Royal, nor has there been one there for many years past. The inhabitants are indebted for medical aid, for the most part, to the gratuitous and benevolent attention of the naval medical officers of the Royal Naval Hospital. Dr. Watson, surgeon of the hospital, Beveridge, surgeon of her Majesty's ship, *Imaun*, and Babington, assistant-surgeon of ten years' standing, attended the wretched people by night as well as by day, amidst scenes of the most squalid misery and frightful mortality, without asking for any reward, without additional pay, and, to the disgrace of the Admiralty and of the public, without promotion, and without even an acknowledgment of their services.

I have seen some severe animadversions in the newspapers on the conduct of the two assistant-surgeons who threw up their commissions rather than go out to Port Royal. I dare say that the Admiralty are astonished and indignant that their officers should be unwilling to risk their lives for seven shillings and sixpence a day, whilst civil surgeons receive four guineas. Two of the civilians are now living at the best hotel, doing nothing, as the island is perfectly healthy. I wish you would take notice of this.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
A NAVAL SURGEON SERVING
IN THE WEST INDIES.

May, 1851.

UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT.—DEGRADING OFFER OF A QUALIFIED SURGEON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg to forward you the enclosed, and have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. R. MILNER,

Wakefield, May 10, 1851.

Sec. to the Wakefield Medical Society.

At a meeting of the Wakefield Medical Society, held on the 7th May, 1851, Mr. Henry Horsfall in the chair, a letter was read, which Mr. Thornton, of Horbury, had addressed to several of the clubs in that neighbourhood, and the following resolution, moved by Mr. Stutter, and seconded by Dr. Holdworth, was passed unanimously.

Resolved—That this meeting regrets that any medical man should degrade the profession to which he belongs, by issuing such a document as the letter now read, and that a copy of this resolution, and of the letter to which it refers, be forwarded by the secretary to *The Lancet*, and to the *Medical Gazette*.

(COPY.)

I hereby offer to attend the members of your Lodge at the rate of 2s. 6d. each per year, including sickness and all accidents, except those demanding operations which require the assistance of another medical man; and in the latter, I will not make any charge for my own time and trouble.

I also wish it to be distinctly understood that I shall not allow a lower offer than my own to prevent me becoming the medical officer to your Lodge, but, on the contrary, should you receive any offers to attend the members at less than I have stated, I will take them at 6d. per member less than any offer you may receive.

WILLIAM HENRY THORNTON, M.B. Lond.,
Horbury, April 12, 1851. M.R.C.S. Eng., and L.S.A.

The above requires no comment. Is it possible that the letter signed "William Henry Thornton" could have issued from a medical practitioner?—ED. L.

HEALTH OF THE METROPOLIS FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MAY 10.—The present state of public health in the metropolis is far from being satisfactory. In the preceding week, though there still appeared an excess above the average, the mortality had declined to 994 deaths; but the number in the week ending last Saturday has again risen to 1041. The total number of deaths included in the zymotic class of diseases is 233. The cases enumerated under the head of "diseases of the respiratory organs," amount to 157. But the six diseases which constitute the latter class scarcely exceed in their aggregate fatality the amount caused by phthisis alone. A great increase is observable in the deaths registered last week of young persons; for the number of children who died under the age of 15 years, rose from 443 in the previous week to 511 in the last. A smaller increase is observed generally among persons in various stages of life. In the last week, the births of 791 boys, and 781 girls, in all 1572 children, were registered.

CONVENTION OF POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS.

A THIRD audit of the treasurer's account necessarily leads to a review of the past exertions of the committee, and calls for a notice of the position and prospects of the convention.

The energy and co-operation which characterized the early efforts of the association have in a measure flagged under discouragement and hope deferred.

The committee for some time past have felt that the period was approaching for them for a while to suspend their meetings, if not to resign their trust to the great body of the union surgeons, by whom, in 1847, they were authorized to act. Though the labours of the committee have been nobly seconded by a few of the union surgeons in the provinces, they have not been able to realize anything tangible, chiefly because they have been only partially supported from without, and have wanted the steady perseverance and united personal exertion of the many, which alone can conquer such diffused and deep-rooted evils as the convention was formed to overcome. The contributions to the funds have been few, if we except the sums subscribed in 1849, when an impulse was given at the meeting over which Lord Ashley presided.

On the 21st April, the treasurer wrote,—"We have over-expended to the amount of £7 11s. 1d.," and added, with his habitual consideration and liberality,—"This sum I shall be happy, if I may be allowed, to present to the committee." The committee gratefully record this generous offer, but they feel that it cannot be the will of their constituents that it be accepted.

In looking over the list of the names of those who have contributed to the funds of the association, it is matter for surprise and humiliation to see that not more than about 400 out of a profession of 15,000, and only 404 out of the 3000 union surgeons, have come forward in aid of a cause in which the profession generally, and the union medical staff more especially, are concerned.

Whatever feeling of timidity, apathy, or hopelessness may have existed amongst the majority of the profession, the committee, on recurring to the small list of free-hearted contributors to their finances, and of manly coadjutors in their operations, cannot but congratulate those gentlemen on the efforts which they have made to overcome a system so oppressive and unjust as that through which medical relief is administered under the domination of the guardians of the Poor-Law Board. They entertain unshaken confidence in the goodness of their cause, and a full conviction that judicious and well-supported efforts will yet obtain for the union surgeons the redress to which they are so eminently entitled. At the same time they feel it their duty to urge the poor-law medical officers and the profession in general to consider how much the redress which is sought, and for which so large a sacrifice of money, exertion, and time, has been made by some of their brethren, is within their voluntary grasp, but that it can never be hoped for, so long as the degrading and ill-paid appointments are not merely accepted, but made the objects of eager competition.

During the past three years frequent attempts have been made to call the attention of the Government, and also of the public, to the subject. Earnest applications have been addressed, in writing and by deputation, to parties of influence in the Colleges and the Hall—to the Poor-law Board, to the Home Secretary, and to the First Lord of the Treasury. Petitions have been again and again addressed to the House of Commons; the public has been appealed to by advertisements, by addresses, and by reports, which have been seconded by leading articles in many of the most influential journals. These varied efforts cannot have failed to prepare the country for amended legislation; and the speeches of Lord Ashley (in Feb. 1849), and of General Sir De Lacy Evans and Dr. J. Arthur Wilson at the recent interview with Lord John Russell, are proofs of the cordial and stirring sympathy already awakened.

Under the present political aspect, the committee have thought right to suspend their meetings until some special circumstances may determine the time for resuming their exertions. They have consequently discontinued the expenses which secured the services of their assistant-secretary. Through the liberal consideration of the Council of the National Institute of Medicine, who all along have placed at the disposal of the committee their eligible rooms in Hanover-square, they have been saved a considerable outlay for offices. This courteous assistance has been specially noticed by a vote of thanks from the committee, which they have pleasure in thus publicly recording. The cordial thanks of the committee have likewise been voted to their excellent treasurer, Thomas Martin

Esq., whose numerous engagements have obliged him to resign the office.

Contributions in aid of past and future expenses, for printing, advertisements, &c., (charges inseparable from the operations of the committee,) are solicited, and may be sent by post-office order to Mr. Lord, who, on the resignation of Mr. Martin, obligingly consented to unite the treasurer's duties with those of the honorary secretary.

The Treasurer's Report of Receipts and Disbursements from the 19th February, 1849, to the 17th April, 1851.

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	DISBURSEMENTS.	£ s. d.
Amount of subscriptions received from 404 contributors	247 14 3	Balance due to the Treasurer, as per last account	22 17 9
Balance due to the Treasurer	7 11 1	Printing	63 0 11
		Stationery	7 15 11
		Postages	28 18 0
		Advertisements	47 17 6
		Room and incidental expenses for deputations	3 11 0
		Messrs. Fuller & Saltwell's fee	1 1 0
		Salary of the Assistant-Secretary	65 0 0
		Miscellaneous expenses	15 3 3
	£255 5 4		£255 5 4

We, the undersigned, having examined the foregoing accounts with the vouchers, do find the same correct, and that the balance due to the treasurer is seven pounds eleven shillings, and one penny.

JOHN PROPERT,
GEORGE JAMES SQUIBB, } Auditors.

By order of the committee,
THOS. HODGKIN, Chairman.
CHAS. F. JAMES LORD, Hon. Sec.

NOTE.—It is requested that all communications be addressed to the honorary secretary, Charles F. James Lord, Hampstead, and that post-office orders may be made payable to that gentleman, at the post-office, Hampstead.

MEETINGS OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETIES IN LONDON DURING THE ENSUING WEEK.

NOTE.—When the day of the month is not specified, no meetings take place.

Societies.	—	Days of Meeting.
Epidemiological	Mon. 8½ P.M.	May 19
Chemical, 142, Strand.....	Mon. 8 P.M.	
Medico-Botanical, 32, Sackville-st.	Tuesday.	" 20
Medico-Chirurgical, 53, Berners-st.	Tues. 8½ P.M.	" 20
Pathological, 32A, George-street, } Hanover-square.....	Tues. 8 P.M.	
Hunterian, 4, Bloomfield-street, } Finsbury.....	Wed. 8 P.M.	" 22
Pharmaceutical, 17, Bloomsbury-sq.	Wed. 9 P.M.	
Harveian, 21, Edwards-street, } Portman-square	Thurs. 8 P.M.	" 24
South London Medical, Borough ...	Thurs. 8 P.M.	
Western Medical and Surgical.....	Fri. 8 P.M.	" 24
Medical Society of London, 32A, } George-street, Hanover-square }	Sat. 8 P.M.	

Medical News.

MR. VINCENT.—This gentleman, so long and so deservedly well-known to the profession, has been compelled, from continued ill-health, to resign his seats at the Court of Examiners and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons. We have heard that Mr. Edward Cutler has also resigned his seat in the council.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—We have been requested to state, that communications for this Society should be addressed to Dr. McWilliam, 14, Trinity Square, Tower-hill; or J. H. Tucker, Esq., 38, Berners-street, Oxford-street, hon. secretaries.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY stated from the chair, at the meeting on Tuesday last, that the Council had authorized him to invite distinguished foreigners to the meetings of the Society, and to partake of the advantages of the library during the session.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted members of the college, at the meeting of the Court of Examiners, on the 9th inst.:—

BUCKLAND, FRANCIS TREVELYAN, Deanery, Westminster.
CARPENTER, ALFRED, Rothwell, Northamptonshire.
CARR, WILLIAM TAIT, Aberdeen.
CHALDECOTT, FREDERIC JAMES, Dorking, Surrey.
FOUNTAIN, JOHN, Cowley, Uxbridge, Middlesex.
HANFORD, ALBERT WILLIAM, Nottingham.
MOORE, EBENEZER, Islington.
POWER, HENRY, London.
SIMPSON, HENRY, Chester.
THOMAS, HENRY CORNELIUS, Vauxhall-road, Pimlico.
WAKE, EDWARD GEORGE, Hull.
WARWICK, WILLIAM, Belfast.
WELLINGS, RICHARD, Ravenstone, Leicestershire.
WILDE, JOHN, Islington.
WILSON, EDWIN, Hyde, Cheshire.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on

Thursday, May 8th, 1851.

BICKERTON, THOMAS, Liverpool.
GEORGE, HENRY, Kirton Lindsey.
HAYMAN, WILLIAM EDWARD, Abingdon, Berks.
LANCASTER, THOMAS, Radcliffe Bridge.
WEAVER, JOHN DAVIES, Chester.

BRITISH MEDICAL FUND.—A meeting of the medical gentlemen of Manchester and the neighbourhood was lately held at the Town Hall, King-street, for the purpose of hearing a statement from Mr. Hawtayne, from London, Secretary to the British Medical Fund, in reference to the objects of that Society. Dr. Lyon presided. After the meeting had been opened by some appropriate remarks from the Chairman, in reference to the usefulness of such an institution, and the necessity of offering some provision for medical men, the Secretary was called on to explain the objects and rules of the British Medical Fund. Amongst several gentlemen who addressed the meeting, Dr. Renaud questioned the propriety of retaining that portion of the plan relating to life assurance. Various questions, however, having been put to the secretary, and satisfactorily answered by that gentleman, resolutions were passed approving of the Society, and strongly recommending it to the profession at large for encouragement and support, and suggesting that a committee should be formed in this neighbourhood for the purpose of forwarding the objects and interests of the undertaking. Resolutions of thanks having also been passed to the promoters and directors of the Society for their zealous exertions in its behalf; to the Secretary, for his satisfactory explanations; and, lastly, to Dr. Lyon, for his able and courteous conduct in the chair; the meeting separated.—Similar meetings, we understand, are being held in other towns throughout the kingdom.

HOSPITAL THAT BEATS BEDLAM.—Mr. Punch is very happy to say that the London Homœopathic Hospital is largely advertised under the patronage of that illustrious lady of science, the Duchess of Cambridge, the Lady Lindsay, Sir C. E. Eardley, Bart., and numerous other philosophers of both sexes, including a gentleman named Downey. Punch cannot too earnestly recommend this valuable institution to public patronage. When a fellow-being is seized with inflammation of the lungs, or some other organ essential to life, and but for prompt medical assistance would perhaps expire in a few hours, leaving a wife possibly, and several children, to lament his loss, what an advantage it is to him to be enabled to obtain that certain and instantaneous relief which is afforded by the billionth part of a grain of medicine. It is a pity that the board of management of the London Homœopathic Hospital does not publish those numerous cases of fracture and dislocation which have been reduced by the administration of Homœopathic globules, as also the reproduction of various amputated limbs effected as certainly as any disease whatever by the same means. The board also might as well have acknowledged those edicts of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, which require that the candidates for their respective diplomas shall have walked the homœopathic hospital; and moreover, Mr. Punch misses the respected name of the Earl of Aldborough to the list of subscribers to the institution.—Punch.

NORTH DISPENSARY, LIVERPOOL.—Mr. Henry Behrend and Mr. W. H. Manifold were elected, at a late meeting of the trustees, honorary medical officers to this dispensary.