nal for investigating the conduct of medical officers, it is essential that a medical board, as in the army and navy, should be appointed to superintend and control the medical department of the Poor-law administration.

That a petition, embodying the above sentiments, and praying for enquiry, be presented to both houses of Parliament early in the ensuing session.

That this meeting recommends to the notice of the members of the *Bucks Medical Association* the circular lately issued by the Provincial Medical Association, for the purpose of collecting opinions as to the mode and amount of medico-parochial remuneration.

That it is highly desirable that medical practitioners should collect and arrange authentic facts relative to their complaints against the present system of medical relief, preparatory to the proceedings of the expected Parliamentary Committee of Enquiry.

That the thanks of this Association are justly due to THOMAS WAKLEY, Esq., M.P., for his able, zealous, and successful exertions in procuring the Medical Witnesses Act, which induces the hope that the Legislature will recognise the just claims of the medical profession, when they are properly advanced and efficiently supported.

That the thanks of this Association are also due to the Editors of *THE LANCET* and the *Medical Gazette*, for the zeal and ability with which they have supported the profession against the impolitic, unjust, and oppressive proceedings of the Poor-law authorities.

That copies of these resolutions, and of the petitions founded thereon, be forwarded to *THE LANCET* and *Medical Gazette*, and to the different medical associations.

PETITION.

THE PETITION of the undersigned medical practitioners, residing in and near the county of Bucks, humbly sheweth:—

That your petitioners deprecate the system for providing medical relief for the sick poor, adopted by the Poor-law Commissioners.

That the prevalence of contract by "tender;" the general inadequacy of the remuneration; the increased extent of districts, with a diminished and insufficient supply of medical officers; the numerous impediments to an efficient performance of medical duties; and the indignities offered by the new authorities to medical practitioners,—are productive of effects equally pernicious to the sick paupers, the medical profession, and the whole community.

That a remuneration calculated to secure proper attendance; a mode of appointment not derogatory to the profession; regulations for the prompt supply of medical relief to the destitute sick; and a general supervision and control of the medical department

of the poor-law administration, by a medical board, are essential to the interests and welfare of all parties concerned.

Your petitioners, therefore, humbly but earnestly pray, that your (right) hon. house will speedily take this important matter into serious consideration, by appointing a committee of enquiry, and enact such remedies as to your wisdom may seem fit.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, &c., &c.

PENNY MEDICAL CLUBS.

EXAMPLE TO MEDICAL MEN.

To the Editor of *THE LANCET*.

SIR:—At a time when the subject of the medical attendance upon the poor is exciting so much interest amongst the public, I trust that the following communication will not be thought too long for insertion in your valuable journal; and I venture to hope that it may suggest to other members of our profession the means of opposing a successful resistance to the establishment of "Self-supporting Medical Societies," in their own districts, until such time as the great body of our medical brethren have declared their opinions upon the subject. The facts of the case are as follows:—

Mr. Robert Dashwood, who is surgeon to ten parishes in the Loddon and Clavering Union, was applied to by the guardians in the above Union to assist them in forming a "Self-supporting Medical Society," in accordance with the plan laid down by the Poor-law Commissioners. A meeting of the medical men in this town having been previously held upon the subject, Mr. Dashwood, in the most honourable manner, immediately called another meeting, and laid the proposal before them; and, with their advice, returned the following answer, together with the annexed resolution, signed by all the medical men residing in the town. I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. E. CROWFOOT.

Beccles, Suffolk, Nov. 5th, 1835.

Mr. Dashwood's Reply to the Chairman of the Committee for the purpose of establishing a Self-supporting Medical Society in the Loddon and Clavering Union.

"Beccles, November 5th, 1836.

"SIR:—In answer to your letter, enclosing the resolutions adopted by a Committee for the establishment of a Self-supporting Medical Society, for the poor of the parishes of the Loddon and Clavering Union, I beg to state that, on a former occasion, when the establishment of a similar institution was in contemplation, a meeting of all the medical men resident in this town was held, when it was their opinion that the Self-supporting

Medical Societies, on the scale proposed by the Poor-law Commissioners, were injurious to the character and respectability of an honourable profession; I, therefore, deemed it proper to lay your note, together with the copy of the resolutions, before my medical brethren; and, below, I subjoin their unanimous opinion, with which I entirely coincide; and have the honour of being your most humble servant,

“ROBERT DASHWOOD.”

“Resolution signed by all the medical men residing in Beccles.

“The influence which the establishment of Self-supporting Medical Societies is likely to have upon the character and respectability of the profession at large, is, at present, much under discussion among its members, and a very considerable body of them are at this time occupied in inquiring into the best mode of providing medical relief for the poor, without sacrificing the interests and respectability of the profession. We, the undersigned, therefore, feel it our duty at present to decline in any way connecting ourselves with establishments of the kind.

H. S. Davey	H. W. K. Davey
W. H. Crowfoot	R. Dashwood
C. Dashwood	Frederick Page.”
W. E. Crowfoot	

SMITH, OF SOUTHAM, THE
MIGRATORY LIBELLER OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS,

AT BANBURY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—On Friday evening last, according to public advertisement, we were honoured with the presence of Mr. Smith, of Southam, to lecture the poor on the advantages of his “Self-supporting Dispensaries.” The general practitioners of this town have, much to their credit, refused to take part in his mis-entitled scheme. Mr. S.’s arguments and attacks on the profession differed but little from his performances elsewhere, already so well described in the pages of your excellent journal. He was well supported by a Dr. (?) W., a resident, who was also equally happy in his attempts to disparage the character of the general practitioner. He concluded a long and rambling speech, the greater part of which was inaudible, by stating that he had sent for a medical gentleman in the town on the previous evening to perform a trifling operation on a poor man, and that he could not, and, in fact, would not come, and so the patient died in a few hours after. Now, Sir, these are the facts of this case, for the truth of which I pledge myself:—The poor man referred to had been for some time attended

gratuitously by a general practitioner for a succession of carbuncles, attended with great prostration, and with typhoid symptoms, and every means had been used, after excision, to support the system. I need not tell you why the general practitioner would not meet Dr. W., who, immediately on seeing the patient, informed his friends “that he had inflammation of the lungs!!!” and that the restorative means which had been used were “as poison to him,” and, actually, whilst the poor fellow was *in articulo mortis*, sent for a druggist to bleed him, which operation even the druggist knew better than to perform. These are facts which I shall pass over without comment. Such are the Smithites, and they are worthy of their cause. I shall keep my eye on these gentlemen, and should I hear any thing more of them you will not fail to receive a line from your constant reader,

ANTI-HUMBUG.

Banbury, Nov. 7th, 1836.

SCRAP FROM ALDERSGATE-STREET.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

Museum, Aldersgate-street.

SIR:—I have just picked up the enclosed, and holding THE LANCET to be a useful depository for all such waifs and strays, I place it at your disposal. Your obedient servant,

NOT A “GREEN AND FRESH NOVICE.”

“G***t R***s*-l-str***t, Oct. 1st, 1836.

“GENTLEMEN:—If you like what I have done, and mean to make use of it, I don’t want any such aristocratic reward as a piece of plate with two griffins sprawling upon it, or a dog and a jackass fighting for a ha’p’orth of gilt ginger-bread, or any such Bartholomew-fair nonsense. All I ask is, that the porters of our theatre may take all the sets of my journal now on hand, and force every body who enters its doors to buy one, giving afterwards a debtor and creditor account of what they have received *post-paid*, and in due course remitting me the money and unsold journals, carriage-paid. I am, your humble servant,

“W. C., M.D.”

REGULATIONS OF THE HALL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—Having read in THE LANCET a few weeks since, a paragraph respecting the present regulations of the Company of Apothecaries, with which it is necessary for medical students to conform, I observed that all those pupils who could produce indentures bearing date prior to the 1st of October, 1833, and could prove that they