerable credit for the devotion which he has given to this branch of mental diseases, and we think that a perusal of his description of the mode of moral and social treatment he adopts will be followed by good results.

On Intra-thoracic Cancer. By JOHN COCKLE, M.D., Physician to the Royal Free Hospital. London: Churchill and Sons.

In the first part of this work the author gives an introduction to, and historical account of, the disease, and in the second he deals with the pathology. The history of the disease is most perfect, for it not only displays the opinions of writers from the