

Royal Military Asylum, Chelsea.

By permission of Colonel Battersby, the commandant of the institution, and under his patronage, the third annual Easter entertainment was given on the 18th inst. by the monitors. The programme was wholly dramatic, differing in this respect from the preceding performances, which were of a miscellaneous character. The curtain rose on the farce, by Tom Taylor, "A Blighted Being," in which W. J. Ward, as *Cumming* (the waiter), and J. Thomas, as *Thaddeus O'Rafferty* (an Irish apothecary), were particularly distinguished for the careful manner in which they rendered their parts, a call for both, at the conclusion of the piece, being unanimous. G. Harrison, as *Job Wort* (the blighted being), T. Glynn, as *Ned Spanker* (the dashing sailor), and W. Wingfield, as *Susan Spanker*, are also to be highly commended, the latter especially. The "Turned Head," a comedy in two acts by Gilbert A. Beckett, based on the delusions to which hypochondriacs are liable, followed, and proved the success of the evening. *Dr. Mulgent* (W. J. Ward) keeps an asylum for hypochondriacs, and numbers among his patients: *Spoutley* (J. Barkin), who fancies himself a pump; and *Dampley* (H. Cavanagh), whose delusion requires him to hold up an umbrella continually, to shelter himself from the rain which he imagines is perpetually falling both inside and out the house. To this asylum comes *Ferdinand Fitzgibbins* (T. Glynn), who, unable, from his father's opposition, to wed the young lady of his choice, resorts to the expedient of turning his coat, and apparently his head, hoping thus to work upon the feelings of his unnatural parent. He finds a friend and assistant in *Dick*, *Dr. Mulgent's* servant (J. Thomas), and the eventual success of his expedient brings the comedy to a close. Messrs. Ward and Thomas again deserve honourable mention. The performance concluded with the farce, by J. Hay, entitled "A Sudden Arrival," which illustrated the inconvenience attending the unexpected arrival of *Cornelius Cocker* (Ward) upon the scene, while his nephew, *Marmaduke Twist* (Glynn) is making merry with a few friends whom he has invited to dine with him in the absence of his uncle. The entertainment was given wholly by the monitors, and was a decided success. To Mr. Hargan, under whom the pieces were rehearsed and prepared, great praise is due for the generally excellent performance of the boys, while to the monitors themselves much credit must be given for having so well acquitted themselves. During the evening the boys' band performed the following selection of music, contributing in a great degree to the success of the performance:—Selection, "William Tell"; valse, "Soldaten Lieder" (Gung'l); lullaby, "Sweet and Low" (Barnby); selection, "Reminiscences of Auber."

A Female Army Surgeon.

In the interesting recollections of the Earl of Albemarle, published under the title of "Fifty Years of my Life," reference is made to one of the most singular circumstances that probably ever occurred in the annals of any public department. We allude to the remarkable career of an army surgeon, who, after having passed through every grade of the Service, from the lowest rank to that of inspector-general, died in the year 1865 in lodgings in London, when the discovery was made by the nurse in attendance of a fact which had long been suspected—that the deceased was of the feminine gender. This occurrence, which we have every reason to believe to be authentic, naturally attracted a great deal of attention at the time; but the story is so strange that it will well bear telling over again. Lord Albemarle, during the time Lord Charles Somerset was Governor of the Cape, met a Dr. James Barry, who was staff-surgeon to the garrison, and the governor's medical adviser. "Lord Charles described him to me as the most skilful of physicians and the most wayward of men. He had lately been in professional attendance upon the governor, who was somewhat fanciful about his health; but the *Æsculapius*, taking umbrage at something said or done, had left his patient to prescribe for himself. I had heard so much of this capricious yet privileged gentleman, that I had a great curiosity to see him. I shortly afterwards sat next him at dinner at one of the regimental messes. In this learned Pundit I beheld a beardless lad, apparently of my own age, with an unmistakably Scotch type of countenance—reddish hair, high cheek-bones. There was a certain effeminacy in his manner, which he seemed to be always striving to overcome. His style of conversation was greatly superior to that usually heard at a mess-table in those days of non-competitive examination. A mystery attached to Barry's whole professional career, which extended over more than half-a-century. While at the Cape he fought a duel, and was considered to be of a most quarrelsome disposition." This Dr. James Barry was at the head of the list of inspectors-general in 1865, when he retired from the Service, and died, as we have said, in London in that year. Lord Albemarle refers to its having been officially reported that this said officer was a woman, and adds that the late Mrs. Ward, daughter of Colonel Tidy, stated to him her belief that the doctor was the legitimate granddaughter of a Scotch earl, and that the *soi-disant* James Barry adopted the medical profession from attachment to an army surgeon who had not been many years dead. Be all this as it may, there can be no doubt that the officer in question possessed, physically, the characteristics of that sex from which officers are not usually drawn. The appearance, development, voice, and so on, were indicative of the female sex, and, in many striking respects, the mental and moral qualities pointed in the same direction. As years crept on, this officer, instead of developing into an old woman, which some sarcastic and badly-disposed people might be tempted to declare an everyday occurrence, exhibited the tastes, temper, and qualities of an old maid. That the woman—a married one, by the way—who laid out the body was firmly convinced of its being a female, is undoubted. Some allowance may be made for a natural tendency to exaggeration; but it is, nevertheless, the fact that, notwithstanding a certain impulsiveness and querulous disposition, Dr. James Barry had the courage of her opinions and a will of her own. Although the secret of her sex was often suspected, she managed, with an indomitable will and a steadiness of purpose that was never shaken, as well as a circumspection always alert, to play the part and discharge all the duties of a medical officer. What an autobiography such a life would have made!—*Lancet*.

Military Gazettes.

INDIA OFFICE, 21ST APRIL, 1876.

Her Majesty has been pleased to approve of the transfer to the Half-Pay List of the undermentioned Officers:—
Captain Robert James McGhee, Madras Staff Corps: 4th November, 1875. Captain John Macnair, Bengal Staff Corps: 12th April, 1876.

WAR OFFICE, PALL MALL, 25TH APRIL, 1876.

74th Regiment of Foot—Lieutenant-General the Right Honourable Sir Percy Egerton Herbert, K.C.B., to be Colonel, vice General Charles Augustus Shawe, deceased: 5th April, 1876.
Royal Engineers—Major-General George Wynne to be Colonel-Commandant, vice General H. Servanté, deceased: 27th February, 1876. Lieutenant-General Henry Blois Turner (late Bombay) to be Colonel-Commandant, vice General W. Scott, deceased: 20th March, 1876. Lieutenant Edward Merry Larminie to be Captain, vice G. H. L. Pole, deceased: 23rd February, 1876.
Chaplain's Department—Chaplain of the Third Class the Reverend James M'Whinny to be Chaplain of the Second Class: 4th March, 1876. Chaplain of the Third Class the Reverend Reginald H. Bullock, M.A., to be Chaplain of the Second Class: 23rd April, 1876. The Reverend Thomas Foran to be Chaplain of the Fourth Class: 24th October, 1875, such antedate not to carry back allowances. The Reverend Frederick J. Bateman to be Chaplain of the 4th Class: 16th October, 1875, such antedate not to carry back allowances.

BREVET.

Major Thomas Beckley, Royal (late Madras) Engineers, retired upon a pension, to have the honorary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel: 20th November, 1875.
The following promotions to take place consequent on the death, on the 26th February, 1876, of General H. Servanté, Colonel-Commandant, Royal Engineers:—
Lieutenant-General William Turnbull Renwick, Colonel-Commandant, Royal Engineers, to be General: 27th February, 1876.
Major-General George Wynne, Royal Engineers, to be Lieutenant-General: 27th February, 1876.
Colonel Charles Fanshawe, Royal Engineers, to be Major-General: 28th June, 1868, such antedate not to carry back pay prior to 27th February, 1876.
The following promotions to take place consequent on the death, on the 19th March, 1876, of General Walter Scott, Colonel-Commandant, Royal (late Bombay) Engineers:—
Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Thomas Cotton, K.C.S.I., Colonel-Commandant, Royal (late Madras) Engineers, to be General: 20th March, 1876.
Major-General Charles Alexander Orr, Colonel-Commandant, Royal (late Madras) Engineers, to be Lieutenant-General: 20th March, 1876.
Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet Colonel John Archibald Ballard, C.B., Royal (late Bombay) Engineers, from the Seconded List, to be Major-General: 28th June, 1868, such antedate not to carry back pay prior to 20th March, 1876.
The following officers having completed the qualifying service in the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, to be Colonels:—
Lieutenant-Colonel John Goddard, Royal (late Madras) Engineers: 24th March, 1876. Lieutenant-Colonel Lindsay Russell, Royal (late Bengal) Engineers: 24th March, 1876.

Military Obituary.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL COLIN TROUPE, C.B., whose death is announced as having occurred on the 19th ultimo, had retired from active service, and was permitted to reside at Meerut. The late general served against the Bheels in 1827, and throughout the operations in Afghanistan from 1839 to 1842. He was present at the storm and capture of Ghuznee, and was taken prisoner during the retreat from Cabul in January, 1842. The 48th Regiment was under his command at the battle of Aliwal, for which he received a medal and was promoted to be brevet-major. He entered the army in 1820, was promoted to a lieutenancy in 1823, captain in 1835, major in 1846, lieutenant-colonel in 1853, colonel in 1854, major-general in 1864, and lieutenant-general in 1872.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL JOSEPH H. P. CROWE, V.C., of the 10th Foot, who recently died, served with the 78th Highlanders in the Persian campaign in 1856, and was present in the action of Kooshab and bombardment of Mohumrah (medal with clasp). Served in India with Havelock's column from its first taking the field, in 1857, including the actions of Futtehpore, Pandoo Nuddee, Cawnpore Oonao, Buseerungunge, Boorbeakechowkee (Victoria Cross for distinguished and gallant conduct), Mungarwar and Alumbagh, relief of Lucknow (wounded), defence of Alumbagh under Outram, siege and capture of Lucknow, relief of Azimghur, and operations near Jugdespore (medal with two clasps, brevet of major, and grant of a year's service for Lucknow).

BIRTHS.

CARR.—On the 19th inst., at Devonport, the wife of Major R. E. Carr, 36th Regiment, of a daughter.
MCCREAGH.—On the 21st inst., at Brighton, the wife of Major M. McCresgh, late 4th Dragoon Guards, of a daughter.
NEEDHAM.—On the 23rd inst., at Brighton, the wife of Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. Henry Needham, Grenadier Guards, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

ELIOTT—GORDON.—On the 22nd inst., at Brighton, Major-General William Russell Elliott, Retired List (Bengal), to Francis Helen, widow of Captain Aubrey F. J. Gordon, late of the Madras Staff Corps.

DEATHS.

MACKENZIE.—On the 4th inst., at St. Malo, France, Henry Patrick Johnston Mackenzie, late of the 68th Light Infantry.
PROWETT.—On the 24th inst., at Thurloe House, Wandsworth Road, David Prowett, Paymaster R.N., in his 91st year.