The following are recently admitted acting assistant-surgeons, and it would be useful to learn their qualifications:—

John Fisher, (1854;) David Courtenay, (1854,) to Greenwich Hospital; Peter W. Rolstone, (1854,) to the *Nile*, 91 guns; M'Neill M'Grath, (1854,) to the *Prometheus*; Augustus R. Reed, (1854,) to the *Conflict*.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

March, 1854.

RODERICK RANDOM.

AN ANTI-LANCET UNANIMOUS VOTE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The *Medical Times and Gazette*, of March 18th, contains this statement addressed to the Editor:—

"SIR,—The following resolution was *unanimously* agreed to at the meeting of the Maidstone and West Kent Medical Society on Thursday, the 9th inst.

"I am, &c.,

"Maidstone, March 10, 1854.

"JOHN WOOLCOTT, Hon. Sec.

"Proposed by Dr. Addison; seconded by Mr. Woolcott—

"That the tone and spirit of THE LANCET have of late been such as to forfeit the confidence of the medical profession, and that it therefore be withdrawn from the list of periodicals of this Society," &c. &c.

The Maidstone and West Kent Medical (Book) Society consists of fourteen members; eleven reside in the town of Maidstone, and three in the country. The Society meet once a month for the selection of books, and on Thursday evening, March 9, an UNUSUAL NUMBER of members met together—viz., the president, Dr. Addison; the honorary secretary, Mr. Woolcott; and one member, Mr. Hoar,—making, altogether, three persons, who passed the above "*unanimous resolution*."

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

Maidstone, Kent, March, 1854.

F. PLOMLEY, M.D., &c.

THE COMPULSORY VACCINATION ACT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following rough hints for the amendment of the Compulsory Vaccination Act, may, if carried out by abler men than myself, tend to remove some of the difficulties surrounding that intricate question.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

GEO. FRED. KNIPE.

Leigh Sinton, Great Malvern, Feb. 1854.

1st. The machinery for registering the leases so well arranged by the Registrar General to be still retained, the time, however, to be altered from *three* or *four* months to *six* in all cases.

2nd. The vaccination districts and district vaccinators to be retained.

3rd. Every legally qualified practitioner may (if he pleases) on, or before day in every year register his name, qualifications, and address in a book to be kept by the Superintendent Registrar; every person so registered shall be deemed a public vaccinator for that year in the district in which he is registered, and paid after the same rate and in the same manner as the public vaccinator. If practising in more than one district to register in each. The payment of a small fee, say 2s. 6d., would be necessary.

District vaccinators to be registered.

4th. Every legally-qualified medical practitioner, being a district or public vaccinator, attending professionally at the birth of any child to vaccinate, or cause to be vaccinated by a public or district vaccinator, such child within six months after its birth, or give the exemption certificate under a penalty of £ s. d.

5th. Every medical practitioner not being a district or public vaccinator, and every other person practising midwifery, and every midwife, or woman attending or assisting at the birth of any living child, to give notice to the Registrar of births of the sub-district in which the case may occur, of such birth, within days, under a penalty of £ s. d.

6th. The Registrar of births and deaths to insert in the notice to the parents to have the child vaccinated the name and times of vaccination, of the district vaccinators in the cases referred to under the 5th head only, and not in any other case.

7th. The Registrar of each sub-district within days after each quarter to make out from his register-book of vaccination an account of the successful cases of vaccination, under the

head of the parishes in his district, stating how much is due to each public vaccinator, and to the district vaccinator, on account of such cases, and to take such account, together with his register-book, to the Superintendent-Registrar, who having ascertained the correctness of the account, will certify the same, and transmit it to the clerk of the board of guardians, to be paid in the usual manner.

8th. The Superintendent-Registrar to prepare a list of public and district vaccinators, with their qualifications and addresses, within days of the day of registration in each year, and transmit copies of the list to the Registrar-General. The board of guardians, the district registrar, and the overseers of each parish in his district, the overseers to affix the same to the church or chapel doors, or other place used for affixing the lists of voters, pay-lists, &c.

9th. The Superintendent-Registrar to be paid for his trouble.

10th. The District-Registrar to be paid for preparing the account, and taking the same to the Superintendent-Registrar.

11th. Any district or public vaccinator giving any false certificate of any kind, or doing any fraudulent act with relation to public vaccination, on being convicted of the same, to have his name immediately struck off the list of public and district vaccinators.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND THE NATIONAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As the same specious deception which has lately been so successfully practised upon me by the National Provident Institution, will, doubtless, also be attempted with other medical men, I take the liberty of warning my professional brethren against a system as iniquitous as it is degrading to the parties adopting it.

Some considerable time since, I was applied to by the above Company respecting the health, &c., of a patient about effecting an insurance in their office. Upon this occasion, as the "form" was accompanied by a fee, I at once gave the required information, and, in a subsequent interview with the agent, I was given to understand that a *fee would be paid by them in every case where application was made to the usual medical attendant*. With what sincerity of purpose this original undertaking has been adhered to the following correspondence fully illustrates; nor is it I imagine in the least necessary for me to point out how incumbent it is upon all independent and honourable individuals to withhold their co-operation from a company who, having, by the adoption of the only fair and proper course of proceeding in such cases, secured the confidence of the profession, most unjustly, and without intimation of a change in their practice, now refuse remuneration for services obtained, upon the faith and assurance of their previous and accredited acts.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

BENJ. BAKER, M.R.C.S. and L.A.C., Lond.

Thurlow, near Newmarkct, March, 1854.

COPY.

9, Causeway, Cambridge, Feb., 1854.

DEAR SIR,—I am sorry I was out when you called to day. I apprehend from the message you left that you desire to know on whose behalf you have been applied to for a certificate of Mr. Day's health, &c. I beg to state that it is on his own behalf, and in your capacity of private medical attendant. I have written to Mr. Day by this post stating that any charge you may make must be borne by himself.

I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

To Benj. Baker, Esq., Surgeon, Thurlone.

H. WETENHALL.

COPY.

Thurlow, Feb., 1854.

DEAR SIR,—My object in calling upon you yesterday was not to ascertain "*on whose behalf*" I had been applied to respecting Mr. S. Day, but to receive the *fee* I concluded had been omitted by mistake when the certificate relative to him was forwarded from your office for my signature, as I apprehend *no rational individual* replying to a series of questions, upon a guarantee that the opinion given will be regarded as strictly confidential, and being requested to communicate any other circumstances with which he thinks the "*office*" ought to be made acquainted, can for a moment doubt that the information thus obtained is to be only for the security and benefit of the