

Army Medical School, Netley.

Contributors

Army Medical School (Great Britain)

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ARMY MEDICAL SCHOOL, NETLEY.

THE prizes were distributed at Netley on 3d February 1879, at the conclusion of the thirty-seventh session of the Army Medical School, by Surgeon-General Sir J. Fayrer, K.C.S.I., LL.D., M.D., F.R.S., in the presence of Surgeon-General Massey, C.B., the P. M. O., the Commandant, the Professors, and a number of military and medical officers and visitors.

The following is a list of the successful candidates for commissions as surgeons in Her Majesty's Indian medical service, including the recipients of prizes:—

No.	Name	Marks.	No.	Name.	Marks.
1.	Sweeny, T. H. * †	5171	9.	Briggs, H. B.	4246
2.	Barry, D. F. **	5115	10.	Carson, W. P.	4235
3.	Harris, G. F. A.	5093	11.	Faulkner, A. S.	3836
4.	Anderson, J.	5073	12.	Mallins, C.	3834
5.	Bamber, C. J.	4618	13.	Damla, E. M.	3236
6.	O'Dwyer, M.	4604	14.	Allen, R. M.	3186
7.	Dumbleton, E. H.	4415	15.	Carruthers, H. St C.	3089
8.	Lowdell, C. G. W.	4264			

* Gained the Parkes Memorial Bronze Medal.

† Gained the Herbert Prize.

** Gained the Martin Memorial Medal.

The following were the successful candidates for commissions as surgeons in the medical service of the Royal Navy:—

No.	Name.	Marks.
1.	French, A. M.	3507
2.	Williams, E. H.	3504
3.	Fergusson, E.	3176

Sir J. Fayrer, after distributing the prizes, addressed them nearly as follows:—

Having completed the agreeable duty of distributing prizes to those who have earned those honourable distinctions, I now turn to that of addressing a few words to you on the completion of your studies at Netley, and on the eve of your departure to commence the work of your professional life.

I desire, first of all, to offer my congratulations to the Principal, the Professors, and the medical officers of the Army Medical School on the successful completion of another term, and on the very marked evidence afforded by the report that has just been read, that this institution continues to maintain its high standard of utility, and the candidates the discipline and conduct that becomes their position. I would also take this opportunity of warmly congratulating Surgeon-General M'Lean on his restoration to health, and express a sincere hope that his valuable services may long be continued to the institution, of which he has been for so many years its principal support, and a brilliant ornament.

I feel sure that no one can have seen this school and hospital, with its splendid appliances and machinery for medical education of a special kind, without recognising the great power it must exercise for good on the sanitary welfare of our army and navy, the civil

population of our colonies, and of India ; nor can he have failed to observe how great is its capacity for even extended utility. For my own part, I have always longed to see it take a much more prominent part than it does at present in the education and final training of our young medical officers, and I hope the time may come when it will extend its instruction to a greater number, and over a longer period of time to each individual.

Among many rumours that have gone abroad in relation to impending changes in the medical service, there has been one that pointed to the abolition of the school altogether. I can hardly believe that a step so fatal to the best interests of the service should have ever been contemplated, or that if it had, it would ever have been carried into effect. I believe that no such future awaits it, but that it will rather increase in importance and extend its usefulness ; that it will not only continue to maintain its present position as a great army and naval medical school, but I even hope that, as a sort of medical staff college, it will become more and more the resort of medical officers, who may here have the opportunity of renewing their knowledge, of keeping themselves abreast of the rapidly-advancing progress of medical science, and of fitting themselves for those special appointments that are so frequently occurring in the services, especially in India.

Times have been unfavourable of late years with the medical services, and many reasons have been assigned for the decadence. This is neither the place nor the time to discuss them or their results, especially when we have every reason to hope and believe that a better prospect is near. This only I would say, that the position of the military or naval medical officers ought to be such as to command an abundant supply of the *élite* of our universities and medical schools, and that it will do so when certain obstacles, which there is reason to hope will be removed, are out of the way.

Gentlemen, I believe a good time is coming, and I trust you will prove yourselves equal to support and do it credit when it arrives ; and here I may say to you, what perhaps one not of your own service and profession neither could nor would say, that as some of the difficulties which have stood in the way of progress may have originated in the service itself, how greatly it behoves you all to see that such difficulties should in future be avoided. Important public duties involving great responsibility, if performed by men of education who are of accord in maintaining their self-respect and the dignity of their office in a spirit of unselfish loyalty, must command public esteem and respect, and must also bring social and official consideration and standing. Wanting these attributes, however high the esteem in which *individuals* may be held, that esteem will not be extended to them collectively as a service. I can imagine nothing better calculated than the training at Netley to imbue, foster, and develop that spirit, without which there can be no sustained well-being or real stability in any public service. These are merely *hints*. I leave it to you to make the application.

Gentlemen, I have to congratulate two of your number on the

acquisition of prizes all bearing the names of men who deserved well of their country, and who may rightly be held up to you and other young men, in whatever walk of life, as models for imitation. I trust the success implied in the winning of these prizes may attend you through life ; but I would ask you in the future not to regard them merely as souvenirs of a successful career at college, but rather let them act as incentives towards the attainment of that which made Sydney Herbert, Ranald Martin, and Edmund Parkes names of honour and respect wherever they are known, and that may in time to come perchance reflect lustre on your own names. All cannot win prizes, but all must have done well, that you are here at all proves it. I would just say to those who have been less successful than others, that there are many prizes in the career before you if you will take advantage of the opportunities that may offer. I do not undervalue college prizes—far from it, but I am bound to say that I have known men who, if they won none as students, gave signal proof in their after-lives that it was not from lack of ability. I have heard it said that the public services offer no inducement, that they are one dull level of monotonous equality, and that talent, energy, zeal, and the like, do little, or are of no avail more than mere good behaviour and compliance with official decorum and routine. I think this is hardly true here ; I am sure it is not in India. When I had the honour, four years ago, of addressing a similar audience here, I gave a sketch of the nature of the Indian medical service, and the appointments it offers to them who will try for them. I might repeat what I then said, but I shall content myself by saying that such appointments still exist ; and I think if some of those I then spoke to were here now, they would say I did not mislead them. I do not mean to say that good appointments are to be picked up without effort, or as blackberries may be gathered from every bush, but that they are sufficiently numerous to offer a fair prospect of success to all who really work for them.

Do not suppose there are no drawbacks in the Indian medical service. Climate, expatriation, separation from friends, would all refute the assertion if I made it. There are many appointments, too, with the bare military pay of the rank, and they are not very lucrative ; but still I assert with confidence, that no medical service in the world offers better prospect of professional advancement, and even pecuniary success. I need not, I suppose, remind you—you have doubtless found it out long ago—that in no case can one look for much wealth, or rise to high place in the scale of public honours ; but these, after all, are not everything : you may look to a useful and honourable life, to professional eminence, to the esteem and respect of others, and perhaps to the consciousness that you have done your duty to your fellow-men in a fashion that falls to the lot of no other profession (save one) to perform. As public medical officers you are charged with the life and health of our soldiers, our sailors, and sometimes of large civil populations, for whom you have to fight the great battle of disease, and against whose

inroads you have to defend the fortress of health. In India your responsibilities are very great, for you will find yourselves charged with extensive duties, and your experiences will be varied. Remember (as I said on a former occasion) that you are not merely the medical officers of the army there. You are the medical profession of a country as large as Europe, excluding Russia, and to some of you will be entrusted the duty of advising Government on the sanitary welfare of 240,000,000 of people. You will be the educational staff of the colleges, the consulting physicians and surgeons of the great centres of population. You will have charge of armies in the field and in garrison, to say nothing of a variety of other civil and military appointments that I cannot stay to enumerate. You will at least have a competency that makes you independent. If you are fortunate, you will have much more. You become entitled, after certain periods of service, to pensions for yourselves and your families, which, if not great, are certainly as good as the pensions of any other medical service; and you may hope to return to your native country at a time of life when you may still be useful to your friends, to yourselves, and to your profession. This is not such a bad prospect! In some respects, perhaps, the Indian medical service has fallen from its former high estate, but it still holds out prizes, and I can honestly say, after many years' experience, that I have not known any really good man to fail in the end. As to climate, with care and moderation in all things, you will probably preserve your health sufficiently to find yourselves equal to those of your own age at home, when you retire from the service.

Gentlemen, my remarks have been addressed chiefly to the Indian medical candidates. I have said little in reference to the British section of the service, for the simple reason that there are no candidates for that service to say anything to. I sincerely hope and believe that this is the last occasion on which he who addresses the Army Medical School will have to make this remark, and that at future distributions my successors will have the gratification of speaking to benches overflowing with candidates for all the three services. There is, indeed, reason, I hope, to think that it will be so. To my naval friends I have only to add that I offer them my best wishes for their success. To those, and there are such, who say that the naval medical service is not a hopeful one, I can only say that it is vastly better than it was when I belonged to it, and that it is still improving; and I would ask where Spencer Wells, Huxley, Hooker, and Macdonald were trained. It is a noble service, gentlemen, and your department of it is an important one. Be true to yourselves, be zealous officers and earnest workers, and loyal gentlemen, and rest assured that you will find in it, like the sister services, a field for an honourable career. I must not detain you longer. It only remains to wish you all prosperity and success in your respective services.—(*Reprinted from the Edinburgh Medical Journal for March 1879.*)



