come to any other verdict than "Found Dead," which verdict they accordingly delivered.

And now, Sir, at what value would you rate the intellectual and manual labour of making *such* a post-mortem investigation as this? Certainly you would not give "two pounds" for it, and I question much if you would give twopence. But the examination, bad though it was, did very well for the coroner, Mr. Wood, jun., of Wood ridge, who knew nothing of its imperfections, and was satisfied with it. I inquired if I could be allowed to ask a few questions, as I wished to address the jury, but I was told by Mr. Wood that he did not know that I had a right to do so, for Lord Tenterden had decided that the Coroner's Court was not an open one, whence I inferred that by persisting in the attempt to question, I should incur the chance of obtaining the distinction of the individual whose case was decided by Lord Tenterden.

From what I have written, I do not wish it to be understood that I think the jury should have returned a verdict of "Wilful Murder," for they had no evidence to prove that allegation, had it been urged. I simply desire to add another fact to the mass which has been accumulated in favour of the invariable appointment of individuals to the office of coroner, who are competent to comment upon the medical evidence given at inquests.

I have already given you names, and as I never court the smiles or fear the frowns of any individual, I shall append my own, and thank you sincerely for your unparalleled exertions to raise our degraded profession to the place it should hold in the estimation of society. I remain, Sir, yours very faithfully,

W. HEMPSON DENHAM.

Wickham Market, Aug. 10, 1835.

MEDICAL ADVICE OF DRUGGISTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I was requested to visit a patient to-day who had just returned from Gravesend, and who was said to be in great danger from strangulated hernia. On my arrival I found the patient and his friends in the greatest alarm. I then ascertained that he was staying at Gravesend, and on feeling an uneasy sensation in the groin, he walked into what he called a "doctor's shop," which I find was a chemist's and druggist's, to ask for advice. He was immediately pronounced to be ruptured, and a truss was taken from the window and

applied *instantly*, in which state he came home. On removing the truss, there was no difficulty in recognising the swelling to be an enlarged gland. This is only one of many similar evils to which I see the public and the profession daily exposed. Is there no remedy for this? I have the honour to be your obedient servant,

JOSEPH HODGSON, Surg.

Spitalfields, August 10, 1835.

The only effectual and lasting "remedy" for this particular "evil," is that of improving the public mind.—ED. L.

CHARGES FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following is a copy of a letter to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Home Department, and should you consider it worthy a place in your Journal, it might stimulate the profession to a sense of duty to unite themselves together, and endeavour to raise themselves from their present humiliating level. I am of opinion that a Medical Board should be established for the examination of accounts, and that surgeons and apothecaries ought to be protected by law, from having their bills reduced by any man who happens to have "a strong prejudice against doctors." I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

JAMES BAKER, Surg.

1, Dorchester-place, New North-road, Hoxton, 12th Aug., 1835.

Copy of a Letter to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State.

"MY LORD,—I hope you will excuse the liberty of writing to you on a subject affecting myself, but I am induced to do so on account of the profession of which I am a member, as I am not sure that a similar act of injustice may not be done to some surgeon and apothecary even whilst I am penning this letter. I therefore deem it a duty I owe to society, to submit the following case for your Lordship's consideration. I am, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient servant,

"JAMES BAKER, Surg.

"Hoxton, Aug. 12, 1835.

"*Statement.*—On Friday 31st of July, I caused a defendant to appear at the Tower Hamlet Court of Request for 3*l.* 11*s.* 0*d.*, that is, the sum of 1*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* for surgical attendance on the defendant in the year 1831; 1*l.* 1*s.* 0*d.* for attending defendant's wife in her accouchment in 1833, and 1*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* for extra attendance &c. on de.