taphysics and natural philosophy. He subsequently studied at Trinity College, Cambridge, and at St. John's and Trinity Colleges, Oxford, directing his attention, at these universities, rather to classics and mathematics than to medical learning.

In the year 1810, he settled in Bristol as physician, and remained for a few years without much practice. He was, however, soon appointed physician to the Clifton Dispensary and St. Peter's Hospital, besides attending to a private dispensary of his own, at which he supplied the poor gratuitously with advice, and the necessary medicines. He also gave, at his residence, a course of lectures on medicine, which was well attended. In addition to these employments, he occupied himself in writing the first edition of his "Researches into the Physical History of Man," which appeared in 1813, as well as the work upon "Egyptian Mythology."

About the year 1816 he was elected physician to the Bristol Infirmary, which appointment he filled at the time that he was physician to St. Peter's Hospital, and at these two establishments he laboriously collected reports of hundreds of cases of fever and diseases of the brain and nervous system, forming the Basis of an Essay upon Fever, and his work upon the "Diseases of the Nervous System," which appeared in 1822. It was at St. Peter's Hospital that he first directed his mind to the study of insanity.

After this, his professional reputation rapidly increased, until he became one of the physicians most extensively engaged in Bristol and its neighbourhood, having besides a large consulting practice in the surrounding counties, and in South Wales. He wrote, in 1829, a small octavo work, entitled "An Essay on the Vital Principle," dedicated to the patrons of the Bristol Philosophical Institution, of which he was one of the founders, and where he frequently gave lectures, and read papers upon various subjects. He had also a great share in founding an establishment for education, "The Bristol College," and was for many years one of the members of its council. The degree of Doctor of Medicine of the University of Oxford was conferred upon him by diploma upon the occasion of the installation of the Duke of Wellington as chancellor of the university. He was one of the visiting physicians for the Gloucestershire Lunatic Asylums, and metropolitan commissioner before the appointments under the recent Act. He wrote, about this time, his work on "Insanity," a book upon the "Eastern Origin of the Celtic Language," and a little volume on "Insanity Connected with Jurisprudence." He contributed the articles "Delirium," "Hypochondriasis," "Insanity," "Somnambulism, and Animal Magnetism," "Soundness and Unsoundness of Mind," and "Temperament," to the *Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine*, besides writing several chapters on similar subjects in the *Library of Medicine*.

In 1845, he was appointed commissioner in lunacy under the last Act, and retired from practice in Bristol, resigning the appointment of physician to the infirmary which he had held for more than twenty-six years, and removed to London, where, besides the active duties of the Commission, he completed the third edition of his "Physical History of Man," in five volumes, as well as the popular work on the "Natural History of Man."

He was member of very many scientific bodies, President for one year of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, Fellow of the Royal Society, Member of the Royal Irish Academy, Corresponding Member of the National Institute, of the Royal Academy of Medicine, and Statistical Society of France, of the American Philosophical Society, the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, the Oriental Society of America, the Ethnological Society of New York, Scientific Academy of Sienna, Honorary Fellow of the King and Queen's College of Physicians of Ireland, of the Cambridge Philosophical Society, of the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh, and, at the time of his death he was President of the Ethnographical Society of London.

Besides the works which we have above enumerated, he contributed many articles to different reviews and periodical publications, and wrote papers on medical and other subjects for the British Association, and other learned bodies with which he was connected.

As a practitioner of medicine Dr. Prichard was remarkable for decision on the character of disease, and for a promptness and energy in the application of remedies. Many have been the instances where, in extreme cases, the boldness of his practice was followed by unexpectedly happy results. Dr. Prichard was seized with a severe feverish attack while visiting the lunatic asylums in the neighbourhood of Salisbury, on Monday the 4th December, and was confined in that city until the 17th, when he was conveyed to his own house in London. The fever proved to be of a rheumatic and gouty

character, baffling all the efforts of medical skill, and terminating his life, after much suffering, by pericarditis, (inflammation of the membrane containing the heart,) and extensive suppuration in the knee-joint. In his intercourse with professional brethren and colleagues, his conduct was straightforward, honourable, and generous; to his patients he was gentle, attentive, and kind.

Though the purpose of this notice is in no respect to enter into Dr. Prichard's private character, it would be unjust to his memory if we did not state, that high moral and religious principle, an affectionate disposition, an instinctive sentiment of delicacy, propriety, and consideration of the feelings of others, and a retiring modesty and simplicity of deportment, as much distinguished and endeared him in the domestic and social relations of life, as his literary and scientific attainments have elevated him to the eminence he held in public estimation; he furnished, indeed, a bright example of the scholar, the gentleman, and the Christian.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

TREATMENT OF CHOLERA BY SALINE INJECTIONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Should you deem the following suggestion worthy of being acted upon, you will oblige by its insertion.

In cases of cholera, more especially when the stage of collapse has set in, large injections of common salt, carbonate of soda, and carbonate of ammonia, dissolved in hot water, and frequently thrown up into the rectum, might prove a powerful agent in the treatment of that formidable disease. By this mode of treatment the immense absorbing surface of the intestines would be at once presented with those constituents of the blood of which it has been so suddenly deprived, and without the restoration of which death must inevitably ensue. The intention of the ammonia is obviously to act as a powerful diffusible stimulus.

Since my last communication to THE LANCET on the administration of freshly-powdered charcoal in cholera, I have used it alone in many cases of violent diarrhoea and vomiting, and with invariable success, and a case of incipient dysentery yielded to it almost immediately.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. PRICE EVANS,
Surgeon, of Swansea.

Burnham, Somersetshire, Dec. 30, 1848.

NOTE FROM DR. W. H. BROWN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have lived a little too long in the world now to be particularly affected by what people say of me, and without laying claim to violent puritanism, I trust I have a better monitor within me for my acts and deeds than I should find in the idle world without. At the same time, to give oneself a patent of virtue is just as absurd as to steel oneself against every shaft is discreditable, and therefore do I plead to your arraignment of me in the last number of your journal.

My plea is, most emphatically, not guilty. At the same time, I admit that I find that your statement was "nothing exaggerate, nor aught set down in malice," but substantially, literally correct. I confess that I have ascertained that the document you quoted was sent to four of my tradespeople; but, then, this was done without my privity or consent—without my cognizance, I declare, by all the efforts I have made for the advancement of the profession, by all the hours I have laboured in the cultivation of its science, and by the pecuniary ruin in which these endeavours and (I will not say misspent) hours have involved me.

If this statement be sufficient, there is an end of the matter; but, if not, nominate a court medical, and I will produce proof. I am very peculiarly situated with certain parties, and this has led to my apparent discredit—it is necessary to the full appreciation of my position that I should say this.

To you, Mr. Editor, I would conclusively observe, that of the great debt due to you from the profession, no small part arises from your suppression of irregular practice—and, of course, no present obligation wrings this avowal.

To your readers I would remark, to their weaker feelings, that if your recent mention of me afford them either amuse-

ment or delight, I can give them reference to those who have even a better stock on hand, (albeit, it may be of a somewhat contrary character, but which must be veritable since it comes of my own family,) which, doubtless, may be had on application; to their stronger feelings, however, I would wish nothing better to recommend me to their sympathy.

To all whom it may concern I may announce that, weary of labour unappreciated by the public, and which, I fear I must say, without the slightest wish to be ill-natured, engenders anything but the best feelings amongst one's fellows, I shall shortly abandon the profession of medicine altogether. There are plenty of courses out of which affluence will come, and even does one desire honour, why one may look from a pin-maker to a common-councilman, a draper to a deputy, or a fishmonger to an alderman, and from all to the lordship (!) of the civic throne. Alas! that it should be *sic itur ad astra*, "but 'tis true, and pity 'tis, 'tis true."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. BROWN.

Hinde-street, Manchester-square, Dec. 1848.

MEDICAL REGISTRATION.—PARLIAMENTARY EVIDENCE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It is upwards of six months since, in conjunction with Dr. Barnes, I gave evidence before the Medical Registration Committee of the House of Commons, in behalf of the graduates of the University of London; and I found, yesterday, on inquiring at Hansard's, that no portion of the evidence relating to the University of London has yet been published.

There was an unusual delay at the outset, in the committee clerk transmitting the proofs for correction, and, indeed, it was not till after repeated and fruitless applications, that an appeal to the Lord Advocate brought the evidence to revise, after a delay, however, of several weeks.

I trust, therefore, it will not be considered unreasonable, that we should entertain some apprehension of an intentional delay in the printing of the evidence.

The evidence on behalf of other medical bodies was in the hands of the public before we were examined, and we are now within six weeks of the meeting of parliament, when the attention of parliament and the profession may be turned to medical legislation without their having a line before them to represent the views of parties opposed to those whose evidence is in print.

I make this communication to you, and solicit your interference, because you have taken a prominent share in the inquiry, and because there is no probability of the chairman being in London before the assembling of parliament, by which time the interests of that section of the profession which we represent may be seriously prejudiced.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

J. STORRAR.

Brook-street, Grosvenor-square, Dec. 22, 1848.

* * We certainly shall feel it to be our duty to see the committee clerk of the House of Commons, relative to the subject-matter of Dr. Storrar's note. We are in possession of a copy of the evidence, as it was supplied to the witnesses, for correction, and as it has been reported to the House. We continue in the present number the publication of the evidence, and in a very short time we shall arrive at the important evidence which was given on behalf of the University of London—an institution which is holding out the right hand of fellowship to the great body of medical practitioners in this country. The questions about to arise are—shall the profession join that institution? shall it be more closely and justly connected with the College of Surgeons, in Lincoln's-inn-fields? or shall it be permanently allied with a new Apothecaries' Hall? We again repeat, that in our opinion these questions, as well as the whole subject of medical legislation, should be duly weighed and considered by the medical practitioners of the respective counties of England and Wales. A single county meeting, terminating in the appointment of an acting committee, would lay the foundation of bringing the labour to a successful issue. If the profession continue inactive, in all probability the new law, which is sure to be enacted in 1849, will prove a lamentable failure, and a source of grievous annoyance to some thousands of our professional brethren.—ED. L.

MEDICAL FEES AT ASSURANCE OFFICES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have for many years noticed your readiness to lend your aid in redressing any grievances which oppress the medical profession, and in your issue of the 18th of November, I read with manifest delight your remarks condemnatory of the practice of life assurance companies, as regards the non-payment of medical men, and your determination to follow up the matter till these offices shall have come to some fixed arrangement to remunerate, when requiring the services of medical men. In August last I was applied to by the Law Life Assurance Company for some information relative to a gentleman in this neighbourhood, and although no fee was enclosed to me, I gave what was required by the office, and wrote a letter to the actuary, stating, that although no fee was forwarded me, I had attended to the application, and relied on the respectability of the office to send it me on receiving my letter. To this no reply has ever been received by me; and as medical men, as a body, have the power to assist largely assurance companies, I trust the profession generally will put a check upon such offices as thus act so illiberally.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

Poole, Nov. 25, 1848.

ALFRED CRABB, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., &c.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I perceive in your last LANCET, a communication from Dr. Evan, one of the directors of the Norwich Life Assurance Office, relating to the long-agitated dispute upon the question of fees to medical men on granting certificates. His sentiments and opinion certainly, on slight consideration, would appear to be plausible and tenable, but it strikes me that a fair examination into insurance office transactions, as at present conducted, will satisfy a reasonable inquirer, that so long as applications for the state of health of the party proposing insurance come from the directors of insurance offices to the medical attendant of such party, and as long so the communications so required from the medical man are declared to be confidential between him and the directors, so long will it be incumbent upon such directors to pay the medical fee.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

St. Columb, Cornwall, Dec. 21, 1848.

W. MOORMAN, JUN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have just read your leading article on Medical Fees at Assurance Offices, and as one of those offices, termed the National Provident Institution, declines paying the medical man for the requisite certificate, I think it due to my professional brethren to acquaint them with the fact, so that they may be more guarded in doing business with that office than I have been. My patient, at the instruction of the agent, called upon me to fill up the requisite certificate, and as he wished it done by a certain day, I had not time to apply for the fee before filling up the document, and when I did apply it was refused, as shown by the inclosed letters from the agents of the office. I have only to add, that some of the most respectable and well-known insurance offices in this part of the country do not object to pay the fee—I may name the Yorkshire Fire and Life Insurance Office. The profession, I am sure, is under great obligation to you for your active and long-continued co-operation in the agitation of this unquestionable grievance. The Westminster Office, whose circular I have received, consults its own permanent interest, and will, doubtless, be supported and recommended by the profession.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Leeds, Nov. 1848.

J. INGHAM IKIN.

Derby, Nov. 13, 1848.

"SIR,—I have forwarded your note to the secretary (and the certificate), Joseph Marsh, Esq., 48, Gracechurch-street, London, with whom I must request you to correspond, as if I were to make such a payment as is there required, it would be disallowed in my account.—Yours, &c.,

"To Mr. Ikin."

"WILLIAM SPENCER.

"National Provident Institution, Gracechurch-st.,
November 16th, 1848.

"SIR,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, requesting a fee of £1 1s. for your certificate on behalf of Mr. —, which I should have been most happy to have sent you, had it been the practice of this office to do so; but, in common with all other mutual offices, the directors have uniformly declined paying for certificates received from the medical attendant of the party proposing, and for whose sole benefit the certificates are sent. I am in close connexion