trying to stop, and in the other to arrest, a railway-train at full speed with an infant's finger! Probably elaterium or croton-oil would not *increase* the purging, nor all the astringents of the *materia medica* *arrest* it. The remedies cannot get *at*, or *into*, the system while it is suffering from this scourge. The thing most comparable to the collapse of cholera is the collapse which occurs after uterine hæmorrhage.

This brings me to the suggestion which is the main object of the present letter. Why not try mechanical *pressure* to the flooding bowel, on the same principle that we apply it to the flooding uterus? The coeliac axis and the mesenteric vessels might be *compressed* as effectually as the uterine. I would propose that, during the serous stage of cholera, a broad band should be placed round the abdomen, with a solid pad extending over it in front, similar to the apparatus recently applied to the arrest of flooding after delivery. To this a screw should be affixed in the same way as in the ordinary tourniquet; and with such a power the abdominal pad might, I believe, be pressed upon the bowel to such an extent as to render the rapid loss through the vascular system of the intestines *impossible*! An abdominal tourniquet, in the absence of anything like the above, might be arranged almost extemporaneously by any person of ordinary ingenuity. There is, it must be remembered, no pain nor increased sensibility of the bowels, such as would contra-indicate the use of abdominal pressure.

Trusting that you will approve of this suggestion, and that some of your readers will carry it into effect,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

August, 1854.

M.D.

TREATMENT OF CHOLERA BY TURPENTINE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Knowing the value of giving, in some conditions of the mucous membrane of the intestinal tube, the rectified oil of turpentine, it occurs to me to be a remedy worth a trial, either alone or in combination with calomel and opium. Turpentine will restore healthy secretion, and give more tone to the whole membrane than any remedy I know of, as also a stimulus to the secretion of urine. Admitting it to be a nauseous dose, in conjunction with a grain pill of solid opium it might be retained on the stomach. It must be considered that the whole tube is empty after several dejections, and turpentine might be brought in contact with it by the mouth, as also by injection per rectum. Again, its antispasmodic effect is great, and, if of use externally, it should be well rubbed over the whole surface of the abdomen, when it would be quickly absorbed. Cholera has not shown itself around me, or I would very soon prove its effects. I quite think it deserves a trial, in twenty or thirty drop doses, in conjunction with pills of calomel and opium.

Yours obediently,

August, 1854.

A COUNTRY SURGEON.

THE MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Your strictures respecting the recent appointments of Medical Examiners to the East India Company are exceedingly just, and have given much satisfaction to the profession. To pass over experienced practitioners like Mr. Martin, Dr. James Bird, Dr. Jackson, Dr. Goodeve, and a host of other eminent gentlemen who have creditably served the Company during many years, is very poor encouragement to any future medical officer, and constitutes a severe censure upon such proceedings of the ruling authorities. I do not mean to allude personally to the fortunate individuals said to have been nominated; but I do think no person filling the responsible appointments under discussion should be connected with, or have an interest in, any medical pupil manufacturing establishment, whether school or university. The examiners to the Indian Government should be altogether independent of local influences, practically experienced in the maladies incident to India, and also well acquainted with the duties medical officers will be called upon to perform in that country. Besides these important qualifications, the above officials ought to know something of ophthalmology, midwifery, and the diseases of women and children, not forgetting insanity, which now very properly forms one of the acquirements demanded in all candidates. Such essentials are far more useful, and will prove of much greater real value to Indian medical officers, than botany, zoology, microscopy,

theoretical animal chemistry, minute, but often imaginary anatomy, and even of delightful physiology—however transcendental. Considering it highly important that the new system of competition for Indian medical appointments should work satisfactorily, and be devoid of all suspicion, the Directors and Board of Control ought to have placed the office of medical examiner either to be filled up by an open “concours;” or adopted the plan followed at the London University, of first advertising for candidates, and then selecting—by the senate—from those who sent an application, the person considered best qualified. This method would have been far better than that recently pursued; which, it is rumoured, has already produced well-founded dissatisfaction in various quarters. When Parliament meets next session, perhaps some independent member may ask the Indian Minister, as happened to one of his colleagues, in reference to the cases of Stonor, Lawley, and O’Flaherty—On what grounds were these nominations made? Or, to use the words of another medical journal, whilst alluding last week to the subject:—*Were these situations given as “the rewards of merit, and not the results of intrigue and favouritism?”*

I am, Sir, yours &c.,

MEDICUS.

August, 1854.

ELECTION OF MEDICAL OFFICER TO THE CHARTER HOUSE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I was one of the twenty candidates for resident medical officer of the Charter House, and was requested to send in my testimonials, accompanied with a *guinea*; but having had early intimation from within the Charter House walls, how, and in what manner the office would be filled up, I declined to part with the glittering coin. You are probably aware that the office was given to the usual medical attendant to the master.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

WM. WALKER, F.R.C.S. & L.A.C.

St. John-street-road, Clerkenwell, Aug., 1854.

P.S.—My attention was directed to the Charter House, from reading a letter from “M.R.C.S. & L.A.C.,” in THE LANCET of July 29th.

THE CHOLERA.

It is related of an eminent musical composer, (Haydn,) that he never could write without being *en grand tenue*, and that he invariably dressed himself as if for a party ere he sat down to court “the tuneful Nine.” It is the same with many around us as respects the miseries and unhappiness about them: unless they can meet the sufferings of their fellow-beings in connexion with fashion, wealth, or *respectability*, they endeavour to shut their eyes to their slightest recognition, and consider them as quite excluded from their own privileged acquaintance. A railroad accident may occur, and a few “stokers and pokers” or third-class passengers be killed, and comparatively little is thought of it; but let a noble lord or equestrian bishop tumble off his horse in the “ring,” and break his collar-bone or head, and sad and doleful indeed is the lamentation. Such is the peculiarity, in fact, of some of our conventional rules, that half the time of the inhabitants of Belgravia and Mayfair is taken up with making *kind inquiries*, and going through other analogous absurd and heartless formalities, on the one hand, and *returning thanks* for their performance by their friends on the other. And yet these same condolers, in the least untoward contingencies of “births, deaths, and marriages” of patrician character, are blind, deaf, and senseless to plebeian misery and disaster of the most forlorn and desperate description. A touch of the enchanter’s wand, however, will often convert the most apathetic looker-on a scene or hearer of a story of misery, into the most melancholy of sympathizers; but that enchanter must be—*respectability*. There is no less a difference in this point than between the character of the places where *respectability* and *commonality* have their birth. The one we have no necessity to delineate, as few feel repugnance in making acquaintance with its locality; the other we may give a slight sketch of as lately described by a correspondent to a daily paper, (*Daily*