Department, in answer to a memorial of mine to Lord Panmure on the subject, which states:—

"I am directed by Lord Panmure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst., and to acquaint you that the case of the surgeons of the embodied militia is now under consideration.

"To Surgeon Ikin, 4th West York Militia."

The letter referred to contained a fairly-detailed statement of our case, representing our grievances, and requesting from the Government a fair consideration of our claims for compensation, or half-pay, on disembodiment.

Something to improve our position I feel confident will now be done, and our best thanks are due to the colonels who waited upon Lord Panmure, and to his lordship for his attention to the case of the militia surgeons.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Citadel, Hull,
April 30th, 1856.

J. I. IKIN, F.R.C.S.,
4th West York Regiment of Militia.

"THE LANCET" AND THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It is not one of the most gracious acts, perhaps, to request an Editor to publish his own unworthiness, or the contrary; but having read in the last number of THE LANCET a letter signed "Thos. Litchfield," I could not withhold my observations in the concurrence and promotion of his views on so just a tribute. I therefore beg you to accept most cordially and respectfully my thanks, in acknowledgment of the debt of gratitude due from the profession to yourself, who at all times, and under all circumstances, have been foremost confessedly to uphold our status, and boldly and fearlessly advance and secure our interests. So universally is this admitted, and so generally felt and acknowledged, that I can but regret and express my astonishment that no *public testimonial* has been forthcoming, to convince, encourage, and assure you that the medical profession are not less vigilant, less reflective, and less grateful than other bodies. Had I the magician's wand, or were my opinion and position equal to some in this metropolis, I should endeavour to make my voice heard on so befitting an occasion, and remind our friends—

"The evil that men do lives after them,
The good is oft interred with their bones."

As it is, I must be satisfied with reiterating the sentiments of your correspondent, "unless Fortune should be merry, and in this mood bequeath us anything."

Why we withhold from "Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's" is unaccountable, and worthy the consideration of a generous and exalted profession. True is it that the manifold engagements which occupy everyday life engross our entire attention, to the exclusion very frequently of important matters; at all events, on the present occasion, I do hope to see practically demonstrated, that by enlarging the understanding, we correct and enlarge the human heart, "and approach nearer to the gods."

I am, Sir, very faithfully yours,

Pentonville, April, 1856.

WM. SETH GILL.

[Our kind correspondent may be assured, that a correct appreciation of the motives by which our public labours, of whatever description, have been dictated and influenced, will ever present to us the most gratifying "testimonial" that it would be possible to offer for our acceptance.—ED. L.]

THE CARMICHAEL PRIZES OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, DUBLIN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The publication of our communication in your world-known journal has procured an answer respecting the Carmichael Prizes of the Dublin College of Surgeons. The answer given by Dr. Maunsel has quite satisfied us; but till that answer was elicited, we were quite ignorant as to the fate of our essays. We find they had been rejected, which we regret, but we only complain of not being informed of their rejection after two applications.

Thanking you very much for rendering us a service, we beg to subscribe ourselves,

THE REJECTED CANDIDATES FOR THE
CARMICHAEL PRIZES.

Dublin, May, 1856.

GRIEVANCES OF POOR-LAW SURGEONS.

MR. GRIFFIN'S MOVEMENT.

At a meeting of the Poor-law Medical Officers held at Tenterden, it was resolved—

1st.—That this meeting tenders its best thanks to Mr. Griffin for his exertions in behalf of the Poor-law Medical Officers, and pledges itself to co-operate with him in his endeavours to improve their position.

2nd.—That this meeting considers that the salaries of the Medical Officers ought to be made remunerative for the duties performed; that all operations should be paid for extra; that the minimum fee for midwifery should be £1; and that the Medical Officer of the union-house should be entitled to the same fees for operations performed in the house.

3rd.—That a subscription be entered into for expenses incurred, and that Mr. Newington be requested to forward the same, with a copy of these resolutions, to Mr. Griffin.

Signed on behalf of the meeting,

JESSE H. NEWINGTON.

At a meeting of the Medical Officers of the Devizes union, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

1st.—That this meeting, viewing with satisfaction the movement set on foot by Mr. Griffin, for the improvement of the position of the medical officers of the unions throughout the kingdom, hereby expresses its willingness to co-operate with him, and generally to support him in the plans which he proposes for the attainment of so desirable an object.

2nd.—That Mr. Thomas B. Auster be requested to act as secretary and treasurer, and also to communicate with Mr. Griffin as to the further steps to be taken for the carrying out of his views.

3rd.—That a subscription of 5s. be paid by each officer to the secretary, to be repeated quarterly as long as may be thought necessary.

4th.—That this meeting is of opinion—

1st. That the present rates of payment are quite inadequate to the amount of service rendered, and that some system of payment per case is best calculated to effect improvement therein, the question of distance being also duly considered.

2nd. That the list of payment for extras requires to be extended, so as to include all cases requiring more than ordinary labour and responsibility.

3rd. That the establishment of local dispensaries, and the employment of dispensers wherever practicable, would tend to the relief of the medical officers, and the more correct valuation of their services.

5th.—That the foregoing resolutions be sent for insertion to the leading medical journals.

At a meeting of the Medical Officers of the parish of Stoke Damerel, held at the Devonport Dispensary on April 21st, 1856—present, Messrs. Bennett, Butcher, De Larue, and Rolston,—the following resolutions were unanimously agreed to:—

1st.—That, although the medical officers of this parish have not that cause for dissatisfaction which exists in many places, yet they beg to tender their thanks to Mr. Griffin for the zeal and ability he has displayed in the movement on behalf of Poor-law Medical Reform.

2nd.—That this meeting, without pledging itself to details, approves generally of the principles advocated by Mr. Griffin.

3rd.—That a subscription of 5s. be paid by each present to defray necessary expenses, and repeated as occasion may require.

4th.—That Mr. De Larue be appointed local secretary.

5th.—That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to Mr. Griffin, and to each of the medical journals.

At a meeting of the Medical Officers of the Hertford Union, held at Hertford on Saturday, April 26th, 1856, it was resolved unanimously:—

1st.—That the thanks of this meeting be given to R. Griffin, Esq., of Weymouth, for his exertions in the cause of Poor-law Medical Reform.

2nd.—That this meeting pledges itself to support Mr. Griffin in his endeavours to remove the grievances of Union Medical Officers, and hereby agrees to subscribe 10s. each towards the necessary expenses incurred.

3rd.—That this meeting approves generally of the main principles laid down by Mr. Griffin in his circular.

(Signed) L. ARCHER, G. DUNN,
T. ODELL, J. WOODHOUSE.