made for the wants and comforts of the soldier.

7th. In the "introduction" to his last valuable and interesting report, Major Tulloch regrets the absence of a superintending medical officer of her Majesty's service, and ascribes, with truth, the difficulty experienced in obtaining information of an accurate nature to this circumstance. There were two superintending medical officers from Bengal (true samples of the seniority system, of which we have before complained); but neither these gentlemen, nor the Medical Board of Bengal that sent them, had ever dreamt of a "return" of the kind alluded to by the major, and by consequence all three were equally innocent of the matter of information. "The difficulty experienced," says the report, "on this occasion, however, will, it is hoped, afford a practical lesson on the necessity for a superintending officer of the same service always taking the field with any considerable force of her Majesty's troops when employed in India, not only for the purpose of ensuring accuracy in these returns, from which alone a due estimate can be formed by the head of the medical department in this country of the prevailing diseases, and of the success of the treatment adopted by his officers, but also for the purpose of suggesting such measures for improving the health and promoting the efficiency of the soldier, as former experience has shown to be effectual under similar circumstances with British troops in the field."

—*Statistical Reports.*

Here, then, we have an example of a whole service of nearly eight hundred medical officers of India, superseded in and debarred from the duties of superintendence in the legitimate field of their best and tried exertions, *because* their boards will not adopt uniformity in reporting with her Majesty's service, thus seriously injuring their interests, and disparaging their subordinates, at the same time that they sacrifice the noblest field of comparison afforded in the whole range of medical inquiry.

A SUBSCRIBER.*

VEGETABLE DIET.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In reference to the very interesting case reported by Mr. Rowbotham in your last number, I beg to state that I can bear very strong testimony to the remarkably good effects of a diet of vegetables (one of acidulous fruits more especially) in many forms of cutaneous disease. It may be stated as a general rule, that when a cutaneous eruption depends on hepatic derangement (not or-

ganic), characterised by pain, tumidity, and profuse secretion of the liver; by dark-coloured stools (and more especially if these produce *ardor ani*); by yellow-coated tongue, bitter morning taste of the mouth, accelerated pulse, dry heat of skin, and nocturnal sleeplessness, the judicious adoption of a vegetable diet will be found a most efficacious means of removing that condition of the digestive organs, and that constitution of the blood from which the eruption and the unpleasant symptoms enumerated result. This I have pointed out elsewhere,* and endeavoured to explain, and recent experience has corroborated the views there stated. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ROBERT DICK, M.D.

London, May, 1842.

R E P O R T

OF A

DEPUTATION OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
TO THE
POOR-LAW COMMISSIONERS,
April 29, 1842.

THE deputation (which consisted of Dr. Webster, Mr. Davidson, Mr. Farr, Mr. Grainger, and Mr. Septimus Read,) were most courteously received by the commissioners, Mr. G. C. Lewis and Sir Edmund Head, Bart., who were pleased to say, on the objects of the deputation being stated to them, that they would be happy to afford every explanation and information in their power, and to receive any suggestions from the council of the association.

The objects of the deputation were,—

I. To ascertain if the commissioners intended and had the power to enforce and carry out their late medical order.

II. To request explanations and to offer suggestions on some of the chief points contained in the medical order just issued.

III. To press on the attention of the commissioners some important matters not included in the "order."

I. To the first question the commissioners replied, that they had full power and authority under the Poor-law Amendment Act to carry out the provisions of the "medical order" which they had issued a few weeks since, and which required forty days to elapse from its publication before it could be legal; and that they intended strictly to enforce it should it be necessary to do so from the contumacy of any board of guardians, which could be done by moving it

* This important letter has been duly authenticated.

* "Derangements, Primary and Reflex, of the Organs of Digestion."