

I am sure that the new statute has worked well, and will continue to do so, having myself had no trouble with overseers when the Act has been explained to them, or any medical man. I am conscious of no departure from the strict line of impartiality in performing my inquisitorial functions, and the only feeling of the kind which gives me any uneasiness is, that I did not hold an inquest upon the body of a man named Tooley, a patient, I believe, of a *Self-supporting Dispensary*, in this place, who was attempted to be lithotomised, in which case, after long and unsuccessful attempts, I understand the young gentleman, the operator, who is "surgeon," and, I believe, "dispenser," to the said self-supporting institution, started to Norwich, a distance of twenty-two miles, to bring Mr. Cross from that place, to complete the business, when Mr. C. made ample incisions, and removed a large calculus. The patient has since died, and I have no doubt, from the delay that took place, and the injuries received by the unsuccessful surgical attempts, many hours having elapsed before Mr. Cross could be brought here to complete an operation which had been attempted to be performed for *more than an hour*, unsuccessfully, by Mr. A., and which could easily have been completed by several surgeons in Yarmouth, who were never applied to for their aid.

I should not have condescended to notice this letter had you not requested me to do so. I am Sir, with respect, your's faithfully,

W. S. FERRIER,

Coroner of Great Yarmouth, and
Senior Surgeon to the Great Yarmouth Dispensary.

MEDICAL WITNESSES ACT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—We are happy to be enabled to bear testimony to the benefit arising to the profession from the Medical Witnesses Act. Since the passing of the Bill we have had no difficulty whatever in getting our claim allowed and paid. We therefore beg to add this to the numerous testimonies which you have already received respecting the operation of the new statute, and request that you will accept our thanks for your exertions in behalf of your medical brethren. We remain, Sir, your ever obliged and humble servants,

RICHARD PHELPS,
JAMES WILLIAM DANIEL,
THOMAS PALMER DANIEL,
JOACHIM GILBERT.

Beaminster, Dec. 15th, 1836.

To the Editor of THE LANCET:

SIR:—Whenever the coroner has issued his order to the surgeon, or shown your Act to the local authorities in this part of the county, or explained to them its nature, and the consequences resulting from any opposition to its enactments, no difficulty has been experienced by the medical witnesses in obtaining the fees directed by the statute to be paid.

With every feeling of gratitude to you for the Medical Witnesses Act, which is not only a source of substantial benefit to the medical profession, but a measure which tends greatly to promote the ends of public justice, I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient obliged servant,

J. C. YEATMAN.

Frome, Somerset, Dec. 16th, 1836.

SIR:—Permit me to take this opportunity of offering to you my sincere thanks for your zeal, unremitting exertions, and powerful advocacy, in behalf of the profession to which I have the honour to belong, but particularly for the boon conferred by the passing of the Medical Witnesses' Act. I have great pleasure in saying, that in this neighbourhood we have not experienced any difficulty in the operation of the Act, or in obtaining the fees awarded by it. I had occasion, a week or two since (by order of the coroner), to make a *post-mortem* examination, with an analysis, and to give evidence at the inquest. The order for the payment of the fees was immediately and cheerfully complied with by the parish authorities. I have the honour to remain your most obedient servant,

W. H. STEPHENSON, Surgeon.

Rochester, Dec. 11, 1836.

To the Editor.—SIR:—A case of hemiplegia is related by Mr. Douglas in the number of your excellent journal of the 3rd instant, in which he imagines that he prescribed the hydriodate of potash with benefit, and he recommends it to notice as a new and efficient remedy in cerebral effusion. Mr. Douglas will perhaps allow me to inform him, that the medicine in question has, for a considerable period, been extensively used in paralytic affections, dependent on morbid growths and effusions, by every well-educated professional man, Mr. Douglas alone excepted. He may be referred, in evidence, to a number of cases published during the last ten years, or to THE LANCET, Vol. 1, 1831-32, page 729, and also to Dr. Copland's Dictionary of Practical Medicine, article *Apoplexy*, or Dr. Manson's Work on Iodine, published about ten years ago. I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

VERAX.

20th December, 1836.