

the profession, tending only to debase it to the level of the vilest and most sordid of trades.

In conclusion, Sir, I venture to say, that you, ever awake to the dangers which threaten our cause, are ready "to gird up your loins" and do battle in our defence, and once more guard us by your experience, not only from our own imprudence, but also from the interested interference of designing parties.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

March, 1849.

AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

THE FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS MEDICAL REFORM FUND.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I feel anxious to add my name to the list of subscribers to the Five Hundred Pounds Reform Fund; and so soon as it is found that there are a sufficient number of subscribers to raise the amount, and that a treasurer and a secretary have been appointed, I shall be most happy to forward a Post-office order for one pound.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

Gargrave, March, 1849.

WM. HARRISON.

P.S.—I shall expect to see the appointment appear in your widely circulated LANCET, as the best medium of publication.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My two guineas shall be forthcoming when required for the Reform Fund.

Yours, very faithfully,

Tunbridge Wells, March, 1849.

ISAAC HARGRAVES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My humble contribution of half-a-guinea to the "Medical Reform Fund," shall be at your service when required.

With best wishes for the success of the cause,

I remain, yours truly,

Soho Square, Liverpool, March, 1849.

FREDERIC CRIPPS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I shall feel obliged by your inserting my name as a subscriber of one guinea to the contemplated "Five Hundred Pounds Fund."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Maldon, March, 1849.

GEO. P. MAY, M.D.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You will oblige me by adding my name to the list of subscribers to the "Medical Reform Fund," to the amount of one pound, or more if required.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Louth, Lincolnshire, March, 1849.

WILLIAM BLATHWAYT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

DEAR SIR,—I shall be most happy to become a contributor to the Medical Reform Association to the amount of £1 1s., or to double the same sum, if necessary, on being applied to, for the purpose of carrying out the designs contemplated.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM RECKITT, M.R.C.S.L.

Boston, Lincolnshire, March, 1849.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I shall have much pleasure in forwarding one guinea to the "Medical Reform Fund," whenever its amount be duly guaranteed by the profession.

The extraordinary spoliation of rights and honours which, in this nineteenth century, is contemplated by certain honourable individuals, and the still more marvellous desertion of the cause of the Edinburgh doctors in medicine by the eminent Professor, on whose good faith they so confidently relied, induce me to express a hope that the committee, when formed, will contain a due proportion of names of graduates in medicine, practising generally.

I remain, Sir, your faithful servant,

J. H. BRANFOOT, M.D. Ed., M.R.C.S. Ed., L.S.A.

Brentwood, March, 1849.

NAVAL ASSISTANT SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The fact of the surgeons of the Mediterranean squadron having unanimously signed a memorial, in favour of assistant-surgeons being admitted to the ward-room, removes one futile objection brought forward by its opponents—viz., that the sur-

geons were opposed to assistant-surgeons being admitted to the same mess with themselves.

Although this memorial has been signed by the surgeons of but one squadron, yet, Sir, I think I may say it speaks the mind of nearly every surgeon in the service, as we are not advocates for the degradation of the noble profession to which we belong, but are ready at all times to maintain its honour, by fearlessly advocating a redress of any grievances connected with it.

I wish we could say that those bodies who spend so much time in quibbling about trifles had strenuously persevered in the advocacy of the assistant-surgeons' cause. But no; the money has been paid for the diplomas, and consequently those bodies are content to remain passive, and quietly allow the profession to be degraded in the persons of (as some consider) insignificant naval assistant-surgeons.

It is true that these bodies, of their own accord, cannot alter the system, yet experience gives proof of the changes produced on persons in power by the advocacy of public bodies.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

SURGEON, R.N.

MEDICAL FEES AT ASSURANCE OFFICES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

Asylum Foreign and Domestic Life Assurance Office, December, 1848.

SIR,—The directors of this company have been referred to you by —, for satisfaction as to the state of his health, and I have therefore to request information as to the duration of your acquaintance with him, your knowledge of any hereditary malady in his constitution, of any mental or corporeal disease by which he has been afflicted, and such particulars of his general health, habits, activity, and temperance, as may enable the directors to determine as to the propriety of granting the proposed assurance.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

GEORGE FARREN.

Sheffield, December, 1848.

SIR,—Filling up the paper which is usually sent to a medical man from life offices is always an unpleasant duty; and if, in consequence of my report, my patient's proposal is rejected, when I send in my charge of one guinea, at Christmas, he will neither pay me nor can I make him. I do not speak of any individual case, but generally. You ought to demand of him a guinea, and send that to me with your request; if not, I shall recommend him to one of the offices which do pay.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

To George Farren, Esq.

E. D. L. GILLOTT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I send the above application and reply, which you will please to insert, if it suit you. The subject involved is now on the tapis, and ought to be firmly and finally settled, after having been agitated so many years. The keeping it before the professional public by cases, and your advocacy, will, I doubt not, settle the matter by the offices paying the fee sought for, either at first, or after trying to do without the information of the ordinary medical attendant, and finding the continuance of the obstinacy would be very costly. I may add, that I never heard further either from Mr. Farren or my patient.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

Sheffield, Feb. 1849.

E. D. L. GILLOTT, Surgeon.

MEDICAL REFORM AND THE "CONFERENCE."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I am directed by the committee appointed at a meeting of members of the profession, held July 11th, 1848, to send you a copy of a memorial which has been forwarded for presentation to Sir George Grey, Bart., M.P., &c., and to request you to give it insertion in an early number of your journal.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Manchester, March, 1849.

GEORGE BOWRING, Hon. Sec.

MEMORIAL.

To the Right Honourable Sir George Grey, Bart., M.P., &c.

The undersigned members of the medical profession, practising in Manchester and its immediate neighbourhood, beg to express the gratification which they feel at the interest you have evinced in the subject of medical legislation; and to offer you, at the same time, their best thanks for the efforts you are making to bring about a satisfactory settlement of the question.

They feel bound, however, to offer you the very serious objections which they entertain to a scheme proposed for the purpose, embodied in certain "Outlines of a Bill for regu-