

<i>Title of Office.</i>	<i>Payments to Medical Practitioners.</i>
Scottish Equitable ... ..	£1 1s. for £500 and upwards; 10s. 6d. under.
Scottish National ... ..	£1 1s. for £500 and upwards; 10s. 6d. under.
Scottish Provident ... ..	£1 1s. for £250 and upwards; 10s. 6d. under. Referees paid on the same scale.
Scottish Provincial ... ..	Payments made when reports are required.
Scottish Union... ..	Medical men are invariably paid.
Scottish Widows' ... ..	Fees paid according to circumstances.
Solicitors' and General ...	£1 1s. for £300; 10s. 6d. under.
Sovereign... ..	£1 1s. for £300 or upwards; 10s. 6d. under.
Standard ... ..	10s. 6d. under £500; £1 1s. above that sum.
Star ... ..	10s. 6d. under £500; £1 1s. for £500 and upwards.
Union ... ..	£1 1s. for £500 and upwards; 10s. 6d. under.
United Kingdom ... ..	£1 1s. in all cases.
United Kingdom Tempe- rance, &c. ... ..	5s. for £100; 10s. above, and up to £500; £1 above.
Unity ... ..	10s. 6d. under £500; £1 1s. above. To appointed referees only.
Universal ... ..	£1 1s. for £500 and upwards; 10s. 6d. under.
University ... ..	£1 1s.
Victoria ... ..	£1 1s.
Waterloo ... ..	£1 1s. for £200 and upwards.
Wellington ... ..	£1 1s. for £300; 10s. 6d. under; and fees paid whenever an opinion is asked.
West of England ... ..	£1 1s. above £300; 10s. 6d. under.
Western, Manchester and London... ..	From 10s. 6d. to £2 2s.
Westminster and General	£1 1s.
Whittington ... ..	£1 1s. for £500; 10s. 6d. under.
World ... ..	10s. 6d. for £200 and under; £1 1s. above.

## Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

### POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I shall feel obliged if you will permit me to address a few words to the Poor-law Medical Officers of this country at the present crisis.

Long and persevering efforts have been made to ameliorate your present condition, and to procure more reasonable remuneration for your arduous duties;—not only so, but to establish a uniform system of payment. Hitherto, without success. But the time is fast approaching when the cause of the Poor-law medical officers must receive the attention of the House of Commons, as the Select Committee on Poor Relief will, doubtless, propound some recommendation as the result of the evidence they have now taken. Medical officers have already made many sacrifices in furthering and supporting, what many think, a hopeless cause; but let me ask you, gentlemen, not to relax either your energies or your endurance at this present juncture, for be assured a just cause must prevail. Let us throw all despondency to the winds, and make one grand, united effort to rescue ourselves from that thralldom under which we are ground to the dust. Let us all join, with one heart and one mind, to endeavour to

obtain that justice which is our due, and let us spare neither pains nor pence in order to accomplish our purpose.

The late Judge Pattison one said: "The country surgeon is the hardest worked and the poorest paid of any man I know." This was said of medical practitioners in general. But what would have emanated from the Judge's lips if he had been informed that a large body of Poor-law medical officers were treating, daily, cases of injury and sickness amongst the "poorest of the poor," supplying, at the same time, all necessary attendance, medicines, and appliances, for, in some instances, a few pence, and, in most, for two or three shillings? What he would have said I do not know; but judging from the expression of his sentiments as given above, I fancy he would exclaim, "The Poor-law medical officer is an honour to his profession, but it is clear that the State neither knows his value nor how to treat him. The remuneration he receives is truly disgraceful."

Matthews, the comedian, once travelled by the night-mail from Halifax to Manchester. On alighting at the inn in Cottonopolis he gave the guard twopence, and told him, with the greatest gravity, to divide it between himself and the coachman. The guard turned his treasure over in his hand several times, and then returned it to Matthews with a most benevolent expression, saying, "My poor fellow, put it in your pocket, if you have one; it will do you more good than either of us." Might not many a Poor-law medical officer say the same to his employers when he contemplates what he has to do for twopence? The whole system is untenable, unjustifiable, and poverty-stricken in the extreme. It is a disgrace to every board of guardians; it is a disgrace to the Poor-law Board; it is a disgrace to the whole House of Commons. I say this, not as a novice, but as one who has discharged the duties of a Poor-law medical officer for fourteen years, in a district containing nearly 30,000 souls.

Now then, gentlemen, can anything be done in your behalf? I say it can. Not, however, if we are to fold our arms in supineness; not if we are to neglect the common energies of men; not if we have not strength of purpose and indomitable perseverance; not if we do not find the *sineus of war*. Can you, then, refrain from entering into the struggle? Can you, as men of intelligence and generosity, such as Poor-law medical officers ought to be, consent listlessly to gaze on the struggles of a few for your benefit, and yourselves take no part? If so, it seems to me a course antagonistic to that of an Englishman.

Now, gentlemen, if every particle of spirit has not been worked out of you—if you have not altogether succumbed to the severity of the harassing duties you have to perform—take fresh courage, and from this time show that you have some estimate of the value of your services to the sick poor, and that you feel that those services should be fairly remunerated. Give your support, then, to the committee which has so long watched over your interests, and of which Mr. Griffin is chairman, and let them not labour in vain. Act promptly, and without a moment's delay. Let every man in the service contribute something, no matter what it is; for, as the Scotch say, "every little makes a muckle," and rely upon it, if you will only do what is right, that "muckle" will be obtained, and muckle good it will do.

To the magnates of our profession I would say, Help, if you have the heart, your down-trodden brethren; give them your countenance, your support, and your sympathy, not ten years hence, but now, and the grace of the act will be duly acknowledged, and thoroughly appreciated.

In conclusion, my Poor-law brethren, I will pray, "May God defend the right!"

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
Halifax, March, 1862.

FRED. SMITH GARLICK, M.R.C.S.

### HOMŒOPATHY AND THE GUERNSEY MILITIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The late Home Secretary (Sir G. C. Lewis) imagined that he had quashed the grievances of the militia surgeons by declining any further interference with a question which he asserted to be settled "after a full and careful examination."

The only settlement of the question, however, is, that the injustice complained of remains unredressed, seeing that a homœopath still retains a position in the British Army List, as sole representative of the medical staff of the Guernsey Royal Militia.

As a proof that this matter is not settled, I enclose

Guernsey *Star* of Feb. 11th, which contains the renewed protest of the members of the Medical Board. I also transmit copies of the correspondence to which this protest has given rise, for the purpose of publication.

It is evident that this vexed question cannot be set at rest until the whole of the correspondence on this subject from the commencement to the present time is produced before the House of Commons. I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

Guernsey, February, 1862.

A. B.

"THE MILITIA SURGEONS.—At the conclusion of the proceedings of the Medical Board, held at the Arsenal yesterday, the 10th inst., the medical officers then present drew up the following protest, which has been forwarded to the Adjutant-General of Militia:—

"The Arsenal, Feb. 10th, 1862.

"SIR,—We, the undersigned medical officers assembled in conformity with the G.M.O. of the 28th January, 1862, consider it due to ourselves and to our profession to request you respectfully to inform his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor that, so long as the grievances under which the medical department of the Royal Guernsey Militia is at present suffering remain unredressed, we perform under protest all the duties of the commissions we have not been permitted to resign.

"M. A. BAZILLE CORBIN, Surgeon, R.G.M.A.

"F. C. LUKIS, Surgeon, 1st Regiment, P.G.M.

"F. E. CAREY, Assist. Surg., 1st Regt. R.G.M.

"G. H. THURSTON, Assist. Surgeon, R.G.M.A.

"Colonel White, Adjutant-General, R.G.M."

"Militia Office, Guernsey, Feb. 11th, 1862.

"SIR,—In acknowledging the receipt of your communication of yesterday's date, herewith returned, I am directed to call your attention to the minute of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor thereon.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"EDW. J. WHITE, Colonel, Adjt.-Gen.

"To Surgeon Corbin, Royal Guernsey Militia Artillery,  
President of Medical Board."

"MINUTE.—The letter of the Secretary of State, dated H. G., Whitehall, 14th February, 1861, disposed of this question *for ever* (*sic*), and I will not entertain any communication on the subject. You will make known my views to the medical officers who signed this letter.

"Col. White, A.G., R.G.M."

"M. J. SLADE, Lt.-Gov.

## THE SITE OF ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—Everyone will be glad to see your suggestion to call a meeting to consider the future site of St. Thomas's Hospital carried out by the public, who are vitally interested in the question. Providence has almost made a place ready for the institution, yet the Governors pause, and whilst pausing, one of the fairest and noblest of sites will pass from beneath their feet.

Close to the "Elephant and Castle," on the south side of the Thames, the property of the Fishmongers' Company, is a space of nearly twelve acres of ground, free from bricks and mortar at the present moment; it is marked out for the building of a lot of little houses, amounting to two hundred, the ground-rents of which will only yield to this wealthy Company about £1000 per annum. The site possesses a frontage in the Walworth-road of fabulous extent, considering the times and crowded state of London. The soil is beautiful gravel, and the choicest plants can be reared upon this hitherto almost uninhabited space.

I happen to be one of the district surgeons, and can testify to the fact that in two months I have not lost one poor person in the district which surrounds this very spot, and in eight months I have not lost a case of fever; consumption and rheumatism are unfrequent, and out of one thousand orders I have not recorded the death of one patient from either of these complaints: thus speaking for the real healthiness of the place itself.

I hope in the course of the day to procure for you a map showing the connexion which can be made, by means of the London, Dover, and Chatham line, with every railway in England, and the hospital, if built here.

Everyone who passes the "Elephant" knows what a central position this is, and how many people could be brought to the very door-step of the hospital by means of omnibuses.

I urge, by every reasonable argument, upon you to get some-

one to examine and report upon this site, so that it may be recorded in your valuable journal.

The Surrey Gardens are, indeed, good for the purpose, but do not combine so many advantages.

Pott's Vinegar-yard is surrounded by boiler-makers, whose incessant din would disturb the patients by night and by day; and the most abominable smoky chimneys of surrounding glass and pottery works frown down upon it.

The Queen's Bench could not be made available without the destruction of an enormous quantity of house property to procure a proper frontage; and, moreover, it would be open to the noxious perfumes of Green-street, full of knackers' yards—chemical works in front, and soap-boilers behind, who cannot be bought up.

The spot here indicated is free from all these objections, and deserves especial consideration at this important crisis. There is scope for beautiful recreation-grounds and a magnificent structure, and is already cleared for building purposes; this would avoid the loss of time and consequent inconvenience to a large number of the suffering poor. *Bis dat qui cito dat.*

I am, Sir, yours very respectfully,

Trinity-street, March, 1862.

ALFRED EBSWORTH, F.R.C.S.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—I have just seen a circular issued by the "Site Committee" of St. Thomas's Hospital to all the Governors, giving certain statistics to guide them in their decision. If the recommendations contained in this circular are adopted by them, no site but the Surrey Gardens offers space enough. The document says:—

"It seemed therefore to the Committee to be the paramount duty of the Governors, in selecting a site, to choose one on a healthy soil, with sufficient space, and in an accessible situation; and that in the designs for the new hospital it should be the Governors' aim to combine as far as possible all the advantages which skill and experience have already produced in similar institutions in this country and on the continent, or can suggest, so that the hospital, when completed, may not be inferior to, and if possible may surpass, any existing hospital."

Now, with such advice from the "Site Committee," it appears to me that the public have strong grounds for urging upon the Governors the example set them in that noble institution in Paris, the Lariboisière. The Governors of St. Thomas's Hospital should know that the public and the profession are jealously watching and scrutinizing every movement.

I remain, Sir, yours respectfully,

March, 1862.

CHIRURGUS.

## REMOVAL OF NÆVUS BY EXCISION.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—The subject of the Radical Cure of Nævus by Excision having been recently brought before the notice of the profession by Mr. Gay and Mr. Tassell, it may not be uninteresting to those gentlemen to be informed that, in October, 1860, I had a case of nævus under my care, which I treated in the way advocated by them; with this difference, however, that the needles were not introduced until after the nævus had been removed.

In this case, the nævus was situated at the root of the nose, and between the inner extremities of the superciliary ridges. At the child's birth it was not larger than a small pea, but at the end of four years it had increased to the size of half a walnut, which it also resembled in shape, having its long diameter placed vertically. On its removal by elliptical incision there was profuse hæmorrhage for a few seconds, until two hare-lip pins—which I had at hand—could be introduced, and the twisted suture applied. This speedily arrested the bleeding, except from the lower part of the wound, which, being situated immediately between the eyes, did not allow of another needle being introduced. I therefore contented myself with putting in a simple stitch at this part and applying a pad of lint, which prevented any further hæmorrhage. The source of the blood appeared to be either the dilated frontal, nasal, and angular arteries, or the corresponding veins forming the "nasal arch;" most probably the latter, as the tumour was non-pulsating, and of a livid colour. The wound healed in a short time, a slight scar only remaining.

Should I be called upon to operate in another similar case, I shall certainly adopt Mr. Gay's method of introducing the needles before commencing the incisions.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Heywood, Rugeley, March 6th, 1862.

J. H. TYLECOTE, M.D.