REWARDS TO THE CHOLERA DOCTORS AT HULL.

To the Editor of The Lancet.

Sir,—Notwithstanding the number of communications you have received from Hull, relative to the late epidemic, I imagine that any information connected therewith, however slight, will not be without interest for you; and as the object of this communication is to make known the proceedings of a class of subordinate, but yet not unimportant, actors in this unfortunate tragedy, I beg to transmit you the following:

On Saturday the 15th of September, and, along with my colleagues, I was directed to commence operations at once, by proceeding to the house of refuge provided for the purpose. I also inquired of Dr. Sutherland, (by whose directions,) and the inmates were in the meantime sent over to the district surgeons; ordering whitewashing to be done, and the district surgeon 608; and at the dispensary 868; yet, notwithstanding this number, only six deaths occurred. From the time of our getting thoroughly at work, the number of deaths, which had been steadily increasing, as steadily decreased; and we were anxious to place this fact in connexion with the exertions of the medical staff. My number of diarrhoea patients (attended not discovered) varied from twenty-five to fifty per diem during the greater part of the time. It is probable that few of these would otherwise have received medical attendance, and, consequently, the greater part, in all probability, ran into cholera.

I have said that on our engagement we thought little of pecuniary remuneration, looking to gain of professional experience as our chief reward; nevertheless, when we were offered two guineas per week, this was such a manifest underestimation of our services, that we determined unanimously not to resign, unless they paid us three guineas; and on representing this to Dr. Sutherland, that we considered the former sum too little, he agreed with us, and promised to recommend the board to pay us three guineas per week. This was, however, not a thing we could meet with any townsmen to accept the office of inspectors in their union, and therefore were compelled to send to Gloucester for eight gentlemen, to whom they paid six guineas per week. You are aware, Sir, that during the epidemic, two of these gentlemen fell victims to its ravages, produced by the zeal with which they discharged their painful duties. The other six immediately resigned their offices, and fled the town the same day for Leith. What effect had this on us? Did the fear caused by the fate of these gentlemen induce us to desert our posts? Or the reward paid guineas per week, insufficient to change the service of the Hull for that of the Sculcoates' board, or insist on similar remuneration? Nothing of the kind. We were bound by no written agreement—no time for the consideration of our services would be required had been mentioned, but we considered that we were in honour bound to continue in the discharge of our duties as if no such contingency had arisen, and we acted accordingly. Two or three weeks later, the epidemic was entirely over, and we were paid the pecuniary remuneration which we had expected; the other six were immediately dismissed.

From that report you will see that we attended 1450 cases of diarrhoea, and 688 of cholera, and at the dispensary 868; yet, notwithstanding this number, only six deaths occurred. From the time of our getting thoroughly at work, the number of deaths, which had been steadily increasing, as steadily decreased; and we were anxious to place this fact in connexion with the exertions of the medical staff. My number of diarrhoea patients (attended not discovered) varied from twenty-five to fifty per diem during the greater part of the time. It is probable that few of these would otherwise have received medical attendance, and, consequently, the greater part, in all probability, ran into cholera.

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The reward of two guineas per week, which was an underestimation of the time we devoted to our work, is offered for the position, and is sufficient to enable the successful candidate to subsist; and the successful candidate will be engaged by the company for a term of years, and may, in case of merit and dependability, be promoted to the medical staff.

J. DAVIES, M.D.
Nov. 12, 1849.

REWARDS TO THE CHOLERA DOCTORS AT HULL.
To the Editor of THE LANCET.

Sir,—I am glad to perceive that the question of rewards to the medical practitioners who have so nobly risked their lives in the service of their poor fellow-men has begun to receive public attention, and your advocacy of their claims will still further increase that debt of gratitude which the profession will ever be ready to acknowledge for the services of the medical profession would occupy, alas! but a very small space of your valuable columns. Such record would, however, tend to show that the profession generally is not unmindful of generosity towards their brethren, and, services of the medical profession would occupy, alas! but a much fear that your strictures upon the conduct of the boards of

-To the Editor of THE LANCET.

Sir,—In correction of your correspondent, Dr. Sandwith's remarks, impugning the accuracy of my report to the Board of Guardians, I beg to state, with what brevity I can,

1st. That, contrary to what is implied by his statement, the population of the district to which my superintendence was given was comprised of the numbers belonging to the town of Sandwith, and that of the few private patients attended by my colleagues, not more than half would be in my district, and only half the deaths, therefore, be registered within it.

2ndly. That whatever question may be raised against the use of calomel, or against the comparison made between the success under its treatment in collapse, and that of stimulants and opium, none can be advanced against the results of it in the cholera diarrhoea, seeing that only six deaths occurred under its use, whilst 164 occurred under other treatment, and when the numbers coming under such treatment were so greatly below those my colleagues had to attend.

3rdly. That the strongest of all evidence is the assurance that no one or right estimate can be arrived at regarding the success of the treatment by calomel, of cholera in this town, from the number of patients who, after being treated by opiates and stimulants, were abandoned, when dying, to the medical officer, and I can only seek a remedy in a court of law; but I very much doubt whether the poor-law commissioner would approve of these proceedings, and whether he will permit the audit of the accounts, in which large sums have been charged by the medical officers for assistance, which they really did not pay.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

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