we think, to awaken the Legislature to the necessity of revising the relations and duties of committees and proprietors of asylums. The power of the committee is, in our opinion, far too great and free from control. The proprietors of private asylums should be made to understand that in taking charge of a lunatic they are executing an important public trust, and that they are responsible to the public more than to the committee who consign a lunatic to their charge. — Ed. L.

SIR C. BELL'S PAMPHLET.
To the Editor of THE LANCET.

Sir,—In your journal of last week there is a letter from Dr. Brown-Sequard in answer to mine of the 20th of July. I am sorry to say that Sir Charles Bell's pamphlet was published in 1809. I have just referred to the pamphlet, and I see Sir Charles Bell has written in it "From ye Author." I mentioned in my previous letter that he gave it to me. I left Sir Charles Bell's house in May, 1810, and settled in Atherstone in June, 1810. I remember Mr. John Shaw called upon me at Atherstone about June in 1816 or 1817, to see a preparation of diseased bone, which he took with him. I gave an account of the case about June in 1816 or 1817, to see a preparation of diseased bone, which he took with him. I gave an account to the New Medical and Physical Journal, printed in April, 1815. Mr. Shaw enquired if I knew when Sir C. Bell had published his pamphlet:—"Idea of a New Anatomy of the Brain"—saying there was a dispute about the time, for Sir Charles Bell's pamphlet was published in 1809; I told him it was November, 1809; the printers—Strahan & Preston, Printer-street, London. I am, Sir, your obedient servant. Atherstone, August 10th, 1858. H. WARD, M.R.C.S.L.

MR. COWPER AND THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS ACT.
To the Editor of THE LANCET.

Sir,—The passing of the Medical Practitioners Act is, without some almost every day of the week. It is now more than a year since the profession had to struggle with difficulties for very many years. Bills after bills were brought before Parliament, and rejected one after another. Indeed, the profession had at last become weary of the struggle. How is the subject? Mr. Cowper's indomitable perseverance in our cause, the probability is that the last session, like former ones, would have closed without any progress having taken place in Medical Reform. It cannot be denied that it is to Mr. Cowper, assisted by a few other trustworthy members of the House of Commons, that we owe the new Medical Act. The question, then, presents itself—in what way are we to express our acknowledgement and thanks to those who fought our battle with such perseverence and success? As nothing is more congenial to John Bull's feelings than a good dinner, I would suggest that Mr. Cowper, Mr. Walpole, Mr. Headlam, Lord Elcho, and some other members who have distinguished themselves in support of Medical Reform, be invited to a public dinner, given by as many of our brethren as value the importance of the privileges which the new Act confers upon them. This suggestion be approved of, perhaps the most convenient time to carry it into effect will be soon after the next meeting of Parliament. With regard to Mr. Cowper's efforts on behalf of medical reform, I may be permitted to state that I have had many private interviews with him on the subject during the last three years. He has always evinced a determination to take charge of an important public trust, and that he is responsible to the public more than to the committee who consign a lunatic to their charge. — Ed. L.

M O D I C A L R E F O R M.
To the Editor of THE LANCET.

Sir,—Believing that THE LANCET'S history is also that of Medical Reform, I beg leave to make a few remarks on an abuse which I think proper to take the matter in hand, there can be no doubt of its succeeding. Provided that the suggestion herein thrown out be approved of, perhaps the most convenient time to carry it into effect will be soon after the next meeting of Parliament.

ARTICLE OF DIET?

To the Poor-law Board.

Gentlemen,—I shall be obliged by your informing me whether a medical officer is bound to provide cod-liver oil for such cases as he considers advisable, or whether, being an article of diet more than of medicine, the guardians should advance it on the application of the pauper. I am, Gentlemen, yours, &c.

To G. F. Wills, Esq., Medical Officer, Crewkerne.

I am directed by the Poor-law Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, and, in reply to your inquiry, to state that the Board consider cod-liver oil to be a medicine, and consequently that the medical officer is bound to supply it at his own expense, unless there be a special provision to the contrary in his contract.

SIR,—I am directed by the Poor-law Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, and, in reply to your inquiry, to state that the Board consider cod-liver oil to be a medicine, and consequently that the medical officer is bound to supply it at his own expense, unless there be a special provision to the contrary in his contract.

If, however, at the time when you entered into an agreement with the guardians of the union for the supply of medicines and medical attendance on the poor, it was not understood that you were to supply cod-liver oil, the Board would be justified in considering you were not bound to provide that article of diet, and that it is usual in some unions for the guardians to supply it. I am, Sir, yours faithfully. G. F. WILLS.

Copies.

The Board may make for an addition to your salary, on the understanding that you will in future provide the article at your own expense for the sick pauper patients under your care. I am, Sir, yours obediently serv'd, W. G. LUMLEY, Assistant-Secretary.

To G. F. WILLS, M.D.

Crewkerne, July 19th, 1858.

G. F. WILLS.

The Old Hospital is being pulled down and removed with great rapidity, to make room for the new building.

Crewkerne, July 30th, 1858.

G. F. WILLS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

Sir,—I am the medical officer of the Board, and I am directed by the Poor-law Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, and, in reply to your inquiry, to state that the Board consider cod-liver oil to be a medicine, and consequently that the medical officer is bound to supply it at his own expense, unless there be a special provision to the contrary in his contract.

If, however, at the time when you entered into an agreement with the guardians of the union for the supply of medicines and medical attendance on the poor, it was not understood that you were to supply cod-liver oil, the Board would be justified in considering you were not bound to provide that article of diet, and that it is usual in some unions for the guardians to supply it. I am, Gentlemen, yours, &c.

To the Poor-law Board.

G. F. WILLS.

Crewkerne, July 19th, 1858.

G. F. WILLS.