I can confidently assert, who dress above their means, to keep up an appearance absolutely essential for retaining the employment which may be keeping them beyond the dreaded necessity of applying to the parish for aid. Persons, again, seeking relief from dispensaries, have, however, an advantage not offered by an hospital; the former have the privilege of being visited at their habitations, and many home-patients of a dispensary have been attending at an hospital until they are unable any longer to do so. With persons afflicted with phthisis this is almost invariably the case; and repeated instances have been brought to my notice where many miles have been traversed for weeks, and even for many months, by patients passing to and from the hospital for consumption at Brompton, who have at last been compelled to fall back upon some comparatively obscure dispensary, to be attended at home in the last sad stages of that most remorseless of maladies.

Fearing that I am even now trespassing beyond the limits which, with any degree of reason, an anonymous correspondent can be expected to occupy, I will withhold for a future number of your journal the few remarks which, with your permission, it is my purpose to make upon a remedy for the abuse which we have before us.—I beg, Sir, to subscribe myself,

London, Jan. 1850.

XENO.

EXPECTATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR ASSISTANT-SURGEONCIES IN THE ROYAL NAVY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—After a careful consideration of the circumstances of the naval branch of the medical profession, and some personal experience on the subject, I believe that the following are the expectations that may fairly be entertained by candidates for the appointment of assistant-surgeons in the royal navy.

I shall feel obliged to you for their publication, as they may form a subject for consideration to young medical men who may purpose entering one of the public services.

I take this opportunity of offering you my sincere thanks for your spirited and unwearied exertions in the "cause" of the naval assistant-surgeons; and in these grateful acknowledgments I have good reason to know that I am joined, not only by the assistant-surgeons, but by the naval medical officers.

We trust that you will continue the powerful advocacy of our "cause" in THE LANCET; and that in parliament you will remember that there is a small body of men of your own profession, scattered over the globe in her Majesty's ships, who crave your assistance to bring their case prominently before the honourable the commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in parliament assembled.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

F. J. BROWN, M.D. Lond et Edin.,

Late Assistant-Surgeon, R. N.

January, 1850.

First. Servitude as an assistant-surgeon, for a period varying from eight to twelve years. "Nearly half of the present assistant-surgeons in the service average from seven to thirty-nine years' servitude, many of whom will not be promoted for years to come."—See *Exposition of the case of the Assistant-Surgeons of the Royal Navy*, a pamphlet well known by this time. This servitude is endured in the midshipmen's berth.

Secondly. Retrogression in medical knowledge.

It is scarcely possible for assistant-surgeons to make advance in their profession, or even to retain what they have learned at college, unless very favourably situated. After promotion to the rank of naval surgeon, it is possible to study, and even to acquire eminence, both professionally and in general science, of which there are bright examples; but in many cases the mind cannot recover its capability for study.

Thirdly. Impairment of the general powers of the intellect, varying from inaptitude to imbecility; or from morbid mental susceptibility to mania; or from the lighter to the graver degrees of melancholia.

The proportion of instances of suicide in the class of medical officers, is far greater than what it is in any other class in the royal navy. Melancholy, to a greater or less degree, is general, almost universal, after eight years' service.

Fourthly. The decay of the moral virtues, principally that of sobriety.

An assistant-surgeon, possessed of a sound judgment and of exemplary morals, and distinguished in both literature and science, assured me that whilst on the coast of Africa he was saved from drunkenness solely by the influence exerted on

his mind by the possession and use of a box of carpenter's tools.

Required. The consequence of the want of such taste, or absence of the tools, in this case.

The preceding are legitimate expectations, borne out by numerous facts in the history of naval medicine; notwithstanding which the medical officers of the navy have distinguished themselves to an extraordinary degree, considering the opportunities within their power.

Most of the nautical naturalists are medical men; some of the geographical surveys have been made by members of this profession serving in the royal navy; and in the formation of treaties with foreign powers, both civilized and savage, the medical officers of the naval service have had a considerable share.

I will conclude in the words of the pamphlet already quoted:—"Under the most trying circumstances they (naval medical officers) have ever been found equal to the occasion, and applying themselves to their work of benevolence and mercy with a devotion not surpassed by anything recorded of any other class of men whatever."

Such, then, are the expectations of medical men commencing their career in the royal navy; and the above extract is testimony to the manner in which naval medical men discharge their duties.

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 last meeting of the Court of Examiners:—

ARMORER, WATSON, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

COTTERELL, PETER AMBROSE, Birmingham.

CHIPMELL, IZAAK DOBREE, De Beauvoir, Guernsey.

HILLS, WILLIAM CHARLES, London.

JARDINE, JOHN LEE, Brixton Hill, Surrey.

KEISAN, JAMES, Dublin.

LANGFORD, JOHN, St. Leonards at Sea, Sussex.

LANE, JAMES CLEIFE, Grosmont, Monmouthshire.

OWEN, WILLIAM, Llanfair, Montgomeryshire.

O'CALLAGHAN, CHARLES, Killarney, Kerry.

SEDGWICK, LEONARD WILLIAM, Boroughbridge, Yorkshire.

SWAIN, JOHN MOORE, Long Clawson, Leicestershire.

TAYLOR, JAMES, Bolton, Lancashire.

At the same meeting of the court, Mr. GEORGE CLARKE passed his examination for naval surgeon.

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

Thursday, Jan. 17, 1850.

BENFIELD, THOMAS WARBURTON, Leicester.

HAMILTON, ANDREW, Scarborough.

HOLLINGWORTH, JOHN, Staveley, Derbyshire.

SEDGWICK, LEONARD WILLIAM, Boroughbridge.

OBITUARY.—Dr. Prus, who had but very recently returned from Alexandria, where he held the responsible post of sanitary physician to the Academy of Medicine, has just died in Paris, in his fifty-sixth year. He had greatly distinguished himself in the discussion which took place in the Academy with regard to the Eastern pestilence, and had been entrusted with the most important of the districts over which French sanitary physicians are watching in the East. He performed his task with exemplary zeal, was a great favourite both of the late Mehemet and Abbas Pacha, and materially impaired his health by the activity he displayed in the numerous journeys he undertook, in the burning regions of Egypt, to promote improvements of a sanitary kind in those countries. A touching discourse was delivered over his grave by Dr. Dubois (d'Amiens), perpetual secretary to the Academy.

CIVIC LIBERALITY.—The common council of the City of London have just granted 200*l.* towards the fund now raising for enlarging the King's College Hospital, and also a donation of fifty guineas to the Western City Dispensary.

APPOINTMENTS.—Dr. John Manley has just been unanimously elected physician to the City Dispensary, in the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Dr. Bentley.

THE COLLEGIAL FELLOWSHIP.—We direct attention to the questions proposed at the next examination for the fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons, which will be found in our advertising columns.