

tion of the population, who, from *education, habits, and prejudices*, are ALIEN to our nation and our institutions, and to that part of it, more particularly, which has been engaged in *open rebellion or treasonable conspiracy* against the Government, *the same rights and privileges* with the loyal British population of the provinces, who have adhered so zealously and faithfully, at the risk of their lives and property, to their sovereign and constitution, would be fatal to the connection of these provinces with the parent country."

To this part of the Address his Excellency the Governor replied in the following terms of exalted liberality:—

"That measure is recommended by her Majesty's Government, from a deep conviction, that it will cement this connection between these colonies and the parent state, which it is the firm determination of her Majesty to maintain inviolate. BUT, TO BE OF PERMANENT ADVANTAGE, IT (the Union) MUST BE FOUNDED UPON PRINCIPLES OF EQUAL JUSTICE TO ALL HER SUBJECTS."

I would, Mr. Editor, that you could transfer these words to your widely diffused pages in letters of gold!

But I trust her Majesty's Government will not fail to legislate upon principles equally liberal, equally just, towards her subjects at home, and that the time is at length come, when the UNION of the hitherto disjointed Members of the Medical Profession will be effected upon the same equitable basis. Let it be remembered, that—

"To be of permanent advantage, this union must be founded upon equal justice to all."

The Mayor, the Aldermen, and Commonalty of our medical Toronto, may urge upon the legislature, that "every union which shall not be predicated upon the ascendancy of the loyal part of the inhabitants," will be "fatal"—that certain amongst them are, "from education, habits, and prejudices, ALIEN to our institutions,"—nay, that they have been engaged in "open rebellion and treasonable conspiracy!" But I trust that the Government which sent out a POULETT THOMSON, to check the bigotry and the insolence of the "LOYAL part" of the inhabitants of Toronto, will not do less than legislate "upon principles of equal justice to all" at home.

"Alien!" Is not the licentiate an "alien" at the College of Physicians? Is not the general practitioner an "alien" amongst his fellow Fellows of the College of Surgeons? Do we find "equal justice to all" here?

"Open rebellion"—"treasonable conspiracy!" Is it wonderful, if men of education, feeling themselves to be aliens where they should enjoy citizenship, should nobly contend for "equal justice?"

Consider, Sir, the conduct of the "Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty" of Pall-mall East. A gentleman, who shall have taken

the very first degree in *medicine*, at the University of Edinburgh, and, *therefore*, shall be *alien* "in education, habits, and prejudices," comes to London, is compelled to undergo an examination, and to pay a considerable admission-fee (I believe 60 guineas); he is then turned adrift, without the right of passing the threshold of the building, of participating in the government of its affairs, of taking down a book from the library shelves, of examining the diagrams of Harvey, or the preparations of Baillie! Nor is this all. This same individual is annually insulted by an *invitation* to lectures and soirées, where he ought to enjoy, in "equal justice," *equal rights*! He is branded by a different designation; he is kept out of the principal hospitals and government appointments; he is, in a word, an "ALIEN," *driven* to open "rebellion!"

Shall these things be? No! If right be might, these things shall *not* be. We will be content with nothing less, and I trust our Government will confer nothing less, than

"EQUAL JUSTICE TO ALL."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

AN ALIEN IN EDUCATION, HABITS,  
AND PREJUDICES.

London, Dec. 30, 1839.

P.S.—I am rejoiced to see the continued activity and widely-spreading influence of the British Medical Association, our HOPE, which, I think, I have provided with a *motto*, as imperishable as, I trust, its own work will be.

## PETITION FROM GLOUCESTER

ON

## REMUNERATION OF UNION MEDICAL OFFICERS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—I beg the favour of your inserting in the next LANCET the inclosed copy of a Petition to Parliament, which has just been adopted by the Medical Society of Gloucester, and signed by almost all the resident practitioners.

The length of this petition may appear to some objectionable, but our reasons for entering so far into details were these: 1st, After the many protracted discussions on this subject which have found their way into the medical journals, or the transactions of associations, and the vast amount of valuable information which has been obtained *especially by the late Parliamentary Committee*, it might reasonably be expected, that we should be fully prepared to state the *full extent* of our requirements, and particularly as to the *amount* of remuneration; 2ndly, No one had before shown how the *maximum* and *minimum* rate (recommended by Serjeant Talfourd

and others) might be adapted to districts of *different* extent, without infringing the principle of the regulation proposed in June last by the Poor-Law Commissioners,—we have endeavoured to supply this desideratum in the present petition.

The qualification clause has proved the most difficult to determine. Without specifying the bodies, corporate or collegiate, who might confer the preliminary qualification (for in the present inefficient condition of these bodies it would be useless to name them), we thought it sufficient to require a practical examination in all the branches of the art.

It was originally intended that the latter part of this clause should read as follows:—(After the word “office”) “by *having practised for three years*, after passing examinations in medicine, surgery, and midwifery; or unless he were engaged in practice *before the enactment of the new Poor Law*.” Thus not only proposing as a future qualification a certain term for the practical application of professional studies, but also disqualifying some very unfit persons who have been admitted into these situations since the passing of the Poor-Law Amendment Act. However, this was strongly objected to by a highly respectable member of the Society, and the majority gave way.

I feel, nevertheless, bound to recommend in other petitions the insertion of the original clause; at all events, the qualification of *three years practice*, possessing, as I do, unquestionable evidence, of most lamentable consequences to the health and lives of the paupers, from the appointment to extensive districts of young men who had only just obtained their licence from Blackfriars.

We have not yet decided to whom to entrust this petition, and another for the House of Lords, but it is our intention to ask for the support of the county and city members, as well as other M.P.s within reach. If similar applications be made extensively, the Profession will secure *decent* attention to their cause in the House.

May I hope, Sir, that in your senatorial capacity you will augment the debt of gratitude which we so justly owe you for your past exertions in this cause, by co-operating with Mr. Serjeant Talfourd in procuring some legislative amendment during the next session.

Medical men throughout the country should not only at once send similar petitions, but should transmit to one of our parliamentary advocates any facts illustrating the ill-working of the present system *since the Report of the Parliamentary Committee last year*. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. H. RUMSEY.

Gloucester, Dec. 16, 1839.

of limitation, to the extent of medical districts, would be better adapted to the varying circumstances of Unions, than that proposed in the petition. No district to exceed 16 square miles in area; nor, if containing more than 4000 inhabitants, to exceed 9 square miles; nor, if containing more than 5000 inhabitants, to exceed 4 square miles; nor, if containing from 7000 to 10,000 inhabitants, to exceed 1 square mile. The scale of remuneration to be altered accordingly, the *minimum* rate per case on which the fixed salary is calculated, being 8s., 7s., 6s., and 5s., in the four classes of districts respectively.

(Copy.)

TO THE HONOURABLE THE COMMONS, &c. &c.

*The humble Petition of the Medical and Surgical Practitioners of the City of Gloucester,*

SHEWETH,—

That your Petitioners have long observed, with deep concern and regret, the imperfect legal provision of medical attendance for the poor; and though fully aware that great defects in the administration of this branch of relief existed before the passing of the Poor-Law Amendment Act, and that in some particulars an improvement has been effected by the Poor-Law Commissioners; they are, nevertheless, firmly convinced, that the serious evils which still exist (some originating in the former system, others produced or aggravated by the present), can only be effectually removed by the intervention of the Legislature.

Your Petitioners, therefore, pray that your Honourable House will be pleased to take into consideration the measures which they now humbly propose, and which are in accordance with the unanimous testimony of the medical witnesses examined in 1838, by a Committee of your Honourable House.

*First.*—That a physician or surgeon of not less than five years standing, and practically conversant with the wants, habits, and diseases of the poor, in the rural as well as in the urban population of this country, may be appointed (under an Act of Parliament) as an additional Commissioner, to act in concurrence with the Poor-Law Commissioners, in the decision of all questions relating to the medical relief of the poor.

*Secondly.*—That certain limits, to the extent and population of medical districts, be determined by Parliament.

And your Petitioners beg leave to suggest, that no district should be permitted to exceed 16 square miles in area; nor, if it contain more than 4000 inhabitants, should it exceed 4 square miles in area; nor, if it contain more than 6000 or 7000 inhabitants, should it exceed 1 square mile in area; nor should any district be permitted to contain more than 10,000 inhabitants;

P.S. Since the petition was drawn up, I have been informed that the following scale

That no medical officer be allowed to appoint a substitute or deputy for any portion of his district, except under temporary inability from ill health, or other sufficient cause; and in the event of such inability the substitute should possess the full qualification required of medical officers of Unions, and be approved by the Board of Guardians.

*Thirdly.*—That a maximum and minimum rate of payment to the medical attendants of districts, be established by law; thus protecting on the one hand the rate payers, and on the other the medical profession; thus, also allowing the Board of Guardians of such Union to determine the exact rate of remuneration within the prescribed limits, according to the custom and peculiar circumstances of the locality, and subject to the final decision of the Poor-Law Commissioners in case of dispute.

Your Petitioners observed, with much gratification, the improved spirit of a minute of the Poor-Law Commissioners, dated June 6th, 1839, in which it is proposed:—

“That at the commencement of every parochial year a list of all the paupers, in the receipt of relief within a district, should be made out; and that for the medical care of the paupers, a fixed sum to be then determined, should be paid, which should be apportioned to the several parishes of the district, according to the number of the paupers on the list belonging to such parishes respectively, and that the medical officer should attend these paupers when sick, without any specific order from the Union or parish officers.”

“That the (said) fixed sum (or salary) should be such as to afford a payment of six shillings or six shillings and six pence per case, on the average number of *bona fide* cases, subject to be augmented if the districts be extensive.”

In order to apply the principle of a *maximum* and *minimum* rate to the foregoing proposition of the Poor-Law Commissioners, your Petitioners believe, that in districts not exceeding one square mile in area, the minimum rate per case, as regards the “Pauper List,” should be about five shillings, and the maximum about six shillings and six pence; that in districts not exceeding four square miles in area the minimum rate should be about six shillings and six pence, the maximum about eight shillings; that in districts not exceeding sixteen square miles in area, the minimum should be about eight shillings, the maximum about twelve shillings. The Poor-Law Commissioners further state, in the said minute, “that as respects all other persons (not on the Pauper List), to whom medical relief shall be ordered during the current parochial year, the Medical Officers shall receive a fixed sum per case,” \* \* \* \* \* which (the Commissioners admit) “may reasonably be in somewhat

a higher scale.” And your Petitioners believe, that a minimum rate of eight shillings and a maximum of twelve shillings would meet these cases under the various circumstances before specified.

Your Petitioners also fully concur with the Poor-Law Commissioners in the opinion, “that surgical operations of a serious character should be paid for by a separate fixed charge for each case.”

Your Petitioners also beg to represent the importance of permitting every Medical Officer (on his responsibility to the Medical Commissioner), to call in a consulting practitioner in cases of difficulty and danger, due provision being made for his remuneration. And farther, the urgent necessity for providing (by law) additional medical attendance in the event of epidemics seriously and extensively prevailing.

*Fourthly.*—With respect to the qualification of Medical Officers.

That no one be eligible to a future appointment, unless he shall have proved his competency to execute the multifarious duties, and to meet the important emergencies of the office, by having passed examinations, in medicine, surgery, and midwifery; or unless he be at the present time legally qualified to practice his profession.

Your Petitioners firmly believe, that the preceding propositions are well calculated to secure an efficient superintendence of the medical department of the Poor-Law, and an adequate supply of medical attendance and medicines to the sick poor.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

#### TRANSMISSION OF VACCINE LYMPH BY THE PENNY POST.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR:—An official notification having appeared, that from and after the 10th of January, the Penny-postage system is to come into operation, I crave a small space in your valuable Journal, that I may inform your country readers that all applications for Vaccine Lymph, addressed after that day to the resident Surgeon at the Small Pox Hospital, London, shall receive the earliest possible attention.

The effect of this new system of postage, in bringing to the door of every medical man throughout the country a supply of Vaccine Lymph, *from various sources*, at the small charge of one penny, cannot but have a most remarkable effect upon the practice of Vaccination. I stated this very strongly to the Committee of the House of Commons, appointed to investigate the Post-Office Question, and I now confidently look forward to the most favourable results. I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

GEORGE GREGORY.

31, Weymouth-street,  
Dec. 28, 1839.