

sent momentous siege, from Lord Raglan to the youngest Assistant Surgeon and Commissariat Clerk. Lord Raglan will, doubtless, be able to defend himself at a fitting time, and the Commissariat will also, I presume, do the same. I wish to say a word or two for the Medical Department, in which I have passed the greater part of my life.

It is well known, that since the peace of 1815, a most rigid economy has ruled in the War Office, and indeed pervaded almost every branch of the Government. Curtailing expense and saving money have been the dominant motives with the Secretary at War, and I have been informed, and believe, that his clerks have had a direct interest in this, receiving a per centage on all reductions they could discover or effect. Under this influence, the Medical Department, and doubtless others, have been reduced to a state of inefficiency, on the occurrence of any emergency, during the long peace we have enjoyed. This has been demonstrated, as relates to the former, in the course of several distressing epidemics of yellow fever and cholera. Yet, when war with such a power as Russia was impending, it seems to have been considered impertinent to enquire whether our emasculated establishments were adequate to meet the great danger.

When the Eastern Expedition had been determined on, and was in course of preparation, Dr. Andrew Smith, the Director-General of the Medical Department, was kept in the dark, and received imperfect information from Government, both as to the strength and destination of the troops. In February 1854, he was directed by the Duke of Newcastle to afford medical aid, medicines, &c., to a force 10,000 men going to Malta; a fortnight afterwards he was officially informed that this force would be doubled, and would proceed to Constantinople. He had scarcely time to begin to act on this communication when he received a third intimation, viz., that 30,000 men would go to Constantinople, and ultimately to Varna.

Under these circumstances Dr. Smith appears to have exerted himself in a very zealous and judicious manner. He selected some of the best and most active officers under his command at home, and warned them to prepare for immediate embarkation to Malta, and called from the colonies others to take their duties. He prepared a large stock of medicines, and surgical appliances, such as lint, bandages, &c., for the same destination, and according to his orders sent them to the Tower for shipment. When Dr. Smith was informed that the force would be doubled, and tripled, he proposed two additional supplies of medicines, for Constantinople and Varna, increased the number of medical officers to accompany the expedition, and ordered nearly every cavalry Assistant-Surgeon to do the same.