

House of Commons clearly points to the necessity which exists for the official representation of the medical profession in that House. At present we are dependent on what may be termed accidental representation, a condition of things which, as we see, allows of tricks being played with public health.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Harley-street, W., July 27th, 1898.

ARTHUR H. CHEATLE.

"THE ALLEGED DEARTH OF QUALIFIED ASSISTANTS."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—There is a statement in the letter in THE LANCET of July 30th signed "M.D. Edin." to which I should like to call attention and which is as follows: "That the acceptance of contemptible fees for responsible professional service is degrading to the individual and derogatory to the dignity of a learned profession is abundantly evident." I should like, therefore, to be allowed to ask your correspondent who takes such high ground, What, in the event of his doctrine being universally practised, is to become of the vast majority of the class who require medical aid but who at the same time are ineligible as recipients of Poor-law relief? Surely it must be evident to your correspondent that only a minority (and probably a very small minority too) of those resident within the British Isles are in a position to remunerate a medical man in any adequate sense of the term remuneration. It is true that clubs, provident dispensaries, hospitals, and the Poor-law exist, and these may be regarded by some as a more or less refined method of covering up or disguising low fees; but as concerns the smallness of the fee I venture to state they are equally if not more "contemptible" in point of pecuniary equation than those derived from a so-called "sixpenny dispensary," and I venture to state further that even if the Government were to undertake the remuneration of our profession, as hinted at by another correspondent, the fees would continue "contemptible," and we have a specimen of this under the present Poor-law system.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Peckham, S.E., Aug. 2nd, 1898.

CLEMENT H. SERS.

THE INDEXES TO THE REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON VACCINATION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Permit me, in thanking Dr. Bond for his complimentary notice of my Index to the Report of the Royal Commission on Vaccination and of that to the report of the dissentient minority, to point out an error into which he has inadvertently fallen. The indexes are not to be had here, as I have made over the copyright to the league, but from the secretary, Mrs. Young, 50, Parliament-street, S.W. As a second edition may be called for I should be much indebted for any errata that may be discovered and notified to me.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Edgbaston, Aug. 1st, 1898.

A. PHELPS.

HOSPITAL REFORM AND SANITATION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Having been requested to read a paper on Hospital Reform at the forthcoming congress in Dublin I shall feel grateful if some of your Irish correspondents will communicate with me on the subject. At first sight there does not appear to be much connexion between hospital reform and sanitation, but on reflection it will be acknowledged that there are several points which are well worthy of discussion at a sanitary congress. For instance, the reception of infectious diseases in a general hospital and the overcrowding of persons suffering from all sorts of diseases in the limited space generally allowed to out-patients are well worthy of the attention of sanitarians.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

T. GARRETT HORDER,

Cardiff, Aug. 2nd, 1898.

Hon. Sec. Hospital Reform Association.

PIPERIDINE: A CORRECTION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In the general conclusions at the end of our paper on Piperidine as a Uric Acid Solvent contained in THE LANCET of July 23rd the dose of the tartrate is given as 15 gr. The dose in which we have employed the drug is 10 gr., as stated earlier in the paper.

We are, Sirs, yours faithfully,

F. W. TUNNICLIFFE.

OTTO ROSENHEIM.

Devonshire-street, Portland-place, W., July 27th, 1898.

THE CASE OF DR. REICHARDT.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—It appears to me justifiable to ask for the support of the members of the medical profession when one of their fellows is attacked by a powerful body in regard to what he believes to be the proper conduct of his profession. I therefore write under the following circumstances.

Dr. Reichardt, of Ewell, who has had considerable experience in the treatment of nervous and insane patients, received into his house, at the suggestion of a leading consulting general physician, a young lady who was suffering from temporary mental depression, he having no other certifiable patient in his house at the time. After the lady had been with him a short time he called in a mental specialist to advise him as to whether the patient, who was still somewhat depressed, was in such a state as to require certification. The consultant decided that, in his opinion, she was not certifiable, and the patient began to improve in all ways till the reception of bad news seemed to upset her again, when she escaped from the house and drowned herself. Dr. Reichardt is now called upon to defend himself at the Old Bailey for alleged offences against the Lunacy Act, and it seems to me to be of the utmost importance to the profession generally that he should be placed in a position to justify the treatment in private of patients who are suffering from temporary mental disorders. I therefore beg to appeal to my medical brethren for pecuniary support.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

GEO. H. SAVAGE.

3, Henrietta-street, Cavendish-square, W., Aug. 3rd, 1898.

THE EFFECT OF THE SOCIAL PURITY AGITATION AT GIBRALTAR.

(FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

THE terrible prevalence of venereal disease at Gibraltar, accentuated by the interference of the Home Government, is a grievance which affects not only the colony itself but the Spanish towns of Linea, Algeciras, and other surrounding districts. If we read reports on the health of Gibraltar, whether written by the medical officers of health of the colony or by independent critics, a great number of complaints will be found concerning the difficulty of preventing the importation of disease from Spain. At one time it is typhoid fever, at another cholera or small-pox contracted in Spain and spread in Gibraltar; or else disease is imported by means of milk which is brought over from Spain and the distribution of which should be better controlled. Sometimes it may be due to the linen which is sent out from Gibraltar to be washed in Spain and is there dried or washed in dangerous proximity with cases of infectious disease. But if in Spain the sanitation and the drainage of the houses are bad and there are no efficacious means of disinfection, notification, and isolation for cases of infectious fever, very strict precautions are taken to prevent the spread of venereal disease. Undoubtedly some cases of zymotic disease are imported from Spain to Gibraltar, but these are few and far between as compared with the numerous cases of venereal disease spread in Spain from Gibraltar. It is surprising how patiently the Spaniards have endured this grievance, and it is a wonder that the Spanish authorities have not made strong protests against the dangerous neglect