be interesting to your readers to peruse an answer to an Union medical officer in 'The Justice of the Peace' for July 28th, which is printed below. Allow me to remark, this is not a question of the propriety or impropriety of the labours classes having medical orders for their families, but simply the state of the law on the subject, and if the legal right of the Poor-law Board to impose upon their medical officers the duties of watching over the health of all whom the relieving officers may choose to consider as "poor"—a term which is very indefinite, even in the interpretation clause of the 4th and 5th Will. IV., c. 76, s. 109, which says: "The word poor does not herein comprehend any paupers in arrears, or poor or indigent person, applying for or receiving relief from the poor-rate in England and Wales, or chargeable thereto."

Let the Union medical officers continue their aid, and it is more than probable that the same result will follow that before session have passed, the Poor-law Board will see the desirability of rendering us that justice which we have a right to expect at their hands, considering the oath they have taken—"That they will faithfully, impartially, and honestly, according to the best of their skill and judgment, execute and fulfill all the powers and duties of commissioners;" an oath which sounds somewhat strange when we find nearly four hundred petitions have been presented to Parliament this session praying for relief of grievances which ought to have been "impartially" considered by the Poor-law Board, and, if they had any foundation, "faithfully and honestly" redressed.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Royal-Terrace, Weymouth,
RICHARD GRIFFIN, M.R.C.S.
Aug. 1857.

Sir,—I am directed by the Poor-law Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo; and in reply to the inquiry which it contains, I acquaint you, that under the Regulations of this Board, it is the duty of a district medical officer to attend duly and punctually upon all poor persons requiring medical attendance within the district assigned to him, and if he may be lawfully required to furnish such attendance by an order, in conformity with those Regulations.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Richard Griffin, Esq.
COURTNEY, Secretary.

Answer to an Union Medical Officer in "The Justice of the Peace" for July 28th:

"If in any case the person whom the medical officer is called upon to attend is not a 'poor person,' he would not, as we conceive, be bound to attend the case under the regulations, (Art. 206, No. 1, General Consolidated Order,) but in the event of his refusing to attend the case upon a regular order of the relieving officer, he must be prepared to prove that the person named is not a 'poor person.'" Poor-law Board, Whitehall, W.S., July 14th, 1857.

SIR,—I have observed the recent appearance of several letters in "The Lancet", the tendency of which is, to endeavour to set aside the association between diarrhoea and cholera; and since this is a question of considerable importance, both practical and theoretical, I should feel obliged by the insertion of the following remarks.

It is not my business to defend Dr. Macdougall, but if I understand that gentleman aright, he does not assert the strict identity of the two diseases, a point which has been sometimes overlooked. But it is an unquestionable fact, that the vast majority of examples of malignant cholera have been preceded for a variable time by diarrhoea. Mr. Pittard, in his note in "The Lancet" of Aug. 1st, would seem to consider this "purging stage" of cholera to be a premonitory stage which should precede the difference consists; I have never been able to observe any. If, then, the symptoms are identical, why should the one be deemed distinct from the other?

From a consideration of the symptoms, the cholera and bronchitis may as well be regarded identical as diarrhoea and cholera. In saying this he has overlooked two points—the first, that we do not assert their exact oneness, but only that the former may merge into the latter, and the second, that diarrhoea and cholera eliminate their poison by the same mucous membrane, and produce to a great extent the same symptoms, saving only, in cholera, the intensification of those already existing, with the addition of those measles as an eruptive fever, and bronchitis which its name implies; so that I think his argument does not obtain here.

It has been thought by some, that the occasionally sudden and complete onset of cholera, in a previously healthy man, without premonitory diarrhoea, disproves their connexion; but is it not much more reasonable to suppose that the vital power has been so weak, or the poison does so large, that the patient has at once succumbed to its full influence? Probably the true pathology of Asiatic cholera has yet to be explained, but it is pretty evident that the cause is mainly atmospheric; and the recent investigations as to ozone have every appearance of leading to some more exact knowledge of its etiology. Meanwhile, does it not appear likely that cholera in this country, during the summer and autumn months, is of some peculiar condition of atmosphere, which usually produces diarrhoea, but that when cholera is epidemic, this condition is increased, and paroxysms modified; hence the analogy.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Montague J. Sturgis, M.D. Edin.,
Sidney-square, Aug. 1857. Medical Officer, Mile-end.

INDIAN MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You have from time to time published various letters from assistant-surgeons lately arrived in India, many of whom appear to have been disappointed in their expectations. Many students look forward to the H.I.T.C.'s Medical Service as the end of their lives; and, as I found it very difficult in England to find out particulars as to pay, &c., I do not think the students in question would like knowing, as far as I can tell them, a few particulars as to money matters, &c. As well as the necessary qualifications as to age, diploma, &c., required at the India House, there is also a certain amount of money necessary for outfit and expenses of journey; and this, along with many other things, must be considered, as the cost of an Indialing surgeon's outfit, and the amount of money he will be considered, when it is remembered that the student has just completed a very expensive education. We will suppose the candidate to have been successful in obtaining an appointment at home:—

1. He pays at the India House £5 for his introduction to the Town Major. So our assistant-surgeon cannot come to India under £150. How this sum may be obtained, if not possessed by an assistant-surgeon, is often a matter of difficulty, as he will be some time in India before he can pay off the principal.

On arrival here, he gets quarters at the General Hospital or Fort, and, when doing duty at the General Hospital, his pay is, Co.'s roupas, 225 per mensem; from which, for funds, &c., 50 r. are deducted, leaving 170 r. per mensem. His board and lodging cost him, exclusive of tea and all extras, about 52 r. And all bearers, palki hire and care, to be paid also.

On landing, he can obtain an advance of £200, to be repaid when he gets charge of a regiment or staff employment. An assistant-surgeon can always find employment here on his pay, and take the chance of staff or civil employment to save any money; and the question is, whether the certainty of a commission as assistant-surgeon can always live comfortably here on his pay, and be considered, when it is remembered that the student has just completed a very expensive education. We will suppose the candidate to have been successful in obtaining an appointment at home:—

1. He pays at the India House £5 for his introduction to the Town Major. So our assistant-surgeon cannot come to India under £150. How this sum may be obtained, if not possessed by an assistant-surgeon, is often a matter of difficulty, as he will be some time in India before he can pay off the principal.

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On landing, he can obtain an advance of £200, to be repaid when he gets charge of a regiment or staff employment. An assistant-surgeon can always find employment here on his pay, and take the chance of staff or civil employment to save any money; and the question is, whether the certainty of a comfortable income, with a chance of good appointments, is worth the outlay? I think it will be the present state of glut of medical men in India, and that the exception of them have to fight for their bread when first starting, Indian cer-

"CHOLERA AND DIARRHOEA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have observed the recent appearance of several letters in "The Lancet", the tendency of which is, to endeavour to set aside the association between diarrhoea and cholera; and since this is a question of considerable importance, both practical and theoretical, I should feel obliged by the insertion of the following remarks.

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I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Calcutta General Hospital,
A. V. B. BERT, M.D.,
June 18th, 1857.
Assistant-Surgeon.