POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS.

At a meeting of the medical officers of the Uxbridge Union, held on the 5th inst., it was resolved unanimously—

1. That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to Mr. Griffin, for his exertions in the cause of the union medical officers.

2. That Mr. Warder be appointed local secretary and treasurer.

3. That a subscription of five shillings per quarter be paid to the local secretary.

4. That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable—

1st.—That all the medical appointments should be made permanent; subject, in the case of non-resident officers, to alteration by the Poor-law Board only.

2nd.—That the schedule of remuneration for surgical cases should be extended.

3rd.—That the rate of payment for midwifery cases should be fixed by the Poor-law Board, regard being had to distance.

4th.—That the only mode of remuneration which fulfils the necessary requirements of justice to the medical officers, to the poor, and to the ratepayers, is at per case attended—the amount per case increasing according to distance, to be fixed by the Poor-law Board; and with respect to workhouses, the payment to be made as per head on the number of inmates actually inhabiting; the amount per head to be fixed by the Poor-law Board.

5. That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable that a memorial embodying the above suggestions should be presented to the Poor-law Board with as little delay as possible; should, however, any other course appear preferable to the majority of union medical officers, the medical officers of this union will do their utmost to promote the success of such other mode as may be generally approved of.

6. That a copy of these resolutions be sent to each of the medical officers, and to Mr. Griffin.

ALFRED WILLIAM WARDER, Local Secretary.

The following resolutions were passed at a meeting of the medical officers of the Rotherham Union, held on the 30th of January. Messrs. Flower, Stone, Wilkinson, and Dr. Hardwicke were present.

1st. That this meeting, being duly impressed with the necessity of an increased remuneration for the services of the union officer, and of an examination of the districts generally, as recommended by the committee of the House of Commons in 1854, observes with satisfaction the present movement for the purpose of securing these objects.

2nd. That the medical officers of the Rotherham Union enter into an association for the purpose of giving support to this movement.

3rd. That for the efficient carrying out of the foregoing Resolutions, it is expedient that a petition be presented to the House of Commons as early as possible in the forthcoming session, and that the county members be earnestly requested to support its prayer.

4th. That Dr. Hardwicke be appointed local secretary, with power to receive a small subscription to defray the incidental expenses, and that a subscription of five shillings each be at once entered into, to be repeated quarterly if required, for the prosecution of these objects.

5th. That in consequence of several letters received from medical officers residing at a distance of inability to attend this meeting, the secretary be requested to forward the foregoing resolutions for their approval.

6th. That the thanks of this meeting be given to R. Griffin, Esq., for his exertions on behalf of his fellow-officers.

7th. That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the medical journals.

8th. That the thanks of the meeting be given to the chairman.

(Signed) FREDERICK WILLIAM FLOWER, Chairman.

DR. KEELE, one of the oldest inhabitants of Southampton, has within the last few days been taken from amongst us by death. He was a member of the old Corporation, and more than once Mayor of the Borough; his knowledge of local history, and the antiquities of the town, was most extensive, and always at the public service. Dr. Keele was almost, if not quite, the last link connecting the two epochs of municipal government. His death causes a vacancy in the gaol-surgeonship.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I thank you heartily for the space accorded me in your columns, and for your powerful advocacy of our cause, which encourages me to request the insertion of a few more words to the Union surgeons. I would inform them that, though Banbury and Ticehurst are the only unions that have taken the very judicious course of publishing their meetings and resolutions, I daily receive the most cheering reports from numerous unions in various counties of England and Wales; letters from fellow-sufferers, full of firm and active resolutions; others, no less valuable, from some whose good fortune has associated them with guardians of liberal feelings and enlightened minds, but who do not therefore shut their eyes in selfish apathy to the injustice endured by others, or the stigma the position of some affixes to the profession of which they are members. To those gentlemen, who from pressure of business, a habit of procrastination, or any other cause, may have delayed answering and acting upon my circular, let me repeat the request therein made—"that they would consider it a private letter," entitled by all the usages of society to a reply. Let me intimate to them that, next to indifference, delays are dangerous. When we, like good men and true, have fought and won our honest fight, and they reap with us the emoluments of victory, I will do them the justice to believe that they will feel some regret at having left us to bear the brunt of the battle alone, and forfeited, by their supineness, the proud satisfaction of having done their duty to themselves and others.

I am, Sir, faithfully yours,
Weymouth, Feb. 4th, 1856. RICHARD GRIFFIN.

SPASMODIC CONTRACTION OF THE ORIFICE OF THE VAGINA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Dr. Tyler Smith, in his second lecture, published in THE LANCET, January 12th, states that spasmodic painful contraction in the situation of the carunculae will, in some cases, "render intercourse difficult or impossible long after marriage."

I was consulted by the mother of a lady aged twenty-seven, who had been married three months, and in whom there existed some impediment to intercourse. The husband had never had intercourse with any woman, and was neither impotent nor fearful.

On examination, I found nothing closing the vagina; I therefore gave some advice and dismissed the case. This was on the 3rd of March, 1855. I was requested to see the lady on the 30th of April, when I was informed that matters continued in the same embarrassing state, the marriage not having been consummated. I again examined, and, this time, introduced a virgin-sized speculum into the vagina. The introduction occupied ten or fifteen minutes because of the firm contraction at the orifice of the vagina. This bougie-operation was successful. There was no more trouble with the case, and the lady is at the present time pregnant.

The contraction was not that of the sphincter vagina; it was a slow tonic contraction, illustrating the observation of Dr. Tyler Smith.

I am, Sir, yours truly,
Chatham, January 26th, 1856. FREDERICK J. BROWN, M.D.

ON FILAMENTOUS ENTOZOA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Your correspondent, Dr. Crisp, writes on subjects so numerous, that he bids fair to rival the author of the celebrated treatise "De omnibus rebus et quibusdam aliis." His mode of reasoning is peculiar and amusing. To the statement that vermiform entozoa were seen on the skin in great numbers, he simply replies the observer was mistaken. This is very severe, not very modest, and in the tone adopted by Dr. Crisp, hardly gentlemanly. His reasons, however, in some measure, relieve the dulness of these attributes. They are, first, because so far as he knows (how far may that be?) they