THE LANCET RELIEF FUND.

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ALMONERS.

THE LANCET Relief Fund, which has for its Almoners the President of the Royal College of Physicians of London (Sir SAMUEL WILKS, Bart., M.D. Lond., F.R.S.), the President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England (Sir WILLIAM MACCORMAC, Bart.), the President of the General Medical Council (Sir RICHARD QUAIN, Bart., M.D. Lond., F.R.S.), Mr. THOMAS WAKLEY, F.R.C.S. Eng., and Mr. THOMAS WAKLEY, jun., L.R.C.P. Lond., with Sir HENRY PITMAN, M.D. Cantab., F.R.C.P. Lond., as Honorary Auditor, came into operation on the 1st of February, 1889.

In presenting the ninth annual report the Almoners think it well again to direct attention to the object for which the Fund was established.

The Fund is sustained solely by the Proprietors of THE LANCET, who provide every January the sum of at least £300, and is administered free of cost, with the object of affording immediate pecuniary assistance to registered medical practitioners, or to the widows and orphans of members of the profession in cases of distress and emergency, by the grant of money by way of loans free of interest, or gifts, as the circumstances of the various cases may require.

When the Fund was inaugurated considerable misapprehension existed as to the precise objects for which it had been established; and as a result the majority of the earlier applications, being cases of *chronic* distress, and not coming, therefore, under the designation of *emergency*, could not be entertained. Attention was called to this fact in THE LANCET of Feb. 16th, 1889, in the following words:—

“We are requested by the Almoners to state that, from the character of a number of the applications received, both personally and by letter, for relief, it is evident that in many cases the object for which this Fund has been established is not quite clearly understood; and if relief had been afforded in the cases of those who suffer from *chronic* distress the Fund would have been completely exhausted within the first few days of its existence. They

would therefore be greatly obliged if those readers of THE LANCET who may be asked to endorse applications would carefully peruse the Application Form and explain the precise object of the Fund to those applicants whose cases do not seem to come within the scope of the purpose for which the Fund has been established, which is to afford prompt aid to registered medical practitioners, or to the widows or orphans of members of the profession, who, in consequence of the supervention of some unexpected emergency, which is not likely to recur, have pressing need of immediate and temporary pecuniary relief”—and who, it may once more be pointed out, are likely to be permanently benefited thereby.

The balance in hand at the end of 1896 amounted to the sum of £53 9s. 10d. On Jan. 1st, 1897, the Proprietors of THE LANCET placed to the credit of the Fund the sum of £300. During the course of the year repayments of loans to the amount of £14 have been made. The sum of £194 has been granted in relief either by way of loan or of gift, leaving a balance of £173 5s. 8d. as per bank pass-book.

There have been considered altogether during the twelve months ending Dec. 31st, 1897, 37 applications for relief (the number the previous year having also been 37). In 22 cases assistance was awarded either as a loan or as a gift according to the request of the applicant, the amounts of the grants ranging this year from £2 to £15.

The Almoners are glad to find from the number of letters received from recipients of the Fund that it continues to be of service to unfortunate members of the profession, and that the express object of assisting cases of emergency and immediate distress has been attained.

(Signed)

RICHARD QUAIN.

THOMAS WAKLEY.

SAMUEL WILKS.

THOMAS WAKLEY, Jun.

NOTE.—Sir William MacCormac being away from England was unable to be present at the meeting of Almoners or sign the report.
E. DAVIES, Secretary.

Statement of Accounts for the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1897.

DR.								CR.			
				£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
To Balance at the London and Westminster Bank, Limited (Westminster Branch), Jan. 1st, 1897	...	...	...	53	9	10					
„ Proprietors of THE LANCET	...	...	...	300	0	0					
„ Repayment of Loans:—											
Case No. 339	...	...	...	2	0	0					
„ „	...	...	...	2	0	0					
„ „	...	...	...	2	0	0					
„ „	...	...	...	2	0	0					
„ 361	...	...	...	2	10	0					
„ „	...	...	...	2	10	0					
„ „	...	...	...	1	0	0					
					14	0	0				
				£367 9 10							
To Balance at Bank				£173 5 8							
By Loans:—											
Case No. 349	...	...	...	10	0	0					
„ 359	...	...	...	15	0	0					
„ 361	...	...	...	15	0	0					
								40 0 0			
By Gifts:—											
Case No. 346	...	...	...	5	0	0					
„ 348	...	...	...	10	0	0					
„ 352	...	...	...	5	0	0					
„ 355	...	...	...	5	0	0					
„ 356	...	...	...	5	0	0					
„ 358	...	...	...	5	0	0					
„ 360	...	...	...	15	0	0					
„ 363	...	...	...	15	0	0					
„ 358	...	...	...	5	0	0					
„ 365	...	...	...	2	0	0					
„ 367	...	...	...	10	0	0					
„ 368	...	...	...	2	0	0					
„ 369	...	...	...	10	0	0					
„ 371	...	...	...	10	0	0					
„ 373	...	...	...	15	0	0					
„ 374	...	...	...	10	0	0					
„ 377	...	...	...	10	0	0					
„ 378	...	...	...	10	0	0					
„ 379	...	...	...	5	0	0					
								154 0 0			
„ Cheque Book	...	...	...							4	2
„ Balance at Bank, Dec. 31st, 1897	...	...	...							173	5 8
								£367 9 10			

I find by the Bankers' Book that the actual balance on Jan. 1st, 1897, to the credit of the Fund was £53 9s. 10d., to which the sum of £300 was added by the Proprietors of THE LANCET on Jan. 1st, 1897.

The balance at the Bank at the present date is the sum of £173 5s. 8d. I have also checked the receipts for disbursements and find the above account strictly accurate.

December 30th, 1897]

HENRY A. PITMAN, Hon. Auditor.