

voraciously of cabbage and herring, after being in a state of destitution; he had been employed only one night at the work. The second, an old man, (sixty,) had drank excessively of porter. The third became diseased from contagion in the house and court in which he lived; his wife and child sank under the disease previously.

I must now close this letter, and if you think it necessary to publish my name and address, you are at liberty to do so, but I prefer being, for the present, in obscurity.

July 29, 1850.

I am, yours respectfully,
A. B. C.

MEDICAL REFORM.

[MR. ALLISON IN ANSWER TO MR. PEPLOE CARTWRIGHT.]

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your number dated August 17th, (which number I did not receive until to-day, August 21st,) Mr. Cartwright has published his remarks upon a letter which I inserted in the *Provincial Journal* of July 10th, in reference to your balloting papers. Whether Mr. Cartwright intends to be ironical or complimentary towards me, I do not know.

My difficulty was, to understand how the success of either party of the voters under those papers could prevent the success of the other party; much less how the success of the first could prove a final settlement of the medical reform question. My assumption that Mr. Cartwright would vote for the proposal in the one or the other of those columns, to be acted upon, appears to have been erroneous; since I learn from his letter that he would not be satisfied with either mode of settlement.

Whenever I have inserted a letter, it has been "to state the apparent bearings of parties in medical reform" at the time of writing; and when I have misapprehended the movement of a party, or have misinterpreted their silence, I have been glad to bring out an elucidation and to gain information as to the correct groundwork upon which we might extend a useful discussion.

Mr. Cartwright has not been more fortunate in understanding what I have said (so I suppose I have not been sufficiently explicit), for he appears to expect that I should now adhere to observations which I meant to make, only under circumstances different from those now in existence. I beg, therefore, to suggest that our mutual explanations, by long letters, would be neither useful nor entertaining to your readers.

After the parliament had legislated for two special colleges, many years ago, the public made a class of medical men to suit their own convenience; and then the parliament legislated for that class of general practitioners; since which time, I dare say each of the special colleges has asked for, and has obtained, what was considered to be self-improvement, or at any rate, one of them has; but now, when the Society, either for the general practitioners or their licentiates, ask for a power to diffuse surgical and obstetrical knowledge amongst themselves to a greater extent under college regulations, I understand Mr. Cartwright to say, "We do not want any College for General Practitioners (for ourselves, if he be one of us); what we do want, is to be placed entirely under the power and control of one of the special colleges."

I may be wrong again in supposing that Mr. Cartwright thinks he is serving his own class; whilst he is, in reality, forsaking it to serve a special college.

It is quite immaterial how many plans are proposed to the parliament, if, instead of saying, "You must agree amongst yourselves before you seek legislation," they would consider the merits of those plans respectively, and would legislate according to their own judgment for the benefit of the public.

I am, Sir, yours very truly,
WILLIAM ALLISON.

East Retford, Aug. 21, 1850.

THE MEDICAL DIRECTORY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your notice of the *Medical Directory* for 1850, you said it was nearly perfect. I am far from thinking it so, and you will be doing the profession a service in pointing out where it errs grievously. For instance: if a man says he is a "M.R.C.S.E." or "L.A.C." the editor will not take his word—and very properly—unless he finds him on the lists; but if a person hold the diploma of M.B. or M.D., he has only to say he obtained it at such and such an university, and forthwith he appears a full-fledged graduate. Now, this is simply "a mockery, a delusion, and a snare,"—a perfect fraud upon the profession. What matters it

that a man who has never been out of England holds a Giessen or Erlangen degree—plenty of whom are in England? Why should such a man be allowed to figure beside regularly educated practitioners, because "he states whence it was obtained?"—Here the profession has a right to demand from the editor that guarantee which the College of Physicians gives by not allowing any candidate with a purchasable foreign diploma to appear before them without proofs that such person was really personally examined.

Let the Editor of the *Directory* demand proof, in the shape of signatures, from three respectable practitioners, certifying that "Dr." So-and-So, with the purchasable degree, really passed a personal examination, and the *Directory*, I venture to say, will be cleansed from some of the foul birds—the would-be M.D.'s.

Again, what guarantee has the public when an editor will absolutely permit a person to be inserted as "M.D." of a British university, whose name neither is nor was upon any list of such university? Yet such is the case with the *Directory* of last year. Persons are there placed as "M.D.'s" of the University of Edinburgh—of Trinity College, Dublin—of King's College, Aberdeen, &c., who are not in the list of, because they never passed an examination at, any of these places! Is not this monstrous negligence?

Let the editor, on getting a return of "M.D." with the name of an university, look to the list of such university, and not finding such name, let him write to such institution, and then, being assured of the false return, let him hold up all persons making such return to the scorn they deserve by publishing their names in the medical journals.

Regarding the resumption of "Gen. Pract.," I strongly object to it. Any person legally a physician or surgeon may call himself so, but any one taking the double trouble to obtain both diplomas should have the double honour, if any there be, and be styled according to the numbers of his qualifications, as "Physician and Surgeon," Physician, Surgeon, and Accoucheur, if he has passed an examination, and holds a diploma in midwifery, and so on.

"General Practitioner" is no proper designation. All practitioners in England practise generally—on men, women, and children; for strictures, uterine disease, and measles; for coughs, imposthumes, and ovarian perplexities.

CHIRURGUS.

CHOREA AND HIP-DISEASE.—PROFESSIONAL ETIQUETTE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Mr. G. L. Cooper has delivered himself of his "round, unvarnished tale," and has appealed to the opinion of a liberal profession. Does he suppose that the profession are ignorant enough to believe that he is capable of curing a scrofulous disease of the hip joint in eight days? and if he did cure the case, why did he order the treatment at, or rather after, the consultation, to be continued? Is it the proper treatment, in scrofulous disease, to give small doses of mercury repeated daily? The profession must indeed be liberal to him, if they would admit this. The fact is, the child has not, and never had, that I could detect, one single, unequivocal symptom of incipient hip-disease. Is not limping in walking one of the first and commonest symptoms of chorea? The child positively could not stand or sit still from chorea when I first saw her; and with regard to the pain in the knee and hip, I believe they both existed only in Mr. Cooper's fertile imagination. Leading questions of that sort being put to a nervous though intelligent child would be sure to elicit the expected answers, else, if there were any pain, how came the leeches at the outset to be applied to the wrong place? But, on the contrary, on this mode of treatment being discontinued, and an opposite one adopted, namely, moderate exercise in the open air, with generous diet and steel medicines, a speedy cure was effected. I can well afford that Mr. Cooper should accuse me of professional ignorance, seeing that I discovered him treating improperly one disease for another, and that my opinion has been confirmed by Sir B. C. Brodie. And with regard to the question of etiquette, I was in London on urgent business for a few days only, and could not take any other opportunity of seeing the little girl, whose residence was full three or four miles from where I was staying (all this, I believe, was known to Mr. Cooper); and as he did not arrive for an hour and a quarter after the appointment, I concluded he would not do so during the limited time I had at my disposal. I had this alternative only, either to go into the country without seeing the child at all, or to do that which I came for the express purpose of doing—viz., to examine the case and give her parents my opinion. I adopted,

fortunately for the child, the latter course, otherwise she would in all probability, be still lying on the board, under the erudite skill of Mr. George Lewis Cooper.

I have only further to remark, that if Mr. Cooper, instead of completely forgetting himself, and making the discourteous assertion, "that he did not come to meet me in consultation as a medical man," had conducted himself in the "gentlemanly and professional manner" hinted at in the conclusion of his letter, I should have shrunk from bringing such a case as this under the notice of the profession.

I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,
Sherborne, August 26, 1850. WM. HIGHMORE, M.D., M.R.C.S.

REMOVAL OF A LARGE TUMOUR FROM THE FACE OF A CHILD.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg leave to remit, for insertion in your paper, the following interesting case of fibrous tumour, that occurred in the practice of Mr. J. B. Fife of this town, during the past week—interesting considering the age of the patient, and the extent to which the disease had arrived when presented to notice.

E. J. T., aged three years, a native of Darlington, was brought to Newcastle, with a large tumour occupying the left side of the face. It extended from the cartilage of the nose to the ear, and from the outer canthus of the eye to below the angle of the lower jaw. It imparted to the touch the feeling of a dense fibrous structure. It commenced before the child had attained its second year, and came on while suffering severely from dentition. The extent of the disease rendered an operation questionable, but at the earnest request of the friends, the following day was determined on for its removal. The child being placed under the influence of chloroform by Dr. Glover, Mr. J. B. Fife commenced the operation by two elliptical incisions, extending from the outer canthus of the eye to the angle of the lower jaw. The integuments were then laid back, and the dissection of the base of the tumour commenced: its adhesions to the bone were exceedingly tense, so much so, that after the tumour had been removed, it was found necessary to pare the surface of the zygoma, and then to apply the actual cautery. A pledget of dry lint was then laid over the wound, and the face bandaged. The tumour weighed five ounces and a half. Since the operation, the child has progressed favourably, and the wound now presents a healthy granulating surface.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
THOMAS JOSEPH TURNBULL, Dresser.
Newcastle-on-Tyne, Aug. 3, 1850.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION NOT TRUE TO ITSELF. AN EPISODE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having during the last few weeks seen in your truly valuable periodical several communications respecting union surgeons, we have taken the liberty of transmitting for publication, at your earliest opportunity, the following facts:—

In May of the present year, the board of guardians of the Haslingdon Union issued an advertisement soliciting applications for the office of medical attendant upon the paupers belonging to the township of Newchurch, rendered vacant by the death of Mr. Cockroft: this township is the most extensive one in the union, having an area of 5857 acres, an extent of seven miles by three, and a population of upwards of 16,000; in it there is also a workhouse, containing a large number of paupers; for the attendance upon this large district, the finding of all medicines, also leeches, the board proposed the very liberal salary of £35 per annum, exclusive of extra vaccination fees, being a reduction of £10 per annum upon that given to Mr. Cockroft. The medical men resident in the township called a meeting amongst themselves to consider the propriety of making application for the office at the reduced salary; the result of this meeting was, that a memorial was addressed to the board, stating, that owing to the onerous nature of the duties required, it was the firm determination of all present not to apply unless the salary was raised to the old sum—viz., £45: this memorial was signed by all the medical men in the township, excepting Mr. Charles Chrimes Taylor, of Cloughfold, who was not present at the meeting, but who, when waited upon by Dr. Stewart, of Bacup, and informed of the steps adopted, stated distinctly that he would not accept office, nor apply for the appointment at the reduced amount. The board of guardians, still adhering to their purpose, again issued advertisements in some four or five provincial papers, in order to

attract some candidate for the appointment into the township; happily they did not succeed; but at the last meeting except one of the board, Mr. Taylor, contrary to his express promise, applied for the appointment at the reduced salary, and was consequently accepted.

In the latter part of April last, the medical men in the district formed a medical book-club and medico-ethical association. Mr. Taylor was waited upon and requested to join us. To this he expressed his willingness in strong terms, saying such an association had long been wanted, and sincerely hoping we should succeed. The association got into good working order, books were put into circulation, and all went on prosperously, when one day we received a note, of which here is a copy:—

"Cloughfold, May 28, 1850.

"SIR,—I beg to inform you that I must forego the pleasure of joining the medical book-club established in Rossendale, for reasons which I need not advert to, save that they do not refer to any of your rules passed at the meeting held at your house, which are most excellent, and to all of which I can most cheerfully assent.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Henry Lord, Esq."

C. C. TAYLOR.

When we meet with treatment of this kind at the hands of the profession, what must we expect from boards of guardians and the public? The above remarks need no comment from us, as they are a plain, unvarnished statement of facts. Many more particular details might be given, but we fear for your space.

Hoping that you will not fail to insert this communication at your earliest convenience,

We remain, your obedient servants,

HENRY LORD, M.R.C.S.E.,

EDMUND WHITAKER, M.B. Lond., &c. &c.

Committee of the Rossendale Medical Book Club.

Stacksteads, near Rochdale, August 24, 1850.

THE ADMIRALTY CIRCULAR AND NAVAL ASSISTANT-SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Can you favour me by the insertion of the following brief letter to Dr. Healy. We are desirous that no time should be lost in resisting the three years' domestication contemplated for a qualified medical gentleman on his first joining her Majesty's naval service. Can you point out the course to be rigidly pursued by us? We entreat you to use every exertion.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

AN ASSISTANT-SURGEON, R.N.

To Michael Healy, Esq., M.D.

DEAR SIR,—Permit me to thank you for your many generous and kind exertions in our behalf. From the tenour of your letter in THE LANCET of July 27th, 1850, it appears you desire to know the feeling of the corps. Let me entreat you to resist a compromise: the working of the Admiralty circular of July 17th, 1850, will, in many instances, be a mockery. The vote of the House of Commons can be carried into effect, and it must be; there are no "practical difficulties." Those who have worked hard in the cause will pursue it until justice be obtained "in an unqualified and unshackled manner." We cordially agree with you, that our warmest acknowledgments are due to the hon. and gallant member for Chippenham. Let every assistant-surgeon that can petition the national medical colleges to resist the Admiralty compromise, do so, and use every exertion that the vote of the British legislature be not nullified by such a cunning manœuvre as the recent circular respecting "the rank and position of assistant-surgeons" of the royal navy.

Your obliged and obedient servant,

AN ASSISTANT-SURGEON, R.N.

Medical News.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on

Thursday, Aug. 22, 1850.

BLACK, JAMES HURDIS, Dysart, Fife, N. B.

DALGAIRNS, CHARLES ANDERSON, Guernsey.

RIGBY, JOHN, Preston, Lancashire.

WHEELHOUSE, CLAUDIUS GALEN, Leeds.