ago should be brought before the London Medical Society as new!

Do, Mr. Editor, let me urge you to get the book, read it, review it, and unfold it, and you will get the thanks of the profession for unfolding principles which are of the highest importance to successful practice, and which go with a man as a compass does the mariner, to guide him in those cases of difficulty when the memory of a particular practice may be forgotten.

Hoping to receive your approval of the object for which I have written to you,

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

Reading, July, 1853.

T. L. WALFORD.

THE MEDICAL SERVICE OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The way in which the medical service of the East India Company is managed deserves your attention, particularly at present, the New Charter being under discussion. There are great abuses in the appointments: incompetent and old men are often now sent out; also men who have no proper diplomas, but merely a certificate from the College of Surgeons in London, stating they are "competent to practise medicine in the East Indies"!!! The Court generally now do not care what sort of men they send out, if they are only quiet and submissive; and for the last ten or twelve years they have been treating the Service with much indignity and injustice. Thirty years was the period of service, but by the new rules thirty-eight are demanded, so that few can expect to enjoy retirement until quite gray and worn out. The cruel injustice, too, of making these new rules retrospective in their very injurious effect is discreditable beyond expression. Numerous memorials have been sent to the Court on the subject of the new rules. I enclose you a copy of a short one, from which you will be able to see the nature of their injustice: a serious injustice and breach of contract by the Company clearly made out. Another official document I will copy, that you may see the despotism of the Government to the natives as well as Europeans. There are about one thousand medical men in the Service—a large body; and if you will devote a small space in your valuable journal to the consideration of their interests, I shall at a future time be happy to supply you with more information. Meanwhile, believe me, with much esteem,

Yours sincerely,

Bombay, May, 1853.

A FRIEND.

[TRUE COPY.]

Circular, No. 2541, of 1851.
General Department.

To the President and Members of the Medical Board, Bombay.

SIRS,—It has come to the knowledge of Government, that, notwithstanding the prohibition contained in the Government notification of the 30th of September, 1843, public servants are still in the habit of assisting parties to prepare petitions, memorials, and representations on official matters. The Right Hon. the Governor in Council considers this practice to be particularly objectionable, and he therefore directs that it be strictly prohibited in your department, both as regards European and native officers.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

J. G. LUNSDEN,
Secretary to Government.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors of the East India Company.

The humble Memorial of ALEXANDER BURN, M.D.,
Surgeon Bombay Army,

Humbly sheweth,—

That on the appointment of your memorialist, in 1829, to your Bombay medical service, medical officers were esteemed as deserving of equal consideration by your honourable court in all things as officers in the military service, and at that time retiring pensions, regulated by the rank to be attained, existed for the benefit of both services. But, in a letter from your honourable court to the government of India, No. 5, dated 20th September, 1837, grants of pension for years of service, without reference to rank, were most graciously bestowed on your military officers, in addition to the rules as established in the year 1796: at the same time this extension was withheld from your medical officers, and without any apparent reason; consequently appeals to your honourable court were made, and, in reply to these appeals from your medical officers to be placed on the same footing, in respect to all such favours, as their military brethren—an equality which

until this time had never been brought in question—your honourable court was pleased to grant pensions according to length of service to them also; but, at the same time, the rules in reference to pensions due to rank attained in the medical service were altered. This alteration, your petitioner humbly begs leave to represent, has injured his prospects materially, and, unless modified, by your honourable court, must deprive him of the chance of obtaining one or other of the two highest rates of retiring pension.

2nd. Your honourable court, by your letter, No. 5, of 20th September, 1837, gave to your military officers the option of choosing to accept pensions regulated by the rank attained, or by the number of years of service completed. But, by your letter, No. 6, dated 4th May, 1842, to the government of India, this gracious option has been allowed only to a small portion of your medical officers; for in the General Orders issued by the Hon. the President in Council, dated Fort William, 1st July, 1842, it is ordered as follows:—"The present regulations by which superintending surgeons are entitled, as such, to retiring pensions of £300 and £365 a year, and members of the Medical Board to pensions of £500 and £700 a year, according to period of service in those ranks respectively, will cease to be the rule of the service for medical officers after the date of the introduction of the new arrangement; but individuals then in the service, and who may be appointed to the offices of superintending surgeon and member of the Medical Board, within ten years from this date, will be allowed the option of retiring upon pensions upon the old scale of length of service in those ranks, instead of the new scale of length of service in India."

3rd. This grant of ten years of grace, from 16th July, 1842, to the 16th July, 1852, has not yet expired; but it seems quite impossible now, the remaining period is so short, that your petitioner should be included under its influence, and, by being so excluded, he cannot but suffer great injury, the prospects of retiring from the service he had on entry into it being so greatly affected. That the two highest pensions have been placed beyond the reach of your memorialist by these new rules will appear plain from the fact that there never has been a single instance in which a medical officer in the Bombay army has served the period of thirty-five and thirty-eight years,—the periods which these new rules require,—nor is it likely that your memorialist shall be able to do so, as the prospective rate of promotion, although it should be very much slower than the past, would compel him, together with the limited period of five years' service only allowed in the Medical Board, to leave the service by force before the completion of the shortest even of these two periods.

4th. That not being aware of the principle on which the period of ten years' grace was fixed upon, but confiding in the high honour, equity, and justice of your honourable court, and believing that your honourable court intended to confer an equal favour on each member of the medical service by the new rules, and in no way to deteriorate or depress that service in comparison with the military, your memorialist begs most humbly and respectfully to represent that all the officers who were then in the service, at the time of the promulgation of the new rules, were as fully entitled to the privileges given by the ten years of grace as those medical officers who have attained to the highest ranks within that period, and thereby secured to themselves the highest pensions. Further, your memorialist believes that such a thing as altering the terms of a soldier's enlistment to his loss and detriment, by the government, has never yet happened.

For these reasons your memorialist most humbly and respectfully prays that the system of granting pensions which was in force when he entered the service may not be abolished in his case, but that the period of ten years' grace, given to his seniors, from the 16th of July, 1842, be extended so as to include him, and thus continue him on the same footing, as regards prospects, with his military and also medical brethren.

And your memorialist, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

Bombay, Nov. 20, 1850.

PROPOSED ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—For some weeks past I have been on the Continent, and have not had an opportunity of perusing THE LANCET until my return home a few days ago.

The proposal for a "Medical Assistants' Provident Association" was quite new to me. I hailed it with much pleasure, and most sincerely hope with our efforts, and the assistance of your able journal, to have it fully and substantially realized. I will not occupy your valuable columns in portraying the