and have not already communicated with either of us, are invited to do so, after which we propose calling a meeting in London to arrange the preliminary details.

We are, Sir, yours faithfully,

G. J. H. EVATT, M.D.,

Surgeon-Major A.M.D., Medical Officer R.M. Academy,
Woolwich,

ALDER SMITH, F.R.C.S., M.B.,

Resident Medical Officer, Christ's Hospital, London.
London, Feb. 22nd, 1884.

DEPUTY SURGEON-GENERAL O'LEARY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your notice under the above heading, in your issue of the 16th inst., you write—"We think it is to be regretted that Dr. O'Leary has allowed so long a time to elapse before calling upon these papers (*The Times* and *Globe*) to contradict Sir Drury Lowe's statements." May I be permitted to point out that on June 5th last I wrote to *The Times* complaining of the wrong they had done me, and requesting that it might be remedied by the publication of my evidence before Lord Morley's Committee. An application of a similar kind from another source was also made to *The Times*, but with no effect, and it was only after my return home, and when I had made two more applications, that *The Times* published my letter. As regards the *Globe*, it was only a short time ago, since my return from Egypt, that I saw, for the first time, the article in the paper of the 21st of May last.

Your obedient servant,

E. F. O'LEARY, M.D., Brigade-Surgeon.

Junior Army and Navy Club, Feb. 24th, 1884.

* * We gladly insert the above letter, and take the opportunity of congratulating Dr. O'Leary on his being granted the honorary rank of Deputy Surgeon-General—a step on the part of the military authorities which may be regarded as evidence of their opinion of the complete vindication of his character.—ED. L.

THE ROGERS TESTIMONIAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you kindly insert the enclosed thirteenth list of subscriptions in this week's LANCET, and oblige, yours truly,
J. WICKHAM BARNES.

Poor-law Medical Officers' Association, 3, Bolt-court,
Fleet-street, London, Feb. 27th, 1884.

Albert Southey, Esq., Colnbrook, £1 1s.; Dr. E. S. Willett, Isleworth, £1 1s.; Messrs. Pinching, Gravesend, 10s. 6d.; H. T. Ward, Esq., Calstock, Devon, 5s.; Dr. T. Morgan, Montgomery, 5s.

The promoters of the expression of opinion of Dr. Joseph Rogers' public work, during upwards of thirty years, desire to inform the profession and the public that the subscription list will remain open until the end of March.

LIVERPOOL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE RECENT POISONING CASES.

IN all remarkable trials the interest culminates in the judge's summing up; and this was well illustrated in the late trial of Catherine Flannagan and Margaret Higgins, now under sentence of death. Mr. Justice Butt's charge was heard in a court in which every inch of sitting or standing room was fully occupied, amidst profound silence. It is quite clear that four persons came by their death from arsenic administered by one or both prisoners, and there is too much reason to fear that these form only a proportion of the whole number of victims. In all of them advantage was taken of the occurrence of some ailment to call in a medical attendant, who was in each instance completely deceived as to the history of the case and the more urgent symptoms previous to death. The cases all presented that insidious character which cases of murder by poison usually do; and it is here generally acknowledged that Dr. Whitford deserves great credit for the promptitude with which he acted when the suspicious surroundings of the case were made known to him.

ARSENICAL FLY-PAPERS.

It is now well known that the poison was obtained from fly-papers, and though this is, so far as is known, the first case in which these papers have been used criminally, their dangerous nature was pointed out twenty-four years ago. In "Taylor's Medical Jurisprudence and Manual on Poisons" it is stated that "a coarse sort of blotting-paper, soaked in a solution of arseniate of potash, is extensively sold for killing flies under the name of *Papier Moure*. It has been erroneously represented that the substance with which it is impregnated is not poisonous to human beings." In THE LANCET of Feb. 11th, 1860, will be found a letter from the late Dr. R. H. Brett, formerly lecturer on Chemistry and Toxicology at the Liverpool School of Medicine, giving the results of his examination of different specimens of *Papier Moure*. He found an average of 5.3 grains of arsenic in each, and concludes his letter in these words, "Such papers, sir, are sold without any restriction. Should they be allowed to be sold at all, when two or three of them contain sufficient arsenic to poison a whole family?" A leader in the same issue has the following prophetic sentence: "The sale of these fly-papers amounts, in one sense, to nothing else than the unrestricted sale of arsenic, which the Legislature have sought to forbid. Very little ingenuity is needed to remove the arsenic from the papers; and although we are not disposed to detail the means, yet it were dangerous affectation to speak with bated breath of this source of possible danger."

THE LIVERPOOL ABATTOIRS.

A meeting of the medical profession was held at the Medical Institution on Monday, under the presidency of Dr. Waters. The meeting was a large one, and comprised nearly all the leading physicians and surgeons, as well as members of the profession generally, whether members of the institution or not. The following resolutions were carried unanimously:—"That in the opinion of this meeting the existence of slaughter-houses, with their concomitant offensive trade, in the heart of a great city like Liverpool, and in the midst of a dense population, cannot be regarded in any other light than that of a nuisance and injurious to public health"; "That steps should be taken to oppose the renewal to the Abattoir Company of their present lease, by which the existing nuisance would not merely be perpetuated, but seriously increased." It was also resolved that a deputation, consisting of the following gentlemen, Drs. Waters, Cameron, Carter, Caton, Campbell Brown, Glynn, Davidson, and Messrs. Bickersteth, R. Harrison, Shadford Walker, and Mitchell Banks, should wait upon the mayor with a memorial, drawn up in the sense of the above resolutions.

CASES AT THE LOCK HOSPITAL UNDER MR. BERNARD.

There is at present in the hospital a man recovering from a severe pustular syphilide presenting the varioloid character. At first this patient had all the appearance of suffering from variola. The eruption was very copious on the forehead, face, chest, back, and arms; the lower extremities were hardly affected. The pustules remained for upwards of a fortnight, shrivelled slowly, leaving the papule reddish at first, then coppery, ultimately desquamating. The eruption was at its height six weeks ago; at present there are merely pigmentary stains to indicate the presence of the syphilide. Another case with interesting features occurred in a female patient, from whom an extensive crop of excrescences, extending from the lower part of the mons veneris, and occupying the whole extent of both labia majora and part of the inner surface of the thighs, covering the perineum and extending to the anus, were removed by the thermo-cautery. This patient was discharged on the 26th without any trace of the growths whatever. A severe case of extensive sloughing of the prepuce was admitted on the 25th. This patient had been drinking heavily previously to admission, and was in a very debilitated condition. Nitric acid was applied to the slough at once, and a stimulating diet prescribed. He appeared much improved the following day, and iodoform dressings were commenced.

SCOTTISH NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

MEDICAL CANDIDATES FOR PARLIAMENT.

WHETHER from the undoubted popularity of Dr. Farquharson as the representative of West Aberdeenshire, and a desire to take further samples from the bulk of London