are permitted to marry; many others do so, in the face of these regulations. Thus, suppose, in a regiment of 1000 men, that the prescribed number only marry, and further that these 60 marriages give rise to (only) 60 children, and that 10 or 15 officers have wives and children besides,—a state of things not very unreasonable to suppose,—*who* is to provide for the health of all these, presuming, as according to Dr. Mapleton, that the medical officers of the regiment are unacquainted with their complaints.

The facts in relation to our intercourse with the diseases of women and children in the army are directly the *reverse* of Dr. Mapleton's assertion. The field which such opportunities afford us for the study of their disorders is extended, and one peculiarly calculated, if turned to proper account, to foster an accomplished acquaintance therewith; a truth sufficiently confirmed by the host of eminent physicians and surgeons of the present and past generation, in this department of medicine, whose fame has its origin in the experience acquired in the army. It is true that the soldier's wife is, for the most part, attended, *in labour*, by the midwife; but, under circumstances of difficulty or danger, she falls back, as a matter of course, upon the surgeon of the regiment to which she belongs. At most foreign stations, she has no resources but *in him*. I wish that more importance were attached to the army surgeon's familiarity with obstetrics, inasmuch as it happens but too often, under the latter circumstances, that the life of a fellow-creature depends upon our acquaintance, or the reverse, with the details of that science.

I regret to feel myself called upon, in defence of my order, thus to notice these misrepresentations of Dr. Mapleton, because no one can be more ready than myself to do justice to the admirable and independent evidence which this gentleman otherwise afforded the Committee; but I am jealous of the honour and reputation of my craft, and feel that we are not so rich in public favour and esteem as to be able to afford these pleasantries at our expense.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
Naples, Jan. 22nd, 1857. M. BROKE GALLWEY,
Surgeon, Royal Regiment of Artillery.

ON THE USE OF CHLORIDE OF ZINC IN THE TREATMENT OF CANCER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I was not a little surprised on reading THE LANCET of the 14th inst., to find an article, by Dr. Haviland, on the use of the chloride of zinc, and the only case there, so ostentatiously paraded, and without my knowledge, to be mine. The patient in question—Mrs. D.—had been, was then, and still is, under my care at the Westbourne Dispensary. Having a second patient also with a cancerous tumour in the breast, and being engaged in the present inquiry conjointly with Dr. Haviland, I proposed that we should commence the application of the chloride of zinc on these two patients the same day. We accordingly went to Mrs. D., who readily submitted to treatment. The second patient refusing to do so, Dr. Haviland commenced with the former, and I was to have treated the latter. After the second application, this patient came to my house every morning, and was there dressed by both of us. About ten days after the commencement of the above case, a third patient presented herself at the Dispensary, coming under my care. She also came every morning to be dressed by me, Dr. Haviland now taking entire charge of Mrs. D. at my house. In the course of time a friend of mine sent me two more cases, the one was treated by Dr. Haviland, the other by myself. Differences now arose between us, and we thought it advisable that our connexion should end here, to effect which in as amicable a manner as possible, at Dr. Haviland's request, I allowed him to retain one of the patients sent me, whom he has since continued to attend. (This, however, is not the case in question.) Why Dr. Haviland should subsequently have compelled Mrs. D. to sign a declaration before a county magistrate that he had attended her, and having done so, was his patient, is a mystery to me. And why he should have called on the incumbent of the district in which she lives, to testify that she was worthy of credence, is a still greater mystery. It so happens that the letter for the Westbourne Dispensary was given by the incumbent himself, and he peremptorily refused to comply with the request. I now annex a copy of the entry, taken from the Dispensary register, and given me by the secretary. "Mrs. D., admitted at the Westbourne Dispensary, under the care of Mr. Moullin, August 11th, 1856, letter renewed December 1st, 1856. Signed, Chris. P. Lochner, Hon. Sec."

Having stated the facts of the case, and placed this the most unquestionable evidence as to the correctness of my statement before the profession, I shall now leave it to them to judge whether I have not great cause to be aggrieved at the egotistical tone adopted by my *quondam* coadjutor in the article referred to.—I am, Sir, yours &c.,

JAMES M. MOULLIN,
Surgeon to the Westbourne Dispensary.
Porchester-terrace North, Hyde-park, Feb. 1857.

P.S.—You are threatened, Sir, with a more practical view on the subject, with fuller and more complete results, in a short time, by your correspondent. From whence he is to derive such information is to me a mystery, as to my certain knowledge he had not had a single case of his own, with the exception of one sent him by a mutual friend a few days prior to the issue of his paper.

"At the request of Mr. Moullin, I, as the honorary secretary of the Westbourne Dispensary, Paddington, have inspected the books of the institution, and find that a Mrs. E. D— was admitted a patient, by letter of recommendation, on the 11th of August last (1856); and that according to the rules of the institution, such letter was renewed on the 1st of December last (1856); and that she has not as yet been discharged. Mr. Moullin is the surgeon attending the case.

Gloucester-crescent North,
February 16th, 1857.

CHRIST. P. LOCHNER."

POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.

MEETING OF THE STUDENTS OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

A MEETING of the students of St. Bartholomew's Hospital was held on Tuesday last, for the purpose of supporting Mr. Griffin's movement, Mr. Chippendale in the chair. The following resolutions were adopted:—

Proposed by Mr. Barford, and seconded by Mr. Charles E. Smith:—1. "That this meeting tenders its best thanks to Mr. Griffin for his able and unwearied exertions in the cause of Poor-law Medical Reform."

Proposed by Mr. G. Reed, seconded by Mr. Dixon Adams:—2. "That this meeting pledges itself to support the movement commenced by Mr. Griffin, and resolves upon its best endeavours to promote the reform of the present iniquitous system."

Proposed by Mr. Goodall, and seconded by Mr. Heelas:—3. "That this meeting desires to express its disapproval of the conduct of those members of the profession who, regardless of its dignity and interests, have hitherto treated this question with apathy and indifference."

Proposed by Mr. Chalk, and seconded by Mr. Oldman:—4. "That the present system of vesting the power of appointing union medical officers, and fixing the scale of their remuneration, in the hands of the boards of guardians, is viewed by this meeting with the greatest disapprobation."

Proposed by Mr. Russell, and seconded by Mr. Daniels:—5. "That this school is of opinion that an aggregate meeting of the students of the metropolis should be held, and it therefore appoints two delegates to confer with the representatives of the other hospitals."

Proposed by Mr. Muskett, and seconded by Mr. Linacre:—6. "That, in order to carry out the objects of this Association, a subscription should be at once commenced to defray the necessary expenses."

Mr. Barford and Mr. G. Reed were then chosen to represent the school; Mr. Chippendale was elected chairman, Mr. Daniels treasurer, and Mr. Russell hon. secretary.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman for the able manner in which he had conducted the business of the meeting. JOHN RUSSELL, *Hon. Sec.*

MEETING OF THE STUDENTS OF GUY'S HOSPITAL.

ON Tuesday, the 7th inst., a meeting of the students of Guy's Hospital was held,—J. Foster Gray, Esq., in the chair,—when the following resolutions were unanimously carried:—

Proposed by Mr. Skinner, and seconded by Mr. Jones:—1. "That this meeting expresses its cordial sympathy with the movement set on foot by Mr. Griffin in favour of Poor-law Medical Reform."

Proposed by Mr. Berkeley, and seconded by Mr. Carey:—1. "That in the opinion of this meeting the present scale of remuneration to Poor-law medical officers is utterly inadequate compensation for the important services they are called upon

to render; and further, that until some fundamental reform is effected in the present system of their election, no satisfactory remedy for the grievances can be obtained."

Proposed by Mr. Maynard, and seconded by Mr. Whitfield:—3. "That this meeting is ready energetically to co-operate with the Poor-law Medical Reform Association in its efforts to procure redress."

Proposed by Mr. M'Dougal, and seconded by Mr. Rengifo:—4. "That this meeting records its unqualified disapprobation of the ungentlemanly conduct of those selfish individuals who, regardless of the interests of their profession, ungenerously accept Poor-law appointments manfully vacated on principle by their professional brethren."

Proposed by Mr. Durham, and seconded by Mr. Kelland:—5. "That this meeting expresses its conviction of the inutility of an aggregate meeting of medical students until the earnest co-operation and support of the senior members of the profession is secured."

Proposed by Mr. Gallon, and seconded by Mr. Broad:—6. "That a committee be formed of the following gentlemen: Mr. Skinner, Mr. Scott, Mr. Brookhouse, Mr. Durham, Mr. Maynood; and that a shilling subscription be raised for the furtherance of the objects of the above resolutions."

Proposed by Mr. Brookhouse, and seconded by Mr. Baker:—7. "That Mr. Durham be appointed treasurer, and Mr. Maynood, honorary secretary to the committee; and that these gentlemen be empowered to represent the students of this hospital in co-operating with the delegates from other hospitals in furtherance of the objects of the Poor-law Medical Reform Association."

At the conclusion of the meeting, on the proposition of Mr. Rengifo, seconded by Mr. Durham, "A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Gray for the able manner in which he had conducted the proceedings."

FOSTER MAYNOOD, *Hon. Sec.*

MEETING OF THE STUDENTS OF LIVERPOOL.

At a general meeting of the Students of the Liverpool Royal Infirmary School of Medicine, held on the 4th inst., for the purpose of supporting Mr. Griffin's movement—A. Brooke George, Esq., in the chair,—the following resolutions were passed:—

Proposed by Mr. Roskell, seconded by Mr. Callen—1. "That the thanks of this meeting are especially due to R. Griffin, Esq., for his unwearied exertions in the cause of Poor-law medical reform."

Proposed by Mr. A. Long, seconded by Mr. Williams—2. "That this meeting, viewing with regret and indignation the injustice and oppression which union medical officers now suffer, deems it expedient that prompt and decisive support should be given to the movement already set on foot by R. Griffin, Esq., which movement this meeting considers will be the most effectual means of obtaining redress, if supported by the profession at large."

Proposed by Mr. Campion, seconded by Mr. J. H. T. King—3. "That the present system of supervision of Poor-law medical officers by persons not conversant with either medicine or surgery ought to be amended by appointing a medical inspector on the Poor-law Board, to whom would be referred all charges of a purely professional character."

Proposed by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. E. Stokes Roberts—4. "That this meeting earnestly urge their brother-students in the United Kingdom to join in pledging themselves that, on the completion of their studies, they will not accept any appointments as union medical officers until a more equitable adjustment of salaries has taken place."

Proposed by Mr. Finegan, seconded by Mr. J. Robinson—5. "That in order to carry out the objects of the meeting, a committee be formed consisting of the following gentlemen: Mr. A. B. George, chairman; Mr. Roskell; Mr. H. G. Rawdon; Mr. E. Stokes Roberts; Mr. Alexander Long; Mr. J. H. T. King, honorary treasurer and secretary."

After some further business had been transacted the meeting was concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman for the able manner in which he had conducted the proceedings.

J. H. B. KING, *Hon. Treas. and Sec.*

CHOLERA IN THE EAST.—"L'Union Médicale" states that a Persian caravan, going to Mecca, forced the quarantine on the Turkish frontier, carrying more than 500 corpses (mostly in a state of decomposition), of pilgrims who had died of cholera. The officers of health of the locality immediately took proper measures for lessening the dangers of this irruption.

THE HUNTERIAN ORATION.

MR. WORMALD delivered the oration, in presence of most of the Council of the College of Surgeons, the President of the College of Physicians, and an audience which filled the theatre to overflowing. Amongst the visitors we noticed the Lord Chief Baron, Lord Talbot de Malahide, Mr. Justice Erle, Sir Charles Barry, the Chairman of the East India Company, the Director-General of the Medical Department of the Army, Sir Henry Ellis, &c.

As usual in these discourses, the orator commenced by referring to the occasion that brought the present assembly together, and the pleasing task then imposed upon him in connexion therewith—namely, to do honour to the memory of John Hunter, whose intellectual character, as indicated by the very highest scientific attainments as a surgeon, anatomist, and pathologist, he made the chief theme of his oration. He pointed out the chief characteristics of John Hunter's mind, by means of which he achieved for himself such an enduring reputation; he spoke of his untiring labours, of his devoted zeal in the pursuit of knowledge in connexion with the departments of science to which he incessantly applied all the energies of his vigorous intellect, reminding his audience that, by his example, "he being dead yet speaketh." The improvements he suggested and applied in various departments of surgery, his original investigations in physiology and pathology, by actual experiment and observation, were largely treated of by the orator, as well as the surpassing results of his anatomical researches contained in the museum attached to the College of Surgeons that bears his name. Whilst referring to the museum, Mr. Wormald drew attention to the labours of the late Hunterian professor, Mr. Richard Owen, now connected with the British Museum, and to those of the present professor, Mr. John Quekett. He mentioned instances indicative of genuine and self-sacrificing benevolence on the part of John Hunter. He subsequently alluded to the loss the College and the profession had sustained by the death of the late Mr. Guthrie; and he also remarked upon the invaluable services rendered in the cause of patriotism and humanity by the military surgeons attached to the army during the late war with Russia. The orator was much applauded at the close of his oration.

COLLEGE OF DENTISTS.

THE inaugural meeting of the members of the proposed College was held on Saturday evening last, at the Hanover-square Rooms. About seven hundred persons were present, the majority being dentists; a great number of medical practitioners were also in the room. The address was delivered by Mr. Robinson, who was received with much cheering. After referring to the origin of the College, the speaker went on to detail the rise of dental surgery, a practice for which he claimed a most remote antiquity, and which the discovery of both false and stopped teeth in Egyptian sarcophagi sufficiently proved. But though the ancients deserved great credit for the attention which their authors show them to have paid to the subject, it was not till the end of the sixteenth century that the dental art began to be studied with the care which its importance deserved. Many treatises were then printed, and an attempt was made to classify the diseases of the teeth by Fouchard, who was justly considered as the father of modern dental science, and who pointed out the indications which the teeth, in common with the adjacent parts, furnished of the general state of health. From that time such rapid advances were made in the study that in 1772 the great John Hunter did not consider it derogatory to his reputation to give to the profession the result of his dental investigations in his great work on the "Natural History of the Teeth." Their transatlantic brethren had also done much in the walks of dental physiology and pathology; they held a high place in the profession, and had established colleges, though not without struggling with the same difficulties at the outset which they themselves had had to overcome. Much had been said about their wish to adopt the plans of the Americans, especially with respect to their colleges; but their only object was to give to professional skill in this country its rightful pre-eminence, and to crush the charlatanism which, in so many instances, had preyed upon the public health and purse. He believed the result which their labours would achieve would be to give such an elevation to their professional character as would command for the diploma of the College of Dentists of England the respect of that and every other country where dental science was practised.