

any selection. The occurrence of cholera in the midst of the inoculated population in many instances are such as to permit no conclusion with regard to the effect of inoculation. Such are cases when the number of inoculated in the community is small in comparison with that of the uninoculated or the absolute number of casualties limited; or their number smaller than the proportion of uninoculated and inoculated, etc. It would be easy to select for print materials which point to a definite result, and to leave out the rest. The information published ought to be, however, above suspicion of any facts having been suppressed; all,—good, bad, complete, indefinite, ought to be put before those who are interested in judging the question, and absolute freedom left to them for drawing conclusions *pro* and *contra*.

Another point is the shape in which those materials are published. It was important to secure answers to special questions, in a uniform, fixed, tabular form. As regards the composition of these tables, those to whom they seem cumbersome, or containing superfluous details, will be surprised to hear that, in working out these tables, several experienced epidemiologists took part; that it required many days of study, of discussion, of gradual contraction and simplification, before their final form has been fixed, and that, although to many of the questions we are rarely able to obtain full answers, it is easy for us to show that they do not contain any detail which can be safely omitted, without prejudice to precision or completeness of information.

Calcutta, 28th April, 1896.

W. M. HAFFKINE.

### THE BOILING OF DRINKING WATER.

TO THE EDITOR, "INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR,—Dr. A. Mitra, of Kashmir, wrote recommending the boiling of water in 1888, but Sir Joseph Fayrer and Dr. (now Sir) Joseph Ewart wrote the same thing at least four years before, *vide* "The book of Health," published by Cassell & Co., Ltd., 3rd Edition, page 927, paragraph on the purification of drinking water. The article contributed by those eminent men is headed, "Health in India." The book is known to missionaries, and as these gentlemen are to be met in every province of India, it is, I think, not improbable that the kettle theory was known to a good few some years—at least ten—before the apostle of the kettle theory arrived in India.

SURI, 25th March 1896.

J. G. FLEMING.

### MR. HANKIN AND M. CALMETTE'S SERUM.

TO THE EDITOR, "INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR,—I send the following interesting cutting from *L'Union Médicale*, 29th February 1896, because Mr. Hankin seems to be modestly keeping things from us:—

"Le *British Medical Journal* annonce qu'une provision de sérum antivenimeux du Dr. Calmette ayant été envoyé de l'Institut Pasteur au Dr. Hankin, directeur du laboratoire bactériologique d'Agra l'emploi de ce sérum a été expérimenté avec succès. Un indigène mordu par un cobra, a été guéri par le sérum et nombre de moutons empoisonnés par le venin de serpent ont été préservés de la mort par ce moyen.

I. M. S.

## Appointments, Leave, &c.

### BENGAL.

#### PROMOTIONS.

The following promotions are made, subject to Her Majesty's approval:—

#### BENGAL MEDICAL ESTABLISHMENT.

##### *Surgeon-Majors to be Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonels.*

Arthur Tomes, M.D.  
William Arthur Mawson.  
Sobrabshaw Hormasji Dantra, M.D.  
Henry Hamilton, M.D.  
Bernard Doyle.  
Robert Cobb.

Augustus Edward Richard Stephens.  
William Hotson Cadge.

#### *Surgn.-Capts. to be Surgn.-Majors.*

John Henry Tull Walsh.  
Harold Hendley.  
Hormasjee Eduljee Banatvala.  
George Herbert Fink.  
William George Patrick Alpin, M.D.

Surgeon-Captain B. C. Oldham, Officiating Superintendent of the Central Jail, Alipore, is appointed to act as Superintendent of the Central Jail, Midnapore, during the absence of Mr. C. H. C. Sevenoaks.

Surgeon-Major G. Jameson reported his departure from India, on furlough, on the 14th March 1896.

Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel R. Macrae, Civil Surgeon of Gaya, is allowed special leave for six months, under Article 348 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 25th April 1896, or any subsequent date on which he may avail himself of it.

Dr. J. L. Hendley, Civil Medical Officer, Balasore, is allowed furlough for one year, under Article 371 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 13th April 1896, or any subsequent date on which he may avail himself of it.

The services of Surgeon-Lieutenant L. Rogers, M.B., F.R.C.S., Indian Medical Service (Bengal), are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

The Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces is pleased to make the following appointments:—

Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel F. A. Smyth, Indian Medical Service, in medical charge 7th Bengal Infantry, to the medical charge of the Cantonment General Hospital at Lucknow.

*Army Medical Staff.* Surgeon-Major A. E. Tate, in medical charge, Convalescent Depot at Naini Tal, to the medical charge of the Head-quarters Staff and establishments of the Bengal Command, with effect from the 1st March 1896, in addition to his duties, *vice* Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Dorman.

Surgeon-Captain J. Chaytor-White, Indian Medical Service, was granted leave of absence, in India, on medical certificate from the 29th September 1895 to 27th October 1895.

The leave in India on medical certificate, granted to 1st class Assistant-Surgeon J. Nazareth, in Command Order No. 525 of 1895, is extended to 6th August 1896.

The services of Surgeon-Lieutenant C. R. Stevens, M.D., F.R.C.S., Indian Medical Service (Bengal), are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of Bengal, with effect from the 7th March 1896.

The services of Surgeon-Captain J. R. Adie, M.B., Indian Medical Service (Bengal), are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of the Punjab, with effect from the date on which he may assume charge of his duties under that Government.

The services of Surgeon-Lieutenant G. Y. C. Hunter, Indian Medical Service (Bengal), are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of the Punjab, with effect from the date on which he may assume charge of his duties under that Government.

Surgeon-Captain C. G. Robson-Scott, M.B., to the officiating medical charge of the 4th Bengal Cavalry Regiment.

The services of Surgeon-Captain C. G. Robson-Scott, M.B., C.M., Indian Medical Service (Bengal), are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of Bengal, with effect from the date on which he may assume charge of his duties under that Government.

The services of the undermentioned officers of the Indian Medical Service (Bengal), are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Chief Commissioner of Burma:—

Surgeon-Lieutenant C. C. S. Barry.

Surgeon-Lieutenant C. E. Williams, M.B., B.S.

Surgeon-Major J. Anderson, M.B., Indian Medical Service (Bengal), is appointed to be Joint Medical Officer of Simla, with effect from the 17th April 1896.

The services of Surgeon-Major J. A. Cunningham, M.D., M.Ch., Indian Medical Service, Civil Surgeon of Simla, are replaced at the disposal of the Government of the Punjab, with effect from the 17th April 1896.

The undermentioned officer is granted leave to proceed out of India on private affairs, under the Leave Rules for the Staff Corps, the specified period to count from the date of being struck off duty:—

Surgeon-Captain R. C. MacWatt, Indian Medical Service, for one year. Pension service 9th year commenced 20th December 1895.