and strength and patience in fruitless attempts to pour medicines down the throat, and in various devices intended to defeat the object of the patient. I may add that I have never experienced the least opposition or objection on the part of the Commissioners in Lunacy to the adoption of restraint whenever the nature of the case and the reasons for the treatment were fully explained to them.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

WILLIAM C. HILLS, M.D.,
Norfolk County Asylum, May 31st, 1872. Medical Superintendent.

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have been well pleased with your remarks upon the recent meeting of the above-named institution, and I fully agree with you that the word "benevolent" is a misnomer. Last year the subject of canvassing was mooted by Mr. Stamford Felce, others and myself, and I quite hoped that it would have been fully ventilated before this time. I was much encouraged in this hope by correspondence and a pleasurable interview I had last summer with Dr. G. Jonson. I quite expected, from the conversation in that interview, that the subject was to be discussed in council, and have almost week by week looked out for the result of that discussion; whereas nothing has appeared till your brief notice of it. Another year's election is coming on, in which there are forty-one candidates for eight vacancies. Now, sir, I would ask once more, how much good money has been thus squandered in order to accomplish these canvassings? Put it down under the reduced postage-stamp system, which, at a minimum of £30 each, gives £1200 odd. Perfectly monstrous when we know how little able are nine-tenths of these widows to meet such an outlay. Surely they had better have sent the poor boy to the school and paid the recently increased premium of £45 per annum? much money would have been saved or at least spent in a legitimate way; and, above all, valuable time would have thus been saved. Take, for instance, the candidate Scott, for his sixth application; 6 x 40 gives £240; this, divided by £45 per annum, gives sufficient money for five years' education and to spare.

I have written so much and said so much on this matter, that I begin to feel it a bore to recapitulate my ideas of the easy application of a remedy for such an "abomination," as you very appropriately term it. But, in conclusion, I should like to ask a question of my friend, Dr. Jonson, who is reported to have replied, in answer to Dr. Liddell, that "the Council found the difficulty so great, and opinions among subscribers so divided," &c. I would like to know when and how has the sense of the subscribers been taken? as I have never seen any publication of steps tending in this direction; while I feel convinced that if the Council could be persuaded to invest a sum only equal to one of their yearly canvassings, by half-penny postage, in ascertaining the individual feeling of subscribers, a result would be obtained which would ensure the reform you have so ably urged and advocated.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

East Rudham, May, 1872.

FRED. MANBY.

A GOOD SUGGESTION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me to suggest through your columns that it would be well if the College of Surgeons, like the College of Physicians and many other colleges at Oxford, Cambridge, and elsewhere, were to appoint censors, whose duty it should be to bring questions of professional etiquette and cases of conduct under the notice of the Council, in a regular way, and with a view to the expression of an opinion thereon.

In our profession it is vain to ignore ethical questions. They cannot be dissociated from the practice of surgery; and, inasmuch as the diploma of the College of Surgeons is more generally held than any other qualification, it would be for the dignity and advantage of the profession at large if there were some authorised channel by which such matters could be brought before the Council.

If this were done, I believe that many unseemly disputes,

many painful disagreements (which damage us in the eyes of society), to say nothing of graver matters, might be promptly settled by the judgment of a body, whose ripe experience and distinguished position would invest their opinion almost with the weight of a judicial utterance.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

W. FAIRLIE CLARKE.

Mansfield-street, Cavendish-square, W., June 3rd, 1872.

THE LATE LORD MAYO.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—With reference to a paragraph which appeared in your issue of April 13th, reflecting on the post-mortem examination of the late Viceroy of India, and the omission of all evidence as to the condition of the viscera, I, as one of those who signed the report, beg to state that a post-mortem by dissection was not allowed, this being considered unnecessary for the ends of justice.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

ROBERT H. MORE, M.D.,

Assistant-Surgeon, R.N.

H.M.S. "Glasgow," Bombay, May 10th, 1872.

DENGUE FEVER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—A friend in Calcutta writes: "I suppose you have seen an account in the papers of this dengue fever which we have in India this year. It has been a regular plague, and I think about 75 per cent. of the people have had it, not a house or an office in Calcutta where some one is not down with it. It is not dangerous to adults, but very painful, being a combination of scarlatina and rheumatic fever." How the fever was introduced or where from he does not say, but possibly the returning coolies from the West Indies may have been the medium.

Can the jungle fever, mentioned in your last issue as being so prevalent in Calcutta, be a misprint for this dengue fever.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

London, May 28th, 1872.

G. B.

IRELAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE members of the Irish Poor-law Medical Association held their annual meeting on Monday in the College of Physicians, Kildare-street, Sir Dominic Corrigan presiding. The secretary of the Association, Dr. Maunsell, read the annual report, in which he stated, among other matters, that the Poor-law medical officers asked for an increase of stipend, rising with length of service; for promotion to the higher grades of service—viz., superintending health officers, or medical inspectors; for absolute superannuation after a stated period, instead of the present permissive superannuation; also that supervision over them should be conducted by medical inspectors; and that no fresh obligation should be imposed on them, either of a sanitary character or otherwise, without adequate payment. Dr. Rogers, president of the English Poor-law Medical Officers' Association, moved the adoption of the report, and advocated continued combination on the part of the Irish and English Associations, which he believed had resulted in great benefit to the profession in both countries, and in the amelioration of those grievances under which they had so long laboured. It was resolved that a committee be formed to memorialise the Chief Secretary on the injustice of non-payment for certificates in the case of dangerous lunatics, and that a deputation should wait on Lord Hartington to place the matter before him. The association also resolved that measures should be taken to impress on the Government the importance of so constituting the Board proposed in the Local Government Bill for Ireland, now before Parliament, that the Board may include a member specially qualified in State medicine and sanitary science, with a view of carrying out such measures as may be introduced to the Legislature.