

### Annotations.

#### THE RELIEF OF PEKIN.

It is not too much to say that the whole civilised world is rejoicing at the confirmation of the news of the relief of Peking by the allies. During the weeks of suspense in which the gallant defence against fearful odds has been maintained by the heroic defenders of the Legations, our hopes of their safety have again and again sunk to zero. So circumstantial indeed did the reports of wholesale massacre appear to be that a memorial service for those who had fallen was arranged and advertised to take place in St. Paul's Cathedral, and was only given up at the eleventh hour in consequence of conflicting reports. But at last there is no room to doubt that the Legations are saved. The news has been received with curious quietness in London, probably because there have been so many rumours and counter rumours that we are slow to believe the truth. Still, when one thinks of the enthusiasm of Mafeking Day, the contrast is remarkable, for had this gallant little town fallen, its defenders would at least have been treated as prisoners of war, whereas the fall of the Legations at Peking would have meant massacre, torture, and worse for men, women and children.

#### THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

The names of the new Senate of the London University, appointed by the Crown, are:— Lord Davey, the Chairman of the Statutory Commission, D.C.L., F.R.S., the holder of various University honours, and a Lord Justice of Appeal; Sir Henry Roscoe, F.R.S.; Sir J. Wolfe Barry, F.R.S.; Mrs. Sidgwick, formerly Principal of Newnham College, and member of the Royal Commission on Secondary Education; and the Hon. W. P. Reeves, Agent-General for New Zealand. It is a matter for congratulation that the Crown has recognized the propriety of appointing a woman as a member of the Senate, and Mrs. Sidgwick's appointment will be welcomed by many. The selection is a most happy one. Further, the appointment of the Agent General for New Zealand, whose liberal attitude towards women is well known, will be hailed with much satisfaction, and will ensure consideration for the interests of Greater Britain. The College of Physicians will be represented by Dr. Pye Smith, F.R.S., and Dr. Allchin, and the London County Council by Dr. Collins and Mr. Sidney Webb.

#### THE MIDWIFERY QUESTION.

At the quarterly meeting of the Medical Guild held recently at the Medical Common Room, 64, Bridge Street, Deansgate, Manchester, a resolution was carried instructing the Council to take into consideration the drawing up of a scheme for the "protection of parturient women and newly born children with a view to legislation." The Council has appointed a Sub-committee, to which Mr. G. H. Broadbent is Hon. Sec., to deal with the question. The views of the promoters of this scheme are that as far as possible the skill of those legally registered to practise medicine, surgery, and midwifery should be placed by the State at the disposal of every parturient woman. With the object of attaining this end it is suggested that public obstetricians should be appointed in all districts, just as public vaccinators are at present paid by the State. The Committee desires to receive suggestions on the subject in order that they may arrive at a sound and lasting conclusion upon it.

#### MORE RED TAPE.

The following account of the eccentricities of the War Office, in the interests of red tape, is given by an Indian paper. Some months ago (so runs the story) the husband of a lady living near Calcutta went to South Africa as a Volunteer. His wife, not getting any news of him, made private inquiries in the matter. From these she presently learned that he had fallen in action somewhere in Natal during the earlier stages of the war. Thereupon she promptly wrote to the military authorities asking if there was any proof in the report. After subjecting the anxious inquirer to a suitable and dignified delay, a Pall Mall clerk condescended to inform her that her surmise was correct, in that her husband had been killed seven months ago in the relief of Ladysmith. Accompanying this information was a printed form, demanding, on the part of "the Department," information in turn. Among the queries thus asked were these: (1) Who was your husband? (2) What regiment did he belong to? (3) Where is he stationed now? (4) If dead, where did he die? and finally (5) What is your object in inquiring about him? The document concluded with the intimation that unless the foregoing questions were answered in detail no reply would be vouchsafed!

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)