Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

EXAMINATIONS, EXAMINERS, AND EXAMINEES.

To the Editor of The Lancet.

Sir,—I have replied to the National Health Insurance Commission (England) in response to the receipt of a Memo. 173/L.C., concerning medical certificates, as follows:—

Having carefully read and considered the above memo, and three enclosed certificate forms, while wishing for uniformity in the matter of certificates, I have formed the conclusion that to attempt to bind the doctors down to a hard-and-fast rule as regards the dating of these, as is proposed in Sec. 10, par. 3, will be impossible without inflicting a hardship on the doctors, and adding a false duty—one entirely clerical—to his already onerous duties in the busy time of the year."

I pointed out also to the Insurance Commission, and should like to bring the matter before your readers, that most, if not all, of the Approved Societies require medical certificates to be signed every week during illness and on one particular day, not the same day in every instance, but each seventh day from the commencement of the illness. If the certificate is dated, say, on the day before the exact week end—i.e., on the sixth day—the pay for the missing day is deducted from the weekly amount due. In the case of patients attending at the surgery the patient generally arranges to make one of his calls on the day his certificate requires signing. But in the case of those who have to be visited at their own homes, it is not possible to send the certificate to them each week. This is a great hardship to the medical man, who must go to his patient's house—which may not be quite near the case of those who have to be visited at their own homes, although the certificate suggests that such action should be left to the discretion of the doctor. I suggest, first, that the words "to-day" in "I have to-day examined," &c., which appear in all three certificate forms, be deleted; and, secondly, that the words, "but certificates should not in any circumstances be ante-dated or post-dated," be withdrawn.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

W. W. HARDWICKE, M.D. St. And.

Carlyle-square, S.W., Oct. 12th, 1913.

NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT: THE DIFFICULTY OF CERTIFICATES.

To the Editor of The Lancet.

Sir,—I have replied to the National Health Insurance Commission (England) in response to the receipt of a Memo. 173/L.C., concerning medical certificates, as follows:—

Having carefully read and considered the above memo, and three enclosed certificate forms, while wishing for uniformity in the matter of certificates, I have formed the conclusion that to attempt to bind the doctors down to a hard-and-fast rule as regards the dating of these, as is proposed in Sec. 10, par. 3, will be impossible without inflicting a hardship on the doctors, and adding a false duty—one entirely clerical—to his already onerous duties in the busy time of the year."

I pointed out also to the Insurance Commission, and should like to bring the matter before your readers, that most, if not all, of the Approved Societies require medical certificates to be signed every week during illness and on one particular day, not the same day in every instance, but each seventh day from the commencement of the illness. If the certificate is dated, say, on the day before the exact week end—i.e., on the sixth day—the pay for the missing day is deducted from the weekly amount due. In the case of patients attending at the surgery the patient generally arranges to make one of his calls on the day his certificate requires signing. But in the case of those who have to be visited at their own homes, it is not possible to send the certificate to them each week. This is a great hardship to the medical man, who must go to his patient's house—which may not be quite near the case of those who have to be visited at their own homes, although the certificate suggests that such action should be left to the discretion of the doctor. I suggest, first, that the words "to-day" in "I have to-day examined," &c., which appear in all three certificate forms, be deleted; and, secondly, that the words, "but certificates should not in any circumstances be ante-dated or post-dated," be withdrawn.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

W. W. HARDWICKE, M.D. St. And.

Carlyle-square, S.W., Oct. 12th, 1913.

NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT: MEDICAL REFEREES AND MALINGERING.

To the Editor of The Lancet.

Sir,—I have replied to the National Health Insurance Commission (England) in response to the receipt of a Memo. 173/L.C., concerning medical certificates, as follows:—

Having carefully read and considered the above memo, and three enclosed certificate forms, while wishing for uniformity in the matter of certificates, I have formed the conclusion that to attempt to bind the doctors down to a hard-and-fast rule as regards the dating of these, as is proposed in Sec. 10, par. 3, will be impossible without inflicting a hardship on the doctors, and adding a false duty—one entirely clerical—to his already onerous duties in the busy time of the year."

I pointed out also to the Insurance Commission, and should like to bring the matter before your readers, that most, if not all, of the Approved Societies require medical certificates to be signed every week during illness and on one particular day, not the same day in every instance, but each seventh day from the commencement of the illness. If the certificate is dated, say, on the day before the exact week end—i.e., on the sixth day—the pay for the missing day is deducted from the weekly amount due. In the case of patients attending at the surgery the patient generally arranges to make one of his calls on the day his certificate requires signing. But in the case of those who have to be visited at their own homes, it is not possible to send the certificate to them each week. This is a great hardship to the medical man, who must go to his patient's house—which may not be quite near the case of those who have to be visited at their own homes, although the certificate suggests that such action should be left to the discretion of the doctor. I suggest, first, that the words "to-day" in "I have to-day examined," &c., which appear in all three certificate forms, be deleted; and, secondly, that the words, "but certificates should not in any circumstances be ante-dated or post-dated," be withdrawn.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

W. W. HARDWICKE, M.D. St. And.

Carlyle-square, S.W., Oct. 12th, 1913.

NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT: MEDICAL REFEREES AND MALINGERING.

To the Editor of The Lancet.

Sir,—I have replied to the National Health Insurance Commission (England) in response to the receipt of a Memo. 173/L.C., concerning medical certificates, as follows:—

Having carefully read and considered the above memo, and three enclosed certificate forms, while wishing for uniformity in the matter of certificates, I have formed the conclusion that to attempt to bind the doctors down to a hard-and-fast rule as regards the dating of these, as is proposed in Sec. 10, par. 3, will be impossible without inflicting a hardship on the doctors, and adding a false duty—one entirely clerical—to his already onerous duties in the busy time of the year."

I pointed out also to the Insurance Commission, and should like to bring the matter before your readers, that most, if not all, of the Approved Societies require medical certificates to be signed every week during illness and on one particular day, not the same day in every instance, but each seventh day from the commencement of the illness. If the certificate is dated, say, on the day before the exact week end—i.e., on the sixth day—the pay for the missing day is deducted from the weekly amount due. In the case of patients attending at the surgery the patient generally arranges to make one of his calls on the day his certificate requires signing. But in the case of those who have to be visited at their own homes, it is not possible to send the certificate to them each week. This is a great hardship to the medical man, who must go to his patient's house—which may not be quite near the case of those who have to be visited at their own homes, although the certificate suggests that such action should be left to the discretion of the doctor. I suggest, first, that the words "to-day" in "I have to-day examined," &c., which appear in all three certificate forms, be deleted; and, secondly, that the words, "but certificates should not in any circumstances be ante-dated or post-dated," be withdrawn.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

W. W. HARDWICKE, M.D. St. And.

Carlyle-square, S.W., Oct. 12th, 1913.

NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT: MEDICAL REFEREES AND MALINGERING.

To the Editor of The Lancet.

Sir,—I have replied to the National Health Insurance Commission (England) in response to the receipt of a Memo. 173/L.C., concerning medical certificates, as follows:—

Having carefully read and considered the above memo, and three enclosed certificate forms, while wishing for uniformity in the matter of certificates, I have formed the conclusion that to attempt to bind the doctors down to a hard-and-fast rule as regards the dating of these, as is proposed in Sec. 10, par. 3, will be impossible without inflicting a hardship on the doctors, and adding a false duty—one entirely clerical—to his already onerous duties in the busy time of the year."

I pointed out also to the Insurance Commission, and should like to bring the matter before your readers, that most, if not all, of the Approved Societies require medical certificates to be signed every week during illness and on one particular day, not the same day in every instance, but each seventh day from the commencement of the illness. If the certificate is dated, say, on the day before the exact week end—i.e., on the sixth day—the pay for the missing day is deducted from the weekly amount due. In the case of patients attending at the surgery the patient generally arranges to make one of his calls on the day his certificate requires signing. But in the case of those who have to be visited at their own homes, it is not possible to send the certificate to them each week. This is a great hardship to the medical man, who must go to his patient's house—which may not be quite near the case of those who have to be visited at their own homes, although the certificate suggests that such action should be left to the discretion of the doctor. I suggest, first, that the words "to-day" in "I have to-day examined," &c., which appear in all three certificate forms, be deleted; and, secondly, that the words, "but certificates should not in any circumstances be ante-dated or post-dated," be withdrawn.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

W. W. HARDWICKE, M.D. St. And.

Carlyle-square, S.W., Oct. 12th, 1913.