terwards introduced by the latter gentleman, whereby all officers, soldiers, seamen, and marines, who had served his Majesty during the war, were to be allowed to carry on their profession, trade, or occupation, in any part of his Majesty's dominions, without let or hindrance, from any corporation or corporate body whatsoever, always saving and excepting the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The title or preamble of the Bill I do not recollect, but I am sure it is to be found.

The indignation of the United Service at that period was at its height, at the presumption of the Gogs and Magogs of Rhu-barb Hall, in subjecting army and navy surgeons who had gone through the practice of a long war to the degradation of appearing before them for their "*license to practise*," and for which they were to pay fourteen guineas.

I well remember that one or two who had so committed themselves were well nigh "sent to Coventry" by their brother officers. I am, sir, yours,

J. GOOCH, Surg. R.N.

H.M. Ship *Ocean*, Sept. 1, 1832.

THERE may have been such a "BILL," but we can assure Mr. GOOCH, that no such Act is in force. The *Declaratory Act* of 1825, which was passed to protect naval and military surgeons from the operation of the *Apothecaries Statute* of 1815, expired in 1826, as he will find by the last clause but one.

"And be it enacted, that this Act (the *Declaratory*) shall take effect from and after the passing thereof (dated 6th July, 1825), and shall continue until the first day of August next, in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty-six."

GRANT OF PUBLIC MONEY TO THE

NATIONAL VACCINE INSTITUTION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Some years ago his Majesty's Government, under the auspices of Mr. G. Rose, judged it expedient to form a National Vaccine Institution, under their own direction (to be conducted by the President of the College of Physicians, the Master and two Governors of the College of Surgeons, Dr. Jenner, director, and Mr. Carpué, principal vaccinator), to vaccinate gratuitously all persons who presented themselves for the purpose, and Government has hitherto granted

2500*l.* or 3000*l.* per ann. for its support. The vaccinators selected besides Mr. Carpué, were, Messrs. Lease of Duke Street, Manchester Square; Aiken, of Broad Street Buildings; Lane, Guildford Street; Sawrey, Fleet Street; Vincent, West Smithfield; Ward, Wellclose Square; Gillam, Blackfriars Road; Harkness; Ratcliff; and others; but some of the above-named are deceased.

The Board of the establishment was held in Leicester Square. Nothing, however, is now known of its proceedings. We have heard of no report being published lately, and the profession at this time, in parts of the metropolis, have a difficulty to procure ichor of the paid vaccinators, who are now no one knows where, in consequence of removals, deaths, and sinkings into obscurity.

Will you permit me to ask, through the pages of your journal, how the 2500*l.* per annum is disbursed, and if in the parliamentary grants of last session it was continued, it appears to be a useless expenditure of public money. Neither the St. Pancras Hospital nor the London Vaccine Institution, which have equal claims, receive one shilling of it in aid of their funds, although they are establishments as well, if not better, known in the metropolis. They vaccinate and supply matter to more than ten thousand applicants annually. Yet their expenses are paid by public contributions.

During the late administration the parliamentary grant was opposed by Mr. Hume in the House of Commons when the supplies were voted; but possibly the letter from the president and censors of the College of Physicians to Lord Melbourne on the subject at that time was a consideration on the part of ministers.

If the grant be continued, why does not Government order a portion to be given to the two institutions above mentioned, instead of persisting in the present mode of distribution among private individuals by the conductors?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. W.

Sept. 1832.

NEW MEDICAL SOCIETY IN SOUTHWARK.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—On the other side I beg to hand you a circular now in distribution in this neighbourhood, and at the same time to congratulate the general practitioners of England upon the spirited and independent conduct of their brethren in Southwark. What will

the DUBS and PURES say to this? I am,
Sir, your obedient servant,

A GENERAL PRACTITIONER
OF SOUTHWARK.

Sept. 13, 1832.

At a meeting of the undersigned GENERAL PRACTITIONERS IN MEDICINE, in Southwark and its neighbourhood, holden on Wednesday, the 12th day of September, 1832, at the apartments of the Southwark Literary Society, Chester Terrace, Borough-road, Southwark:—

EDWARD EVANS, Esq., in the Chair,

Resolved unanimously,

That in consequence of the grievances constantly experienced by general medical practitioners, it is, in the opinion of this meeting, highly desirable and expedient to form a society for preventing breaches of medical etiquette, and infringement upon their privileges.

That this society shall consist of the general medical practitioners of Southwark and its vicinity, and shall be called "The General Medical Practitioners' Society of Southwark and its Vicinity."

That Mr. John Fenford Thomas, shall be Honorary Secretary to this society.

That these resolutions shall be printed, and forwarded to all the general medical practitioners in Southwark and its neighbourhood; and that their co-operation shall be earnestly requested.

EDWARD EVANS, Chairman.

R. L. Hooper,	J. W. Jones,
J. Coulthred,	J. Ravis,
J. Cox,	G. Simmons,
W. Eales,	G. Skrimshire,
J. Gellatly,	J. Taylor,
J. Howell,	C. Waterworth

THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS OF LYNN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—An immediate insertion of the following into your journal will greatly oblige. In your Number for the 8th of this month, there appeared a letter from Mr. J. B. Whiting, of King's Lynn, relative to cholera, to which is added the following postscript:—

"In premonitory cases, the astringent and opiate plan recommended to the medical practitioners of this town by my brother Dr. Whiting, has been marked by the most decided success in arresting the progress of the disease, of which there have certainly been three, if not five importations."

We the undersigned medical practitioners of Lynn do hereby give this postscript

our most unqualified contradiction, and totally disclaim having been influenced in our practice by any suggestions communicated by Dr. Whiting to his brother. What, we would ask, are the inferences naturally deducible from the above postscript? They are four.

First. That the medical men of Lynn made application to Dr. Whiting for his advice, in order to know how to stop premonitory diarrhoea.

Second. That he really and truly recommended *astringents* and opiates.

Third. That we the practitioners of Lynn implicitly followed his advice.

Fourth. That in consequence the most decided success ensued.

These are the deductions which would immediately occur to the mind of every reader.

Now, Sir, as it happened that we never stood in need of his advice, so we never thought of making application for it; but the inference giving rise to this observation is one of minor importance in comparison with the others.

The facts are these:—Mr. J. B. Whiting receives a private letter from his brother the Doctor, just when cholera broke out in the Borough of Southwark, and (doubtless with a good intention) he makes its contents public by showing the letter to *some* of the medical men of Lynn. In that letter they read that the disease, meaning cholera, although a "nova pestis," is of no moment if collapse be prevented: they also read of the ease with which this is to be effected by stopping the discharges with opium; of the necessity likewise which there is for a medical man to "go armed with his laudanum bottle and his lancet;" and, lastly, they read of a specific prescription, consisting of sixty drops of laudanum in one ounce of brandy, which it is stated will "often do the business if early given," meaning, we presume, that it will prevent collapse and cure the diarrhoea.

Now, Sir, Mr. J. B. Whiting has cautiously avoided informing the public that his brother recommended *stimulants*, which he clearly has done in the shape of pure brandy; but he *has made* him to recommend *astringents*, a thing the Doctor himself has not done, for from the beginning to the end of his letter, not one word is mentioned concerning *astringents* of any kind. He therefore has put language into the Doctor's mouth which he never used, has proffered a plan of treatment in his name which was known long before, and has made us followers of this plan, who never have been.

Mr. J. B. Whiting is fully aware that in the treatment of cholera in this town, there has been less brandy prescribed than in almost any town or village in the kingdom.