the amount of knowledge. The inconsistency which the council endorses by rendering a three years' residence in London essential for the examination for the fellowship may be thus expressed: *members are allowed to buy the fellowship wherever they have been educated, but they may not gain it at an equal expense by passing an examination, unless their professional lore has been attained at a London school.*

One of the present Vice-Presidents of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, on the 18th of February, 1826, thus spoke in Freemasons' Tavern:—*

"This proscription" (alluding to the rule excluding the provincial hospitals from the education of members) "conveys a most injurious reflection on the surgeons of our county hospitals. Having the pleasure of being acquainted with many of them, and being therefore able to speak of their abilities and professional attainments, I have no hesitation in declaring that a more unmerited exclusion was never pronounced against any set of men. Need I mention" (here follows a list of twenty-one distinguished provincial surgeons of that day) "in order to justify the expression of my perfect conviction that the provincial surgeons of England are as fully competent to the instruction of students as the favoured body who are attached to the London hospitals. . . . The provincial hospitals of England afford every opportunity of acquiring that most valuable kind of knowledge which is derived from experience. . . . The attendance on a London hospital, which the College obliges you to pay for before you can be admitted to examination, must therefore in many cases be little more than nominal; and, generally speaking, deserves much less reliance, as proving the possession of appropriate practical knowledge, than the employment of an equal portion of time in a county hospital."

At the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 5th of July next, may this gentleman give utterance to similar liberal sentiments, (and I defy him to find more suitable language,) and may he enforce them at the proper place, on his brethren in the Council; and may the President of the day, Mr. Norman, of Bath, who, by an additional singular coincidence, was one of the provincial list alluded to above as being a renowned surgeon nearly thirty years ago, second by his voice our reasonable demand—viz., the alteration of this by-law. As a surgeon to one of the largest provincial hospitals in the kingdom, I protest against the rule, and feel that, in thus excluding our students from the Fellowship, the Council deal hardly and unjustly with us and them, and belie the profession they made some years ago of treating openly and liberally the members of the College.

I hope you will be able to find space for these remarks, which might be extended indefinitely, and which I should have sent to our own journal had not its editor taken the part of a London clique, to the injury of the provincial element in the Association. Enclosing my card, to authenticate my statements, I beg to subscribe myself,

Your obedient servant,
"A RUSTIC FELLOW."

June, 1855.

PROFESSIONAL ADVERTISEMENTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—On the 17th ult., I wrote to the proprietor of the *Medical Circular* stating my disapproval of his advertisements being headed with the authors' addresses, and requesting him to withdraw my work on the Rectum from his list.

The addresses were omitted in the next number of the journal; but the advertisement of my book was continued.

In a second communication, written on the 23rd, I expressed my objection also to the classification of the subjects of the authors; and insisted on the withdrawal of the advertisement. My request was refused, and my work on the Rectum has since been advertised in that periodical contrary to my wishes.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Grosvenor-street, June, 1855. T. B. CURLING.

THE EAST INDIA MEDICAL SERVICE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The readiness you have always manifested to expose injustice, leads me to hope you will examine, and inquire, as soon as possible, into the true nature of the treatment medical men receive at the hands of the East India Company in India. You may be the means of saving many young men from ruining their prospects in life; for once in India they can have no re-

dress, they are tied down for life to a miserable existence, which time alone reconciles them to, by exhausting their energy, and adding their brains.

A statement, on authority, of the advantages as to pay, allowances, and pensions, which medical men are said to receive from the East India Company, has been going the rounds of the English newspapers, the impudence of which has only its mendacity to match it, and I do sincerely pity the young men who may be entrapped by it.

It is not, perhaps, necessary to enter at present on a long or detailed statement in proof of the unfair treatment which the medical service, as a body, meets with in India, compared with the other branches of the Company's service; but I know it is universally disgusted and discontented with the treatment received at the hands of the East India directors.

The newspaper paragraph begins by saying that the average number of surgeons required annually is fifty. The pay and allowances, on appointment to the European or native infantry, is £224 per annum, and so on, increasing a few pounds for artillery, engineers, and cavalry, to pay for the keep of horses, &c. But if a medical man is allowed the £224 per annum, I am quite sure he never receives it. A large portion is deducted by the paymaster, *volens volens*, and paid to institutions, of which he is forced to become a member. He has donations and monthly subscriptions to pay to the mess fund, to the band fund, to the military fund, and to the medical fund, and when these are all paid for, the poor assistant-surgeon has hardly one rupee left in his pocket. Indeed, half the service, like their military brethren, are in debt to the Agra bank. The remainder of the *para* would bear as little examination as the first portion. In Bombay, too, it should be well known that medical men, on first joining the service, have no such good fortune as to be appointed to European or native infantry corps. The first thing they have to submit to is running up and down the country with detachments of troops for the first year. Then they have to go to sea, on board of the packet-boats and cruisers of the Indian navy, and do service afloat for two years, whether it agrees with them or not; and a most uncomfortable and wretched life it is. In a small vessel, in a hot climate, with domineering treatment, the imagination can hardly exaggerate the discomfort.

The pay and allowances look large; but when it is known how they are applied, they are soon reduced to very ordinary dimensions. One of the funds, the Medical Annuity, to which all assistant-surgeons are *compelled* to subscribe, is, according to the report of Mr. Griffith Davies, bankrupt, being £80,000 in debt. Still to this fund all assistant-surgeons have to subscribe, and pay double the value of their promised annuities!

Young men had far better go to America if they cannot settle in England; they can at best hope to drag out an existence if they come to India. The broken faith and utter disregard of all appeal, by which the Court of Directors treat their medical servants, once entrapped into their service, should be a warning to all. The military they dare not so treat. From the medical service they know they have nothing to fear. No director ever sent a son, or near relative, to India in the medical department—a fact which speaks volumes. Hoping to find you take up this subject in an early number of THE LANCET,

I remain, Sir, yours obliged,
A FRIEND.

Bombay, 1855.

SURGERY OF THE WAR.

THE latest report of the army in the Crimea—that of the 8th instant—represents various changes in the position of the allied forces. In addition to the various prizes of corn and cannon at Kertch and Yenikale, we have seized an ambulance corps and hospital of the Russians, from which we may glean considerable information as to the disease and surgery of the Czar's dominions. We regret to have still to mention the uncertain and fitful, but not less deadly, approaches of cholera amongst the English troops. It is said to have disappeared from what are called the "crowded and fetid" trenches before Sebastopol, but to have increased at the village of Balaklava, more especially amongst the Guards and the troops recently arrived. Ten men of the Grenadier Guards were struck down in one day, and thirty dead of the disease in three days were reported on the 1st of June. Fifty cases in a week in and around Balaklava was beginning to be a very general average. The Coldstreams and Fusiliers had completely escaped cholera, though believed not to be placed in so good a hygienic position as the Grenadier Guards. The latter, as well as some companies of line regiments and marines from the ships, encamped on appa-

* A Corrected Report of the Speeches, &c., pp. 23—25.