it was the night-work that told so severely upon the bodily health. It was no uncommon thing for one and another to absent themselves, and inquiry found them suffering from the effects of this severe labour; but their places were soon filled up, and thus the work of death went on.

The main reason why this slavery exists can be traced, I believe, to the youth of the sufferer, and the absence of anything like combination, with a view to expose such treatment. Witness, Sir, the remarkable contrast in this particular with the other sex; at this moment throughout the length and breadth of the land the wages of labour have an upward tendency, the result of combination, but this is altogether foreign to the female character.

The chief disease they suffer from is phthisis; next to this, functional derangement of the heart and uterine system. The fear of adding to the length of this letter prevents me from enlarging upon the subject, but, suffice it to say, that the wrongs revealed were quite sufficient to condemn this slavery in the minds of all reasonable men.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
W. N. SPONG.

Faversham, June, 1853.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Your journal for May 19 contains a leading article, in which you state that "intelligence has just reached you that a Medical Association in a distant county has agreed to petition Parliament in support of the Compulsory Vaccination Bill, merely asking for an alteration in one clause." The name of the Association is not given, but the reference is probably to the Gloucestershire Medical and Surgical Association.

At a special meeting of this Association, fully attended, the proposed Bill was discussed clause by clause. The meeting did not construe the provisions of the Bill as *THE LANCET* does, nor did it recognise the same injury and injustice as results.

Clause No. VII. was disapproved of. With this exception the proposed Bill was supported by a considerable majority of the meeting, and a memorial founded on the resolutions was subsequently forwarded to the Secretary of State.

I may add that a copy of our proceedings would have been sent to *THE LANCET*, but that on a former occasion, when our opinions differed from those maintained in that periodical, the communications which were forwarded were not published.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN W. WILTON, Hon. Sec.

Gloucester, 1853.

Mr. Wilton is under a mistake in supposing that communications from the Gloucestershire Association were not published in *THE LANCET* from the cause he assigns. When the reports in question were of a reasonable length, or their purport of sufficient interest, whatever were the opinions expressed, we invariably published them.—SUB-ED. L.

VACCINATION EXTENSION BILL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg leave to forward a copy of the petition presented to the House of Commons by Lord Goderich, from the members of the Medico-Ethical Society of Huddersfield, praying for certain alterations in the Vaccination Extension Bill. Should you think it worthy a place in your valuable journal, and of being imitated by the profession generally, please insert it.

I remain, Sir, yours respectfully,

35, Queen-street, Huddersfield,
June, 1853.

SAMUEL BOOTH.

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The petition of the undersigned members of the medical profession in the town of Huddersfield and its vicinity,

Humbly sheweth,—

That, while they regard the Vaccination Extension Bill now before your honourable House as intended for the benefit and protection of the nation from small-pox, they nevertheless are convinced that many of the provisions of that Bill are defective, and some bear unjustly upon the members of the medical profession.

That, while the Bill enforces vaccination within a certain age, and renders the parents and guardians of the child responsible for its omission, it does not enforce the obligation to return with the child on the eighth day for inspection, and to supply the medical practitioners with fresh lymph.

That the onus of transmitting a duplicate of the said certificate of vaccination to the registrar of births and deaths would, to say the least, be unreasonable, seeing that the medical practitioner is shut out from all remuneration.

In conclusion, your petitioners further suggest, that, with regard to the poor the parents be permitted to supply to their usual medical attendant, who shall be remunerated for every successful case of vaccination by a uniform scale of charges throughout the kingdom, and they think the public confidence would thus be better secured, and the full benefit of vaccination obtained.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray your honourable House to make such alterations and amendments in the Vaccination Extension Bill as in your judgment you may deem desirable.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c. &c.

Signed by WILLIAM TURNBULL, Esq., M.D., President of the Medico-Ethical Society.

GEORGE ROBINSON, Esq., Vice-President.

SAMUEL BOOTH, Esq., Treasurer.

G. W. RHODES, Esq., } Honorary

WM. SCOTT, Esq., M.P., } Secretaries.

EDWARD LEES, Esq., Surgeon, &c., Honley.

JAMES ROBERTS, Esq., Surgeon, Golcar.

JOS. HESSELGRAVE, Esq., Surgeon, Marsden.

JOHN DOW, Esq., Surgeon, Lockwood.

FRED. GREENWOOD, Esq., Surgeon, Huddersfield.

WM. ROBINSON, Esq., Surgeon, Huddersfield.

THOS. A. HAIGH, Esq., Surgeon, Meltham.

R. S. FIELDING, Esq., Surgeon, Lindley.

SAMUEL KNAGGS, Surgeon, Huddersfield.

WM. GREENWOOD, Esq., Surgeon, Huddersfield.

JOHN T. BRADSHAW, Esq., Surgeon, Huddersfield.

RICHARD SISSONS, Esq., Surgeon, Huddersfield.

T. R. TATHAM, Esq., Surgeon, Huddersfield.

T. A. BOTTOMLEY, Esq., Surgeon, Huddersfield.

RICHARD ALLATT, Esq., Surgeon, Huddersfield.

VACCINATION AT GUY'S HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—If I understand Dr. Lever's letter rightly, it means, that Dr. Addison is the professed teacher of vaccination at Guy's Hospital, but that the lecturer on midwifery and the physician-accoucheur has nothing to do with it.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. A. HINGESTON.

Clifton-terrace, Brighton, June 6, 1853.

PROPOSED COLLEGE OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My fellow-assistants, our employers, and the public at large, should feel greatly indebted to you for affording us an opportunity of giving publicity to our grievances through the medium of your widely-circulated journal. There can be no doubt of the necessity for a reformation. The movement, to be successful, must on no account be of the nature of a *strike* to compel our employers to increase our salaries. Every arrangement must be characterized by honour and integrity. We must not regard our employers as enemies and oppressors, but must recollect they have cause to complain as well as ourselves. The conduct of some assistants is infamous, and it is too common to throw upon the whole body the faults of the few. I believe our employers would gladly assist us in forming a college (perhaps in some respects similar to the one for governesses) for our social and moral improvement, to afford a fund by which we may be able to complete the course of study required by "the Hall and College," to provide a sick fund, a register of situations and assistants, a home when out of employment, and a superintendent, who should examine and prove all assistants before their names are placed on the list. This should be so arranged as to be a check upon both employers and employed. Well-conducted and competent assistants *only* should be sent out, and those employers who ill-treat or under-pay their assistants should not be supplied. I also believe we should find many non-medical friends who would subscribe to such an institution, if well conducted.

At present a surgeon undertakes a union district of considerable area at a low salary; gets all the clubs he can, at say 1s. 6d. or 2s. a head per annum, midwifery 10s., of which he perhaps gets 250 or 300 cases per annum, some six miles from home. Now such a person knows at the time he undertakes all this that it is utterly impossible to do it himself, but calculates upon getting an assistant at from £20 to £30. If an assistant were paid a fair