few years to improve the institution, and that resolution would be a security to the public that they would in future continue in the same course of progressive improvement.

The resolution was then carried unanimously.

Mr. T. W. HELPS admitted that the motion just adopted might be interpreted as involving something like a censure, unless it were followed up by another which he was about to propose—viz., "That the governors express their grateful sense of the zeal and ability with which the Treasurer has discharged for fifteen years the duties of his office, and their full confidence that he will continue to do all in his power to promote every improvement that may tend to the greater benefit of the poor patients; that the governors also desire to express their best thanks to those of their body who have given so much of their time and attention to the business of the House Committee, and likewise to the almoners, &c."

The resolution, having been duly seconded, was carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to his Royal Highness was then carried by acclamation, and acknowledged with the observation that the oftener the governors came together the better would they be able to support the Treasurer.

The proceedings then terminated.

THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL.

THE following vacancies and reappointments have recently occurred in the Council:—

The University of London.—Dr. John Storrar, who from the commencement of the sittings of the Council has represented this University, has been re-elected for the period of twelve months. In the first instance the appointment was for five years, but since the termination of that period it has been annual.

The Universities of Glasgow and St. Andrews.—Dr. Allen Thomson, who has represented these Universities for the past ten years, has again been re-elected for the period of five years.

The King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland.—Dr. Aquila Smith (who may justly be termed the Finance Minister of the Council) has been re-elected for the period of twelve months. This appointment has always been annual, and Dr. Smith has been the sole representative of the College.

The Apothecaries' Hall of Ireland.—Dr. Chas. Henry Leet, who has represented this Corporation since the Medical Act came into operation, has been re-elected for the space of one year. In 1858 this appointment was made for five years; from the termination of that period the election has been annual.

The appointment of Mr. Caesar Hawkins, as representative of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, will terminate in the first week of July, 1870.

THE SITE OF EDINBURGH INFIRMARY.

ON Friday last a numerously-attended meeting of the subscribers to the building fund of the Royal Infirmary was held at Edinburgh. The Lord Provost presided, and deprecated the opposition which had been made on petty and parochial grounds to the transference of site to the grounds of George Watson's Hospital. The report of the acting committee was then read, from which it appeared that the large majority of the subscribers were in favour of this transference. A motion was thereupon introduced to the effect, "That the report of the Acting Committee be approved of, and that this meeting authorise the Acting Committee to concur with the managers in the proposed application to Parliament for such powers as are necessary to build the new Infirmary on the grounds of George Watson's Hospital." The motion was adopted all but unanimously, there being only one dissident. Mr. Maclaren, M.P., expressed a hope that the opponents of the transference would cease to throw obstacles in its way, while he ridiculed the litigation they had set on foot to prevent the sale of George Watson's Hospital. Even if a court of law decided

that the hospital could not be sold, Parliament would certainly grant the power. The only object which the obstructives could gain would be to postpone, without ultimately preventing the transference; to accumulate expenses incurred before Parliamentary Committees; and to draw on themselves the ridicule of the public. We sincerely trust that this opposition has received the *coup de grâce*.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

MR. CHARLES REED, M.P., AND THE VACCINATION ACT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My attention has just been drawn to your number of the date November 13th, in which your Medical Annotator does me, unintentionally I am sure, great injustice.

He states that, "at an anti-vaccination meeting held at Hackney," I am reported to have said "that great injustice had been inflicted on the people by the Act" [Vaccination], and that I should "vote for its repeal, if my constituents wished it." Now, Sir, while I admit that the opinion of the constituency would have due weight with me, it is only just to myself to say that I have never attended any meeting on this subject, nor have I ever heard that any such meeting was held.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Garlismead, Upper Homerton, Nov. 25th, 1869. CHARLES REED.

* * We did not say that Mr. Reed had attended any meeting, but that at an anti-vaccination meeting he was reported to have said—to a deputation, if we remember rightly—that he considered the Act had inflicted great injustice on the people, and that he would vote for its repeal if his constituents wished. We should be glad to learn that the foolish enemies of vaccination had misunderstood Mr. Reed.

"A PRACTICAL SUGGESTION."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The advocates of an efficient, and consequently economic, administration of the Poor Laws, are under great obligation to you for the practical suggestion contained in your last week's issue; and there is every reason to believe that you have materially simplified the labours of reformers by so correctly pointing out the cause of the utter break-down of our system, and by your showing what should be the first object to secure, if there is to be a prospect of any beneficial change.

Frequently during the last three or four years observations have been made by influential persons in society, members of Parliament and others, which have completely borne out your comments; unfortunately, however, the *entré* which the gentleman to whom you referred has obtained into the salons of the governing families has produced its natural results, so that anything like an open expression of such remarks has hitherto been impossible, and the power of pooh-poohing this, and blandly obstructing that, has gone on unchecked—nay, it is rumoured that even Presidents have been compelled to yield to the influence.

You will be pleased to learn that there is every probability that the question of the constitution of the Poor-law Board, in reference to the advisability of its reconstruction, will be taken up in the next session of Parliament. The absurdity of its President sitting alone, and therefore presiding over himself only, has struck many influential persons; especially, too, when it is remembered that, if in the Commons, he has the wishes and interest of his constituents to consider, Cabinet meetings to attend, and during the session to spend the evening in the House frequently until one or two in the morning. A gentleman thus occupied, however energetic he may otherwise show himself, cannot be other than perfectly dependent on his immediate subordinates for information and suggestions;