

poor. The central attraction of the exhibition consists of two fine pictures by Sir Edwin Landseer, which have been lent by the Earl of Tankerville. One of these is a picture of the famous Chillingham cattle, and the other of deer. Another interesting feature is a collection of very pleasing sketches by Lady Tankerville, illustrative of a tour from Cowes to Cyprus which she made with her daughters. By way of catalogue to the exhibition, the Earl of Tankerville has written an entertaining pamphlet, entitled "Reminiscences of Life in the Highlands." The exhibition will remain open until June 2.

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PRINCESS CHRISTIAN has consented to open Miss Meredith Brown's Institute and Labour Home for Lads, in Lisson Grove, on Saturday, June 6, at four o'clock.

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LADY DUFFERIN'S concert, in aid of her fund for supplying medical relief to the women of India, will take place at Grosvenor House (by kind permission of the Duke of Westminster, on Friday afternoon, June 5, at 3.30 o'clock. The following artistes have kindly promised their services—Madame Nordica, Signor Sgambati, Mr. and Mrs. Scott Gatty, M. Eugene Oudin, Herr Johannes Wolff, Herr Joseph Hollman, and Mr. Wilhelm Ganz. Tickets, at one guinea each, may be obtained from the Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, 46, Cadogan Square, S.W.; and from Percy Armitage, Esq., 1A, Wilton Place, Belgrave Square.

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DR. SEDGWICK SAUNDERS, the medical officer of health for the City of London, has submitted to the City Commission of Sewers a report on the alleged insanitary condition of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He states that on searching the City records of mortality he found that only six deaths from diseases of a zymotic class had occurred there during the last twelve years among the permanent residents. He refers to the offer he made to conduct an exhaustive investigation into the drainage of the hospital and to the fact that that investigation was subsequently intrusted to and made by Dr. Thorne Thorne, of the Local Government Board. Dr. Thorne Thorne's report disclosed defects in the sanitary arrangements of various parts of the hospital and its surroundings, and made recommendations as to necessary improvements. At the same time he stated that, although these defects existed, not a single case of disease which had been treated within the walls could be traced to them, an opinion which was confirmed by Sir W. Savory and all the members of the medical and surgical staff.

MR. FELL-PEASE (M.P. for Darlington), the introducer of the Midwives Registration Bill, writes to the *British Medical Journal*:—"Sir,—As this Bill has frequently been discussed in the columns of the *British Medical Journal*, perhaps you will kindly allow me a word of explanation as to why the promoters have withdrawn the Bill from the papers of the House. I may say at once it was not for the reason that there is any less desire for a good measure dealing with the question, as they believe the opposition comes from a comparatively small number of members of the profession, as is evidenced by the numbers both of the petitions against the Bill and the signatures attached thereto. On the other hand, most of the principal Obstetricians and others have warmly supported the Bill, or a modification of it, and the deputations both of Doctors and ladies who waited upon the Lord President of the Council were so fully convinced that a Select Committee would be granted at an early day next session that the promoters deemed it much wiser to withdraw a Bill which pressure of public business prevented from being properly discussed this session, with the determination, if possible, of pressing forward the measure to a conclusion next session, and they feel confident of success when they again take up the matter. In the meantime any improvements which may be suggested in the Bill will be fully considered and, if possible, adopted.—I am, &c., H. FELL-PEASE."

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THE following letter from Dr. Farquharson on the same subject is interesting: "Sir,—Perhaps my 'interpretation' of Lord Cranbrook's speech was 'erroneous,' but it was shared by others, and was, I still venture to think, justified by the general drift and tone of his remarks. Of course no Minister, and certainly not an 'old parliamentary hand' like the Lord President of the Council, would give an *actual* 'pledge' to a deputation on a controversial question like the Midwives' Bill, but reading between as well as on the lines of his words, my impression was, and is, that he meant to convey to us some kind of 'virtual' or 'implied' understanding that if opportunity offered, and the circumstances of the time were favourable, he would grant a Select Committee to thresh out the whole subject. I have no means of information beyond what I actually heard, and the best plan now is to quote Lord Cranbrook's *ipsissima verba*, so that everyone may form his own conclusions. And if Dr. Rentoul will then kindly supply the text of his communication from the Lord President, the evidence will be complete.—I am, &c., ROBERT FARQUHARSON."

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