to the courts for an injunction, which I should at once make. Nothing but fresh legislation, such as submitting the whole question to arbitration, can solve the problem.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
Paddington Green, W., July 6th, 1914. H. BAZETT.

THE NATIONAL MEDICAL UNION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You will excuse my trespassing upon your time and space, but on reading Mr. E. H. Worth's letter in your issue of July 4th I notice that he has misquoted the principal resolution passed at the general meeting on June 27th. As chairman on that occasion I feel it my duty to give the resolution in full as passed with only four dissentients. It is as follows:—

Resolved: That refusal of service in any capacity under the National Insurance Acts, 1911 and 1913 be a condition of membership of the National Medical Union. Nothing in this resolution shall prevent any member of the National Medical Union from signing certificates to enable insured persons to obtain sanatorium and sickness benefits under the National Insurance Acts in his private professional capacity.

May I congratulate Mr. Worth on his generous offer to the guarantee fund? He is not alone in his enthusiasm, and I can assure him that the National Medical Union stands to become a power in the land.

Hoping that many non-panel readers of your valuable paper will respond to his very forcible appeal for their support to the National Medical Union,
I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

VIVIAN T. GREENYER.

"Edzell," New Church-road, Hove, July 6th, 1914.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I read with much pleasure Mr. Worth's letter in your issue of July 4th, and I desire to add my appeal to his and urge all non-panel men to join the National Medical Union, and thereby assist to uphold the best traditions of the profession. The fight, deplorable though the sequel has been, is by no means over, and there may yet be critical times ahead. Surely, then, it is the duty of every man who from principle has not joined a panel to take some part in the work of the National Medical Union, and surely, also, support may reasonably be expected from the consultant branches of the profession, and especially from those who, as teachers in the medical schools, can influence future practitioners.

I shall be glad to join Mr. Worth in increasing my guarantee to a similar extent, and I have no doubt many others will do the same. There are 15,000 non-panel men in the country, and it should be easily possible to make the National Medical Union a most powerful association.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Huddersfield, July 7th, 1914.

W. L. W. MARSHALL.

THE NORWICH MEDICAL INSTITUTE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have read with considerable pleasure the remarks of your Commissioner in THE LANCET of July 4th (p. 51), on the work of the Norwich Medical Institute, of which I am one of the medical officers. I am sorry not to have had an opportunity of meeting your Commissioner during his visit to Norwich, when I think I could have shown even more conclusively that institutional practice gives opportunities for good work to be carried on.

I have only one criticism to offer of your otherwise

fair summary, and it is on the question of sweating. I do not know what dictionary your Commissioner uses, but mine defines sweating as "the practice of employing poor people at starvation wages." I must therefore beg to differ from him as to the strict meaning of the word "sweating." But apart from this verbal quibble your Commissioner—quite unintentionally I willingly believe—proceeds to convey the impression that this institute, like some others, makes a profit for other purposes out of moneys paid for medical services. Such is not the case, and has never been the case for many years before the coming of the Insurance Act—certainly not within the seven years of my association with the institute. With the exception of a small balance carried over from year to year the whole of the income has been absorbed by the medical needs of the members, with the single exception of an insignificant sum—quoting from memory I think about £12 per annum—paid to the Medical Alliance (a body formed to guard the interests of institutes generally) in subscriptions and expenses of delegates to an annual conference extending over two days. For years the lay members of the board of delegates and management committee have not received a farthing for their services. They are now, since the Insurance Act came, paid a small fee for each attendance, which payment has been sanctioned by the Insurance Commissioners as reasonable.

There have been two other payments to which the local division of the British Medical Association has taken exception, though they are both in a sense medical payments. One is a subscription of 5 guineas annually to a convalescent home, and the other is the payment of consultation fees when recommended by us, the medical officers, in cases requiring special advice which could not be obtained at the hospital, and for which the particular patients were too poor to pay. But though the British Medical Association has denounced these payments certain medical men, who would not meet us in consultation, have not been above taking these fees, though well knowing that the institute paid them. I should add that these consultation fees have not averaged more than 12 guineas a year for several years.

I quite fail to see how these payments can be called making a profit out of our service. Why, Sir, so far from wishing to "sweat" us in this way our committee has, owing to delay in payment by the Local Insurance Committee, borrowed money last year rather than ask us to accept a penny less than the percentage to which we were entitled by our agreement with them. They might with fairness have asked us to share the risk and the delay, but they took the whole burden themselves. I speak of lay management as I find it.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Norwich, July 4th, 1914.

ARTHUR H. PRIESTLEY. 2

VITAMINES AND AN UNUSUAL CASE OF SCURVY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As your readers at the present time seem to be interested in vitamines, perhaps the following case of "scurvy" may be of interest.

Mr. X., aged 23, came to the Malay Peninsula to plant rubber. He had eaten nothing but porridge, bread (white) and butter, and milk since the age of 3 years. He had always been very fit and well, was of good physique, and had had some success at football, cricket, &c. Four months