the same authority. I copy from West, p. 600, 2nd edit. :

West, p. 600, 2nd edit.

his last 43, 15 died. (The result of which Mr. Wells kindly

"The mortality in cases of complete ovariotomy, according to

Chirurgical Transactions," show no progressive diminution in the
danger of ovariotomy. Of his tirst 50 cases, 17 died ; of

Clay's translation of Kiwisch ' On Diseases of the Ovaries'

creased from 43 to 46 per cent." For any inconsistency betwe--

these most positive statements in Dr West's book, p. 600,

more than 50 per cent. And this is the fact. Dr. Wright'

Wright again to the hospital Case book ; and in case of

"spite" Dr. Wright hints at exists only in his own imagination,

As to any injury accruing to the Samaritan Hospital, all I

IGNAL that the appointment has already, and I may say, indeed, has long-
since been virtually bestowed upon another who is himself a

in the British Medical Journal was voluntary, and the fact that

nor the medical officers sustain the wholesome competition

what difference there may be between the operation per-

that date. Dr. Wright admonishes me on the mischievous

THE LANCET of Aug. 27th—"No positive diagnosis can be made without an exploratory incision." The first inci-
sions, in fact, of the operation ought ever to be diagnosti-
tic. Therefore did Mr. Wells say "some of the women " could have been saved by surgery"? Did each of
them undergo the preliminary incisions which we are assured
on the highest authority are essential to a respectable diagnosis?

Mr. Wells informs us that his ovarian career commenced in 1844, and that it was during the twenty years immediately preceding this year (18 2

in 1842 ; Bird and Lane in 1843; Brown in 1852. In short,
during the twenty years immediately preceding this year (18 2

in 1842 ; Bird and Lane in 1843; Brown in 1852. In short,

success, and the greatest harm to the hospital I can imagine, would be

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR ST. MARYLEBONE.

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To the Editor of The Lancet.

SIR,—When I first entertained the idea of offering myself as

a candidate for the post of Health Officer for St. Marylebone,

was in the belief that the appointment of a certain individual

had not been predetermined, and that each candidate would

have both a fair field and fair play. I supposed that the choice

would be determined by qualifications, and that the best man

would have the greatest chance of success ; that a majorityof

the vestry understood the duties and functions which properly

belong to an officer of health ; and, finally, that the officer

selected would be treated with that consideration and respect

which he individually had a right to look for, and which it

was necessary that he should receive to enable him to perform

his duties in an efficient and independent manner.

I find that on all these points I have been mistaken ; that

the appointment has already, and I may say, indeed, has long

since been virtually bestowed upon another who is himself a

vestryman ; that, with a majority of the vestry, qualifications

are allowed to prevail scarcely to the extent of a feather's
Feeling sure that affiliation to the British Medical Association would be highly beneficial to the Provident Fund, and feeling also that the report of the committee would deservedly carry far more weight than the labours of any individual, I willingly ceased from independent action in the matter. I gave all the assistance in my power to the framing of the committee's report. With that report I am well satisfied in all respects but one, with regard to which I appended my individual protest and visualized the views of my colleagues. The report and protest have been published in the medical journals, and have doubtless already fallen under your notice.

The report was adopted by the Association, and Dr. Richardson was appointed chairman of the Provident Fund Committee. At an early meeting of the Committee of Council the Council Directorate will be chosen, and the various branches will be called upon to elect their directors. When this is done the Board will be fully constituted, and will in a position to admit members, with a view to the commencement of sick payments in July, 1865.

The first duty of the Board, however, will be to decide points left open by the report, and consequently left open by the vote of the annual meeting. First among these questions will be the subject of my protest—namely: Shall the Provident Fund be open to all members of the profession, or shall it be limited to members of the British Medical Association?

The two questions, as I apprehend, regarded the matter from an Association point of view. I mean that they are old members of the Association, that they have laboured for it in various ways for many years, that they are proud of its progress, and hopeful of its future. They believe, therefore, that it will be best to retain the official engine for the elevation of the profession, and a power that the Circumlocution Office will not be able to ignore. They think that the Provident Fund will strengthen the Association, and they therefore welcome it for the sake of the Association, rather than for the sake of the men who will chiefly need its help. I, on the other hand, and those who think with me, while we should rejoice to see the most sanguine anticipations fulfilled, and the Association received, that feeling may be called upon to elect their directors.

There are men of small capital striving to establish themselves, there are qualified assistants who aid in maintaining widowed mothers or younger brothers and sisters, and there are established practitioners who, from local circumstances, are almost precluded from earning incomes sufficient for their needs. I conceive that it would be an act of cruelty to call upon such men to subscribe an annual guinea to the British Medical Association, before admitting them to become members of the Provident Fund.

But as many of my colleagues in the committee differ from me, and think that such a call ought to be made, I am tempted to say what result the question will have, and other anticipated benefits are not yet realized. The meetings and speeches and dinners are necessarily limited to men in comparatively easy circumstances, and the less affluent members receive for their subscription only a copy of the Journal upon which a proposal may be founded, and the income of the Provident Fund is expended, and which must always, from the operation of commercial laws, be inferior to its contemporaries that are maintained by private enterprise. The present deplorable position of the Journal, and its recent advocacy of superficial attainments and of trading greed, although they cast some reflected discredit upon the Association, are yet mere accidents, due to causes that are temporary, or, at least, that admit of removal. I feel the fact that they have occurred, and may recur, increases the hardship of asking any man to pay for a publication that may offend his taste and judgment in every number, and that he cannot discountenance without forfeiting his right to obtain provision during sickness.

I apprehend, however, that the organization of the Provident Fund, apart from the Journal, would be of great value to the Association, and that the Provident Fund and the Journal should be prepared to pay for the use of that organization.

I would suggest, therefore, that every subscriber to the Provident Fund should contribute two shillings a year to the expense of printing the Journal. Generally—such being more than the proportion already received—and that is not absorbed by the Journal—and that the Board of Directors should be applied to as soon as formed to admit subscribers upon such a basis. Should such a proposal be acceded to, those who are in favour of it must bestir themselves. They must endeavour to procure the election, by the branches in their respective neigh-