flesh," that the spirit of our Lord had entered into him whom she once knew as Mr. Prince, and that he could render her immortal. She never read the Bible, declaring it all completed now, and therefore it was quite useless so to do. Miss Nottidge, during the summer of 1847, improved so much, that I hoped she would entirely recover: she became cheerful, tranquil in her deportment, resumed her bonnet, and again paid attention to her dress, at the same time seldom speaking of her delusions. Her bodily health at this time was very good. At her urgent request, and after giving her promise not to leave without our knowledge, she was permitted to walk out unattended, and this she continued to do until the 6th of January, 1848, on which day she went out under the pretence of calling on my wife, and made her escape to London. In a letter she sent me from the station, to allay my fears, she says: "I firmly believe it (the going away) is the will of God." "Fear nothing; God will provide." "The Lord is my helper." She was brought back on the 8th of January; and from this time to the period of her discharge, (May 15th, 1848,) continued from time to time to repeat all her delusions. She had entirely lost all natural affection for her mother and friends—a most frequent symptom of insanity. I should not omit to mention that Miss Nottidge refused to write to any one for a lengthened period, alleging that God knew everything—He knew where she was, and would fetch her when He thought right.

During Miss Nottidge's residence at Moorcroft, she was examined privately, eight times, by the commissioners in lunacy, including Drs. Turner, Prichard, and Hume; and the three legal commissioners, Messrs. Procter, Mylne, and Campbell. These gentlemen were unanimously of opinion that she was of unsound mind. Dr. Marshall Hall visited her once a fortnight, and the case was fully laid before Dr. Conolly: these eminent physicians entirely concurred in the views of the commissioners and medical attendants. In determining the state of my patient's mind, it was important to ascertain how far the residents at the Agapemone believed in the divinity of Mr. Prince, &c., and it was found that they did not believe anything so monstrous. During the examination at the recent trial, they all explicitly denied any such belief; and two of them, in reply to Sir F. Thesiger's inquiries, distinctly gave it as their opinion, that a person entertaining such a belief must be of unsound mind.

In the month of May, 1848, Miss Nottidge was discharged by order of the commissioners in lunacy, on the ground that her bodily health was declining, and might be seriously injured by longer detention, they still remaining of opinion that she was insane. Dr. Turner dissented from this decision. The result was, that in a few days she gave the whole of her fortune, more than £6000, to the very man she believed to be God, and went to reside in the Abode of Love.

Whoever reads this simple statement, I feel persuaded will accord with the views the medical attendants took of this painful case. Yet, in the face of these facts, and never having seen or conversed with Miss Nottidge, the Chief Baron declares she was not of unsound mind, and never ought to have been interfered with; and furthermore, that no mad man or mad woman in England should be, who is not suicidal or homicidal! Dr. Conolly, in his admirable pamphlet, entitled "A Remonstrance with the Chief Baron," has so fully shown the grievous error into which he has fallen, and the injury such views, if carried out, would inflict upon society, that it is more than superfluous for me to enter on the consideration of this subject.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ARTHUR STILWELL, M.D.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having seen the admirable letter of Dr. Arthur Stilwell, I have great satisfaction in adding my own views of this unhappy case.

Considering, then, that Miss Nottidge had broken every tie of natural affection; that she had left her own mother and her own home; that she could believe Mr. Prince to be God; that she should believe that she should not die, but be translated; that she should prepare for this translation nightly, (by packing up her clothes;) that she should omit to put on becoming attire, and to take healthful exercise; that she should be ready to yield up the provision made for her by her parents; finally, considering that all these aberrations were united in Miss Nottidge, I never could, I never can, doubt the existence of her insanity, or that she ought to be the object of peculiar care and surveillance.

That Miss Nottidge's notions were not exalted notions of a religious nature, is proved by her breaking her own word, and

enacting a lie, when she escaped from Moorcroft. That what has been said respecting her property is true, is proved by her having parted with her patrimony, leaving herself destitute.

Much credit is due to Dr. Arthur Stilwell for his cautious and judicious charge of Miss Nottidge. No time, no opportunity, was lost in referring the case to the judgment of the Commissioners; and I am of opinion that these gentlemen performed their responsible duties with extraordinary care and circumspection.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

MARSHALL HALL.

THE CONTEMPLATED POOR-LAW MEDICAL SUPERANNUATION FUND.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your last number, page 20, you inform us that a superannuation fund is in prospect for the poor-law medical officers of this country; you approve and encourage the scheme as a just one for the medical profession, and you contend, amongst other things, that this grant is as well deserved by union medical officers as it is due to army and navy surgeons.

I respect, as a member of the medical profession, that spirit and sense of right on your part which for many years have well declared you to be the friend and the supporter of that profession; but with all deference, I must dissent from you on a few points connected with the present subject.

The soldier and the sailor enter into the service of their country in the prime of life, with the unavoidable fact before them that they cannot have the choice of their medical advisers, but that they must be subject to treatment, in time of need, from officers especially appointed to their care—appointed, not by the mere patronage of an incompetent or partial authority, but selected by one central and competent board, having no object in that selection but the eligibility of the officer, and the advantage and interests of those who are to become their patients, while the whole time of these officers is for many years devoted to their peculiar service.

A large majority of our paupers pass the prime of their lives—nay, lengthened lives—not as recipients from parochial funds, but truly contributing to the same, by paying the rates and taxes of their country, while they enjoy the comparatively inestimable advantage of choosing their medical advisers in the hour of danger.

If justice requires that the medical profession should receive, with respect to the poor laws, a generous consideration, let justice still be even-handed, and ask, that by one act the interest of the poor as well as that of the medical profession be served. In a word, if the same amount of additional national expenditure for the well-deserved advantage of the profession, can and will, with an altered system, secure to the poor another condition—a condition indeed for themselves, calculated to give them the fuller benefits of civilized life, why should this double benefit be overlooked?

A board of guardians, with their authority, may choose for the poor man the colour of his coat, with the effect, perhaps, of only wounding his natural or his proper pride—they may prescribe for him the exact weight and the uniform quality of his Sunday's and Monday's dinner, with the further effect of hazarding his health—but they cannot fasten upon him, in time of disease, the services of a medical man in whom he has no confidence, without inflicting upon him an amount of moral and physical wrong, which is only to be recognised by those who will give a fair consideration to the influence of a free choice and a confiding mind with respect to a medical man, upon the event or termination of disease.

It is true that difficulties might attend the giving to the inmates of workhouses these just advantages, but the great bulk of paupers—at least, of those who are paupers in a medical point of view, are attached to private residences in districts; and here the abolition of the contract system, with one officer, can be, and ought to be effected.

With little additional expense, a certain scale of remuneration may be fixed upon for all cases occurring amongst paupers; the names of all legally-qualified medical practitioners willing to attend upon such fixed terms might be taken, (for, let it be added, all established practitioners bear the only onus of contributing to rates,) and thus the sick pauper may have the necessary aid from the medical man of his own choice.

But while this arrangement would secure at once to the poor and to the profession an equitable position, there is another class which would derive benefit from the system.

The rich have had too frequently to dread the spread amongst themselves of contagious or pestilential disease, from

the ignorance or the prejudices of the poor in resisting remedial or preventive measures well calculated to accomplish good results, if fully and fairly put into practice. The Vaccination Act has been known to be a failure to a very considerable extent, because the advantages capable of being derived from it are offered through the agency of one vaccinating contractor in one large district, whose offer of services amongst the public is sometimes received with caution, hesitation, and suspicion, and often rejected; for the very natural reason that the offer comes from one unknown to and unapproved by the parties proposed to be vaccinated, while the interest of a non-contracting practitioner is most unfairly intruded upon, and the fruits, perhaps, of a long and persevering practice thus pillaged; for let it be remembered that the pauper portion of subjects vaccinated under the Act form but a very small part of the returns.

If, then, the abolition of the present contract system can be effected, to the advantage of the rich, the poor, and the whole medical profession, and all this upon the principle of regarding the liberty of the subject, I do think that no liberal and just community should conceal from itself the fair prospect of realizing such advantages.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
WM. MOORMAN, Junior, Surgeon.

St. Columb, Cornwall, July 9, 1849.

THE "WALKER FUND."

"It were well, considering what Mr. Walker has done for science, if a representation of his circumstances were made by his professional brethren, to the Government, to obtain for him, if possible, some pension for the remainder of his life—a pension from the Government fund, which ought to be devoted to persons who, by their scientific or literary labours, have rendered services to their country. Meanwhile, it is necessary to relieve Mr. Walker's embarrassments; and in proposing that a subscription be opened for that purpose, it affords us great pleasure to be enabled to state that 'Dr. Alison, Professor of Practice of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, Mr. Goodsir, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Edinburgh, and the Rev. W. Stevenson, of South Leith, have consented to receive contributions.' We are also glad to announce that Professors Sharpey and Grant, of University College, and Professors Todd and Bowman, of King's College, London, agree to become treasurers, and we hope their example will be followed in other parts of Great Britain, by gentlemen who will communicate with the treasurers in Edinburgh or in London."—THE LANCET, March 31st, 1849.

Subscriptions received in London, and forwarded to the Treasurers in Edinburgh:—

	£	s.	d.
Thomas Wakley, Esq., M.P.	5	0	0
Professor Sharpey, (Treasurer)... ..	3	3	0
Professor Todd, (Treasurer)	2	2	0
Professor Grant, (Treasurer)	1	1	0
Professor Bowman, (Treasurer)	1	1	0
The Baron de Goldsmid	2	2	0
Professor Graham	1	1	0
Professor Quain	1	1	0
Dr. Copland	1	1	0
Dr. Pereira	1	1	0
Dr. Willis	1	1	0
Sir James Clark	1	1	0
Dr. Wray, (Brixton)	1	1	0
John Churchill, Esq., Princes-street	1	1	0
Joseph Henry Green, Esq.... ..	1	1	0
Moses Montefiore, Esq., (Stanhope-street)	2	2	0
Francis Kiernan, Esq.	1	1	0
The Sub-Editor of THE LANCET... ..	1	1	0
G. N., (per ditto)	0	10	6
F. Le Gros Clark, Esq.	0	10	6
Henry Gilbert, Esq., Suffolk-place	0	10	6

THE LONDON AND PROVINCIAL MEDICAL DIRECTORY.

[LETTER FROM MR. JOHN CHURCHILL.]
To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you permit me to take advantage of your reply to a correspondent, "Scrutator," (see Notices to Correspondents in THE LANCET of July 13th,) to announce to that gentleman, and to the profession generally, that the editorial, as

well as the publishing, department of the "London and Provincial Medical Directory" is now in my hands, and that any information with regard to errors and omissions will be most thankfully received. "Scrutator" intimates that he will undertake to point out five hundred errors, if you will publish them. You very properly advise him to send the list to the editor of the "Directory." I sincerely hope that "Scrutator" will act on your suggestion, and thus render, not only myself, but the profession generally, an essential service. The utility of the "Medical Directory" is universally admitted. Its correctness has been frequently questioned; but let every member of the profession, annually called upon to do so by circular, contribute his quota of information, and there will be no longer any complaint of the kind. I beg to assure the profession, that as I have now the entire management of the work, no expense, no trouble, shall be spared—no efforts untried, to make the "Medical Directory" worthy of their continued patronage and support.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
Princes-street, Soho, July, 1849. JOHN CHURCHILL.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—The following gentlemen having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted members of the college at the meeting of the Court of Examiners on the 13th inst.:—

- ASSAID, SAID, Syria.
- BASSETT, WILLIAM FREDERICK, London.
- ELLIS, THOMAS, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin.
- HODSON, GEORGE, Chester.
- HUGHES, HENRY WILLIAM, Gawchmai, Anglesea.
- KING, GEORGE, Melksham, Wiltshire.
- LAKE, GEORGE ANTHONY KIRSOPP LAKE, Teignmouth, Devon.
- LINNOCK, CHARLES HENRY, Eastbourne, Sussex.
- MANIFOLD, WILLIAM HARGRAVES, Liverpool.
- MORRIS, CHARLES JAMES, Gloucester-terrace, Hyde-park.
- PHILLIPS, HENRY JOHN, Kensington.
- SQUIRE, WILLIAM, Silsoe, Bedfordshire.
- TURNER, GEORGE BROWN, Horton, Gloucestershire.

The following gentlemen were also admitted members on the 16th inst:—

- BRADLEY, WILLIAM, Preston, Lancashire.
- CROAK, JOHN EVELYN, Northfleet, Kent.
- FINNIMORE, THOMAS ARTHUR, Harrow-road.
- GOVETT, PHILIP WILLIAM, Plymouth.
- KING, JAMES WILLIAM, Dublin.
- LE KREUX, FREDERICK, London.
- LOVEGROVE, GEORGE HYMENEUS, Gloucester.
- MORRIS, JOHN ALBERT, St. James's Palace.
- MOORE, WILLIAM JAMES, Hales Owen, Worcestershire.

"THE FELLOWSHIP."—The Court of Examiners of the Royal College of Surgeons have just given notice of their intention to examine candidates for the fellowship on Tuesday and Thursday, the 7th and 9th of August next. Additional particulars may be obtained on reference to our advertising columns.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday,

July 12, 1849.

- HILL, WILLIAM BYRON, Exeter, Devon.
- MEADOWS, DANIEL, Witlesham, Suffolk.
- MOORE, ALFRED WILLIAM.
- SHIELD, ROBERT DELAFOSSE, Clun, Salop.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—At a meeting of the council of this college, yesterday afternoon, Mr. Joseph Henry Green, F.R.S., senior surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, was elected president, and Messrs. James Moncrieff Arnott, F.R.S., and Surgeon to University College Hospital, and John Flint South, surgeon of St. Thomas's Hospital, were elected vice-presidents of the College for the ensuing year; at the same meeting, Messrs. Hodgson and Wormald, the two recently elected members, took their seats.

THE CHOLERA IN PARIS.—The mortality in private life has been as follows: July 6th, 15 deaths; 7th, 12; 8th, 11; and 9th, 11. In civil hospitals and asylums we have the following returns: July 9th, 25 cases, 6 deaths, and 33 recoveries; July 10th, 31 cases, 11 deaths, and 41 recoveries; July 11th, 17 cases 14 deaths, and nine recoveries; July 12th, 17 cases, 11 deaths