profession, we shall find and keep intact the larger interests of the greater public.

Nov. 9th, 1891.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,
FREDERICK H. ALDERSON, M.D.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Whether we be a small section of the profession or not, I protest against the statement by Mr. Wheelhouse, Sir W. Foster, and Dr. Glover that we “resist such a minimum amount of training in midwives as would enable them to know when to send for a doctor.” It is not so. We resist the granting of diplomas to midwives recognising them as competent to attend all ordinary labours *without a doctor*, and to judge when the case becomes too dangerous for their skill to conduct. We know that their training is never likely to make them fit for such responsibilities, nor their self-confidence likely to be small enough to avoid disaster. We would wish them to receive the highest possible training *as nurses*. Already our certificated midwives advertise in the evening papers the address at which they may be “privately consulted.” When they get State diplomas (which God forbid!) they will know too much to send for a doctor. We are continually called to confinements conducted by midwives because the child is born dead, or the mother injured or in fever, and in by far the greater number of cases our fee is then paid without difficulty. It is not poverty that prevents the engagement of a doctor. Midwives claim to be fully competent to manage labour, and delude the ignorant. Will the possession of diplomas diminish their presumption?

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Highgate, Nov. 9th, 1891.

HUGH WOODS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Those who are in favour of the better education and legal registration of midwives must be much satisfied with the answer given upon this subject to Drs. Rentoul and Woods by the direct representatives of the General Medical Council. They recognise the “awful evils” of the existing system of midwives’ practice, and “hold it to be the highest indiscretion to represent the interests of the profession as inconsistent with any *reasonable* legislation for the abatement of these evils.” This is a most satisfactory statement, and will doubtless have the effect of securing to the present representatives the votes of the larger proportion of the members of those medical bodies which have considered the subject and decided in favour of legal registration.

I am, Sirs, faithfully yours,

JAMES H. AVELING.

Upper Wimpole-street, W., Nov. 9th, 1891.

THE MEDICAL DEFENCE UNION AND THE COMING ELECTION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Mr. A. G. Bateman, in your issue of the 7th inst., writing as hon. secretary of the Medical Defence Union, expresses his views regarding the candidature of Dr. Alderson and myself in terms forcible rather than polite. Had he addressed your readers as a private individual, I should not have noticed his attack, for nothing can be gained by carrying on a discussion with one who commences hostilities by calling those who have incurred his displeasure opprobrious names. But I must ask your permission to allow me to inform your readers that Mr. Bateman has no authority to speak for the Medical Defence Union. In a letter received by me a few days ago from our president, Mr. Lawson Tait, he wrote that it is his desire that no steps should be taken which would make it appear even *in the faintest way* that the Medical Defence Union is going to interest itself in such matters as the election of direct representatives. As long as your readers understand that Mr. Bateman has no authority to speak for others, he is at liberty to express his views *re* my candidature in whatever terms please him without remonstrance from

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE BROWN,

Member of the Council, Medical Defence Union
Threadneedle-street, E.C., Nov. 10th, 1891.

A REPRESENTATIVE FROM WALES ON THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I think we may safely conclude that the result of the present agitation in regard to the General Medical Council will be an increase in the number of direct representatives of the profession, and it has occurred to me that the time is now opportune for us, the members of the medical profession in Wales, to consider whether it will not be desirable to combine to secure for ourselves and from ourselves a representative on the Council. To me it seems eminently desirable that we should have watching over our interests someone in close touch and in direct sympathy with ourselves—someone intimately acquainted with the country and its wants, and with the general condition of medical practice in our midst. I feel quite sure the services of such a representative, when any matters concerning Wales cropped up for discussion, would be of advantage to the Council and would be greatly appreciated by its members. Apart from this, there is the important question of medical education in our Welsh colleges. We are on the eve of a practical realisation of a scheme for the education of medical students in one of our Welsh colleges, and as this scheme must, in the first instance, be submitted for the consideration of the General Medical Council, it would be an inestimable advantage if we had a Welsh representative to pilot it through this preliminary course. Wales in the past has been somewhat dormant in the matter of education, but with its fresh machinery—none, perhaps, more perfect in the world—we hope for progress, and we trust to find medical education in the van. In order to achieve this end, an essential condition in my opinion is the presence on the General Medical Council of an enthusiastic and devoted representative from the ranks of the profession in Wales. I shall be glad if those gentlemen who consider my suggestion worthy of support will kindly intimate the same to me at their earliest convenience.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Cardiff, Nov. 10th, 1891.

P. RHYS GRIFFITHS.

“ACUTE RHEUMATISM AND THE TEMPORO-MAXILLARY JOINT.”

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In the issue of Oct. 24th of your valuable journal I have read what is doubtless of great interest to many of your readers, as well as being of special interest to myself from the great number of rheumatic cases I have seen in Bath, particularly in the Royal Mineral Water Hospital. This is an account of a case of acute rheumatism confined to the temporo-maxillary joint, reported by Dr. Gallipe in *Le Progrès Dentaire*. Such a case is so very unusual as to suggest doubts as to the correctness of the diagnosis. Much as I welcome any discussion which would tend to throw light upon the subject, I fear this is a wrong departure; still, it must be welcomed as leading to the ventilation of a matter which is only now emerging from chaos into cosmos, a subject which ought to be better understood, and which will before long, I trust, be understood as it ought, owing to the great interest it must possess to a large and increasing number of mankind who are sufferers from it. No, the only connexion which is in my mind allowable is between affection of this joint and rheumatoid arthritis—a disease long allied with rheumatism, and even yet connected to it by links stronger than ought to exist. Rheumatoid arthritis is an arthritis owing its origin to debility, that debilitating cause being unknown, but occurring always in cases with strong strumous or phthisical tendency, and very often with hereditary history of gout, but never with rheumatism, beyond an accidental connexion which may occur during the lifetime of the individual, and in which case the ravages of both diseases can be distinctly and separately traced. But there is an arthritis, first described in a work published by myself in conjunction with Dr. C. T. Griffiths, which follows rheumatism and is distinctly a rheumatic disease, possessing positive and incontestable features of its own, features strong and distinct enough to justify us, without assuming undue dogmatism, in placing them under two separate headings.

Rheumatic arthritis is an arthritis which follows an attack