conspicuous faults. We have exerted a continuously beneficial influence upon the conduct of the final examinations in medicine, surgery, and midwifery, and we have, I think, held a steady balance between counsels of perfection and practical possibilities. We have to a great extent stopped the improper employment of unqualified assistants. In a word, I think we have "done our duty," and not least in avoiding courses which were sometimes tempting, but which, if we had pursued them, would have brought us into collision with public opinion, if not with the Privy Council and with Parliament. We are indebted to our excellent legal advisers for the fact that, although many of our decisions have been questioned, all of them without exception have been affirmed by the highest tribunals.

This letter is already far too long, but I must petition for a few lines more. I am as conscious as any of our critics that the medical profession has many and reasonable causes of complaint, and I am not surprised at the half articulate cry against the Council, although I altogether deny its justice. In my humble opinion the redress of our grievances, whatever they are, will only be obtained by educating the public; and this we have neither done nor tried to do. About thirty years ago I submitted to the British Medical Association a proposal to abandon its journal and to replace it by a high-class monthly or quarterly review, edited by a man of distinguished professional position and containing unsigned articles, full, lucid, temperate, by scholarly and capable writers, addressed to the public from the profession, and setting forth the professional view on all the numerous subjects, social or on the borderland of medicine, upon which medical men are able to speak with special and peculiar knowledge. If such a journal had been commenced and well conducted I feel sure that, even long ago, it would have been possible for us to go to Parliament and to ask successfully for powers and privileges which would now be refused to us, and refused in the interests and for the protection of the quacks and "antis" whom we have never taken any proper measures to expose. Moreover, if we are to do any good we must organise ourselves as well as educate others, and we must take care that our organisation is controlled by the leaders of thought among us, and not by people who seek in notoriety their only hope of escape from insignificance. I for one should be glad if every medical man in practice, like every solicitor, were compelled to take out his yearly certificate, and if the money thus accruing could be applied to the promotion of the corporate objects of the profession. Such a change may come in time. In the meanwhile, I would appeal to the practitioners of England to send to the Council men who will be representative of the best knowledge and of the highest aims of their brethren, and who are qualified by education, by experience, and by professional and social position to hold their own among the colleagues in whose deliberations they will take part.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Harley-street, Aug. 1st, 1896.

R. BRUDENELL CARTER.

"THE PRESIDENCY OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Your article on the Presidency of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in THE LANCET of July 25th contained part of the truth, and probably one or two votes may have been influenced by the considerations you have referred to. In order to complete the matter I enclose for publication a statement which I read to the Council at its meeting this afternoon.

I am, Sirs, yours obediently,

Cavendish-square, W., Aug. 4th, 1896. CHRISTOPHER HEATH.

Statement Enclosed.

"Before the minutes are confirmed I wish to say a few words of personal explanation. I understand that, immediately before the last meeting of this Council, two of its members were busily canvassing against my re-election as President on the ground that I had degraded my office by accepting an invitation to give in America a course of lectures to which an honorarium was attached. It will, I fancy, very much surprise our American friends when they learn that exception has been taken to this; and I may say that among those whom I consulted before I accepted the offer was our President, who strongly urged me to do so.

As regards the honorarium, to which I am told special exception has been made, I should like to point out that every lectureship in this College has an honorarium attached to it and that the amount of that attached to the American lectureship is not more than sufficient to cover the expenses of the long journey. But the point I want to make quite clear to the Council, and which must have been known to my censors, is this: that my engagement is for *next year*—for September, 1897—and could, therefore, have no relation whatever to the election for the present year."

"THE CAUSE OF MALARIA."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Referring to Surgeon-Lieutenant Payne's letter in your issue of the 1st inst., describing the fusion of the spherules of a Laveran's rosette body, I would suggest that this phenomenon—by no means an unusual one—is not a vital, but a mechanical one; that it is owing to crushing of the delicate parasite by the gradually increasing pressure brought about by the progressive thinning of the layer of blood from evaporation at the edge of the cover-glass. The plasmodium in this way is killed and crushed, and becoming somewhat diffuent the elements composing it run together by molecular attraction. If, however, this fusion of the spherules of the rosette be a vital process the body exhibiting it, as Surgeon-Lieutenant Payne remarks, cannot be a parasite, but for the same reason neither can it be a white blood corpuscle, as Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrie would have us believe.

I would ask Surgeon-Lieutenant Payne how he assured himself that the spherules were non-nucleated.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Aug. 3rd, 1896.

PATRICK MANSON.

"A CASE OF FÆCAL FISTULA: A NEW MODIFICATION OF ENTERECTOMY."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Whilst I would attach every weight to Mr. Jessett's statement in THE LANCET of Aug. 1st that ample security against fæcal extravasation can be obtained by simply packing with wool or gauze the open fistula, still, I think that the method I learned from Dr. Oswin is safer, and this safety can be procured without any very elaborate manoeuvres. In answer to his query as to the method of suturing the intestine, as I had plenty of room I simply sutured end to end without any bone plate. So far as I have seen, Murphy's button and such like contrivances are only needful where from some reason the intestine cannot be freely and easily handled, or where from exhaustion time has become an important feature in the case.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Leeds, August 4th, 1896.

W. H. BROWN.

"TRAVELLING ABROAD FOR HEALTH AND PLEASURE."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The leading articles upon the above subject which appeared in THE LANCET of July 18th and 25th are very opportune and will be perused with interest and profit by many readers. Your insistence upon the necessity of avoiding worry or over-exertion in connexion with summer holidays is most important at this season, and there is much truth in what you say about financial considerations, bad sanitation, and overcrowding being fruitful sources of worry and anxiety which too frequently prevent any benefit that otherwise might be expected. Whilst you have much to say in favour of Continental travelling you very properly recognise the many inconveniences of holidays spent on the Continent. I am, however, compelled to disagree with you slightly upon the subject of the comparative cost of residence at British and Continental health resorts. You say that it is infinitely cheaper to visit the latter, and instance certain hotels in Switzerland, South of France, Spain, and Italy where excellent board and lodging can be obtained at from 4s. to 7s. per day. That this is scarcely a fair comparison is proved by your admission that "English drainage and English cleanliness are accompanied by the exorbitant charges of English hotels" at many Continental resorts. But, Sirs, can