occupied the chair of Botany gave them unmixed pleasure, and that they anticipated from your general attainments and assiduity a no less satisfactory result from your occupancy of the Anatomical chair;" and with Mr. Hancock's statement of last week, that he and the other members of the committee proposed to elevate me to the higher chair of Physiology. Is this the testimony, borne by adversaries, to a person who, having been tried for three sessions, is still believed to be inattentive to his duties, and inefficient in the discharge of them? Yourself and your readers will judge.

I have lectured in the school during three sessions, and have set an example of diligence and of the strictest order and propriety of general conduct. I have discountenanced the swearing, drinking, smoking, and ribaldry which has been too frequent in the school, or in two of the classes. I have assiduously directed the attention of my pupils to the higher branches of each science as being those most cultivated at the present day, and most likely to improve their minds, and I have had a class which is admitted to have been as intelligent and successful, more orderly and gentlemanly, than any which had previously assembled within the school.

One word in reference to the knives and splints. Mr. Hancock admits that there was not an amputating-knife in the place, and when he has amputated in the night they have had to send for the maker. But *he* keeps his knives at Mr. Simpson's. Where are the hospital knives? *In nubibus*? Does not Mr. Simpson bring *his own* knives, &c., to operations? This is an evasion. Not only was there not an amputating-knife belonging to the hospital, but there was not even a scalpel! Mr. Hancock admits that the students make splints, but it is for the out-patients he says. Why, it is notorious that every house-surgeon, dresser, and clerk, has made, and has been called upon to make, every kind of wooden splint out of pieces of common board, and that this was the rule in the establishment. Mr. Hancock states that there is a splint-room with between ninety and a hundred splints in it, and that there have been no additions for some weeks past. Some weeks!—how many weeks? Two weeks? Why limit it to weeks in an hospital which for years must have had daily necessity for splints? Why not say some months? Is there none of that evasion here which runs throughout all the correspondence of the medical committee? Will Mr. Hancock affirm that there have been no additions for six weeks, and that there were thirteen of that number there, including all kinds, three months ago? Was the double inclined plane fit for use? The fact, however, remains, that for every kind of fracture the students, &c., made splints out of pieces of boards. This will be doubtless confirmed by those who have done so.

I now leave you, Sir, to contrast the number of charges which I have made, and the number of those to which replies have been given. The activity of the authorities of the hospital testifies to the truth and the usefulness of my pamphlet. I did not know a tithe of these charges until these disturbances began; but then I found that everybody knew them and many more, and then I was informed of them.

It is curious that I should be referred to in reference to the letter of the complaining student, when on many occasions I, and on one occasion the students as a body, applied ineffectually for it. I also applied for a copy of the rules referred to on April 30th, May 4th, 10th, and 16th, and June 13th, without effect; and at length received them through my solicitor, long after my pamphlet was in print. Was that the proper treatment to be adopted towards an accused person, and one who had entered into an agreement with a public body?

In taking leave of this subject, I would offer my deepest acknowledgments to the students of my class for their most valuable and kindly help in rebutting this false attack of the medical committee. Without that aid I should have been greatly damaged. With that aid we have been able to throw back the weapon upon the heads of those who aimed it. Now, however, let these matters pass away. They cannot forget, neither perhaps forgive, this conduct on the part of the committee; but as they have nobly cleansed themselves from the stain which has been placed upon them, and as the whole matter has now been fully exposed, I advise that nothing further be said or done by the students respecting it. I could also venture, in the name of the students and myself, to thank you, Sir, for having kindly permitted both sides to be heard.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

EDWARD SMITH.

P.S.—What is "the expression" from which my colleagues dissent?

16, Norfolk-terrace, Aug. 1853.

THE VACCINATION EXTENSION ACT.

(NOTE FROM MR. BRADY, M.P.)

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The contemptible system of not paying, or of merely nominally paying medical men for the performance of professional duties, which are deemed of sufficient importance to the public to demand legislative enactments, with all the coercion of fines and penalties, was again exemplified on Friday night (12th inst.), when "The House" went into committee on the Vaccination Extension Bill. A brief *resumé* of this Act will, I doubt not, be acceptable to the profession at large, and will afford me the opportunity of explaining my opposition to several clauses in the Bill, and which was very inadequately reported in the daily journals.

The Bill itself comprises thirteen clauses. The first places this Act under the direction of the Poor-law Board; in my opinion a very objectionable proceeding, and calculated—by giving the compulsory vaccination, afterwards provided for, an appearance of *parish relief*, a thing most repugnant to the feelings of the people—to interfere seriously with the working of the Act. I moved, therefore, as an amendment to this clause, that the Bill be under the superintendence of the registrar-general of births and deaths, and that the medical officer should be "appointed" rather than "contracted with," as the engagement to vaccinate is courteously (!) named.

Clause 2 provides that the child be "vaccinated within four months after birth by the medical officer appointed by the parish authorities . . . unless he shall have been previously vaccinated by some duly-qualified medical practitioner, and the vaccination duly certified;" no provision made for the payment of such certificate.

The third Clause provides that the child be inspected on the eighth day after vaccination by the practitioner by whom the operation was performed.

Clause 4 enacts, "Upon and immediately after the successful vaccination of any child, the medical officer or *practitioner* who shall have performed the operation shall deliver to the father or mother, &c., of the said child a certificate under his hand, according to form (Schedule A), that the said child has been successfully vaccinated, and shall also transmit a duplicate of the said certificate to the registrar of births and deaths of the sub-district." No remuneration is provided for the practitioner's time and trouble in giving and sending these certificates!

Clause 5—"If any medical officer or *practitioner* shall be of opinion that any child is not in a fit and proper state to be vaccinated successfully, he shall thereupon and immediately deliver, *without fee or reward*, to the parents or guardians a certificate according to form, (Schedule B,) which shall remain in force two months;" when, if necessary, it must be renewed for a second period of two months, and so on every two months a new certificate must be given, "without fee or reward," until the child be vaccinated!

The sixth Clause provides, "that the sums contracted to be paid for every person successfully vaccinated at the residence of the medical officer, or *within two miles therefrom*, shall be a sum not less than one shilling and sixpence, and for every person person successfully vaccinated at any place beyond two miles from such residence, any sum not less than two shillings and sixpence."

To which I moved the substitution of the sums—not less than two shillings and sixpence and three shillings and sixpence respectively, which was negatived.

Clause 7 enacts—"In the event of *any medical practitioner* being of opinion that any child that has been vaccinated by him is insusceptible of the vaccine disease, he shall deliver to the parents, &c., a certificate (form D)." Again no remuneration.

The remaining clauses refer to the registrar, and to the inflicting of a penalty not exceeding twenty shillings upon parents and guardians who shall neglect having the vaccination performed.

Whether or not this Act as a compulsory measure be in accordance with the spirit of the British constitution, I will not discuss. But the very able and excellent "Report on the State of Small-Pox and Vaccination in England and Wales, and other Countries, of the Vaccination Committee of the Epidemiological Society," clearly shows, that in those countries where vaccination is compulsory, as Sweden and Denmark, the percentage of deaths from small-pox is far higher than in those countries, as France and Belgium, where honorary distinctions and rewards are held out alone, as inducements to medical men exerting themselves for the furthering the object vaccination, and this important fact I brought

before the House, and endeavoured to point the inference, that it would be found here impossible to fully carry out the provisions of the Act—however desirable general vaccination may be considered—unless the “operatives” were treated with some degree of consideration, and were somewhat better remunerated than cab-drivers.

The redress, however, of all these grievances rests with the profession itself: until medical men combine together to bring their really powerful influence into action at the hustings, and there obtain from candidates a pledge that some amount of attention shall be paid to questions bearing on their especial interests, it will be hopeless to look for a House to support the efforts of any one or two members who may be anxious to uphold the dignity and claims of medical men.

In conclusion, let me say that I most earnestly hope that the profession will at once, one and all, denounce the Bill as being insulting in the highest degree. Just fancy an educated man having to walk or ride two miles for one shilling and sixpence, and beyond two miles, no matter how far, for the munificent sum of two shillings and sixpence—not *even getting back fare!* I say, Mr. Editor, that medical men have now a most glorious opportunity of vindicating the honour and dignity of the profession, and at the same time, of showing the House of Commons and the country that they are not to be insulted with impunity. *They must not*, and certainly ought not to enter into any CONTRACT with Poor-law Guardians under the new Vaccination Act.

I would here incidentally call attention to the practice of young men holding honorary offices at dispensaries; such subterfuges, *dishonourable* as they really are, should be done away with, inasmuch as charity has nothing to do with the said services, whilst the profession is degraded and injured by them.

Lastly, I have to tell you that the House of Commons, within the last ten days, voted a sum £28,000 as fees under the Patent Act to the two law-officers of the Crown; contrast this with the payment of medical men; and this large sum was for less than six months' duties, and those duties, for the most part, performed by deputies.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir, yours faithfully,
Warwick-terrace, Belgrave-road, Aug. 1853. JOHN BRADY.

NAVAL MEDICAL OFFICERS AND THE ADMIRALTY BOARD.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I append the copy of a letter which I have this day sent to the *Times*, and am, Sir, yours &c.,
Aug. 12th, 1853. AN OLD MEDICAL OFFICER.

To the Editor of the *Times*.

SIR,—Your paper of to-day gives a graphic account of the noble display of destructive power exhibited at Spithead yesterday, in the presence of her Majesty the Queen.

Let us imagine two such fleets engaged in mortal combat. What think you would be the extent and nature of the wounds inflicted? Let it then be asked—Does the Admiralty foster and encourage the admission of surgical talent into such fleets? The medical officers themselves indignantly answer—No! It is notorious that so far from doing this, the medical department of the navy is treated with such contumely and injustice that no young medical aspirant of high education and talent will offer himself to the service; and “my lords,” finding that no applicants offer to fill the numerous vacancies, instead of repairing the evil by the abolition of grievances, and adding to the respectability and efficiency of the department by raising the standard of qualification, have recently reduced the amount of instruction hitherto required of candidates. Still no one can be got to join the service.

Will you tell me, Sir, what is to be done with an almost irresponsible Board, which shows so little regard for the health and lives of the brave fellows who managed that gallant fleet so well yesterday?

I am, Sir, yours &c.,
AN OLD MEDICAL OFFICER.

CASE OF HEMIPLEGIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In reference to the cases of hemiplegia treated by Dr. Goolden in St. Thomas's Hospital, narrated in your number for July 23rd, the following case may be of some interest to your readers:—

A lady between sixty and seventy years of age, of a spare habit, suffering from chronic bronchitis and dilatation of the right side of the heart, very deaf, and subject to severe headaches, had a slight paralytic affection of one side, which was completely relieved by treatment in the course of a few days. About a twelvemonth after, she got up one morning, as she considered, perfectly well, and having nearly completed her toilet, she sat down in her dressing-down, as was her custom, to read the morning psalms. On opening the book she found she could not read a word. I saw her within an hour, and found her, although in great distress, without any other apoplectic symptom. In this state she had written a letter to one of her daughters, with only one or two verbal mistakes, and yet was unable to read what she had written. The faculty of reading returned very slowly and gradually. She first began as a child, with words of one syllable, in books she was acquainted with, and had to spell the longer words; but it required some six or seven weeks before she was able to read with the same facility as before the attack. About two years after she had an attack of apoplexy, which proved fatal in a few days. There was no post-mortem examination.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. L.

August, 1853.

House of Commons.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12.

VACCINATION EXTENSION BILL.

MR. BRADY submitted to the right honourable gentleman who had charge of this Bill the necessity of postponing it to a future session of parliament. It had not received so much consideration as it required; while he understood that it was not sanctioned by the medical profession, and was certain that it was opposed to the wishes and feelings of the people, who had an insuperable objection to have their children vaccinated through the medium of officers engaged in the administration of the Poor-law. They disliked even the appearance of receiving Poor-law relief. Before moving the amendments of which he had given notice, he would ask the right hon. baronet whether it was his intention to proceed with the Bill this session?

SIR JOHN PAKINGTON said it was his intention to proceed with the Bill. He had stated the principles of it on moving the second reading, and he had since adopted the suggestions then made, and improved the details of the Bill in many respects. He had received letters from all parts of England, expressing satisfaction at the measure, and anxiety that it should become law. The principle of the Bill having been adopted without a division, and the details being now amended, he felt bound to proceed with it.

LORD PALMERSTON admitted that the details were much improved; but as there might be still some objections, he would suggest that the committee be postponed till Monday, to give an opportunity of consulting those best qualified to pronounce on it.

MR. BARROW appealed to the right hon. baronet to postpone the Bill. It was an attempt to legislate against the prejudices of the people, which would be always unsuccessful. It also made a distinction between rich and poor.

SIR J. PAKINGTON denied that such was the case.

The clauses were agreed to.

On the following day the Bill was read a third time, and passed.

ROYAL NAVAL SURGEONS.

MR. MICHELL presented a petition from the students of St. George's Hospital, praying the house to confirm the resolution of the 8th of April, 1850, that the Lords of the Admiralty might not, in order to obtain naval assistant-surgeons, reduce the standard of qualification, and suspend the rules previously made, thereby degrading the profession, and praying that the medical service of the navy be placed on the same footing with that of the army.

Military and Naval Intelligence.

MILITARY.—33rd Foot: Assist.-surg. J. Ogilvy, M.B., from the staff, vice Macbeth.—54th: Staff-surgeon of the Second Class, J. McGregor Grant, M.D., to be Surgeon vice Macpherson, resigned.

HOSPITAL STAFF.—Assist.-surg. J. Macbeth, M.D., from the 33rd, to be Staff-surgeon of the Second Class, vice Grant, promoted to the 54th.—F. L. Fitzgerald, Gent., to be Assist.-surg. to the Forces, vice Ogilvy, appointed to the 33rd.

NAVAL.—Assist.-surgs. William N. Brake, (1845,) from the