

POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I shall feel obliged by the insertion, in your journal, of the annexed correspondence; and also if you will allow me space to inform the Poor-law Medical Officers that I shall be happy to meet, at the Poor-law Board, Whitehall, on Friday, May 7th, at twelve o'clock at noon, those who may wish to attend as part of the deputation. It is very desirable to have the countenance of some of the members of the House of Commons; I therefore beg all the medical men who have influence with their representatives will ask them to attend, that by their presence, at least, they may testify their willingness to see the position of the Poor-law medical officers improved. I have reason to believe the Poor-law Board are not insensible to the hardships we endure, and that the deputation will pave the way for changes of great importance. I trust those gentlemen who have not already sent in their petitions to the House of Commons and Poor-law Board will do so without further delay.

Since the issue of the Pamphlet, on March 20th, nearly 200 gentlemen have sent me their subscriptions—of these, many are new subscribers; I have therefore a small surplus on hand, but not sufficient for any emergency, for which we ought to be prepared. I trust those gentlemen who have not repeated their donations will bear in mind that an affair of this magnitude cannot be carried on by a single half-crown or five shilling subscription; more especially when it is recollected that one-third of the union medical officers still keep aloof.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

12, Royal-terrace, Weymouth, RICHARD GRIFFIN, M.R.C.S.
April 23rd, 1858.

12, Royal-terrace, Weymouth, April 16th, 1858.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—I am desired by the members of the Committee of the Poor-law Medical Reform Association to ask the favour of your Hon. Board to permit a deputation from the Poor-law Medical Officer to wait upon you, in order that they may state some of the grievances which so sorely oppress them, and which it is to be feared may, in some instances, render nugatory their best efforts for the good of the poor entrusted to their care. The select committee of the House of Commons, on medical relief, in 1854, recommended certain resolutions in favour of the poor-law medical officers which have not been carried out, and during the last two years numerous petitions have been presented to the House of Commons and also to your Hon. Board, praying for redress. The poor-law medical officers therefore feel the time has arrived when they may urge their claims for redress upon your Hon. Board, and they trust, without impropriety, request the favour of your definitely stating to the deputation if it is your intention to bring forward any measures for the relief of your medical officers.

I have the honour to be, &c., &c.,

The Poor-law Board. RICHARD GRIFFIN, Chairman.

P.S. An early day in May, if convenient to the Poor-law Board, will give time to inform the union medical officers of the meeting.

Poor-law Board, Whitehall, April 21st, 1858.

SIR,—I am directed by the Poor-law Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th inst., in which you request that they will grant an interview to a deputation from the Poor-law medical officers, who are desirous of stating to the Board some of the grievances under which they consider themselves to labour. I am directed to inform you that the Board will be ready to receive the proposed deputation at their office, on Friday, the 7th of May, at twelve o'clock at noon, unless they should hear from you that the gentlemen who propose to attend, would wish a later day to be appointed.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

R. Griffin, Esq. COURTENAY, Secretary.

A preliminary meeting of the committee will be held at the Ship Hotel, Charing-cross, on Friday, the 7th inst., at eleven A.M., to discuss the course of conduct to be adopted at the interview with the President of the Poor-law Board.

A STUDENT'S CLUB.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Allow me, through the medium of your journal, to offer to the medical students of London a few remarks on the great desirability of the formation amongst them of a Student's

Club. Such an institution would, as will be seen by every interested man, be a boon of the highest nature to that large body of the profession, and they are quite as well able to support such a place as any body of men in the metropolis. Let some influential man who is connected with the London schools, and who is aware of the great want of the proposed Club, take the matter up; let a committee be organized, and a subscription opened; the lists will speedily be filled with students' names, and the affair must be successful.

Let the student be possessed of some place where he can meet and entertain his friends, as it were in his own house, and enjoy the society of his professional brethren, as do the members of almost every profession in town. Give him some harbour of refuge, to which he may fly from the dull solitude of his obscure and dreary lodgings; and when he has those temptations and allurements to scientific conversation and pursuits, which without a Student's Club he will never be possessed of,—when he has the comforts of a home and freedom from the temptations to which the London student in his idle hours is necessarily exposed,—then shall we find him absent from many scenes and places which, for want of better, he now frequents, passing his evening pleasantly and creditably at his own Club, amongst his own friends, and having at his disposal every facility for reading and general professional improvement. Let the Club consist of good dining-rooms, library, reading-room, bed-rooms, &c., and the students will, if they have opportunity, speedily forward these projects. Then will the London medical student possess an institution which will present the greatest advantages; he will no more be fleeced by his exorbitant landlady, but have his dinner elegantly and comfortably served for a moderate sum. What member of our profession in the great metropolis will refuse to subscribe and lend his aid to our Club?

Hoping that this will be responded to and taken up by medical students, and those who have it in their power to forward this object,

I am, Sir, yours truly,

Whitworth, Durham, April, 1858.

M. J. MITTON.

MR. CORNISH'S NEW ARTIFICIAL LEG.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having lately had occasion to have a wooden leg made for a sepoy of my regiment, the man having had his leg amputated below the knee-joint, the result of a wound received when bravely fighting against the mutineers from Sealkote, I tried the method recommended by Mr. Kenneth Cornish, in THE LANCET of October 10th, 1857, and am glad to say that it has fully answered. The only improvement that I would suggest on Mr. Cornish's plan is, that the spring foot should be a little shorter than the natural foot, and that the toe should be turned somewhat inwards.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Kohat, near Peshawur,
Feb. 1858.

A. M. GARDEN,
Assistant-Surgeon 6th Punjab Infantry.

MEETING OF THE MEDICAL REFORM COMMITTEE OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of the Medical Reform Committee was held at 3, Waterloo-place, Pall-mall, on Friday, April 23rd, Sir Charles Hastings, M.D., in the chair. There were also present—G. Bottomley, Esq.; Sir John Forbes, M.D.; G. W. Hastings, Esq.; A. Henry, M.D.; B. W. Richardson, M.D.; F. Sibson, M.D.; G. Southam, Esq.; J. Stedman, Esq.; and G. Webster, M.D.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Cowper's Medical Bill was again taken into consideration; and the following amendment, in addition to those already proposed, was unanimously agreed upon; its object being to guard against the institution of a third grade in the profession:

“That any person, who has passed the examination to be instituted by the Council for general practice, shall be allowed to assume the title of ‘surgeon.’”

The Committee subsequently had a long interview with the Right Hon. W. Cowper, at which there were present—Sir Charles Hastings, M.D.; G. Bottomley, Esq.; A. Henry, M.D.; E. Lankester, M.D.; G. Southam, Esq.; J. Stedman, Esq.; and G. Webster, M.D. The various amendments proposed were fully discussed and explained to Mr. Cowper, who expressed his readiness to have such alterations made in his Bill when in Committee of the House as would meet all the wishes