awarded in or about May, 1855,) being anxious to know the fate of his essay, wrote to the *Dublin Medical Press*, requesting the Editor would announce whether the prizes were given away. No notice being taken of the communication, I wrote to the Secretary of the College of Surgeons, stating that the writer was one of the essayists, and requested the Secretary would inform the profession what was done with the prizes, as, if the prizes were not to be distributed, the essayist wished to get back his essay. No notice being taken of this communication either, I am in doubt what to do, for, as may be supposed, a candidate for a prize would not like to have his name known.

Candidates were requested to send in their essays by the 1st of February, 1855. This was done by me, and since that time, now over twelve months, I have not heard what has become of the money or of my essay. Under such circumstances, I take the liberty of making the matter public through your world-known journal. I of course conceal my name, but announce myself as

ONE OF THE CANDIDATES FOR THE
CARMICHAEL PRIZES.

Dublin, April, 1856.

MEDICATED COD-LIVER OIL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In reply to Mr. Barnes's letter in your last number, I can assure him that he need not be under any apprehension that I shall claim, or have claimed, the merit of having first effected every possible combination of cod-liver oil. In truth, so far from denying or hiding the fact that Mr. Barnes had dissolved biniodide of mercury in cod-liver oil, I pointed out this circumstance to those most deeply interested in securing the exclusive privilege of manufacturing the preparations patented by Mr. Horsley, as an evidence additional to mine of the invalidity of his patent.

When the extreme dissimilarity between the characters and properties of an alkaloid and a metallic compound is considered, I certainly am surprised that an intelligent chemist like Mr. Barnes should have imagined that his announcement of the fact that biniodide of mercury was soluble in cod-liver oil led me to the discovery that other substances were soluble in cod-liver oil. The latter being information well known before Mr. Barnes's announcement.

If there be any credit due to me for having first discovered such preparations as cod-liver oil with quinine, iodide of iron, &c., I certainly cannot give any of that credit to Mr. Barnes, for I am indebted to the highly-suggestive work on "Physiological Chemistry," by Lehmann, for the idea that such preparations would prove valuable in medicine; and in carrying that idea to a practical conclusion, I do not think that any person conversant with chemistry will consider that I could receive any light from Mr. Barnes's paper.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Brook-street, April, 1856.

WM. BASTICK.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—During my residence at the University College Hospital as dispenser, I well remember dissolving phosphorus in cod-liver oil, according to a prescription ordered by one of the medical staff.

There were several patients taking the phosphorus and oil for a length of time, (to the best of my recollection in the year 1849 or 1850, certainly not later than June, 1851.) Mr. Bastick and Mr. Barnes have, therefore, no claim for priority of invention of "medicated cod-liver oil," it having been used in hospital practice some years before the date "October, 1853," as given by Mr. Barnes in your last impression.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Turnsfield, April, 1856.

W. H. SWANN.

THE EMPRESS AND THE PAUPER.—HALSTEAD UNION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It has been circulated in the public papers, that M. Dubois received 30,000 francs for attending the Empress in her accouchement, and that the other medical attendants were proportionately liberally paid. "Sic parvis componere magna!" I will relate a case very similar in its nature in all except the remuneration.

In my capacity of acting medical officer to this union, I was called, a month ago, to attend the wife of James T—, a labourer residing at Toppesfield, six miles from my residence,

who was stated to have been in labour three days—that is, she had had a Mrs. Hall, an experienced midwife, with her two days and three nights, and that she said I must come directly. I sent the husband to the relieving officer for an order. He refused it. I then wrote the said official a note, requesting an order, and sent it by the husband, at the same time giving the man my instruments.

On my arrival, I found that it was the first child, the mother's age about thirty-three or thirty-four, and the head was firmly impacted in the pelvis. The husband arrived about half an hour after myself, but brought no order. Meanwhile, I despatched a message for some brandy, to the inn, some mile and a half distant, and after a short time, by the aid of the forceps, I introduced the "little stranger" to this world of trouble. He was plump, and, after a little stimulus, very lively. Though not a Roi d'Algerie, he resembled his august majesty by retaining for a short period unmistakable evidence of the difficulty of his admission into society; and here the comparison ends.

I applied to the board of guardians to give me an order for attending this case, and it was, after due deliberation, refused, and the only chance of remuneration remains to be extracted from the pocket of a humble and hardworking man, who has to maintain a wife and child out of ten shillings per week. Further comment is superfluous.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

Halstead, April, 1856.

J. B. BUDGET.

GRIEVANCES OF POOR-LAW SURGEONS.

At a meeting of the Medical Officers of the Manchester Union, it was unanimously resolved,—

1st.—That this meeting, being duly impressed with the deficient remuneration of Union surgeons generally, and the want of an examination of the districts, as recommended by the Committee of the House of Commons of 1854, views with pleasure the movement for effecting these objects.

2nd.—That the Medical Officers of this Union hereby form themselves into an association for the promotion of this movement.

3rd.—That this meeting believes that the best method of carrying out the above views will be by the presentation of a petition to Parliament as soon as possible; and that the members for the city of Manchester and county of Lancaster be requested to support its prayer.

4th.—That Mr. Armstrong be appointed local secretary and treasurer.

5th.—That a subscription of 5s. each be entered into and forwarded at once to Mr. Griffin; to be repeated quarterly if necessary.

6th.—That a small subscription be likewise made for incidental expenses.

7th.—That the best thanks of this meeting are due, and are hereby given, to R. Griffin, Esq., for his exertions on behalf of Union surgeons.

(Signed)

JOHN ARMSTRONG, Local Secretary.

At a meeting of the Medical Officers of the Gateshead Poor-law Union, held on the 22nd ultimo, pursuant to notice, the following resolutions were passed:—

1st.—That the Medical Officers of this Union do send in their adhesion to the movement now originated by Mr. Griffin, of Weymouth, for the better regulation of medical relief to the poor, and do promise their co-operation as regards the general principle of the movement.

2nd.—That the Medical Officers of this Union do form a committee, and that Mr. Wilson be nominated secretary, with power to receive a small subscription to pay the incidental expenses.

(Signed)

ROBERT DAVIS.

JOHN CALLENDER.

HENRY DODD.

J. H. STEPHENSON.

R. H. WILSON.

JOHN M'ALLUM.

Gateshead, March 22nd, 1856.

At a meeting of the Medical Officers of the Bideford Union, held on the 25th ultimo, at Bideford, it was resolved unanimously,—

1st.—That this meeting begs to acknowledge its obligations to Mr. Griffin for his efforts to improve the present inadequate amount of remuneration of the Union Medical Officers.

2nd.—That this meeting pledges itself to support Mr. Griffin in his laudable undertaking; and that a subscription of 5s. per

quarter be paid by each member to the local secretary for the purpose of defraying the necessary expenses.

3rd.—That Mr. W. H. Ackland be appointed local secretary and treasurer.

4th.—That a copy of these resolutions be sent to Mr. Griffin and the journals.

(Signed)

T. L. PRIDHAM, Chairman.

C. C. TURNER.

W. WINE.

Bideford, Devon, April 7th, 1856.

W. H. ACKLAND, Secretary.

At a meeting of the Medical Officers of the Guiltecross Union, in the county of Norfolk, held on the 28th ult., to take into consideration Mr. Griffin's appeal to the Poor-law Medical Officers, it was unanimously resolved—

1st.—That Government should be requested to revise and increase the salaries of the Poor-law Medical Officers, in order that they may be fairly and adequately remunerated.

2nd.—That the salaries be paid from the Consolidated Fund.

3rd.—That the Medical Officers of all the unions be under the government of a board of medical men.

4th.—That the remuneration for the operations under Article 177 be increased, and that the undermentioned operations be included in the said article, with an adequate fee for each:—Fractures or dislocations of clavicle, ribs, hands and fingers, feet and toes, pelvis, lower jaw, spine, and patella; hydrocele, castration, catheterism; removing tumours, nævi, or polypi; hare-lip; amputation of mamma; paracentesis thoracis et abdominis; reduction of hernia.

5th.—That the Medical Officers be paid for giving certificates of all kinds.

6th.—That a subscription of 5s. quarterly be paid in furtherance of Mr. Griffin's object.

7th.—That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to Mr. Griffin for his unexampled endeavours on behalf of the Union Surgeons.

8th.—That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to Mr. Griffin and the journals.

(Signed)

HORACE HOWARD.

HENRY WARD.

HENRY CROOKS.

C. MORGAN.

HENRY P. LEECH.

At a meeting of the Medical Officers of the Lutterworth Union, held on the 1st inst., the following resolutions were passed:—

1st.—That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to R. Griffin, Esq., of Weymouth, for his exertions on behalf of the Poor-law Medical Officers.

2nd.—That the Medical Officers of this Union, whilst desiring to express their sense of the kind and considerate conduct of their own Board of Guardians, do nevertheless feel it their duty to form themselves into a local committee for the furtherance of Mr. Griffin's movement on behalf of Poor-law Medical Officers generally.

3rd.—That this meeting agrees generally in the plan proposed by Mr. Griffin, but protests against the proposition for including extras in the yearly salaries; the meeting proposes, on the contrary, that the list of cases coming under the denomination of extras be enlarged, and that the remuneration for ordinary cases of midwifery be increased, and the extra fees for midwifery remain as they are.

4th.—That the Medical Officers of union workhouses should be paid the same fees for extra services performed therein as are allowed to district Medical Officers.

5th.—That it is desirable and just that the present amount of remuneration to Union Medical Officers should be increased, their salaries being wholly inadequate to the labour and expense attending the performance of their arduous duties.

6th.—That a subscription of 5s. each be entered into to defray all necessary expenses, and that Dr. Bond be requested to act as local treasurer.

7th.—That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to Mr. Griffin and to each of the medical journals.

CHARLES BOND, Chairman.

At a meeting, held at Wickhambrook, of the Medical Officers of the Risbridge Union,—viz., Messrs. Stutter, Crosby, Nazer, and Simpson, and at which a letter was read from Mr. Brown regretting his absence, but expressing a wish to join in any proceedings that might be adopted,—it was resolved—

1st.—That the thanks of the meeting be given to Mr. Griffin for his exertions in furthering the interests of the

Union Surgeons, and that the utmost efforts be used to promote his views.

2nd.—That a subscription of 5s. per quarter (if necessary) should be forwarded to Mr. Griffin from each member.

3rd.—That a notice of the meeting be sent to Mr. Griffin and the medical journals.

4th.—That Mr. W. Simpson, of Haverhill, be appointed local secretary and treasurer.

(Signed)

W. SIMPSON.

At a meeting of the Medical Officers of the York Poor-law Union the following resolutions were unanimously agreed to:—

1st.—That the thanks of this meeting are due to Mr. Griffin for his exertions in the cause of Union Medical Officers, and that the agitation commenced by him ought to be supported.

2nd.—This meeting is of opinion that the Minute of the Poor-law Commissioners of June 6th, 1839, and repeated in 1841, contains the principles on which a just and equitable system of remuneration may be founded.

3rd.—That in recognising any system of remuneration, due regard should be had to the area and population of the district.

4th.—That the schedule of fees for extra surgical cases should be extended.

5th.—That the fee for midwifery, if more than a mile from the officer's residence, should not be less than a guinea.

6th.—That immediate legislative interference should be sought for.

7th.—That Mr. Worth do act as secretary, with power to raise subscriptions.

York, April 2, 1856.

At a meeting of the Medical Officers of the Huddersfield Union, held at the Huddersfield Infirmary on the 4th inst.,—present, T. R. Tatham, Esq. (in the chair), Messrs. Haigh, Hesselgrave, Dean, Mackintosh, and Dr. Gardiner,—the following resolutions were adopted:—

1st.—That this meeting, without pledging itself to details, approves generally of the main principles laid down by Mr. Griffin in his circular.

2nd.—That Mr. Mackintosh be requested to act as honorary secretary.

3rd.—That each member, for the present, subscribe 5s. per quarter, or any further sum that may be necessary.

4th.—That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to Mr. Griffin for his energetic exertions on behalf of Poor-law Medical Reform.

5th.—That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to Mr. Griffin and the medical journals.

(Signed)

T. R. TATHAM, Chairman.

SCOTLAND.

[FROM OUR EDINBURGH CORRESPONDENT.]

THE present session is now drawing to a close; final prize examinations are being held in various classes; valedictory addresses are being delivered at the different societies, and elections of office-bearers for another year are taking place previous to the adjournment. Significant tokens that the "winter session" is nearly over. An interesting feature in the session has been the *conversazioni*, a more than usual number of them having taken place during the winter months. Those which have been held at the Royal College of Surgeons were especially interesting and attractive. The third of these took place on Friday evening, March 28th, when Mr. Spence, Lecturer on Surgery, delivered a lecture upon Gun-shot Wounds. The invention of the Minié rifle, the ball from which shatters wherever it strikes, enabled Mr. Spence to allude to the peculiar and severe nature of the wounds inflicted by it. With regard to the present war, he said sufficient time had not yet elapsed for us to ascertain the progress surgery had made towards the preservation of life and limb; but the war would teach the public a useful and important lesson. A great outcry was raised after the battle of the Alma as to the neglect of the wounded and the inefficiency of the medical arrangements; but contrasting it with Waterloo, after which battle numbers of the wounded had to wait fourteen days before their sufferings were attended to, he said the prompt manner in which aid was rendered to all after the Alma was unparalleled, and he trusted the time was not very far distant when the press and the public would retract the hasty and indiscriminating attacks they had made upon the medical officers of the army, and