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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications and reports solicited. Correspondents must accompany letters, if intended to be printed anonymously, with their proper signature, as a guarantee of good faith.

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POSTAGE ON THE MEDICAL TIMES.—The rate of postage on the Medical Times is Five Cents per quarter.

The Hospital Sunday movement finds an advocate in the United States in the *Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal*, which is anxious that some such plan should be introduced in Buffalo for the support of the local charities.

The London *Lancet* speaks of the Canadian camp at Wimbledon as one of the greatest attractions for the public who visited Wimbledon Common during the fortnight's "campaign." A small hospital and an ambulance waggon, which attended the field movements of the volunteers, formed a feature at this gathering of riflemen.

At the same time that the Canadian Medical Association is sitting at St. John, New Brunswick, the British Medical Association holds its annual meeting in London. The programme shows that the meetings of the British Medical Association will be held at King's College, Strand, under the presidency of Sir William Fergusson, who was to deliver the inaugural address on Tuesday, Aug. 5. Dr. Parkes, of Netley, was to deliver the address in Medicine on the afternoon following; an address in Surgery by Prof. Wood, and one in Physiology by Prof. Bardon Sander-son, were arranged for succeeding days. The Lord Mayor had made arrangements to give the Association a reception.

The £27,000 collected in London on "Hospital Sunday" has been distributed to 126 institutions, viz. hospitals 64, dispensaries 47, other institutions 15. The hospitals are to receive £24,571; the dispensaries £967, and the other institutions £881, or as much more in proportion as the completed sum will yield. The sums awarded to hospitals vary from £3,833 to the London Hospital, to £19 to the Hospital for Hip Diseases in Children. The average sum awarded to hospitals is £383, that to dispensaries £20. The dispensaries appear to have received comparatively small awards. The Distribution Committee has no doubt had a very invidious task to perform, and ought to be judged generously in this its first effort to divide so large a sum among so many claimants.

The new St. Thomas's Hospital in London is a magnificent range of pavilions, but its cost has been enormous. The site on the Thames embankment alone cost £148,545; the buildings have cost £783,948; the furniture upwards of £10,000; and the entire outlay has been more than

half a million of money—in exact figures, £552,000. Of this sum the museum and medical school are chargeable with £30,000. The hospital is designed for 600 beds, and deducting the cost of site, medical school, etc., the cost per bed has been £530. This is undoubtedly a high rate, but the hospital has been intentionally constructed on a scale of great magnitude and completeness; and it forms a striking monument of the munificence of British charity, and of that Christian enterprise which is a feature of our modern civilization, and which finds no counterpart in the boasted civilization of ancient Greece and Rome. The Londoners may well be proud of St. Thomas's Hospital.

A great war always forms an era in medical and surgical history. Not only military surgery and military medicine and hygiene gain by the enlarged experience of campaigns, but civil medicine also reaps an advantage from the rapid accumulation of experience derived from a great war. The Crimean war did much to revive military surgery among British practitioners, scarcely cultivated as it had been since the days of Cooper and Guthrie, and dating almost all its annals to the Peninsular campaigns of Wellington; then the Schleswig-Holstein campaign, and later the Prusso-Austrian campaigns, gave their contributions to military surgery. The great American civil war of 1861-65 was most fruitful of lessons in all the departments of hygiene, medicine, and surgery. So, also, the more recent war between France and Prussia teemed with results that have served to advance the medical art.

It does not always happen, however, that the full benefit of this experience is speedily available to the general profession. Bit by bit, the more remarkable points are given in articles contributed to the magazines and journals. Sometimes we find these contributions taking a larger form and appearing in the shape of a book written by some distinguished or experienced surgeon. Later on the salient points of these contributions are incorporated in the newer editions of text-books, and so become fixed in science. A great deal of experience thus gained, however, falls of publicity, and so makes no impress on our collective knowledge.

Great wisdom and liberality have been shown by the United States government in seeking to turn to proper account the immense accumulations of the civil war. Reports have been kept and official reports carefully compiled; an army museum has been established and arranged, which is rich in pathological and surgical specimens acquired during the war; and, lastly, a full and careful history has been prepared at the public expense, giving to the world a detailed account of the medical and surgical history of the war. In this way the observations and progress made during the war will become common property.

The first instalments of this history have recently made their appearance in two handsome Royal quarto volumes, issued from the government printing office at Washington. One of these volumes is devoted to the Medical History of the war, and has been prepared by Assistant

Surgeon J. J. Woodward, having an appendix of reports, edited by Dr. Woodward and Assistant Surgeon George A. Otis. There are some eleven hundred pages of reading matter in this volume. It is the first of three or more intended to embrace the medical history of the war. The Surgical History is a volume of upwards of eight hundred pages, which has been prepared by Dr. Otis of the U. S. Army. The whole work has been prepared under the direction of Surgeon General Barnes.

These magnificent volumes contain an immense array of facts, which must ever remain as important contributions to medical and surgical knowledge. It is not intended to refer in this place to the order and contents of the books, but more particularly to note that the American government has been very profuse in bestowing copies of this great work. Indeed, it is already reported that nearly the entire issue has been given away, so that it becomes a matter of regret that the work is not to be obtained by purchase. It appears that Members of Congress have received presentation copies intended for distribution in their respective districts, and these presents have consumed nearly the entire edition. There are many surgeons out of the United States who would gladly obtain a copy by purchasing it from a publisher, but this want appears to have been overlooked; and it is only by picking up odd copies from Congressmen and others willing to part with them that they can be obtained. This inconvenience is much to be regretted. We should imagine, however, that it has only to be brought to the notice of the American authorities to be remedied as far as possible, say by supplying a reissue at cost price to a publishing firm, or by the department having charge of public documents undertaking to sell and forward copies at a fixed price.

Our contemporary the *Canada Lancet*, referring to the withdrawal of the Homoeopaths from the Medical Council and the probable establishment of a separate board for themselves, says:—"Come what may, we must insist upon an uniform standard of matriculation for all; also an uniform curriculum and examination in all branches common to the various schools, on such subjects as anatomy, physiology, chemistry, diagnosis and pathology, medical jurisprudence and toxicology, sanitary science and botany. The students may then be passed to either section—[The *C. L.* contemplates a division of the Council into sections]—to be dealt with as such body may deem proper. We believe this is the only plan which will give satisfaction; each section of the profession will then have full control of the final education and registration of its own students; but the same matriculation and primary examination on the above subjects should be undergone by all."

A plan like this would no doubt be satisfactory to the general profession, and its justice ought to commend it to the Legislature; but would it satisfy the Homoeopaths? We think not, for the reason that it would operate, as essentially the same arrangement has operated during the