The cases of "chronic distress" brought to the notice of the Almoners are still far too many. Whilst sympathising with the applicants in their trouble, the Almoners are quite unable to help them. The Fund at their disposal is not intended for such cases and would be exhausted in the first month of the year were such claims to be met. The Almoners must again emphasise the fact that THE LANCET Relief Fund exists to meet cases of *sudden emergency*, and they will be especially obliged if gentlemen giving testimonials or recommending cases will bear this in mind.

The veteran Sir Henry Pitman, M.D., F.R.C.P., who had kindly acted as honorary auditor of the Fund since its inception up to the time of the annual meeting of the Almoners last year, died on Nov. 6th, 1908, at the great age of 100 years. The Almoners expressed their appreciation of his valuable services to the Fund in their report for 1907. On the resignation of Sir Henry Pitman at the last annual meeting the Almoners

unanimously decided to ask Sir Thomas Smith, Bart., K.C.V.O., F.R.C.S., to fill the vacant post, and they are pleased to record his kind consent and to welcome him as a colleague.

In conclusion, the Almoners would point out that they will at all times be glad to have their attention called to any cases of genuine distress coming within the scope of the Fund, but they trust that those recommending cases or giving testimonials will first take steps to satisfy themselves of the *bona fides*, as well as of the suitability, of such cases before endorsing them. In the administration of such a Fund as this the Almoners are of necessity largely guided in their decisions by the testimonials accompanying the applications.

(Signed)

R. DOUGLAS POWELL.

HENRY MORRIS.

DONALD MACALISTER.

THOMAS WAKLEY.

Jan. 14th, 1909.

THE LANCET RELIEF FUND.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31st, 1908.

DR.				£	s.	d.	By Loans :—				CR.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
To Balance at the London and Westminster Bank, Limited (Westminster Branch), Jan. 1st, 1908				...	148	1	2	Case No. 776				...	...	20	0	0			
				...			,, 777				...	...	25	0	0				
,, Proprietors of THE LANCET, Jan. 1st, 1908				...	300	0	0	,, 784				...	...	15	0	0			
				...			,, 802				...	...	10	0	0				
,, Repayment of Loans :—																70	0	0	
Case No. 734				...	...	25	0	0	By Gifts :—										
,, 745				...	...	10	0	0	Case No. 770				...	...	10	0	0		
							35	0	0	,, 772				...	...	10	0	0	
,, Cheques unpresented :—										,, 775				...	...	10	0	0	
Case No. 807				...	...	15	0	0	,, 778				...	...	5	0	0		
,, 810				...	...	15	0	0	,, 780				...	...	5	0	0		
							30	0	0	,, 788				...	...	15	0	0	
										,, 789				...	...	10	0	0	
										,, 790				...	...	5	0	0	
										,, 791				...	...	16	0	0	
										,, 793				...	...	10	0	0	
										,, 797				...	...	10	0	0	
										,, 800				...	...	5	0	0	
										,, 801				...	...	15	0	0	
										,, 806				...	...	20	0	0	
										,, 807				...	...	15	0	0	
										,, 810				...	...	15	0	0	
																	176	0	0
										Balance at Bank, Dec. 31, 1908				...	267	1	2		
																	£513	1	2

I find by the Banker's Book that the actual Balance on Jan. 1st, 1908, to the credit of the Fund was £148 1s. 2d., to which the sum of £300 was added by the Proprietors of THE LANCET on Jan. 1st, 1908.

The balance at the Bank on Dec. 31st, 1908, was the sum of £267 1s. 2d. I have also checked the receipts for disbursements and find the above account strictly accurate.

January 8th, 1909,

THOMAS SMITH, Hon. Auditor.