

line of the reading columns to the cause of professional truth and honor."

We know nothing about the other side of the case, and cannot therefore say anything as to the reasons which influenced the trustees in their course. We are sorry that a man like Dr. Gould should be subjected to such treatment. He certainly has great ability and a proper conception of respectable medical journalism; but we fear that he has certain peculiarities or idiosyncrasies of disposition and temper which make it somewhat difficult for any aggregation of ordinary mortals to live comfortably in the same house with him.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN HOSPITALS COMMISSION.

We have, on more than one occasion, referred to the committee appointed by the British Parliament to enquire into the treatment of the sick and wounded in South Africa. The chairman of this committee was Lord Justice Romer, and associated with him were two laymen, and two representatives of the profession. The commission was called into existence on account of the "sensational and hysterical statements" of Mr. Burdette-Coutts.

It is generally admitted that the sick and wounded were not always properly cared for, but, at the same time, it is generally denied that they were wilfully neglected. The difficulties of the situation were sometimes remarkable. Surgeon-General Hamilton referred to some of these at the last meeting of the British Medical Association. He said, "they must all remember that their troops, unfortunately, were bottled up on the river at Paardeberg, drinking literally diluted—he might almost say essence of—Boer and mule." The water which the soldiers drank for some time at that place was practically putrid. One of the witnesses stated before the commission that in one hospital, where there were five hundred beds, they had to care for eighteen hundred sick. One of the witnesses was Dr. Ryerson, of Toronto, who very emphatically denied the charges of neglect and inefficiency made by Mr. Burdette-Coutts.

The Royal Commission, after a very careful investigation, has recently issued its report, the tenor of which is that, review-