which was, that the Kempsey district be increased six pounds per annum, and that all the other salaries remain as heretofore. Under these circumstances, we had no other alternative than to tender the resignations of all the medical officers of the union, with which we had been previously entrusted. Hitherto we have discharged the duties of our several offices with zeal and conscientiousness, and we defy any impeachment of the statement. In times of epidemics or general sickness, we have never hesitated to strain our personal exertions to the utmost, though met by no return of private gratitude or pecuniary compensation. Length of servitude gives us no standing nor title to increased recompence, and the profession has had sufficient experience that, in this country, union labour leads not to private practice. That the profession may be fully aware of the extent of our duties, we beg to state that the union contains a population of 16,724, and an area of about 53,500 acres. It is twenty miles in length, and the rate of remuneration per case is about two shillings. We apprehend that the board will immediately advertise for fresh medical officers, as there appears no disposition among the elected guardians in any way to do us justice.

We therefore throw ourselves upon you, gentlemen, with the full conviction that you will show to the world how ready you are to accord to the profession, of which you are members, that countenance and support which it has a right to claim at your hands.—We remain, gentlemen, your faithful servants,

CHARLES BRADDON,
W. T. WHITE,

The deputation of the medical officers
of the Upton-on-Severn Union.

Correspondence.

TREATMENT OF NAVAL ASSISTANT-SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You will oblige me by the insertion of a few remarks on the brutal usage of naval assistant-surgeons, which will do their cause some little service. The treatment we endure must be generally known, to be condemned. Its exposure cannot fail to excite popular indignation.

The naval authorities, believing that a time may come when they must give a pretty full explanation of the abominable and heartless manner they have treated us, may be advised to adopt some half measure. Common sense, no less than the dictates of ordinary justice, tell them plainly what must come to pass. The British public will not allow an arbitrary power to injure an useful and efficient body of gentlemen. Those petty objections against our increase of comfortable privilege have been met and answered. Those honourable members of the House of Commons of independent spirit, who may be disposed to advocate our cause, will find they lend their aid to the popular and just side. The discipline of the service cannot suffer. Its fabric cannot be imperilled by our being treated, on admission to the service, as the minister of religion. We hope some naval members of parliament will advocate our rights. No such honourable gentlemen having the interests of all classes at heart could give a point-blank and unconditional denial to our solicitations. It must be a matter of just astonishment to any honest, grave, and intelligent mind, that we are so ill-used. To see the liberal profession of medicine abused in the naval service ought to rouse the indignation of all its members. Our utility in private life, whence we come, our utility in the public service, where we are a *sine qua non*, cannot fail to make this impression, that the junior medical officers of the navy are most disgracefully treated. Before we incorporate ourselves with the naval service, our profession commands respect. In the service, respect and proper treatment become our station; yet our servile position exposes us to insult from the captain to the youngest ship's boy. The common sailor and marine observes that the naval assistant-surgeon is expected to preside over the morals of youngsters—an abominable employment. Everything is done that can be done to suppress self-respect and esteem. This is custom! This is discipline! I deem it a servile subordination. We, it is said, cannot advance, because mates rank with us, and all cannot have cabins. Now, what sailor ever learned his duty in a closet? It is very strange that the mates and a few rusty captains are so boisterous when we solicit proper treatment. Mere learners, as mates, have no just right to be compared with us.

We ask our due: cabins, a seat at the ward-room table, the rank and pay of chaplains, and a fair half-pay.

We are allowed to be fully qualified men, as able as general

practitioners or our army brethren. Where is the civilian practitioner that, in case of sickness destroying the medical officers of any of her Majesty's ships, would administer medical assistance (*pro tempore*) to be thrust into a midshipman's berth. A commanding officer would find room for him, and treat him courteously, because he dare not abuse him. Believing, Sir, that activity amongst ourselves will materially aid our admission to the ward-room, I am induced continually to trespass on the columns of your widely-circulated journal. We feel ourselves greatly indebted to you for the devotion and the perseverance you have always exhibited in advocating our cause.

May, 1848.

AN ASSISTANT-SURGEON R.N.

ANOTHER correspondent on this subject remarks—

The oxygenated effervescence now commencing around the world portends wars and rumours of wars. In domestic riots, the shopkeeper resorts to his window-shutters, his substantial wooden walls, to save his glass; and so the nation had now well look to her wooden walls, the shutters of her marine ports; for there is every appearance that there will be a deficiency of an important material in the mending and repairing department, since it is said there are no candidates for medical employment in the navy; and it is not surprising. A very probable result may be, that surgical duties will have to be put in commission; that the gunner, boatswain, and carpenter, will constitute a board to amputate, through the instrumentality of the axe and searing-iron, and every scratch will result in severance of the member, or death; so that several new wings should be built to Greenwich Hospital, to compensate for the certain wholesale losses of legs and arms.

Proficiency need not long lie inactive, spurning the unrequited task. The eagle of the north is now dressing his plumes to traverse the seas, like the Northmen of old, and concentrating his barbed hailstones to circumvallate the south by sea and land, till they descend like an avalanche on the lands of the sun, and the irruption of the Huns, Goths, and Vandals will be repeated. There will be found requiring agency for all the scions of Æsculapian art, and fields for their humane exertions.

June, 1848.

VIDEO.

MEDALS AND HONORARY CERTIFICATES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Knowing your detestation of quackery, both in and out of the profession, I beg to draw your attention to another species of the prolific genus quack, which is becoming an intolerable nuisance. It has been customary of late to publish the names of those students who have obtained medals in the different schools. So long as it was confined to medical journals, perhaps no harm was done, as the profession knows what value to place on such trifles; but occasionally the names of the students get into the provincial papers, as though the obtaining a certificate made a man a miracle of learning. For example, there lately appeared in one of the Hereford papers, the following:—

“Our late townsman, Mr. John Scriven, obtained, at University College, the fourth certificate in the Junior Class of Anatomy.”

Now the first prize given in this class is only a silver medal, and the examination only supposes a general knowledge of the bones and muscles; therefore what particular talent Mr. John Scriven can have shown in getting the fourth certificate, I cannot imagine.

I know nothing of Mr. Scriven, so that my remarks are not personal; but you must agree with me, that this sort of puffing is unworthy of a medical student, and calculated to make him a quacking practitioner.—I am, yours respectfully,

London, June, 1848.

JOHN WHATMORE.

OPERATION FOR REMOVAL OF STONE IN THE BLADDER, AT KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Supposing that the cases published in your journal are for the benefit and improvement of science, I beg to make a few remarks on a case of stone in the bladder, in which lithotomy was performed by Mr. Fergusson, the history of which, as reported in THE LANCET of May 6, appears to be as follows:—

“Thomas M—, admitted into King's College Hospital in January, 1848, with symptoms of stone in the bladder, which had existed for the last three years. Mr. Fergusson sounded him, and after some difficulty discovered the existence of a