

The Medical Chronicle.

LICET OMNIBUS, LICET NOBIS DIGNITATEM ARTIS MEDICÆ TUERI.

MEDICAL MATTERS IN THE CRIMEA.

"From some letters in the Medical Times and Gazette, it appears that the ambulance corps has been a failure. The debauched old pensioners, of whom it was mainly composed, were swept away by the cholera at Varua. The carriages even were not in the field at Alma; the wounded had to be carried to the beach, a distance of two miles and a half, on stretchers, or mostly on such temporary contrivances as seamen's hammocks slung on oars. One thousand seamen were employed for three successive days in carrying the wounded to the beach. All the disengaged medical officers of the fleet were likewise employed in whatever way they could make themselves useful; and yet a great number of the amputations were secondary; indeed, many capital operations remained to be performed on board the transports in the voyage down to Scutari. Only one army officer was detached to accompany the more than 2,000 wounded and sick sent to Constantinople after Alma. The naval men went with them cheerfully, and laboured night and day for the poor fellows. Yet Lord Raglan, in his dispatch, mentions only the services of the executive officers and seamen. There is not a word said in that or any subsequent dispatch of poor Mackenzie even, who, having accompanied the army as an amateur, laboured hard after Alma, performing brilliantly many most important operations on the field. A few days after Alma, he died of choleraic diarrhœa, brought on by fatigue, hardship, and privation. But, if the "commander of the forces" has been unmindful of these professional services to his army, the brave wounded men of the battle of Alma, both officers and privates, have not been ungrateful. They have been loud in their expression of thanks to the medical officers of the navy. That old war-surgeon, Guthrie, has always contended that there is no hemorrhage from gunshot wounds. Alma has borne him out. Some of the wounded were not brought in till the third day; yet I heard of no deaths from loss of blood. When a man wounded, however slightly I would say, in any of the extremities, than the limb is immediately strangulated by a rude contrivance called a temporary tourniquet—of which there are hundreds distributed about the "quarters" in all ships. No great harm is done, as, fortunately, medical assistance is always at hand in men-of-war. Not long ago, a marine, in one of the ships in this fleet, having cut his throat, and the circumstance being reported to the mate of the watch, his first expedient was to call for a tourniquet! • •