plaintiff states that he was turned out; the defendant states that he was not; therefore, as it remains in the plaintiff to prove this statement, it was impossible for him to entertain the question of damages for any future period, beyond that in which his services were useful to his employer. It was similar to the case of a servant, who, consenting to leave an employer, cannot advance a further claim. But the plaintiff was clearly entitled to be paid, as no charge was brought against him, up to the day of his leaving, the 30th of May; and for that balance he should make an order.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL RELIEF, AND REMUNERATION OF MEDICAL OFFICERS.

THE UPTON-ON-SEVERN UNION.—RESIGNATION OF THE WHOLE MEDICAL STAFF.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—We are directed, by the medical officers of the Upton-on-Severn Union, to forward to you the accompanying statement of some recent proceedings in this union, and to request the favour of their publication, together with the address, in next week's LANCET (if possible), as the circumstances are pressing.

Our conduct has resulted from unanimity of sentiment—may it prove to be worthy of imitation. While the remedy is in the hands of the profession, if it will, by unanimous consent, only summon up the resolution to waive all fears of temporary innovation in private practice, too long allowed to sway triumphant over the better judgment of its members, and determine in future to act honestly one to another, by discontinuing the degrading practice of underselling and undervaluing each other's services, then, by steady combination, and unanimity of action, not only boards of guardians, but poor-law commissioners, and even the legislature, must eventually succumb to the pressure from without, and deal out that justice which has so long been withheld.

We remain, Sir, your obedient servants,
CHARLES BRADDON,
W. T. WHITE.

Upton-on-Severn, July 10th, 1848.

To the Medical Profession.

Upton-on-Severn, Worcestershire, July 6th, 1848.

GENTLEMEN,

It is with feelings of no common character, but which will be readily understood by those of you who hold, or have held, union appointments, that we beg your attention to the following statement of some recent proceedings in this union. Though possibly not unique, yet we believe our case to be peculiar, inasmuch as it is not merely one, two, or three of us, but the whole poor law medical staff in this union, which is at the present moment engaged in a struggle with the board of guardians—a struggle for our rights as members of society; for every labourer is worthy of his hire—a struggle for our independence as gentlemen—a struggle for the character of the whole profession; for we hold, that accordingly as you, gentlemen, act in this contest, will our profession appear to the world, either as consisting of a number of noble, high-minded, and liberal men, determined to uphold the dignity, standing, and reputation of the class to which they belong, or as a body of individuals so utterly void of *esprit du corps*, so low in principle, so contemptible in feeling, so degraded in conduct, that there may be found amongst us those who are ready to sacrifice every principle of honour and high-mindedness, and to sell their brethren for a few pieces of silver. We throw ourselves upon you, gentlemen, with the utmost confidence that the noble and disinterested (we had almost said chivalric) profession of medicine contains no such individuals; with a firm reliance on the truth and justice of our cause; with a sure hope that your utmost sympathy and support will be accorded to us; with the abiding conviction, that the efforts we are now making, humble as they may be, isolated as they are, will still be approved and followed throughout the length and breadth of this land with a prayer of faith that not one Judas may be found among us; and with an unflinching determination never to relax our exertions, and, *coûte qui coûte*, to fight the good fight of honour, justice, and independence, in which we are now engaged.

A meeting of the medical officers of the Upton-on-Severn Union was held at Mr. Braddon's house, June 19th, 1848,—present, Messrs. Trash, White, Prior, and Braddon,—when the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

1st. That in the opinion of this meeting the present salaries paid by the board of guardians to their medical officers are quite inadequate to the duties performed.

2nd. That the present system of giving a fixed salary for each district, without respect to area, population, or amount of sickness, is unfair in principle and unjust in practice—unfair in principle, since the remuneration is definite, whilst the services rendered are indefinite; unjust in practice, as under this system many orders for medical relief are given to parties not fairly entitled to them, and many orders are also given for attendance on cases of a most frivolous nature.

3rd. That an application be made to the board of guardians, at their next meeting, to abolish the present system of payment by fixed salaries, and to substitute, in lieu thereof, payment by the case, according to the following rates, such change in the mode of remuneration to come into effect on the 24th June instant. For every case of sickness occurring within a mile of the medical officer's residence, 5s., for every case at a greater distance than one mile, 7s. 6d., with the usual extras, as allowed by the late general order of the poor-law commissioners.

4th. That this amount of remuneration is extremely moderate, appears from the ascertained fact, that the bare cost of drugs, leeches, instruments, &c. &c., in hospital and dispensary practice throughout this country, averages 4s. 3½d. per case of sickness.

5th. That the attention of the board be directed to the circumstance that the poor-law commissioners have already recommended an average sum of 6s. 6d. per case to be paid to the medical officers in unions, and that this system has already been adopted in numerous unions, and found most satisfactory.

6th. That the medical officers of this union have felt so seriously the inconvenience and injustice of the present system, that, unless the foregoing plan be adopted, or their salaries be increased in a proportionate ratio, they will be reluctantly compelled to discontinue their services.

7th. That Mr. White, of Kempsey, and Mr. Braddon, of Upton-on-Severn, be appointed a deputation to submit these resolutions to the board, on Thursday next.

H. S. TRASH, CHAS. BRADDON,
W. T. WHITE, JOSH. MEEARS.
C. E. PRIOR,

On Thursday, June 22nd, we attended at the board-room, and submitted the foregoing resolutions. After some discussion, it was determined that a committee, consisting of the chairman, vice-chairman, and five elected guardians, should meet at the board-room on Friday, June 30th, to hear our case and report to the board on the following Thursday. At the meeting of the committee, we argued the case on the statements contained in the resolutions. We showed that the present salaries were utterly inadequate to cover the cost of horse-keep and drugs, in some districts not even of drugs; that the amount of remuneration varied in the different districts from 4s. to 1s. 7½d. per case of sickness; that in these latter the medical officers not only received no recompence for their time, labour, skill, and responsibility, but were positively losers of money by their appointments. We impressed on the attention of the committee, that in very many unions large increases of salary had recently been made. We instanced the Droitwich Union in this county, in which the salary of one district had been increased from £32 to £40, of a second from £35 to £50, and then a general increase of 25 per cent. had been made on the whole union. The clerk of the union also read to the committee a letter received from the clerk of the Bromyard Union, in which it was stated that the medical officers in that union are now paid 8s. per case of sickness, each order being renewable at the expiration of every three months, so that it is possible, and frequently occurs, that the medical officers receive 32s. in one year for their attendance on the same patient. The same correspondent stated that this system worked well, and was found to be satisfactory to the guardians, the medical officers, and the poor. We referred to the fact, that whilst population and sickness had greatly increased since the formation of the union, no increase had been made in the salaries of the medical officers, and yet the salaries of the clerk and the relieving officers had been recently augmented. We further stated, that if the board would not entertain the question of a change in the present system of payment, the medical officers would waive that point, and be content to continue their services, if the board would follow the example of the Droitwich union, by first increasing the salaries of the officers of the Upton and Kempsey districts—the two worst paid—and then making an increase of 33½ per cent. throughout the union. The committee received us courteously, and promised to report to the board on Thursday, (this day.) Accordingly, we attended this morning to hear the decision of the board,

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