at the late meeting in London, was presented by Sir John Trollope, and referred to the Printing Committee, who detected an informality, in reference to Mr. Bouverie's speech in the House; it was, therefore, returned to Sir John Trollope, and by him to me, with a recommendation to re-write it, omitting the objectionable quotation, and, as it would be impossible to obtain a repetition of the signatures without great difficulty and loss of time, to affix my signature on behalf of the Association, as chairman. This course I adopted, and the petition was again presented to the House. I trust the abbreviated petitions and memorials will be forwarded to their respective destinations without delay, as a proof to the House that the complaint is general. I am happy to announce that we have the valuable support of Dr. Hodgkin the chairman, of Mr. Lord the honorary secretary, and other members of the late Convention, whose great experience must materially assist the present movement.

Money is at all times the great sinew of war; I therefore trust every member of the association will consider the second quarter's subscription as commencing on the 24th of June. I have at present funds in hand; but nothing conduces more effectually to the conclusion of a speedy and advantageous peace, than a thorough preparation for the continuance of war.

In consequence of Mr. Bouverie's reply to Sir John Trollope in the House, I thought it well to address the Poor-law Board on my own individual case, in order that I might quote to them the evidence given before the committee of the House of Commons: the result time will discover. Your readers will form their own conclusions as to whether the power of fixing the salaries is vested in the Poor-law Board or the guardians.

The £16,000 or £17,000 mentioned by Mr. Bouverie I view as no *real* increase at all on the original payments, but rather a slight compensation for the additional labour occasioned by the increase of population, and that in no proportion to the previous salaries.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,
Royal-terrace, Weymouth, June 21st, 1856. RICHARD GRIFFIN.

No. II.

(From "*The Times*," Tuesday, June 17th.)

MEDICAL RELIEF TO THE POOR.

Sir J. TROLLOPE wished to ask the President whether he was prepared to adopt the recommendations of the Committee of 1854 upon medical relief to the poor—viz.,

1. That medical appointments should be permanent.
2. That the remuneration should be revised and increased.
3. That the districts should be examined.

Mr. BOUVERIE said the recommendation of the Select Committee, that the area of the medical districts should be examined with a view to their limitation, was being done from time to time, as occasion occurred. The recommendation that the medical appointments should be permanent, had been complied with. The third point, that the Poor-law Board should increase the salaries of the medical officers where they were inadequate, had been under the consideration of the Board, with the view of obtaining a greater remuneration for medical men. That had been done to a certain extent, though not to the fullest extent desirable. An increase of £16,000 or £17,000 on the salaries within the last few years had been effected; but it was obvious that unless a disposition existed on the part of the guardians to concur with the Board, it was not possible to do all that was desirable herein.

No. III.

No. 12, Royal-terrace, Weymouth, June 19, 1856.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—I have repeatedly complained to your Honourable Board and the guardians of the Weymouth Union of the inadequacy of my salary compared with the duties I have to perform. I will not again trouble you with details further than to say I commenced the year with forty-seven patients on my list, and have since had 108 orders, making on the whole 155 patients; for these I shall receive £8 15s., or 1s. 1½d. per case. During the five quarters that I have been the medical officer, I have had 687 orders, whilst the surgeon for the Melcombe district, with 200 fewer cases, has £5 annually more than myself, and the surgeon for the Wyke district, with the same salary as myself, and a similar distance from the patients' residences, has had but 56 orders. I need not point out the glaring inconsistency of this disproportionate payment. If my remuneration be sufficient, it is clear that of the other medical officer is more than sufficient, and the ratepayers are

overcharged; if, on the contrary, the Wyke officer is but fairly paid, I am most unjustly treated.

The board of guardians collectively have given no reply to any of my letters but the first. In conversation with individual members of the board, I am informed that they await directions from your Honourable Board on the subject. I trust, therefore, you will at once direct them to award me a fair remunerative salary, as you have the full and absolute power to do; for I read in the minutes of evidence before a Committee of the House of Commons, May 26, 1854, R. B. Cane, Esq.,

(No. 12) "The law has confided on the Poor-law Board the absolute power of fixing the amount of salary irrespectively of the boards of guardians, and if they please they can exercise that authority without reference to the guardians; but the general mode is to consult the guardians, to inquire what they deem a proper salary, and, having considered their answer and their views, then to determine what shall be the salary assigned to the officer."

(No. 13.) "Perhaps I may add, that the general regulations direct that the officers are to be paid such salaries as the Poor-law Board from time to time may determine or approve."

Mr. R. Palmer, (No. 70.) "There are instances in which the Poor-law Board have assigned salaries of higher amount than met with the concurrence of boards of guardians, and they have gone even to the length of saying that unless those salaries were paid they would be obliged to resort to the Court of Queen's Bench to enforce them; but I do not know that there are any instances in which they have been obliged to go so far as to take actual legal proceedings against boards of guardians; the knowledge that the board have the power and the expression of their intention to exercise it have been generally sufficient."

I have the honour to be, my Lords and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

The Poor-law Board.

RICHARD GRIFFIN.

No. IV.

Poor-law Board, Whitehall, June 20, 1856.

SIR,—I am directed by the Poor-law Board to acknowledge the receipt, on the 8th instant, of a Memorial signed by yourself and others who were present at a public meeting of medical and surgical practitioners, held at the Freemasons' Hall, London, on the 30th ultimo, on the subject of the duties and remuneration of the Poor-law medical officers.

I am directed by the Board to inform you, that that portion of the Memorial which relates to the subject of the remuneration at present received by medical officers shall receive their consideration. As regards the request that the Board will, in order to lighten the burden of the arduous duties of medical officers, direct the alterations recommended to be made in the form of weekly return, the Board have carefully considered the proposal, but are of opinion that the alterations suggested cannot properly be made, consistently with the due attainment of the object for which the return is required.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Richard Griffin, Esq.,
Weymouth, Dorset.

COURTENAY, Secretary.

THE RUBEOLA EPIDEMIC.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My friend, Mr. Kesteven, having alluded to my paper on "Scarlatina Morbillosa," I am induced to make a few observations on the subject.

The German pathologists have long been aware of a disease intermediate between scarlatina and morbilli, which they call rubeola. Dr. Copland ("Dictionary of Practical Medicine," p. 655) describes it under the same name. I adopted the term "scarlatina morbillosa," because of the general application of rubeola, instead of morbilli, to measles, and because its complications and sequelæ are those of scarlatina rather than of measles. The disease, as I have observed it, differs to some extent from Dr. Copland's description, and the duration of the rash is usually shorter than that assigned by him—viz., six days. I have also often seen the rash appear first in the thorax, and not break out, as he states, simultaneously all over the body.

An examination of the two papers will show, however, that, although there are several slight variations in the descriptions of the origin and course of the disease, I consider with him the disease to be distinct both from scarlatina and measles. In addition, however, to the points of distinction formerly stated, I showed that it propagates itself in a manner analogous

to the other eruptive fevers, producing a disease like itself; that an attack does not protect the patient from measles or scarlatina; and that it may occur in those who have suffered from both these diseases. I thus supplied the links necessary to complete its identity as a specific disease.

Perhaps a brief outline of the symptoms, as I have observed them, may be acceptable. The patient complains first of the ordinary preliminary symptoms of measles and scarlatina combined, those of the one or other usually predominating. In two or three, sometimes four, days, a rash having usually the colour and form of that of measles appears, either on part of the body, or more generally over its whole surface. Sometimes it comes out in the form of minute red dots, which, on the second day of their appearance, coalesce to form one uniform redness. The rash sometimes disappears in twenty-four hours, but usually lasts from three to six days. The bronchitis, if any, is usually moderate, but is sometimes severe; and the same may be said of the cynanche, except that it is more often severe than the bronchitis.

The combination of sneezing, coryza, cough, with sore-throat, fever, and the rash, form the prominent symptoms. The great diagnostic mark is the condition of the tongue, which, as far as I have seen, assumes first the strawberry-like appearance, and subsequently the uniform polished red surface so well known in scarlatina. The complications and sequelæ are those of scarlatina rather than of measles, pneumonia being rare, and anasarca afterwards not unfrequent. The urine in the latter case is albuminous, and contains renal epithelium, casts, and sometimes blood corpuscles.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

King's-place, Commercial-road, JOHN W. TRIPE, M.D., &c.
June, 1856.

CLUBS: THEIR ABUSES AND DOCTORS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—At the present time, when the most praiseworthy efforts are being made to elevate the science of medicine to its fitting position in the scale of society, it is lamentable to discover that there exists amongst some of its members a spirit of self-abasement, so abject as to embrace within its ample folds the unprofessional and derogatory system of "farming clubs." If such institutions must be tolerated, the proper regulation of them is a matter which demands the serious consideration of all those who really entertain honest and disinterested feelings regarding the status, respectability, and general welfare of the profession to which they are so much indebted, no less than the public who receive the benefit; seeing, as every unprejudiced person must see, that the inquiry relates not merely to a particular district, but involves the length and breadth of the country; and now, wellnigh every general practitioner is affected by the evil complained of—an evil that is daily being attended with the most injurious results. In this locality (which is an agricultural district) we are inundated with them. There are, within a circuit of a few miles, no less than a dozen of these clubs and societies, consisting of Odd Fellows, Widows' Protection Lodges, Friendly Societies, and the like. Many belonging to their ranks, in some of them, probably the majority, are day-labourers and farm-servants—proper objects enough, and who are highly commendable for having joined such-like institutions (for I am far from wishing to interfere with the poor man's rights), which, in time of need, afford benefits of considerable importance to the working man, engendering a spirit of independence and honest pride, arising from self-support; and thus are the purses of the ratepayers spared. But, Sir, of whom is the other portion composed? I can with truth affirm that, in the place from which this letter is written, it is formed of respectable, prosperous tradesmen, farmers, innkeepers, tailors, shoemakers, carpenters, and builders, *id genus omne*; heads of families well able to pay a medical man, most of whom are ever ready and willing to avail themselves of the weekly allowance, and all gladly avail themselves of the services of the appointed club doctor; and it is a well-known fact that many join these societies solely for that benefit. Here, then, is a grievous wrong; and where charity is out of the question, the doctor's pocket, as usual, suffers. He is not paid for his journeys and medicines, while the patient internally consoles himself that the requisite attendance upon his ailments can be ensured for the extravagant outlay of half-a-crown per annum—two farthings a week! Exorbitant remuneration certainly! It is monstrous, absurd, ridiculous! Do lawyers or the clergy retail their lore at such prices? Nay, do the butcher, baker, draper, &c., undersell their articles at the low prices these officials would offer us?

The plan is the same, but how laughable. We are constantly complaining, and with reason, that our professional services are neither sufficiently estimated nor remunerated by the public; but, Sir, how can we in reason expect that others should hold our services as worth much, when we ourselves value them at nought? I have had something to do with unions and clubs, and am daily more convinced of their legion of evils. My predecessor here kindly handed me over no less than eight of these societies—consisting of about 300 members in all, scattered over various parts of the country—and the whole of which were to be attended a full year for £35; and this when hay is £6 or £7 per ton, and oats 36s. per quarter. I need scarcely add that I relinquished the honour of these profitable contracts as soon as practicable. Not the least of the evils and injustice incident upon the practice in question is that arising from cases of accidents and operations; the club patient under these circumstances is not even on a par, in point of remuneration, with the union pauper, no extras for such cases being allowed,—all must be included in the liberal salary of 2s. 6d. per annum. An instance of this occurred in my own practice in the winter of 1854, when a wealthy publican and farmer, residing four miles from my residence, fractured his leg, and as a matter of course sent for the doctor of the club to which he belonged; fortunately he was absent from home at the time, and a neighbouring practitioner, a friend of his, was summoned, and took charge of the case, to the great relief and satisfaction of the appointed medical attendant, who would have had the benefit of this bad case, in the depth of winter, extending over a period of nearly three months, for the noble sum of 2s. 6d.—the patient's quota for the doctor to the club, while his more fortunate brother practitioner could well charge at a reasonable rate £7 or £8. And here I must for the present leave this important subject, hoping to be permitted to resume it in a future number.

I remain, Sir, your obedient, humble servant,

FIAT JUSTITIA, AND SUBSCRIBER SINCE 1835.

Coleshill, Warwickshire.

THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have been waiting week after week and month after month in the hope that you would advocate in your all-powerful journal the cause of the assistant-surgeons of the Indian armies. I have been waiting to see a leading article drawing the attention of would-be Indian assistant-surgeons to the letters of those who have already taken the fatal step. The grey-headed assistant-surgeon who wrote in September last, and the letters which preceded his, should act as cautions to the gentlemen who are now thinking of competing for these *very* splendid appointments.

In THE LANCET of March 15th is a letter from a bilious Madras assistant-surgeon, giving an account of the different marches he has had to perform since his arrival in India, and stating the (to all Anglo-Indians) well-known fact, that his pay did not by far cover his expenses. Sir, this is not a solitary case. The pay of an assistant-surgeon at first is but £230 per annum, and, indeed, there only comes to his hands about £150. The mess, fund, band, and different station subscriptions and donations, swallow up the rest. On this he has to keep at least one horse, a house, six or seven servants, tents, &c., and is constantly making little marches of six or eight hundred miles. And when you consider, Sir, that the rupee in India goes about as far as the shilling at home, the question naturally arises, How does he live? Sir, *he gets into debt, and remains in debt, and stops in the country till he dies, because he cannot pay his debt.* That is the fate of numbers, both military and medical.

The most an assistant-surgeon can ever get is £480 a year, and out of this £100 will be cut. I here refer to those who have no interest, and cannot get civil surgeoncies or other staff appointments. The Madras assistant-surgeon says he never heard of any one obtaining the pension of £500 per annum after seventeen years' service. No more did I; certainly no one in the Bombay presidency ever did so, or dreamt of such a thing. In Bombay, after twenty years' service, the Government give £190 per annum, and the Medical Annuity Fund £150; but people are so in debt at the end of seventeen years' service that few can leave the country.

As regards the Bombay Medical Fund, we all pay heavily each month to it, and it is now in an insolvent state, and it has been declared by the actuary that it cannot continue many more years at the present rate of subscription. The rate already is much higher than you could buy the same annuity