logy of Man," says, in reference to the vagus nerve,—“Vomiting may be excited by irritation of the *central* or the peripheral extremity of this nerve.” Here, then, I think we have the key to the cause of the vomiting in Dr. Molloy’s case, the phenomenon in question being excited by the extravasation of this “large clot of blood” extending into the fourth ventricle, its pressure on the floor of this cavity (where from gravitation it would be chiefly felt) producing mechanical irritation of the central extremity of the vagus nerve.

The eighth pair of nerves being capable of conveying impressions from the medulla oblongata, independent of volition (as in deglutition, respiration, and *vomiting*), sufficiently explains why the co-existence of vomiting was not incompatible “with such profound coma.” That the gastric fibres of this nerve should have alone felt the irritation, is certainly “singular,” but not more so than in some cases of apoplexy when we have rigidity and contraction of certain muscles only. Lastly, to explain “the persistence of this symptom” in Dr. Molloy’s case, we must remember that the *cause* was persistent.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

ROBERT FOWLER, M.D. Edin.

Loughborough Dispensary, Sept. 1852.

FEES TO MEDICAL WITNESSES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The enclosed is copy of a letter received from the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty’s Treasury, in reply to a memorial of the medical men from this town and neighbourhood, on the subject of fees to medical witnesses at assizes and sessions; should you deem it worthy a place in your journal, I shall feel obliged by your inserting it, and remain, Sir, yours respectfully,

Wakefield, Sept. 1852.

SAMUEL HOLDSWORTH, M.D.

(COPY.)

Treasury Chambers, 5th July, 1852.

SIR,—The Lords Commissioners of her Majesty’s Treasury having had before them a memorial signed by you and several physicians and surgeons practising at Wakefield and in its vicinity, in which you complain of the inadequacy of the allowance made to medical witnesses, their Lordships desire me to state that the whole subject of the expenses of criminal prosecutions at the assizes and sessions, including the allowances to medical and other witnesses, is now under the consideration of her Majesty’s Government. Their Lordships would not, therefore, feel warranted in deciding upon the claims of any particular class of witnesses, until they shall be prepared to come to some general settlement of the whole matter.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

GEORGE ELLEMITH.

MEDICAL ASSISTANTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Anonymous *versus* avowed correspondence, bears some resemblance to guerrilla warfare, where one party stands out fairly for a mark, while the other pops off his piece under cover; and were it not generally understood that journalists give ready opportunity of reply, such letters would savour of injustice.

In THE LANCET of Sept. 18, a correspondent finds fault with a letter of mine contained in your number for September 13th, 1851, wherein the advantages gained by acting as medical assistant, after passing, are pointed out. There are qualified and unqualified assistants; among the latter are men who have very frequently suffered some reverse of fortune, and it is the lot of these gentlemen that I deplore, for, being only half-educated, they find it very difficult to maintain a position that is their due. Such are the anonymous correspondents who make these complaints. But I wish distinctly to observe that my letter was addressed to qualified men, who had entered the profession with reasonable expectation of being fairly launched in it, and with sufficient means to support them for the first few years; for I do not believe any one would be so insane as to enter the profession, study hard, and undergo examinations, merely with a view to pass his days as an assistant; so that the replies of these gentlemen are altogether misplaced, and entirely gratuitous. The letter in question contains these words:—“It will be seen throughout that the future practitioner of medicine has been considered.”

To revert once more to that awkward subject—salary. It appears to me that the unqualified assistant should receive the largest; to the one it is a means of support—and I should

rejoice to see it increased—while to the other, emolument is oftentimes a secondary object, as he takes such a situation with a view to extend his professional knowledge.

Believe me, sir, it has been very far from my intention to foster anything approaching to ill-feeling between principals and assistants, and if such has been the result, it would give occasion for regret.

In a few days students will be assembling at our great schools of medicine and surgery. By industry and application they will gain a knowledge of their profession. When this is accomplished, and their examinations past, they will yet have to learn one thing—the practice of it; and let me assure them that the best way to attain this, is to act for a time as an assistant. By this means they will gain confidence in themselves, readiness in the application of knowledge, facility in the administration of remedies, and tact in the use of appliances.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

Faversham, September, 1852.

W. N. SPONG.

SANITARY REGULATIONS AND THE CHOLERA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—At a time when public attention is so strongly directed to the course the cholera is taking, and the likelihood of this scourge speedily revisiting our own shores, I think it may be well to inquire what precautionary or preventive measures the Government have taken, or intend to adopt in this all-important matter.

Beyond the public rumour that the authorities have appointed Dr. Sutherland and Mr. Grainger to watch the progress, and report upon this formidable disease, we are in the mean time allowed to rest, as it were, “upon our oars,” instead of using all the means at our disposal for its prevention. I would ask what are the members of the General Board of Health in London doing to quiet the public mind at this juncture? It is true that much good has resulted from the working of the Health of Towns Act, and that those places where its provisions have been carried out have considerably improved; still there is room for further and more extended improvement. Every parish and hamlet in Great Britain and Ireland ought, if possible, to have local boards of health, with qualified and experienced medical men, armed with full powers to cause all nuisances to be removed, and due attention paid to sanitary laws and regulations. But it is too much to expect professional men to do all this work without some remuneration, and this brings me now to consider by whom should the task be performed. I would suggest that the Poor-law medical officers be everywhere appointed, and that each in his own district should also be the local officer of health. The additional salary should be fixed by the Government, or by the General Board of Health, and paid out of the Consolidated Fund. It would be well if the attention of the authorities were immediately directed to this subject.

In the hope that you will raise your powerful voice in the advocacy of some well-digested measure of sanitary reform, a very brief sketch of which I have here attempted to describe,

I remain, sir, your obedient servant,

September, 1852.

A COUNTRY PRACTITIONER.

THE NORTHERN SEA-BATHING INFIRMARY, SCARBOROUGH.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As one of the medical men in Scarborough, as one loathing and detesting, as you do, all illegitimate practice, and as one keenly alive to injustice, as I have ever found you to be, pray give me space for a reply in your valuable LANCET to Dr. Alexander’s letter of the 4th inst. It is all very well, Sir, to make homœopathy a scape-goat for the recent act of injustice committed by two monopolists against the medical men of this town; one tale reads very well until another be told, but the facts are these—not that I deny Dr. Alexander’s assertions, but I desire to give you the *whole* case.

You must know, then, that Dr. Alexander and a man of the name of Dale, a respectable shoemaker’s son from York, both strangers to the town, having become residents within eighteen months, in some way or other (for nobody knows how), got up a kind of hole-and-corner meeting, at which they actually got rescinded the old rules, shut out by a new one all the resident medical men as ineligible (*not naming illegitimate practitioners*), and had themselves appointed, together with one gentleman, a *thorough mesmerist* mind, of whom Dr. Alexander says nothing, as it would *kill* his case. Well, sir, the whole of the succeeding struggle has been to have that rule respecting the *occlusion* of the

medical men rescinded, and to which these said offenders and their party object, not because there happens to be a homœopathist amongst us (we wont mention the mesmerist), but because the entire monopoly of this institution would favour their practice; and—will you believe it?—in order to carry their point they actually refused to furnish a list of the subscribers to others until they had secured all the proxies from the distant subscribers, to whom they stated their own case. This, I think, Sir, will show you the manner in which the whole of their proceedings have been conducted.

If the original rule were carried to-morrow, not half the medical men of the town would join, as they are too fully occupied for that; it is only those who have little to do who are desirous to busy themselves. It is the insult and injustice towards the whole of the medical men which is contended against.

Dr. Alexander's opinion respecting the cause of the declension of the Northern Sea-Bathing Infirmary will, I fear, still hold good, for it has been monopolized from its commencement by a firm now extinct, and it appears in a fair way of falling into the same condition, as it is now in a state of insolvency.

In consequence of these proceedings, I regret to say a plan is now being organized for the establishment of another institution, as suggested by the late able and intelligent secretary, in consequence of its insolvency.

Since Dr. Alexander's letter appeared in your journal, he has been obliged to leave the town, and has resigned his valuable services, so what will be done now I know not.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

Scarborough, Sept. 1852.

C. B. BREAREY.

Medical News.

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

Thursday, September 16th, 1852.

FRANKS, HENRY JAMES, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire.

ROYSTON, CHARLES, Harrow-House, Paddington.

WALMSLEY, STEPHEN, Bickerstaffe, Lancashire.

YATES, GEORGE, Birmingham.

KING'S COLLEGE.—A valuable collection of skeletons and osteological specimens has just been added to the Comparative Anatomy Museum of this College, by the Messrs. Bellamy, of Plymouth. The collection consists of about 500 specimens.

PROPER COMPLIMENT TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

—The *London Gazette* of Friday week announces the appointment by the Earl of Warwick, the Lord Lieutenant, of William Sands Cox, Esq., Professor of Surgery at Queen's College, Birmingham, to be a Deputy Lieutenant in and for the county of Warwick. Mr. Cox's commission bears date Sept. 3, 1852.

LONDON DISPENSARY.—At the last meeting of the governors of this institution, the report stated that the average number of patients was 200, but that lately fever having considerably increased that number, the demand upon its exhausted funds was urgent.

PUBLIC BATHS.—This week Sir Charles Hastings, Bart. M.D., laid at Worcester the foundation stone of public baths designed by Mr. F. T. Barber.

MURDER COMMITTED BY A PATIENT UPON HIS MEDICAL ADVISER.—The list of the fearful casualties to which medical practitioners are exposed is indeed extensive, and much more so than the public dream of. Here is a shocking instance of a surgeon falling a sacrifice to the mental aberration of his patient. The murderer—Paul Neunez—is twenty-six years old, son of the post-master of a village called La Janette, in Belgium, and had for the last two years been under the care of Dr. Leclerq, residing at Hal, a place situated at a short distance off La Janette. Neunez was affected with cerebral disease, and Dr. Leclerq had frequently warned the mother that her son was not right about the head, and that he should be watched. This opinion of the doctor's annoyed the patient very much; he often complained of him, and conceived at last such a hatred of his medical attendant, that he resolved to kill him. He went therefore to Brussels, August 15, where he bought a double-barrelled pistol, which he made the gunsmith load for him with two bullets; he provided himself with powder and some more balls, and returned home. On the 6th of September he went to Hal, during

the fair, intending to shoot Dr. Leclerq at a public ball, but the latter was prevented from going. The deed was therefore put off; but on the Sunday following, Neunez returned to Hal with the determination of using his pistol at the door of the church. He inquired of a man living opposite at what time the doctor generally went to mass, and having been told that the latter was not in the habit of going, he said, "So much the worse for him; I must go to his house, then." He went straightway, and was admitted by the male servant and Mrs. Leclerq, with whom he conversed freely, whilst waiting to be introduced into the doctor's study. After consulting with his unfortunate medical adviser for a few moments (the latter having received him with great kindness), Dr. Leclerq proceeded to write a prescription, when Neunez quietly walked up to him, placed the pistol on his victim's left ear, and fired. A slight struggle ensued between the wounded man and his assassin, but the latter, covered with blood, soon released himself, and walked out of the house before Mrs. Leclerq or the domestics had time to rush to the study whence the report had proceeded. The murdered man had attempted to follow Neunez, had left his study, and was found lying speechless and covered with blood on the threshold of his dining-room, where he soon expired. The wretched culprit went, after this fearful deed, to an inn opposite Dr. Leclerq's house, and assured the inmates, who were terrified at his being covered with blood, that they need not be alarmed—it was only the blood of that doctor, whom he had just killed; and asked for water to wash himself. When examined by the magistrate, he said that it was himself who had shot Dr. Leclerq, and that he hoped he was dead, as, being now in prison, he could not go and finish him. When the unfortunate wife of his victim was mentioned to him, he said that he was very sorry for her, but that, as he had property, he would will it to her before he was guillotined.

TREATMENT OF THE SICK POOR IN WORKHOUSES.

The inmates of the Infirmary of the Holborn Union lately presented a memorial to the Poor-Law Board, in which they complained that their health was greatly injured by the closeness and the badly-ventilated condition of the place, and also by other nuisances. The Poor-Law Board referred the letter to the Board of Guardians, who ordered immediate remedial measures.

ANTICIPATIONS OF CHOLERA.—A most numerous and influential meeting was held in the Court House, Leeds, to ascertain if any nuisances existed, and to adopt measures to meet cholera, should it visit this country. The Rev. Dr. Hook, the Rev. Messrs. Jackson and Norton, Messrs. Garlick and Dobson, surgeons, and Mr. Baker, factory inspector, having addressed the meeting, it was unanimously resolved to memorialize the corporation to exercise their power in putting down the nuisances that existed, and adopt other measures to resist the approaches of cholera.

APPOINTMENT.—At a meeting of the Governors of the Lincoln General Dispensary on Tuesday last, Dr. Torry was elected to the office of physician.

DEATH OF NAPOLEON'S SURGEON.—A few days ago, Mr. John Stokoe, surgeon, late of Durham, who served in the British Fleet at the battle of Trafalgar, and was subsequently appointed surgeon to Napoleon at St. Helena, died suddenly at his hotel, just after he had ordered breakfast. Deceased had many souvenirs given him by the ex-emperor.

SANITARY CONDITION OF THE WEST INDIES.—The state of the public health in Jamaica is improved, and small-pox has greatly abated. In St. Lucia, many persons have removed to the higher parts of the island, dreading the approach of yellow-fever, which is committing ravages in Martinique, and has appeared in St. Thomas's.

MORE POISONOUS FUNGI.—A letter from Montie-rander (Haute Marne) says:—"The woman who acts as cook to M. de Coucy, a retired officer, brother-in-law to General Oudinot, having last week prepared some mushrooms gathered in a neighbouring wood, served up the dish to her master, and partook of it herself, as well as gave a portion to a woman named Voisins, and the son of the latter, a boy of fourteen. In some hours after, symptoms of poisoning appeared, and though every aid was given, the three adult persons expired next day, the boy alone recovering."

OBITUARY.—Died suddenly, at the seat of his father-in-law, Core Hall, Yarmouth, Dr. A. J. Impey. At Omeath, Dr. McCan, of Dundalk. At Ballycastle, Dr. H. M. Smith. At New York, Dr. A. Fitzgerald, of Drughmore, Cork. At Dugshia, India, Dr. John Shaw Wells, H.M. 75th Regt., second son of the late James Wells, Esq., M.D.