says, 'It appeared that the libel in question consisted of articles and letters published by the defendant in the *Medical Times*, in which he commented with great severity on the taste and judgment displayed by the plaintiff or his friends in inserting in *THE LANCET*, which was supposed to be the property of his father, certain eulogistic accounts of operations performed on aged persons,' &c.

"I beg to be allowed to state, that the reports of these operations were forwarded by me to *THE LANCET*, I being at that time house-surgeon to the hospital; that they were not 'eulogistic accounts,' but mere statements of the history, progress, and treatment of the cases, of such a nature as it is the custom of the resident surgeons of all the hospitals in London to furnish to the medical journals; and that it was not and could not have been a subject of animadversion in the *Medical Times* that these cases were so published in *THE LANCET*. With regard to the advertising in *The Times*, that of course I need not say I had nothing to do with, and it will be but justice to the plaintiff to assure you at the same time that he had nothing whatever to do with it.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
"17, Lower Brook-street, Grosvenor-square, Dec. 25."
"T. W. COOKE.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

COMMITTEE OF POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS.

To the Editor of *THE LANCET*.

Office, 4, Hanover-square, Dec. 26th, 1848.

SIR,—I am desired by the Committee to request the favour of your publishing in *THE LANCET* the accompanying copy of a memorial, which has been forwarded to the Poor-law Board in reference to the recent imposition of sanitary duties on poor-law medical officers, together with the reply thereto.

I am also requested to enclose to you, for the same purpose, a copy of a communication received from the General Board of Health, in reply to a similar memorial addressed to them on the same subject.—I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

HERBERT WILLIAMS, Assist. Sec.

*(COPY.)

To the Honourable the Poor-law Board.

The Memorial of the Chairman and Committee of the Medical Officers of Unions in England and Wales, sheweth,—

That your memorialists having been duly appointed a committee at a convention of poor-law medical officers, assembled at the Hanover-square Rooms, on the 27th October, 1847, for the purpose of seeking an amelioration of the present system of poor-law medical relief, respectfully beg to call the attention of your honourable board to the powers conferred by the "Act for the Prevention of Nuisances and Diseases," whereby your honourable board is authorized to require from the medical officers of unions the performance of various duties in reference to sanitary regulations, without awarding any remuneration for such onerous and important services.

Your memorialists beg to protest, firmly, but respectfully, against the imposition of such duties—

1st. Because the said duties are altogether foreign to the special duties of union surgeons as medical attendants on the sick poor, and are not named nor even contemplated by the honourable the commissioners of poor-laws in their order, defining the duties of the medical officers of unions, and because they are entirely distinct from the functions assigned to the medical officers of unions in their contracts with the boards of guardians.

2nd. Because such sanitary duties not being embraced in the legal contracts, nor in the instructions of the honourable the poor-law board, under which the union surgeons entered into their engagements with the boards of guardians, the orders of your honourable board are a violation of the rights of union surgeons as private citizens, and are contrary to the spirit of the common law of the land.

3rd. Because it is unjust to require the medical officers of unions to perform arduous and valuable services without remuneration, and because such orders are at the present time peculiarly obnoxious and oppressive, inasmuch as the medical officers of unions have for a long time complained of the great inadequacy of the present payments for their ordinary services as the medical attendants of the sick poor.

Your memorialists therefore pray that your honourable board will imperatively award such remuneration for sanitary services as shall be equitable and just.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,
THOMAS HODGKIN, M.D., Chairman.
CHARLES F. J. LORD, Hon. Sec.

Convention of Poor-law Medical Officers,
Office, 4, Hanover-square, December 9th, 1848.

Poor-law Board, Somerset-house, Dec. 18th, 1848.

SIR,—I am directed by the Poor-law Board to acknowledge the receipt of a memorial of the chairman and the committee of the medical officers of poor-law unions, acting under the authority of a convention of poor-law medical officers, assembled on the 27th of October last, in which memorial the attention of this board is called to the powers conferred by the 11th and 12th Vict., cap. 123, in requiring from the medical officers of unions, the performance of various duties, having in view the removal of nuisances and the prevention of contagious and epidemic diseases, and a protest against the imposition of such duties is conveyed therein for the reasons set forth.

The board desire to observe, that the Act of Parliament itself here referred to, and not the Poor-law Board, has imposed the duties rendered obligatory upon the medical officers under that Act.

All that this board are able to do in the matter, is, to point out to the guardians of poor-law unions the provision contained in the general consolidated order of the poor-law commissioners, which enables them to give gratuities for extraordinary services rendered by their officers; also, the provisions of the statute, rendering it competent to the guardians to appoint persons in aid of their officers, where the duties they are required to perform under it would press too much upon the time of those officers. This course the board has followed in very many instances since the directions of the General Board of Health have been issued.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
W. G. LUMLEY, Assist. Sec.

To C. F. J. Lord, Esq., Hon. Sec.
Committee of Poor-law Medical Officers, 4, Hanover-square.

The General Board of Health,
Gwydir House, Whitehall, Dec. 16th, 1848.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed by the General Board of Health to acknowledge the receipt of your memorial, dated the 12th instant, calling the attention of the board to certain provisions of the Nuisances Removal and Diseases Prevention Act, whereby they are empowered to require and enforce the performance of various duties in reference to sanitary regulations, by the medical officers of unions, and pressing upon the attention of the board the injustice of enforcing the performance of such duties without awarding just and suitable recompence, and praying that the board will deem it expedient to issue such instructions as shall give the union surgeons performing the duties of a medical officer of health a legal claim to remuneration.

I have to inform you in reply, that in the object of your memorial—namely, that the union surgeons should receive fair and adequate remuneration for the extra services which are required of them under the Nuisances Removal and Diseases Prevention Act, the General Board of Health entirely concur; but they have to call your attention to the fact, that the power of requiring the performance of these duties by the union surgeons, and the payment of all expenses which may be incurred therein, are left entirely with the boards of guardians by the twelfth and fourteenth sections of the Act itself, and are not determined by the regulations of this board, as you would appear to apprehend. The board, therefore, are not in a position to enter upon questions of right, upon which they are not authorized to adjudicate, but that you may be made acquainted with the feeling of the board upon the subject of remuneration for these extra services, I am to transmit to you herewith a copy of the second notification issued by the board on the 31st of October last, and to direct your attention to the following paragraph therein marked in the margin, which would appear to have escaped your notice:—

"It appears to the General Board of Health to be absolutely necessary in the present emergency to concentrate responsibility on the medical officers, and to entrust them with discretionary powers, because the rapidity of the course of cholera will not allow them to wait for direction from the guardians at their weekly meetings; and seeing the many and arduous duties that devolve upon the medical officers, the General Board of Health cannot but express a hope, that the remuneration

ration of these officers will be more proportionate to the value of the services required of them, than it was upon the former occasion."

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,
HENRY AUSTIN, Secretary.

To Thomas Hodgkin, Esq., M.D., Chairman, and Charles F. J. Lord, Esq., Hon. Sec. of the Committee of Medical Officers of Unions in England and Wales.

ON THE USE OF COLLODION IN ASBESTOS IN STOPPING TEETH.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Since the invaluable paper on collodion, by Mr. Erasmus Wilson, which appeared in your journal in November last, I have frequently applied collodion in severe cases of toothach, arising from exposure of the nerve, with perfect success, when no persuasion could induce the patient to submit to extraction, either with or without the use of chloroform or ether. The method I adopt is, to let the patient first wash the mouth with warm water, in which a few grains of bicarbonate of soda have been dissolved. I then remove from the cavity any foreign substance likely to cause irritation. After drying the cavity, I drop from a point the collodion, to which have been added a few grains of morphia, after which I fill the cavity with asbestos, and saturate with collodion. Lastly, over this I place a pledget of bibulous paper. In a few seconds the whole becomes solidified, and forms an excellent non-conductor of heat and cold to the exposed nerve. By occasionally renewing this I have been enabled to effect a more durable stopping with gold leaf.

I remain, your obedient servant,
J. ROBINSON.

Gower-street.

SECOND REPORT OF A CASE OF HYPERTROPHIED SCROTUM AND PENIS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—On the 14th of March, 1846, an operation was performed in Mr. Guthrie's Eye Institution, a report of which was published in THE LANCET of the 11th of July, 1846. The man had been a patient in St. George's Hospital for seventeen weeks, and after an absence in the country of one month, he placed himself under my care. As you were yourself present at the operation, together with a great number of distinguished medical men, I deem it but right that you should be acquainted with the present condition of the patient, especially as the case is the only one on record in which the operation has been successfully performed in this country, or, indeed, in Europe. I say this, notwithstanding anything which may be advanced regarding the operation by Delpech, or that by Mr. Liston, because the latter exhibits no analogy as to result, or peculiar improvements in the operation, which, indeed, was but an amputation, although in the latter one testicle was preserved, yet none of the means which I have adopted were known to Delpech at the time he operated, nor did the man long survive.

The individual on whom I operated is now in robust health; there is not a vestige of the disorder. It was stated by me, in my former report, "that plastic adhesion and cicatrization would totally seal up the parts, and put an end to all further development of the morbid growth." The testicles are well supported in a sound and adequate, though artificial scrotum, for the old and diseased scrotum was cut away; the elongated and sound prepuce, which was preserved and reflected in the manner explained in the diagrams published in THE LANCET, vol. ii. 1846, p. 36, figures 2 and 3, has entirely answered the purpose of sufficient elastic skin, admitting of erection, and to use the language of the patient, he is "as well sexually and physically as ever he was in his life." There can be no doubt that the sexual functions are perfect as far as every appearance goes. Your readers will do me the favour to refer to my first report, as above quoted. Smith has been seen by Mr. S. Lane, Mr. Hay, myself, and by some other professional gentlemen in London, sixteen months since the operation. His stay was necessarily short, (from Saturday till Monday,) as, holding a respectable and responsible situation, he could not be absent longer from home. I give his address,* for the benefit of those gentlemen who took a very special interest in the case at the time.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,
F. H. BRETT, M.D., F.R.C.S.

Jersey, Aug. 19, 1848.

* John Smith, Machine-keeper, Woodside Colliery, near Dudley, Staffordshire.

Medical News.

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 22nd inst.:—

BEAN, JOSEPH ALFRED, Peldon, near Colchester.
DIX, FREDERICK WILLIAM, Long Buckby, Northamptonshire.
HODSON, FREDERIC, Goole, Yorkshire.
HOOPER, HENRY, Cornhill.
MANTELL, HENRY AXFORD, Farringdon, Berkshire.
MANTHORP, MAURICE LEVITT, Thorp, Essex.
MARSHALL, EDWARD, Clapham.
MCAREE, FRANCIS, Royal Navy.
MORRIS, DAVID PHILBRICK, Colchester.
WAYLEN, EDWARD, Devizes, Wiltshire.

At the same meeting of the Court, Mr. FREDERICK FOSTER MORGAN passed his examination for naval surgeon: this gentleman had previously been admitted a member of the college, his diploma bearing date February 2nd, 1844.

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

December 21st, 1848.

BECK, GEORGE, Harpley, Norfolk.
BLANSHARD, THOMAS, Selby, Yorkshire.
DEVENISH, SAMUEL WESTON, Weymouth.
EARLE, FREDERICK JOHN, Winchester.
ELBOROUGH, PHILIP JAMES.
HOPE, GEORGE CARFRAE, London.
JONES, PRYCE, Helmston, Hants.
MARSH, JOHN, Mansfield, Notts.
MARSH, NICHOLAS, Liverpool.
MORISON, THOMAS COUTTS.
RAWLINS, FREDERICK WILLIAM ARMSTRONG, Congleton, Cheshire.
RUCK, JAMES BERNARD, Prestbury, near Cheltenham.
SLADE, WILLIAM HENRY, Frome.
STEDMAN, ROBERT SAVIGNAC, Great Bookham, Surrey.
STEVENS, ROBERT INGRAM, London.
VIVIAN, BANFIELD TEAGUE, Crowan, Cornwall.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS.—We learn that another general meeting of the Poor-Law Medical Officers will shortly take place, at the Hanover Square Rooms, of which notice will be officially given. It is very important just now for the poor-law medical staff, as well as the members of the medical profession generally, to be very vigilant and active that unremunerated sanitary duties be not pressed upon them by the board of health, through the poor-law board and the board of guardians.

MUNIFICENCE.—It is stated in a provincial paper that a retired physician, lately residing in Dublin, has bequeathed one-third of his property, estimated at £60,000, to the cancer ward of the Middlesex Hospital.

APPOINTMENTS.—Dr. Topham has just been elected physician, and Messrs. E. F. Dehane, G. Edwardes, and J. T. Cartwright, surgeons, to the South Staffordshire General Hospital at Wolverhampton. Mr. Hodgson has been elected house-surgeon of the Sussex County Hospital, in the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Parson.

GLASGOW POLICE.—Two perambulating quacks, dressed in the first style of fashion, have just received sixty days' imprisonment by the Anderston Police-court magistrates, for falsehood, fraud, and wilful imposition on the inhabitants.

OBITUARY.—Died, on the 15th inst., at Greenwich, at an early age, Mr. R. S. Rogers, surgeon. Mr. Rogers was for about the last two years resident and visiting surgeon to the Wakefield Dispensary, Yorkshire; and to the faithful and perhaps over-zealous discharge of the duties incident to that office his premature decease is in a great measure to be attributed. In proof of this, it may be stated, that in his visiting capacity he has frequently had so many poor upon his list, that, from physical exhaustion alone, he has been compelled to leave many of them to be visited on the following day; and having, during a short leave of absence to recruit his health, been hastily summoned to his post by cases of an urgent nature, he so persevered in the discharge of his onerous duties, that from the day on which he tendered the resignation of his appointment to those at whose hands he received it, he was not once able to leave his room. Though so actively engaged in mi-