Whereas the said guardians have, in pursuance of the several statutes in that behalf, with the approval of the Poor-law Board, divided the union aforesaid into districts, for the purpose of affording increased facilities for the vaccination of the poor, one of which districts comprises the parishes and places following; that is to say,

and have appointed the place (or places) mentioned in the Schedule (A) hereto annexed as convenient for the performance of such vaccination; and the said guardians have agreed with the said to enter into a proper contract for the performance of the vaccination:

Now, therefore, the said doth hereby covenant and agree with the said guardians and their successors, that from and after the day of he will attend by himself, or some legally-qualified medical practitioner as his substitute, at the times and place (or places) mentioned in the Schedule (A) hereto annexed, or at such other times and places as the said guardians, with the consent of the Poor-law Board, determine and cause to be indorsed hereon, and will then and there duly vaccinate every person resident in the union who shall apply to, or be brought to him for the purpose of being vaccinated, and will do and perform all such acts and things as to the best of his judgment shall seem necessary for the purpose of causing such vaccination to be successfully terminated;

And will attend at the times and places in the said Schedule mentioned to inspect the results of such vaccination in the persons so vaccinated, and will duly inspect such persons accordingly, and do such acts and give such directions and otherwise treat the cases as upon such inspection shall appear to him to be necessary.

And whereas the third section of the Act of the fourth year of the reign of her Majesty to extend the practice of vaccination provides that the medical officers or legally qualified practitioners shall make a report to the guardians from time to time of the number of persons successfully vaccinated by them respectively:

Now, therefore, the said doth herewith covenant and agree with the said guardians, and their successors, that he will keep two books to be termed "The Vaccinator's Register," to be provided for him by the said guardians, and to be used alternately during the intervals between the ordinary meetings of the guardians, and will, after he shall have vaccinated any person as aforesaid, and inspected the results of the vaccination of such person, make the entries described in the form set forth in the Schedule (B) hereto annexed, and will on the day next before each ordinary meeting of the said guardians deliver or cause to be delivered to their clerk the book in which he shall have made such entries during the interval preceding such meeting.

Provided that if the guardians dispense with the keeping of one of the said books, and appoint some other time when the register to be kept by him shall be delivered to their clerk, the said will make the entries as aforesaid therein, and deliver or cause to be delivered the same to their clerk according to such appointment.

And the said guardians do, for themselves and their successors, covenant and agree with the said to pay to him, his executors, administrators, or assigns, within one calendar month after the the the and the respectively, during the subsistence of this contract, and within one month after its termination, for every person so resident as aforesaid, who shall have been successfully vaccinated by the said

at his residence, or within two miles therefrom by the nearest public road, the sum of [here insert the sum agreed upon, not less than 1s. 6d.], and for every such person successfully vaccinated at any place more than two miles distant from such residence the sum of [here insert the sum agreed upon, not less than 2s. 6d.]

And it is hereby mutually agreed by and between the parties hereto, that no sum of money shall be paid to the said in respect of any person whose name shall not be duly entered in the said register, except in the case of any omission which shall be explained to the satisfaction of the said guardians.

And it is hereby further mutually agreed by and between the parties hereto, that the said guardians will, where it shall be necessary, provide a fit and proper room or rooms for the purposes of such vaccination and inspection.

Lastly, it is agreed that this contract may be put an end to by either of the parties hereto on giving twenty-eight days' notice in writing to the other party respectively of the intention to put an end to the same.

SCHEDULES REFERRED TO IN THE ABOVE ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT.

SCHEDULE (A.)

TIMES AND PLACES APPOINTED FOR VACCINATION AND INSPECTION RESPECTIVELY.

Times.		Places.
Day of Attendance.	Hours of the Day.	
		At the Residence or Surgery of the said
		at
		At
		At

SCHEDULE (B.)

Vaccinator's Register of the Union.

Date.	Name.	Sex.		Age.		Parish in which resident.	Where vaccinated.	Whether above or under two miles distant from the residence of vaccinator.	Result.		Fee due in respect of each case successfully vaccinated.			
		Male.	Female.	Years.	Months.				Successful.	Un-successful.	£	s.	d.	

In witness whereof the said hath hereunto set his hand and seal, and the said guardians their common seal, the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed, and delivered by the above-named in the presence of L. S.

The common seal of the guardians of the above-named union was hereto affixed at a meeting of [Guardians' Seal.] the Board of Guardians, held on the day of the date hereof by Chairman of the Board at the said meeting, in the presence of

Clerk to the Guardians of the said Union. Here follows the schedule of the Unions referred.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE NEGLECT OF INSANITY AS A BRANCH OF MEDICAL EDUCATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your leading article of the 19th ult., on the above subject, you have very properly called attention to an important omission in the course of study required by our corporate bodies for granting medical diplomas. Wherever there is a school of medicine and a lunatic asylum in the neighbourhood, clinical lectures on insanity ought to be delivered, and certificates for such lectures should be required. The county lunatic asylums are generally too remote from any school of medicine to be made so very available in that way. When the Hanwell Asylum became full, and the visitors refused the application of the guardians of the poor to exchange chronic cases for recent ones, the wards for the insane at Marylebone were instituted at my suggestion soon after the passing of the Lunacy Acts in 1845, but the guardians disallowed pupils. If in the great hospitals suitable accommodation could be made for a limited number of recent cases of

insanity, it would be a benefit to the institution as a school of medicine, and a great boon to the suffering poor, provided that no formalities were thrown in the way of admission, as the police frequently bring insane persons to the workhouses, particularly at night, who might be better provided for in the insane wards of a less crowded hospital. Such an arrangement, could it be made, would do away with the treatment of lunacy being considered a speciality, which in my judgment would be very desirable, because, as far as my experience goes, the insane die from the same diseases as the sane; but the disorder of the mind so conceals the physical diseases that they cannot be discovered without a minute examination.

You remark that "the diseases of the great cavities of the chest, abdomen, and pelvis are abundantly cared for, but the cranium, the most important of all, receives little attention, except in the matter of gross material injuries, and its least momentous diseases, &c." In this view of the matter I for one cannot concur, for I feel certain that, of late years, into no part of the human body have more searching inquiries been made than into the cerebro-spinal system, both in health and disease, and that no subject connected with medicine has of late attracted so much public attention as the treatment of insanity, which you regard as a disease of the brain, and which I regard generally as a disorder of the functions of that organ. From the annual reports of those hospitals that receive no cases of insanity that happen to be complicated with paralysis which depends upon organic disease of the brain or spinal cord, or with epilepsy, which is considered incurable, the recoveries of the insane appear to be from sixty to seventy per cent.; but from the annual reports of the county asylums, which receive all cases of insanity indiscriminately, the recoveries are from twenty to thirty per cent. With the exception of those most pitiable cases above mentioned, which are generally admitted to arise from a lesion of the cerebro-spinal system, my own extensive researches for many years past lead to the conclusion that the brain of the insane, generally speaking, differs in nothing from the brain of the sane, as far as dissection and close inspection of that organ can demonstrate. I say dissection and inspection, because it is possible that further and more minute inquiry will discover a difference, either in the chemical composition, specific gravity, or ultimate structure of the organ—points of great interest; and more especially so since I have shown that the absolute weight of the brain is slightly increased in insanity.

Dr. Prichard,* whom I consider to be the most eminent English writer on this subject, says, "that medical writers have differed in opinion as to the relation which these affections (the disturbance in the physical functions) bear to the cause of insanity. Pinel (a high authority) has stated it to be the result of his inquiries that the primary seat of mental alienation is *generally* in the region of the stomach and intestines, and that from that centre the disease propagates itself, as it were, by a radiation, and deranges the understanding." The same author further remarks:† "The conjunction of insanity with pulmonary phthisis is a fact established beyond doubt by the observations of M. Esquirol, who remarks that phthisis often precedes the appearance of melancholia, or accompanies it. The disease of the lungs is in such instances latent."

I shall now call your attention to an analytical table bearing upon this subject, and published in your periodical, containing the diseases treated in the Marylebone Infirmary in 1841, which must be considered as a general hospital, as to it, the poor suffering from all complaints, small-pox excepted, are, or were, freely admitted. Out of 2021 cases of all kinds, the diseases of the respiratory organs, which were the most numerous class, embraced 478; and next in number the diseases of the nervous system and its functions were 266, including 99 cases of insanity; that considerably more than half were cases admissible into a general hospital, and many of them well adapted to afford a good opportunity of inquiry into the pathology of the brain. So far from the specialists neglecting such inquiries, they are in a great measure bound to a contrary course, and most probably lunatic asylums, more than any other hospitals, keep full and detailed records of each individual case.

It appears to me that you have been unwarrantably severe in your condemnation of a very respectable class of medical practitioners; I allude to the proprietors of private lunatic asylums, whom you have endeavoured to humiliate in public estimation by designating them as nothing better than common lodging-house keepers. I am led to infer that your object in so doing is to endeavour to abolish that class of practitioners.

Now I think, before you advocate such an extreme measure, you ought to point out how the wants of the public are to be otherwise supplied, for the rich will not consent to send their relatives to public asylums unless very great changes take place in our social habits. It is well known that, generally speaking, lunatics cannot be well attended to in their own homes, and who so fit to superintend and provide for their wants in a private asylum as a medical man? The law requires the services, and frequently the residence, of a medical man in such institutions, and if he be not the proprietor, he must be the officer or servant. What man of education or professional reputation would accept such a subordinate situation? Nor can I see anything derogatory in those gentlemen disposing of their institutions to qualified persons, as other medical men dispose of their practices. These remarks are quite disinterested, as I have no connexion, directly or indirectly, with any establishment of the kind.

The inquiry into the hospitals for the insane in the metropolis will, I hope, not be limited to them alone, but be extended to all other endowed hospitals, so as to subject them to a thorough sifting; and then perhaps it will be found that the funds belonging to many of those institutions will be sufficient for the establishment of wards for the insane, without, as you propose, calling on the purses of the charitable and rich. Such an investigation into the management and funds of those hospitals would probably assist in hastening those reforms which are so much required for the better administration of medical relief to the poor, upon which subject I purpose shortly to address you, hoping that you will have the kindness to insert my communication in your columns.

Thanking you for opening a subject of such importance to the public and to the medical profession at large,

I remain, Sir, yours obediently,

County Somerset Asylum, Dec. 1853.

ROBERT BOYD, M.D.

GRIEVANCES OF NAVAL ASSISTANT SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The grievances of naval assistant surgeons have been so forcibly represented in the columns of your paper, and their demand for redress so admirably vindicated at various times, as to have made the subject so familiar to the members of our profession, that petitions to the House of Commons have emanated from all parts of the kingdom, praying for the removal of their disabilities; and, moreover, such evidence of general sympathy has been manifested, as to leave little doubt of their ultimately obtaining justice; whilst, at the same time, such a course of conduct establishes the all-important truth, that co-operation and fraternity are the mainsprings of our noble calling. It is as inexplicable as it is unequivocally true, that the assistant surgeon of Her Majesty's Navy has to contend against prejudices from too many influential quarters—the Board of Admiralty, and the executive of his own ship. From the very erudite speeches of one or two lords, and the experience of every medical officer in the service, we know that to obtain ward-room rank and privilege, the assistant surgeon has only to offer age, skill, and education, against the preponderating claims of ignorance and quarter-deck arrogance.

In a recent number of *THE LANCET*, an assistant surgeon relates his experience of a captain's prejudice, and there are very few of us who cannot vouch for the accuracy of his statement.

It is from similar recitals that it appears to me the subject of the assistant surgeons' degraded position in the service is to be rendered more appreciable, and as the pen of a Mrs. Stowe was needed to expose the horrors of slavery in its harrowing details, so do we require the fluency and earnestness of the pen of poor Daniel Ritchie to write of an assistant surgeon's life in a midshipman's berth.

The mere formal announcement of our claims and wishes, although so frequently reiterated, will fail to excite so readily the interest of the general reader, as a fearless exposition of the treatment by which the naval assistant surgeon is daily and hourly reminded of his abasement and servile position. Hitherto, as far as I am aware, your correspondents have traced their grievances to an omnipotent captain, or more remotely, to a sea lord, and refrain, perhaps prudently, from any reference to the opinions or opposition of the senior members of his own profession. I alluded, incidentally, to this subject in a former letter, and as the present juncture would seem imperatively to require a discussion of this question, I hope you will give me the opportunity of submitting some observations on the relation subsisting between the senior and the junior medical officers

* Treatise on Insanity, London, 1835, p. 122.

† Ibid. p. 148.