the greater part of the anterior aspect is attached to the margin of the patella, which bone moves with the quadriceps, and also tends as a rigid area to prevent folding of the capsule. I may also advert to the fact that the cartilages themselves, which are certainly held between the bones, are invested on both aspects by the synovial membrane. These remarks have been called forth by those contained in a clinical lecture by Mr. Moullin, published in THE LANCET of May 18th, and in a less degree by the fact that during the past session a speaker at one of the London societies gravely suggested that since Mr. Sutton had shown these structures to be in some sense vestigial the knee-joint would be better without them. In writing the above I in no way dissent from the practice of removing broken cartilages, and should always resort to this treatment, but on the other hand I would maintain that the knee-joint without the semilunar cartilages has lost one of its most perfect means of fine adjustment.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Charles-street, W., May 20th, 1895.

G. H. MAKINS.

"KINGSCLERE DISTRICT COUNCIL AND MEDICAL REMUNERATION."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—My attention has been directed to an annotation in THE LANCET of May 4th under the above heading. The reporters were premature in their statement. The appointment (!) was offered to me on Tuesday, the 14th inst., and respectfully declined. I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Kingsclere, May 17th, 1895.

REG. MAPLES.

SMALL-POX IN CALCUTTA.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Seeing that in Calcutta the deaths from small-pox for eight weeks only of the quarter do really exceed in the ratio of nearly three to one the number of deaths from the same disease in all the capitals of the world put together for a whole quarter, those in Calcutta proper being 872 and in the other capitals for thirteen weeks 333, I should like to ask someone well acquainted with the city the presumable reason. Is there no legal requirement of vaccination, and are there no public vaccinators? Is the Hindoo and Mahomedan feeling against the operation so strong that it cannot be put in force? It certainly does not say much for the operation or its performance if, in our principal colonial city, the disease exists unchecked to the terrible extent it appears to here. Who is to blame?

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Gravesend, May 20th, 1895.

J. H. GRAMSHAW, M.D.

"ARE APOTHECARIES, OLD OR NEW, ENTITLED TO ADVERTISE?"

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I am also prompted, like your correspondent "Ethics," to reply to his letter. He accuses the holders of the L.S.A. diploma of being advertisers. I have been associated with general practice in London for the last twelve years, and I can honestly say that the majority of advertising cases that I have come across have not been from holders of that diploma. The new L.S.A. is now as fully qualified as anybody; why, therefore, should he wish to advertise any more than an M.D. Lond.? It appears to me that jealousy has a great deal to do with these attacks on the L.S.A.'s. I am in practice in a large London suburb, and three of the most professional men in that district are holders of the L.S.A.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

May 18th, 1895.

JUSTICE.

MEDICAL AID ASSOCIATIONS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I have always been under the impression that THE LANCET would not support in any way any medical aid company or association. Judge of my surprise last week when I beheld an advertisement emanating from the Accrington Medical Dispensary. This is one of those

businesses that of late have been the subject of inquiry by the General Medical Council. For reasons best known to themselves the name of "Medical Aid Association" is gradually being dropped by the committeemen of these businesses, and other names substituted, as "Medical Institute," "Medical Dispensary," &c. For some reason, at present unknown to me, I perceive that in this year's list of medical aid associations the statistics relating to Accrington, showing the numbers, profit, and loss, total worth, &c., were not supplied by the secretary. In conclusion, I may mention that an advertisement for an assistant appeared in THE LANCET about three weeks ago from another association.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

May 21st, 1895.

DETECTOR.

* * We do not insert the advertisements of medical aid associations or of like bodies if we have any reason to suppose that they act on objectionable lines, but it is obviously impossible to absolutely ensure the rejection of such advertisements. Our clerks have strict rules to this effect which they carefully follow, but unfortunately they are not all "Detectors." The advertisement in THE LANCET of last week did not on its face appear to contain anything to which exception could be taken. If our correspondent will furnish us with the means which he apparently possesses of infallibly detecting the character of every "Dispensary" we shall be greatly obliged to him.—ED. L.

LIVERPOOL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The Assizes.

MR. JUSTICE HAWKINS concluded the criminal business of the Assizes on the 15th inst. with the trial of William Miller for the wilful murder of Edward Moyse on Feb. 19th last. The trial ended in a verdict of "Guilty," such being, indeed, the foregone conclusion. This city has been too often the scene of a brutal murder, and this most recent one offers no extenuating circumstance, but several of great aggravation. The deceased was an aged man who on the fatal night offered the prisoner hospitality and a bed for the night. In the morning at an early hour John Needham, a boy aged fifteen, saw the prisoner rummaging the house, and was suddenly attacked by him and wounded. He defended himself as well as he could, and on the prisoner leaving the house he went and found his master (Moyse) wounded and apparently dead. Needham went for assistance, became faint from loss of blood, and was taken to the Northern Hospital, where he remained for some time. Moyse was found to have been dead some time, and from the state of the body it was evident that he had been stunned while asleep and then killed by heavy blows on his head and face with a hatchet. The prisoner was arrested a few days later and identified by Needham. In addition to this direct evidence there was a long chain of circumstantial evidence against which there was practically no defence, the prisoner being quite unable to account for his movements on the fatal night. Mr. Justice Hawkins passed severe sentences on six women who had inflicted grievous bodily harm on a boy who had been a witness against the husband of one of the prisoners. The prisoners were all respectable charwomen, against whom there was no previous charge, but in this their first offence they had been guilty of wanton violence against a boy who had simply done his duty as required by law. He had been left by them on the road in an unconscious state, and he was in the Royal Infirmary for some time after. The judge awarded severe sentences for other crimes of violence, and observed that drink was the exciting cause of many of them.

Fatal Effects of Tight-lacing.

The city coroner held an inquest on the 15th inst. upon the body of a domestic servant aged eighteen years who was attacked on the 11th inst. with pains in the stomach. She was seen by Dr. McCormick, who found her corset so tightly laced that it had to be broken off. She was taken home and treated, but died on the 12th. At the post-mortem examination an ulcer was found in the stomach, which the medical