THE NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Hearing that candidates for the appointment of assistant-surgeon are still presenting themselves before the Navy Board, allow me, through your columns, to say a few words to those who are thinking of so rash an act as entering the navy at the present time.

1st. It is absurd to suppose that all assistant-surgeons have cabins, because there is a little clause in the regulation which says it is to be granted "*when the exigencies of the service will allow*," or words to that effect; which is a very convenient loop-hole at any time for it to be refused.

2nd. The position and pay of the naval medical officers will never be made equal to that of the army so long as men are found to enter when there is higher rank, better pay, and more comfort in the army. Several naval assistant-surgeons have lately resigned and entered the army; and I am led to believe that others are about to do so. Can anything speak more forcibly than this?

3rd. In the navy, a second examination has to be passed after three years' service, thus compelling us to work up all the minutiae which experience has taught us are of little real value in practice. It was, and is, all very well for those men who are not qualified for practice on shore, but not being required by the army, where *all* are qualified, this remnant of the old system of red tape and routine ought to be blotted out, at least in the case of those who have the proper diplomas previous to entry. Considering these facts, the tardiness with which anything is granted to us in the navy, and the good which was effected by the combination of the whole body of students in 1854-55, I would suggest that meetings should be called in the different medical schools, to consider these matters, and (as was at that time agreed) resolve that they will not enter the service until they are placed in a similar position to army medical officers; because by doing so, they are injuring not only their brethren who are in the service, but themselves also.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

November, 1858.

AN ASSISTANT-SURGEON, R.N.

EPIDEMIC VARICELLA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I take an opportunity of informing you of the occurrence of an epidemic vesicular varicella in this town and neighbourhood. Few children have escaped its contagion. The febrile symptoms were in most cases severe, and in infants accompanied with vomiting. The appearance of an epidemic varicella in a country where small-pox is unknown may be of sufficient interest to insure this a place in your journal.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Dunedin, New Zealand,
July 27th, 1858.EDWARD HULME, M.D., &c.,
Surgeon to the Government Hospital, and
Colonial Surgeon.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The registration of qualified medical practitioners is a step in the right direction; but will it not be necessary to give the governing body some authority similar to that of striking an attorney off the rolls for misconduct? such, for instance, as a qualified medical man giving certificates of death in cases which his *unqualified* friend has attended up to the time that any hope of life remains, and then paying a visit simply to make himself the "last medical attendant." In some cases even this ceremonial visit has been omitted, and the certificate nevertheless granted.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Islington-green, Nov. 1858.

W. H. BUTTERFIELD, M.R.C.S.

THE FUND FOR THE RELIEF OF MRS. ROLPH.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In terms of a motion passed at the Glasgow Southern Medical Society, I have collected from a few of the members, for the behoof of the widow of the late Dr. Thomas Rolph, of Portsmouth, £5 17s., which I hereby forward to you.

The contributors deeply sympathize with the widow in her late painful bereavement, and they sincerely hope that the tokens of respect which the medical profession of the South have tendered to her will render the loss she has sustained, if not less severe, at least easier endured. They also hope that

the enclosed contribution from a few professional brethren of the North will be accepted, with their kind wishes, as a mark of sympathy.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

Abbotsford-place, Glasgow,
Nov. 10th, 1858.

ALEX. MORTON.

	£	s.	d.
A. Morton, Esq., Abbotsford-place	...	1	1 0
P. Stewart, Esq., Cumberland-street	...	1	0 0
D. Tindal, Esq., Apsley-place	...	0	10 6
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By J. WIBLIN, Esq., of Southampton.

Robert Marchant, Esq., North Currey	...	1	1 0
B. Orridge, Esq., Bucklersbury	...	1	1 0

THE LONDON MEDICAL REGISTRATION ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of the Committee took place on Tuesday evening last, Nov. 16th, at the rooms of the Royal Medical Benevolent College, 37, Soho-square, Dr. GEORGE WEBSTER in the chair.

Amongst the resolutions carried unanimously, were the following:—

"That Dr. George Webster be President of the London Medical Registration Association."

The acceptance of which office was, in suitable terms, acknowledged by Dr. Webster.

"That Mr. Propert be invited to become one of the Vice-Presidents of this Association."

"That Mr. Lavies, of Westminster, be elected a Vice-President of this Association."

Mr. Lavies, who was present at the meeting, accepted the office of Vice-President.

"That Dr. Ladd, of Lambeth, be one of the Honorary Secretaries of this Association."

The office of Secretary was accepted and undertaken by Dr. Ladd.

"That Mr. William Adams, of Harrington-square, and Dr. H. G. Wright, of Somerset-street, Portman-square, be elected members of the committee."

The rules of the Association were considered, as also the heads of an address to the profession, drawn up by a sub-committee appointed at the previous meeting.

It was then resolved,—

"That an abstract of the proceedings of the meeting be sent to THE LANCET, and other medical journals, with a request for its insertion and publication in their respective forthcoming numbers."

After a vote of thanks to the Council of the Royal Medical Benevolent College, for the use of their rooms on the occasion, the meeting terminated.

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM MEDICAL REGISTRATION ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of the medical profession of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and surrounding district took place on Saturday, November 13th, in the library of the Newcastle Infirmary, for the purpose of forming a Medical Registration Society for the counties of Northumberland and Durham. There were present Drs. Greenhow, White, Charlton, Humble, Jollie, and Burnup; and Messrs. Sang, Bennett, Harvey, Hardcastle, Pyle, Wilson, Thompson, Stevens, Watson (Burnopfield), Scott, Cruddace (Washington), Alison, Jones (Washington), Bolton, Peart, and Pyle (Durham).

Upon the proposition of Dr. WHITE, carried by acclamation, Dr. GREENHOW took the chair, and in his opening remarks he dwelt on the advantages, in point of the general education of the profession, which might be expected to result from the working of the new Medical Act.