entirely to the improved drainage of the land in the neighbourhood. Since then the drainage has again fallen into disorder, the sewage is allowed to stagnate outside the houses in its *open* channels, and suffer decomposition in front of the dwellings of the poor. Concurrently with this neglect appears a fresh epidemic of ague, as virulent as any that reigned in the time of Sir Philip Hales, who piteously described it. More than nineteen per cent of the dispensary patients suffer from the disease, and of two clubs, one shows a proportion of thirty-three per cent. and the other of twenty-five per cent. Under the pressure of so urgent a misfortune, we trust that the local board will straightway apply itself with vigour to the necessarily sanitary works of covering, enlarging, and flushing their drains. Mr. Haviland is entitled to much credit for his sagacity and exertions.

THE POLICE AND THE HOSPITALS.

THE "sacra fames auri" contaminates our cabmen as it does their betters. They, too, are athirst for gold. Fortuna non mutat genus. Now and then it happens that some poor fellow is struck down in the street, and needs quick conveyance within reach of medical aid. These good Samaritans look coolly on, and wait till the nearest policeman—that usually far-distant functionary—can be started from the remote kitchen, where he cultivates digestion, or is seen to emerge from the alehouse, where he has been in search of criminals. Meantime the wounded artery spouts, the broken limb swings loose, or the failing heart stops wholly for want of needful stimulant. A sensible letter from Mr. Walter Coulson, the house-surgeon of St. Mary's Hospital, in *The Times* of Tuesday, suggests a plain remedy:—

"The reluctance on the part of cabmen is very easily explained. In nine cases out of ten they lose both their time and their money by bringing accidents to an hospital on their own responsibility, and as a consequence much valuable time is frequently lost before a constable can be found to take charge of the case. Now, as money is allowed to the police to defray expenses in cases of accident, I would suggest, either that the nearest constable should be sent for from the hospital to take particulars of the accident, and to pay the expenses incurred, or that the cabman should receive his fare on taking a medical certificate to the nearest police-station."

Some such arrangement as this would save much needless suffering, and might rescue some lives that would otherwise be sacrificed by lapse of time.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

IMPORTANT.

MEDICAL REGISTRATION ASSOCIATIONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—At a numerous meeting of medical practitioners of South Cheshire, held in the Board-room of the Chester Infirmary, August 30th, 1858, Dr. Phillips Jones, of Chester, in the chair, the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

1st. That it is expedient for the medical practitioners of the southern district of Cheshire to form themselves into a Society for the purpose of assisting the Registrar, under the new Medical Act, in excluding from his Register the names of persons practising in the district without any qualification.

2nd. That in accordance with the preceding resolution, a Society be now formed, to consist of LEGALLY-QUALIFIED medical practitioners in South Cheshire, for the purpose of aiding the Registrar in carrying out the above objects of the new Medical Act.

3rd. That a committee be formed for holding occasional

meetings, and also for correspondence. That Dr. Phillips Jones, Dr. Watson, Mr. Weaver, Dr. Davies, and Mr. Brittain, constitute this committee, and that Mr. H. Rees, assistant house-surgeon of the Chester Infirmary, do act as secretary.

4th. That the Society be called "The Society to assist Registration under the New Medical Act," and that each member pay an annual subscription of 2s. 6d.

5th. That the cordial thanks of the meeting be given to the chairman.

By order of the meeting,

Chester, August, 1858.

HUGH REES, Secretary.

* * This is an exceedingly important and sagacious measure, and we sincerely hope that so prudent and wise an example will be followed by all legally-qualified medical practitioners throughout the length and breadth of the land. There should not be a single county, borough, or district without its "Medical Registration Association." Instead of the title adopted by the new Society, we would suggest the more definite one of the "SOUTH CHESHIRE MEDICAL REGISTRATION ASSOCIATION." The qualification for admission as a member of it should be the right to be registered under the provisions of the MEDICAL ACT. Earnestly do we hope that the admirable example of the South Cheshire gentlemen will be instantly followed by all the legally-qualified practitioners in Great Britain and Ireland.—
ED. L.

ON PEPSINE (SO CALLED), OR GASTRIC JUICE, ETC.

[LETTER FROM DR. NELSON.]

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—After having been congratulated by several medical friends upon the moderation exhibited in my "Comments" (in THE LANCET of August 7th) upon Dr. Corvisart's letter on "Pepsine and Galen," I confess myself greatly surprised to find him accusing me of "uttering abusive language against Dr. Chambers." So far from seeking to do anything of the kind, I even declare in these comments that I had not felt myself called upon to notice Dr. Chambers' errors or omissions at all, but for Dr. Corvisart having done so, and hauled my name into his argument at the same time, coupled with offensive observations and misrepresentation; and even then, what I did say merely amounts to an acquiescence in what Dr. Corvisart had already said himself, followed by legitimate inferences, couched in language which I see as yet no reason to recall. The truth is, that, as regards what I fear I must designate, in plain English, insolence and impertinence, I confidently ask either French or English gentlemen, or yourself, to compare the tone of my comments and that of Dr. Corvisart's letter of August 28th, and am willing to abide by such impartial judgment. I know that they "will trace a well-defined line of separation" between us. I should be sorry if they did not after this fresh exhibition of spleen and vanity, and marked avoidance of the real issue, excepting in the following effort to elicit a conclusive proof—

"If proof it can be called, that proof is none."

He says: "If Dr. Nelson seriously wishes to be reputed as having the priority he claims, he must answer to this one question—"What book, before 1858, has been written on Pepsine, or any peptic preparation, by Dr. Nelson? If Dr. Nelson produces any *probatum* observations, published (not kept by himself for private use) and authenticated prior to 1854, his claim will be established and admitted at once."

I have all along said that I care little about priority, as compared with the establishment of that which is useful to society; and it will be remarked that my comments were only written to corrects Dr. Corvisart's mistakes as to the dates of my writings, &c. On the present occasion, the language which he has used quite forbids my replying to him in anyway, and my answer, therefore, is rather to be considered as given to you, your readers, and the profession at large, from whom I know I shall have justice. In fact, the questions have been already answered in my last communication of August 7th, wherein I refer to my paper on the "Treatment of Diabetes by Rennet," in your journal of January 20th, 1855, which paper, as you know, was in your possession in 1854, and dealt with cases treated years before; one in 1852, attended in conjunction with Edward Moore, Esq., of Hales-Owen, Worcester-