

Mr. W. G. Sutcliffe, F.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., and Mr. W. Redpath, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., who arrived at Bulawayo upon June 4th, having experienced considerable difficulty in the matter of transport on the way. Both surgeons saw a good deal of rough work, being several times under fire, and from sundry letters published in the report their services appear to have been warmly appreciated by the authorities, both civil and military. Mr. Sutcliffe has an interesting little note about the comparative effects of the Martini, Snider, and Lee-Metford bullets. The two first do the most damage to the tissues. "The few Lee-Metford wounds that have come under my charge have done very little actual damage. In one case a man was shot nearly a week ago through the right lung, the bullet coming out behind through the scapula, and making a perfectly clean cut which has completely healed, and the man will soon be fit for work again." It should be noted with approval that the names of these gentlemen have been placed on the Medal Roll of the Medical Staff Corps in view of the possibility of a medal being granted to those who have served in the campaign.

IMMATURE INFANTS IN FRANCE.

THAT the threatening depopulation of France is a most serious misfortune against which our neighbours are striving in a variety of ways and with greater or less success, cannot, unfortunately, be gainsaid, but even in this lamentable case the old proverb, "Tis an ill wind that blows nobody good," may be applied with perfect accuracy. A persistently diminishing birth-rate might well be looked upon as an evil out of which no benefit could possibly arise, and yet with respect to one fragile, but by no means unimportant, section of the French community the national unfruitfulness has proved itself to be a veritable blessing in disguise. The heretofore forlorn beings who have thus fortuitously derived benefit from the general calamity are the newly born infants, who from various causes, but chiefly by reason of their premature appearance on the scene, are peculiarly unfitted to withstand

"the thousand natural shocks
That flesh is heir to."

Formerly no very serious efforts were made to prolong the ephemeral existence of these unwelcome little strangers. They were rather hopelessly allowed to pine away and die, under the impression that they could not possibly survive, but human life has of late become so valuable in France that no breathing waif need now be abandoned as an irretrievable derelict. Little children have ever been esteemed the most precious of human possessions all the world over, but it was reserved for an energetic Frenchman to set the seal upon this preciousness by conserving the immature specimens in glass cases. That this is simply a statement of fact many of our readers are doubtless already aware, but should there be any questioners among them they have merely to pay a visit to No. 26, Boulevard Poissonnière, Paris, in order to obtain resolution of their doubts by ocular demonstration. At that address, under the designation "Euvre Maternelle des Couveuses d'Enfants," they will find a truly remarkable institution, which owes its inception and development to the zeal and philanthropy of Dr. Alexandre Lion of Nice. Ruminating one day on the perilous condition of his country from a demographic point of view, it struck this patriotic and humane member of the medical profession that the holocaust among prematurely born infants would be largely diminished if the helpless atoms could only be kept sufficiently warm. Accordingly, in 1891 he invented his *couveuse*, or modified incubator, which may briefly be described as a woven wire mattress suspended in a glass case, the latter being heated by a water coil and kept sweet and wholesome by a constant inflow of purified filtered air. The success attending on this new departure in infant life

preservation has been surprising. A prematurely born child, if exempt from hereditary disease, never dies in Dr. Lion's institute provided it weighs not less than two and a quarter pounds—that is, about one-third of the normal standard—and provided, also, that its installation in the *couveuse* is accomplished with the least possible delay and exposure. At this stage of the untimely bud's frail existence a chill is almost certainly fatal, so the transfer from the lying-in bed cannot take place too soon or be carried out too carefully. The theory that immature infants require exceptional warmth is, of course, not a new one. Every midwife knows the importance in such cases of immediate swaddling; and children born before their time, whose survival was regarded as well-nigh hopeless, have ere now been saved by such devices as envelopment in newly-flayed skins, the utilisation as cradles of freshly eviscerated sheep and goats, &c. The inventor of the *couveuse*, nevertheless, amply deserves the lion's share of the credit, not merely on account of his ingenious amplification of a well-known principle, but also for his untiring advocacy and capable organisation.

THE IRRUPTION OF TEETH INTO THE NOSE.

In the *New York Medical Journal* for Dec. 26th Dr. Alexander McCoy publishes a series of cases illustrating the irruption of the teeth into the nasal cavities. This painful and fortunately rare condition, he observes, is attributable, as a rule, either to abnormal development with rotation of the dental germ—the enamel growing upward instead of downward—or to extra-follicular development. A case originating in traumatic displacement of the normally irrupted tooth is also recorded. As a rule, the floor of the nasal passage is the seat of the invasion the enameled crown presenting, though extra-follicular irruption at a higher point is also recorded. As might be expected, the offender is usually a front tooth, incisor or canine, but others as far back as the wisdom teeth have been found thus displaced. The clinical interest attaching to cases of this kind is largely that of secondary disturbances which comprise local necrosis, with suppuration consequent on the boring action of a hard body travelling through previously-formed bone, otitis, and even laryngeal spasm. The journey performed by such erratic teeth is sometimes neither short nor rapid. In one case, as read by the light of symptoms, a wisdom tooth appears to have made its way during a period of thirty years through the alveolus into the antrum of Highmore and thence by ulcerative inflammation through the lateral nasal wall and inferior turbinated bone on to the nasal floor, whence it was ejected.

In the Court of Appeal, on Jan. 13th, the application for a new trial in the case of *Besty v. Cullingworth* was heard before the Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Lopes, and Lord Justice Chitty. Their lordships dismissed the appeal without calling on counsel for the defendant.

THE Russian Academy of Science has elected Lord Kelvin an honorary member and Lord Rayleigh and Professor Bury of Dublin University corresponding members. Dr. Simon Newcomb of Washington, the American astronomer, was also elected an honorary member.

THE death, on the 12th inst., is announced of Deputy Inspector-General (Bengal Army) F. J. Mouat, M.D. Edin., F.R.C.S. Eng. The deceased was formerly also Inspector-General of Prisons, Bengal, and a Local Government Board Inspector.

THE Colonial Office announce that sufficient applications have now been received from candidates for vacant appointments at Lagos and on the Gold Coast.