all acute or serious affections of the throat or windpipe an emetic is the very first means to be employed, because it is almost invariably followed by great relief.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Epsom, April, 1863. THOS. J. GRAHAM, M.D.

THE LANCASHIRE DISTRESS MEDICAL FUND.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have directed Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co. to send you by this mail a bill of exchange for £40, which I will thank you to make use of as you think best in aid of the "Lancashire Distress Medical Fund," which you so nobly and liberally set on foot. I hope it may prove acceptable. I have collected it principally on the ground of the comfort and assistance such aid must afford to our hard-worked and much-tried medical brethren in the famine districts. Please to acknowledge it as follows:—

Collection in church at Ootacamund, by the Rev.			
W. B. Ottley, 170 rupees, or	£17	0	0
Collected from a few sympathizing friends, by			
Surgeon W. A. Leslie, 230 rupees, or	23	0	0
Total	£40	0	0

I would that we could do more to assist our brethren at home; but our service is not what it used to be, and it is with difficulty that we can save enough money to enable us to return to England after our seventeen years' service with anything like comfort.

Our fund (which was the great advantage of the service in former days) will be utterly unable to give off any extra annuities from time to time, as no new members are joining it. At present it takes about twenty-five years to get a small annuity, and about thirty-two years to get a large one. When the numbers given off are decreased,—as they must be if the income is decreased,—it is impossible to say how long it may take to get a large annuity; for my own part, I scarcely look forward to it at all.

I have troubled you with these remarks as you often kindly advocate our cause, and I dare say that from time to time you will continue to do so.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Coonoor, Madras Presidency, Feb. 1863. WALTER A. LESLIE,
Surgeon Madras Army, and Medical Officer,
Coonoor, Nielgherry-hills.

* * Since the above letter was received, another bill of exchange for £9 has been forwarded to us from the same gentleman.

Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MARCH 29TH, 1863.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION (IRELAND) BILL.

On the motion for the third reading of this Bill,

The Earl of BANDON proposed an amendment of which he had privately given notice to the noble earl opposite, the effect of which was to assimilate the machinery of registration in Ireland to that of England. It was said that if his amendment were carried the Bill would be lost, but he hoped their lordships would judge it upon its own merits.

The Earl of ST. GERMAN hoped that their lordships would not agree to the amendment.

The Earl of LEITRIM supported the amendment.

The Earl of DERBY thought that there might be an objection to limiting the choice of the guardians to dispensary surgeons, because in some cases, especially in large towns, those gentlemen might be too much occupied to be able efficiently to discharge the duties of the office of registrar. He would, however, suggest to his noble friend behind him that it would be as well he should not press his amendment, but that he should allow the Bill to pass as it had been agreed to in the House of Commons.

The amendment was then withdrawn, and the Bill passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MARCH 27TH, 1863.

THE CHATHAM MURDER.

Mr. BLAKE asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in the case of the convict Burton, now un-

der sentence of death at Maidstone Gaol for the murder of a child at Chatham Lines, an application was not made at the trial for the examination of the prisoner by Dr. Forbes Winslow, or some other physician of experience in insanity, and refused by the judge; and whether, taking into consideration the fact of Burton's mother being confined in a lunatic asylum, and his brother not being of sound mind, it was his intention to order such an examination to be now made? He was informed that the prisoner's counsel applied to the judge to order that the evidence of eminent medical men should be procured to show whether, when the prisoner committed the act, he was labouring under insanity or not. Mr. Justice Wightman, however, stated that he had no funds at his disposal for such a purpose. He trusted that the right hon. gentleman would satisfy himself whether this unhappy man was insane or not.

Sir G. GREY was not aware that any application had been made to the judge of the nature described by the hon. member. The defence of the prisoner was his alleged insanity. Evidence was adduced on the subject, and the judge laid down the law in accordance with the highest legal authorities. The jury, after full and patient consideration, were of opinion that the prisoner was morally responsible for his actions. In answer to the second question, he had to state that no facts had come under his notice which would justify such an examination.

DEARTH OF ARMY SURGEONS.

OUR witty contemporary *Punch* pungently expresses the views which have been put forth in these columns, in the following words. We commend *Mr. Punch's* observations to the attention of medical students, of whom he has always been the friend:—

"TO MEDICAL GENTS.—Wanted, a considerable number of Clever Young Snobs to compete for the Commission of Surgeon in the Army, for which there is at present, and has been for some time, an extreme Scarcity of Eligible Candidates, owing to the circumstance that men of education and ability sufficient to qualify them for the office, refuse to accept it, unless upon the impossible condition of being treated as gentlemen. All applicants must be Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons, and Doctors of Medicine who have received diplomas recognised under the Medical Registration Act. In addition to their professional qualifications, they must possess a capability of being continually and contentedly Snubbed, and patiently submitting to any amount of Insult. They will be required at the mess-table to occupy a position subordinate to that of every combatant officer, even the youngest Ensign, whose permission it will be necessary for them to ask for the purpose of giving the band or the attendants any kind of order. It will be necessary for them to be regardless of those petty annoyances unavoidably inflicted by junior officers on their inferiors in rank, but superiors in age and attainments. No Thin-Skinned Persons, endowed with any Self-Respect whatever, or animated in the least degree by the Feelings of a Gentleman, need apply. For further particulars inquiry may be made at Head Quarters.

"Horse Guards, March 25th, 1863.

"BY ORDER."

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.—At a general meeting of the Fellows held on the 30th ult., THOMAS WATSON, M.D. Cantab., was elected President of the College for the ensuing year.

At the same meeting, the following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examination, were duly admitted Members of the College:—

Crucknell, Henry Heanes, M.B., King's College Hospital.
Sturges, Octavius, M.B., 35, Connaught-square.
Williams, Henry Llewellyn, M.D., 9, Leonard-place, Kensington.

The following gentlemen passed the Preliminary Examination in the subjects of General Education on the 28th ult.:—

Bradford, Robert Mark, Exeter.
Branson, Walter, Worthing.
Cheesman, Henry, 2, Finsbury-square.
Churchill, Frederick, Backham-terrace, Lambeth.
Elliott, Arthur Bowes, Richmond, Yorkshire.
Hay, Richard, Bridport, Dorset.
Smith, Walter, Ringwood, Hants.
Winslow Lyttleton Stewart, Caius College, Cambridge.