status of the profession; and if the salary seems good, it is more than counterbalanced by the enormous amount of work expected and by the insults received.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Dec. 28th, 1886.

SURGEON.

SUPPURATION IN THE APPENDIX VERMIFORMIS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—With regard to the query contained in the last sentence of Mr. Barford's communication to you on his most interesting case, I think there can be only one answer, and that is to remove by abdominal section the purulent appendix, and drain the abdominal cavity. Sufficient cases have been put on record to attest the wisdom of trusting to timely and bold surgery such as I suggest, rather than to opium or other medicaments.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Nottingham, Jan. 9th, 1887.

GEORGE ELDER.

NORTHERN COUNTIES NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

NEWCASTLE THROAT AND EAR HOSPITAL.

THE annual meeting of this charity was held to-day, the Sheriff of Newcastle, W. H. Stephenson, Esq., presiding. The number of patients entered for the first time was 1482, while 546 remained on the books from 1885, making in all 2028 cases treated during the year. A most gratifying feature in the past year's work has been the important amount contributed by the patients, the financial statement showing that £233 10s. 9d. had been handed in by the patients to the dispenser in this way. Advice and medicine had been given 912 times free. No case is refused aid, however poor. The medical report presented the usual features of a special hospital of this nature, but the staff complain of want of room, and it has been decided to appeal to the public for aid to erect a new building. Plans, which have been prepared by Mr. J. C. Parsons, architect of this city, have been approved by the Committee, and immediate steps are to be taken to carry them into effect.

NEWCASTLE HOSPITAL SUNDAY FUND.

The final lists of the Hospital Sunday collections have been published, and show that the total amount collected at places of worship is £2119 12s. 5d., as against £1437 5s. 3d. last year. The amount subscribed at the factories and workshops was £1770 7s. 1d., as against £1437 5s. 9d. The amount raised is £3889 19s. 6d., the largest figure ever reached in any year's collection. *The Newcastle Journal*, in commenting on the collection, says, "It is a satisfactory result, no doubt; but in view of the greatly enhanced requirements of the hospital charities, we cannot but feel that more will have to be done. The church and chapel collections are not likely to prove very much more elastic. They have now again very nearly touched the highest amount they have ever reached, and from which they had subsided in former years. If they can be kept up to the amount subscribed last year it will be very well, but we must trust to more liberal and better organised efforts amongst the working classes to expand the fund."

ACCIDENT TO DR. SHERWOOD OF WHITBY.

Dr. Sherwood of Whitby, well known to many in North Yorkshire and beyond as a genial and successful practitioner, had the misfortune, on Dec. 27th, to fall on leaving his surgery, and, his leg being bent under his body, he sustained a fracture of the tibia and fibula. He did not lose his presence of mind, but at once requested the attendance of the Ambulance Corps, which he had himself trained while surgeon to the local Artillery Volunteers, the members of whom, under the guidance of Dr. Tinley, removed him to his private residence, a considerable distance from the surgery where the accident befel him. It required no little care to prevent the bone in transit coming through the skin, the fracture being oblique; but so far, under the care of his friend, Dr. Tinley, he has been saved the trouble of a compound fracture, and is, I hear, doing well.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, Jan. 10th.

EDINBURGH.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

A PLEBISCITE of the Fellows was recently taken in regard to a proposal to change the hour of meeting from 8 P.M. to 4 P.M. The proposal was negatived, but the minority was so numerous that a compromise has been effected, and a series of interim meetings arranged for the afternoon hour. The first of these was held last week, and Sir Douglas Mac-lagan, one of the vice-presidents, presided over a gathering of some fifty of the Fellows, the numbers showing that the afternoon hour is not an impossible one, and demonstrating how wide an interest was felt in Mr. Coleman's address upon Processes of Refrigeration. In his address, Mr. Coleman covered a wide area; he dealt first with the purely scientific aspects of the subject, describing the various processes employed and quoting results obtained. Recent French and Russian observers find that atmospheric air liquefies at a temperature of -242° F.; they have also fixed the boiling points of liquid air and liquid nitrogen. Turning to the economic aspects of refrigeration, the lecturer described apparatus for continuous freezing, ether freezing machines, ammonia freezing machines, and compressed air machines. The last are in general use for the conveyance of fresh meat on board ship; they depend for their efficiency on the fact that a great fall of temperature occurs in air that is suddenly allowed to expand after compression. These machines maintain a temperature of from 10° to 20° below freezing point, at which meat can be kept good for an indefinite period. Over two million frozen carcasses of sheep have been brought to this country, chiefly from New Zealand and South America. Interesting results, which are quite new, also accrued to some experiments made by Mr. Coleman and Prof. McKendrick as to the influence of cold upon the vitality of micro-organisms. They found that vitality was retained and activity regained by organisms that had been exposed to a temperature of -120° F. for 100 hours. Prof. McKendrick, speaking at the end of the address, said that, much as had been done in developing refrigerating processes, there was still great room for further important advances fraught with great scientific interest and practical benefit.

POLICE CASES AND THE DUTY OF MEDICAL MEN.

A recent homicide by stabbing in a public street in Edinburgh has created some discussion as to medical responsibility in police cases. A week ago, a man was severely stabbed in the region of the chest, whilst quarrelling, in the presence of several bystanders. He was found by his friends to be seriously injured. It is stated that they applied for aid at the houses of two medical men in the neighbourhood. In each case they were told to take the sufferer to the Royal Infirmary. They did so, and upon arriving there he was found to be dead. Some important letters on the subject have appeared in the local newspapers. On the one hand, it is urged that the doctors have been guilty of inhumane conduct in declining to attend the case; on the other, that, leaving out of account the extreme ambiguity of the term "doctor" in the district in question, where herbalists and others receive that courtesy title, the public have only themselves to blame if they find a medical man unwilling to hasten at their call to patch up the victims of riotous and drunken brawls. As a rule in such cases, unless he be requested to attend by the police authorities, a medical man is not only justified, but almost bound in self-defence, to let the injured combatants receive treatment at the police-station or the infirmary, to which they naturally gravitate. In this case the police do not seem to have made any such application, and there is no reason to believe that the medical men in question received any more urgent summons than an indistinct statement from an irresponsible individual. This occurrence has opened another important question, whether there ought not to be district police surgeons in the various wards of the city, to whom application for assistance in street accidents or emergencies might be made, without any risk of attendance being refused. This course is urged upon the city authorities in an able letter by Dr. Peel Ritchie, who agitated in the same direction some years ago, and he