

consultation with a representative of either of the three preceding grades, the fees of such consultees to be paid before consultation through the medium of the ordinary medical attendant, the lowest fee to be received by a Queen's physician or surgeon for home consultation to be fixed at five guineas; for visit and consultation (within three miles) ten guineas. Such fees as these would give men like Jenner and Paget and others of their professional status only what is their due, if we rank them with their equals in the legal profession.

Before a State doctor could become a consulting State doctor, he must take the L.R.C.P. and L.R.C.S.; then as consulting physician or surgeon the M.R.C.P. or M.R.C.S.; also they must be Bachelors of Medicine. The Queen's physicians and surgeons must be Doctors of Medicine and Fellows of their respective colleges. The Queen's physicians and Queen's surgeons may or may not have a post at court: the title does not indicate royal appointments, but shows the possessor's rank in the profession.

If your wish, Sir, is Utopian, my ideas, as stated above, may be said to be extremely visionary; however, there must be a beginning to everything, and if from perusing this letter medical reformers and politicians can obtain a wrinkle, I shall be more than satisfied.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
Fulham-road, S.W. HENRY W. WILLIAMS, M.D.

### COMPULSORY REGISTRATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

(LEICESTER IMPROVEMENT BILL.)

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It is of the utmost importance that the medical profession throughout the kingdom should know that powers, at once extraordinary and compulsory, are being given by Parliament to municipal authorities in various parts of the country.

The Leicester Corporation has now in Parliament an Improvement Bill, containing a clause to the following effect:—That every medical man, under a £10 penalty, must inform the corporation of every case of certain infectious diseases, such as cholera, typhus, typhoid, erysipelas, small-pox, diphtheria, puerperal and scarlet fevers, that may occur in his practice, public or private.

The medical men of Leicester as a body strenuously protest against such obligation being imposed upon them. They are allowed no discretion, and are liable to be placed in the position of criminals for a simple act of omission. The main objections are as follow:—(1) The penal clause; (2) the complications which would, owing to breach of confidence, of necessity occur between patient and medical man; (3) the clause not affecting irregular practitioners, such as unqualified assistants, chemists, and herbalists; (4) that many patients for fear of being reported would not seek medical advice, and thus become unchecked sources of infection; and (5) that any such legislation should be *imperial*, not local.

We, the medical men of Leicester, have opposed, at considerable expense, this Bill in the House of Commons, and so far unsuccessfully. Our profession has ever been in the van of sanitary reform, progress, and action. In Leicester we have given the corporation much help. We have advised the corporation as to the infantile diarrhoea—the scourge of the town; we have, unsolicited, given them information of the last three outbreaks of small-pox, and now we are insulted by being placed under penalties.

We learn that certain corporations have applied to the Local Government Board to bring in a general Bill for this compulsory registration. The president told them that the profession was very "touchy" on this subject, and that he should not bring in a Bill without consulting the heads of the profession. The officials of the Local Government Board advise these corporations to smuggle in a clause to obtain this power in their various "improvement Bills" where it would not be noticed, and so escape opposition. It was then suggested that after some twelve or fifteen towns had obtained this power, and had it in working order, the Local Government Board would be able to bring in and pass a general Bill affecting the whole of the country!

This Machiavellian advice has so far succeeded only too well, and unless the whole profession now comes forward

to help Leicester in opposing this Bill in the House of Lords next July, a fatal precedent may occur. Future opposition from medical men in other towns will be futile, and so the way to a general Bill will be paved. We wish to state clearly to the medical men of the country that unless they wish to have penal clauses of a similar nature imposed upon them (by a general Bill) they must materially support us in our present opposition. We have opposed as far as our means permit, and for future opposition we appeal with confidence to the profession throughout the United Kingdom. On behalf of the profession in Leicester,

I am, yours most faithfully,

C. R. CROSSLEY,  
President of the Sub-Committee of the  
Leicester Medical Society.

P.S.—Subscriptions should be sent at once to me, The New-walk, Leicester.

May 27th, 1879.

### PARIS.

(From a Correspondent.)

M. PÉAN, the well-known surgeon of St. Louis Hospital, has recently performed an operation which has considerably occupied the minds of the medical world in Paris. The patient was a man suffering from cancer of the pylorus, and was, at the time of the operation, in the last stage of cachexia, he not being able to retain any food in his stomach, and having to rely almost entirely on nutritive enemata for sustenance, which, as usual, were found to be insufficient. He accordingly applied to M. Péan to take some operative measures to relieve him, or, if nothing could be done, he was decided, he said, to put an end to his life. M. Péan, rather reluctantly, agreed to comply with the entreaties of the patient and his relatives, and decided to attempt an operation. An incision, about ten centimetres in length, was made on the left side of the umbilicus and parallel to the linea alba. When the peritoneum was opened the stomach was found to be considerably dilated, extending downwards as far as the pubic arch. Its walls were greatly hypertrophied. The peritoneum did not seem to be affected in any great degree. The pyloric portion of the stomach was then gently drawn forwards, when it was found that the growth measured six centimetres transversely and four in a vertical direction. The whole of this mass was excised, as was also a portion of the epiploon, which was diseased. The two surfaces of section were then drawn into contact by means of catgut sutures. No liquid of any kind was allowed to enter the peritoneal cavity during the operation. The abdominal wound was closed in the ordinary manner. The operation lasted two hours and a half. For the first two days after the operation the patient was fed by the rectum, but on the third day some food was allowed to be introduced into the stomach. During the first three days the pulse remained alarmingly weak, consequently it was decided to perform transfusion. Fifty grammes of blood were introduced into the median cephalic vein on a first occasion, and subsequently eighty more were injected. Unfortunately his condition did not improve, and he died on the night of the fourth day. He had shown no signs of peritonitis during these four days. It is much to be regretted that it was not possible to obtain permission to perform a necropsy, as it would have been highly interesting to see what had become of the catgut sutures, and to know whether the intestinal wound showed any signs of uniting.

Until quite lately the physicians who had charge of the wards for the insane in Bicêtre Hospital, as in other establishments of the same kind, had been named by the Prefect of the Seine, but it has been decided recently that these posts should be held up for competition, as in the general hospitals. Two vacancies have occurred at Bicêtre through the death of M. Berthier and the removal of M. Legrand du Saulle to the Salpêtrière. These two posts will form the object of a "concours," which is to commence on the 9th of June inst. MM. Legrand du Saulle, Espian de Lamaestre, Delasiauve, Billod, Devergie, Péter, and Woillez will be the judges. The candidates are eight in number, and among them will be M. Pinel, the grandson of the famous physician of the Salpêtrière.

A very promising young student, M. Eugène Pinard, has