

has to do with the matter. If Mr. Squire, from a patriotic wish to make his collection in that Exhibition as complete as possible, obtained the proof-sheets from the secretary, he should have confined the use of them to the purpose for which they were intended, and his patriotism would probably not have gone unrewarded. Universal Exhibitions would never take place at all if they depended entirely upon this laudable sentiment, and if exhibitors never gained any advantage beyond the moral satisfaction of reflecting upon a duty performed. In these days of commercial competition very much depends upon the rapidity with which profitable information is obtained and made available. Mr. Squire having obtained such information for a special purpose ought to have appreciated the delicacy of his position, and refrained from at once exciting the natural susceptibility of those engaged in business like himself, and causing the conduct of the Pharmacopœia Committee to appear in an unfavourable light.—ED. L.

BOARDS OF GUARDIANS AND THEIR MEDICAL OFFICERS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—May I be allowed to trespass upon your valuable space, in order to bring before the notice of those who may be interested in the question of the relation of Poor-law Medical Officers and Boards of Guardians the following very gratifying statement with regard to a voluntary act on the part of the Board of Guardians of the Hendon Union.

Each medical officer was required last summer to provide certain depôts for the dispensing of medicine for diarrhoea at certain points in his district, and also to obey all calls that might be made upon him, whether an order from the relieving officer had been procured or not. The question of making a charge for those services was mentioned among some of the medical officers; but, with one exception, they did not make a charge, but left the matter to be thought of and decided by the Board, *unsolicited*; and after their next meeting they wrote to each medical officer, stating that they had taken into consideration the question of the increased work thrown upon them by the cholera epidemic, and had decided upon granting to each of them a sum of money which they deemed equivalent for those services; and, without being in the smallest degree extravagant, they gave us each a sum which, being unasked for, made it doubly gratifying, as showing a courteous feeling and just appreciation on the part of the Board towards their medical officers.

I have written this with the hope that it may be an example to those Boards which habitually neglect the deserts of their medical officers, and which, even *when solicited*, dole out a pittance that is in no way commensurate with the labour, both mental and physical, which they are daily and hourly called upon to perform.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. BLASSON,

Medical Officer, Hendon Union Workhouse, and the Edgware, Feb. 27, 1867. Edgware District of the Hendon Union.

Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MARCH 19TH.

METROPOLITAN POOR BILL.

THE EARL OF DEVON, in moving the second reading of the Bill, entered at some length into the evils which it was intended to remedy. He showed from the facts which had been made public, and more particularly by the Commissioners of THE LANCET, that these evils were of a very serious character and loudly demanded redress. The Bill had the support of all parties, and would be productive of much benefit to the sick and imbecile poor.

Lord KIMBERLEY in a brief speech supported the Bill, which was then read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MARCH 14TH.

THE METROPOLITAN POOR BILL.

Mr. MILL urged on Mr. Hardy the enlargement of the boundary of the districts to have an asylum or hospital to at least the extent of the present parliamentary districts. He strongly advocated the appointment of an intermediate body between the Poor-law Board and the local boards. By this means economy and efficiency in management would be secured.

Mr. AYRTON suggested a clause with respect to compensation, and thought there should be a distinct board to manage the asylums for sick and fever patients.

Mr. READ thought the Bill gave too much power to the Poor-law Board.

Mr. LUSK was in favour of local boards.

Mr. HARDY explained that the machinery formed by the Bill would be made to adapt itself to circumstances, and that if any new powers were required he believed they would be readily granted, so that the sick and imbecile poor might have justice done to them, and the money of the ratepayers be duly expended.

After a few words from Mr. Alderman LAWRENCE the Bill was read a third time and passed, amid the cheers of the House.

MARCH 15TH.

FLOGGING IN THE ARMY.

Mr. OTWAY moved the following resolution:—"That this House, reserving for future consideration when requisite the question of the exigencies of a state of war, is of opinion that it is unnecessary that the punishment of flogging should be awarded during the time of peace to soldiers of the army or corps of Royal Marines serving on shore." He showed that the number of offences punishable by flogging had increased from 7 to 17. In 1830 658 men were flogged; in 1831, 646; in 1832, 485; in 1833, 370. By the returns for 1863 it appeared 518 were flogged; in 1864, 528; in 1865, 441. He condemned the system as inhuman and degrading, and contended that it was not necessary for the maintenance of discipline, that it had no reforming influence, and that it checked recruiting.

Major ANSON, in seconding the motion, suggested the experiment of suspending the punishment for a year by General Order. He mentioned a number of facts to show that the lash had no deterring effect on an offender.

Mr. MOWBRAY opposed the motion, which he characterised as revolutionary. He showed by statistics that fewer men were flogged than formerly, and that flogging was resorted to for fewer offences. The Commander-in-Chief and the military authorities were desirous of restricting the use of the lash as much as possible consistent with discipline. Recent legislation on the subject of flogging would show that public opinion did not revolt at it.

Captain VIVIAN objected to flogging as degrading to the soldier. If commanding officers had greater facilities of getting rid of bad characters they would gladly dispense with flogging.

Col. HERBERT regarded flogging as the only efficacious punishment for certain classes of offences. He should vote against the motion.

Mr. B. OSBORNE strongly supported the motion, and deprecated the cry with which all motions of the sort were resisted—viz., the interference with discipline.

Captain GROSVENOR supported the motion.

Sir J. PAKINGTON, General PEEL, and Colonel NORTH defended flogging as absolutely necessary for preserving the discipline of the army. The systems of punishment of refractory soldiers in other countries did not bear comparison with ours in the main. As a matter of sentiment and of feeling no doubt flogging was revolting; but as a measure of stern necessity it could not be dispensed with. There was every disposition in the authorities to limit the use of the lash; but no grounds existed for dispensing with it entirely.

Professor Fawcett, Captain Hayter, and Mr. Davenport Bromley supported the resolution, which was eventually carried by a majority of 1. The numbers being—for the motion, 108; against it, 107.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL.

In answer to questions, Mr. DU CANE said that the Government had sanctioned a loan provisionally of a portion of the vacant part of the hospital to the Seamen's Hospital Society. He, however, could hold out no hope that the Government