that amount. Again I say, let passengers be fully satisfied that they have a qualified medical man to take charge of their lives to their destination; and to more easily facilitate this, let every vessel be compelled to have the "British Medical Directory," so that any passenger wishing to be satisfied with respect to the qualifications of the surgeon, can apply to that work; and should the name of the surgeon not appear in it, let him satisfy the passengers by producing his diploma. Apologizing for this long epistle,

I remain yours, &c.
G. S. M., M.R.C.S.E.

Wye, Dec. 1852.

P.S.—Certainly persons paying their passage-money are entitled to have their minds set at ease by knowing that they have a legally-qualified medical man on board to fly to for help in time of need;—in fact, the man of all others who can comfort a poor creature in distress, is the medical man—far beyond all others. I know this from great experience among the sick.

A NEW MODE OF ADVERTISING.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The enclosed circular has just been put into my hands by my druggist and friend, Mr. Brown, of the Commercial-road, whose opinion of the "author" will, I hope, be found to coincide with that of every one who receives the document. That opinion I need not repeat, as it is one you have often had occasion to express under similar circumstances.

I have not been able to refer to a "Directory," but I should like to know whence Dr. Gardner obtained his M.D.

Any further remark from me would be superfluous, as I cannot leave the case in better hands than yours.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Colet-place, Commercial-road East. CHAS. JOSEPH TOMKINS.
December, 1852.

51, Mortimer-street, Cavendish-square.
December, 1852.

SIR,—Having, by a chemical investigation of tubercle, obtained (as I believe) a clue to distinguish true consumption from the many cases of pseudo-consumption often mistaken for it, together with a successful plan of treatment, I am desirous of extending my sphere of observation beyond the limits of my private practice.

Should, therefore, any cases of chest disease fall in your way, I shall be happy to attend them *gratuitously*, and also any cases of *liver disorder, obstinate dyspepsia, gout, dropsy, urinary disease*, and generally all cases caused by, or associated with, *chemical* disturbances of the system or the secretions.

If, in answer to my request you send any persons to me for gratuitous advice, please to write the name of the patient on your own card, or on a slip of paper with your name and address, which will always insure them my best attention.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN GARDNER, M.D.,

Editor of Liebig's Letters and Lectures.

To Mr. J. Brown.

P.S.—I shall not fail to recommend all patients you may send to me to take my prescriptions to you, that you may supply them with the medicines they may require.

* * The "circular" of Dr. GARDNER is of too objectionable a character to require a word of comment. What does the doctor expect to gain by outraging the feelings of all respectable members of the profession?—ED. L.

LOCK HOSPITALS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I think the subject of the following letter deserves the attentive consideration of those who have the will and the power to benefit the condition of our soldiers and sailors. I allude to the propriety of establishing Lock hospitals at our great naval ports, for that unfortunate class of females, who are the means of propagating a disease fearful in its consequences, and without doubt a very powerful cause of sapping the foundations of our nation's strength. The annual expense incurred in the treatment of syphilitic cases at our military and naval hospitals, is enormous; and even on the ground of economy, the subject is worthy of the attention of Government. I understand that the physicians and surgeons of our naval hospitals have repeatedly recommended to the Admiralty the propriety of adopting the plan now suggested. It has also been proposed, that the old custom of charging a certain sum from all patients admitted with the disease in question

should be revived. This deduction might have a salutary effect on some of those on whom the voice of conscience, and the restraints of morality and religion, fall unheeded. While human nature remains as it is, all men cannot be arrested in their career of vice. It is clearly, therefore, the duty of the philanthropist to endeavour to *mitigate* an evil which he knows well cannot be entirely removed.

I believe that no rational or well-grounded arguments can be advanced against the establishment of the institutions above referred to. Trusting you will use your influence in promoting this important object, and that you will do me the favour of inserting this letter in THE LANCET,

I am, Sir, your obliged and obedient servant,
M.D.

Dec. 1852.

THE NEW MINISTERIAL BUDGET AND PROFESSIONAL INCOMES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—If Mr. Disraeli's notions of the relative value of professional incomes and those arising from realized property be correct, a medical practice, producing a clear annual profit of £300, ought to sell for £7500, or three-fourths of a capital which, invested on real securities at three per cent., will produce an income of £300.

Surely Mr. Hume, or some other honourable member, will do the medical profession the great service of informing the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what is really the fact, that incomes arising from medical practices are not worth more than three* years' purchase, which would be less than one-tenth of a realized capital producing the same annual income.

It is a gross injustice, therefore, and a most oppressive exaction, to tax at 5½d. in the pound, the precarious income of a hard-working medical man, who has been obliged to sink a considerable sum in his education, whilst the fortunate possessor of an income from real property, an income which places him in easy and independent circumstances, will only have to pay 7d. So much for the boasted impartiality of British law! I trust that every medical practitioner in the kingdom will petition against so unequal a tax.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

Much-Wenlock, Dec. 1852.

W. P. BROOKES.

THE POSITION OF THE PATIENT IN TAPPING OVARIAN CYSTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—IN THE LANCET of the 20th ult., you did me the favour to publish a short paper "On the Position of the Patient in Tapping Ovarian Cysts," in which I may briefly say that I gave credit to Dr. Simpson, of Edinburgh, for having proposed that this operation should be performed with the sufferer lying down, rather than sitting in the upright posture, as is usually done. I have since learnt, however—what I ought to have known before—that Professor Fergusson has not only long been in the habit of operating in the manner suggested, but that he has also advocated this mode of proceeding in the last two editions of his work on Surgery, as well as in his surgical lectures at King's College; and consequently the credit bestowed upon Dr. Simpson is due to Mr. Fergusson. Although the modification suggested may at first sight seem unimportant, yet I think this will not appear to be the case when it is remembered how much the success of most operations depends upon attention to minute circumstances; but I am at all events anxious to correct the error I have committed, since it is generally allowed that the old proverb, "*Palmar qui meruit ferat*," should be on all occasions borne in mind.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Charlotte-street, Bedford-square,
December, 1852.

T. H. TANNER.

UNQUALIFIED ASSISTANTS AND THE MEDICAL BILL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The New Medical Bill is well worthy of the profession! It would take away the power of visiting, attending midwifery, and prescribing from the chemists, which is now being done under my nose so often as to render such matters ordinary occurrences; but not a word about qualified men of any grade using "unqualified assistants" to scheme the thing for them.

* It is seldom that more than two years' purchase can be obtained.—ED. L.