

without capital whose only chance of obtaining a practice of his own is by getting an appointment to commence with and so work on? Is this man for ever to be only an assistant because, in the opinion of "M.R.C.S.," he has no right to apply for an appointment publicly advertised? Is it mean and unprofessional, as "M.R.C.S." says it is, for him to try for such an appointment? I think not. It is essentially in the village class of practice that it is most desirable that a good man should be selected, as he has in all cases of emergency to rely solely on his own resources; yet, according to "M.R.C.S.," this responsible post should be given to a man merely because he can put down so much money.

It is said that at the College of Surgeons of Edinburgh a candidate, on being rejected at his final examination, asked the examiners to reconsider their decision, on the ground that he was *only* going to be a ship's surgeon. "All the more reason," said one examiner, "that you should be thoroughly up in your work, as there you will have no one to assist you." This applies with equal force to a village practitioner, usually miles away from his nearest medical *confrère*, and, therefore, the best man should be selected and not necessarily the one who buys the practice.

I am, Sirs, faithfully yours,
M.R.C.P.

March 27th, 1893.

"CANCER PLASTERS."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Dr. S. W. Plummer in THE LANCET of March 25th calls attention to the serious consequences following the treatment of cancer by "quacks," and suggests "that if all such cases were reported it might lead to some more stringent regulations being adopted." In support of this suggestion, permit me to report a case now under my care in the Lincoln County Hospital. An ignorant woman has for some months (by false promises) misled the patient, who now, when it may be too late, has discovered her mistake. About six months after she first noticed a small lump in her right breast she consulted a medical man, who told her she had cancer and strongly recommended its removal. A month later she saw another medical man, who confirmed that opinion. Instead of following their advice, which would have saved her much suffering, she was persuaded by the quack woman to try her remedies, which, she declared, "would certainly cure the disease." For eight months, almost to the time of being admitted into the hospital, the patient continued the treatment by ointment, pills and medicine advised by this woman, at an average cost of 3s. per week, with the result that the tumour enormously increased, implicating skin, glands and muscles. A most extensive and serious operation was now found to be necessary. This was performed. Although every particle of disease has, so far as can be detected, been removed, yet the chances of recurrence are very great after such serious delay. This is but one case out of many, for the majority of cases of cancer—at any rate, in Lincolnshire—are allowed to advance till the chances of eradicating the disease are lost. Ought this reckless cause of suffering and loss of life to be allowed to continue unchecked?

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

W. J. CANT, L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S.,
Consulting Surgeon, Lincoln General Dispensary; Hon.
March 27th, 1893. Surgeon, Lincoln County Hospital.

MANCHESTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Termination of the Cotton Strike.

AFTER many months of fruitless struggle between employers and employed, a compromise has at length been agreed upon; the basis of settlement being a reduction of 7d. in the pound, or nearly 3 per cent., on the old rate of wages. Although the continuance of the strike through the winter months must have been attended by great privation to many thousands of Manchester cotton-hands, nevertheless there appears to have been no corresponding increase, either in the amount of pauperism or in the proportion of persons on the sick lists of the several medical charities of the city. Some explanation of this fact may be found in the circumstance that, although the battle between employers and men has been chiefly fought out in Manchester, nevertheless the districts chiefly affected by the strike are comprised within the areas of the smaller towns

just outside the cess area rather than within the boundaries of Manchester itself. It is to be hoped that the recent disputes between employers and employed will have borne fruit in at least one important direction. In the course of the several conferences which were held in Manchester with a view to a settlement of the points in dispute certain agreements were arrived at which, it is hoped, will prevent a recurrence of such profitless squabbles in future. For instance, the appointment of a standing consultative committee has been decided upon, fully representative of the interests alike of masters and men, who will confer from time to time on all matters affecting the interests of the several branches of the cotton trade and make known their recommendations in the proper quarter. If this arrangement be faithfully and loyally carried out by all parties concerned there is every hope that we have seen the last of these disastrous and discreditable interferences with commerce in Lancashire and its vicinity.

The Small-pox Epidemic.

As yet there are no indications that the end of the small-pox epidemic is approaching. The reported cases within the three weeks ending March 18th have steadily increased from ten per week to twenty-nine, and although in the week ending on Saturday last the numbers reported did not exceed nine, nevertheless the distribution of infection seems still to be very general, and at least eight of the eleven sanitary areas of the city are reported to have sent cases to hospital within the last few weeks. As is the case elsewhere, the workhouse tramp wards and common lodging houses of the city are the places from which most of the cases of small-pox are removed; and although it is true that these places are, or may be, fairly well kept under supervision by the authorities, still it remains the fact that persons of the common lodging-house or "tramp" class are difficult to deal with and, because of their nomadic habits, are peculiarly liable to carry infection with them from infected to non-infected localities. Revaccination does not seem as yet to have been had recourse to by the poorer class of Manchester residents to anything like the extent which is necessary for their efficient protection against small-pox. The guardians of the three unions constituting the city have been very active in issuing printed notices and in making special arrangements with the public vaccinators, but hitherto the official reports show that, practically, revaccination has been almost entirely neglected by the class of people who are most in need of protection. But although the legally constituted authorities for the promotion of revaccination are less successful than one could wish, it is satisfactory to find that the Jewish Board of Guardians, a voluntary association for the relief of the poor belonging to that community, have been much more successful. The expedient adopted by this enterprising board is that of making the granting of relief at the feast of the Passover conditional on the production by the candidate of a medical certificate to the effect that both he and his family have been vaccinated or revaccinated, as the case may be; and as the operation is performed by all the public vaccinators free of charge the regulation of the board inflicts hardship on no one.

Manchester Guardians and the Cancer Hospital.

In a recent letter I commented on the addition to our local charities of a new hospital for the treatment of persons suffering from this terrible malady. At the last meeting of the Manchester guardians an application was made to the board on behalf of the funds of this charity. Although nothing has as yet been decided upon, it is certain that the guardians will eventually give the Stanley Hospital their support for the reason that many of the poor for whose care and treatment the board are responsible will be eligible for admission to the hospital wards or for treatment as out-patients of the institution.

Manchester Council and Cadishead Moss.

The Cleansing Committee of the city council have at length succeeded in providing themselves with a suitable area for the reception of the vast residual amount of night soil and other manurial refuse from the city of Manchester, which cannot now be sent to the Carrington Estate. Cadishead Moss is nearly two square miles in extent, and is situated between the Manchester and Liverpool turnpike road on the one hand and the L. and N.W. main line to Liverpool on the other. The land was reclaimed about thirty years since, and was divided under the powers of the Inclosure Commissioners Act amongst the freeholders of the district, the principal of