

MEDICAL ASSISTANTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Permit me to occupy a small space in your excellent journal for noticing a grievance, which weighs very heavily upon a most useful and also a most unobtrusive class of our profession—viz., the assistants. I refer to the periods when their very small remunerations are doled out to them; and I am the more induced to do so from having had brought to my notice very lately a most unhappy exemplification of the present system, in which a most intelligent and worthy young fellow, a fourth-year's man of a metropolitan establishment, entered upon the duties of a retail and prescribing practice, at the splendid salary of £30 per annum. For the last two years fortune had seemed to forsake him, and he became, from no personal fault, reduced in circumstances; the want of means crippled him, and his attempts to get even a temporary loan proved a failure. In this exigency a feeling of pride or diffidence prevented him speaking unreservedly to his employer upon this subject; and although he had given every satisfaction at the end of his first month, he had yet the mortification of losing his situation, (such as it was, where the work of a slave and professional acquirements were rewarded as are the services of a cook,) simply because he did not "make an appearance" in accordance with his supposed position in society—I say supposed position, for what, Sir, can be a greater sham?

What I would propose is, that salaries should be paid *weekly* or *monthly*, instead of by quarterly instalments, as unless men be possessed of some ready means (which alas! but few are), when entering upon engagements as medical assistants, we can all suppose the distress and heartachings which arise whilst anticipating a first quarterly payment.

I am, Sir, obediently yours,

Middlesex Hospital, August, 1857.

STUDENS.

ARSENIC AS A COSMETIC.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I notice in THE LANCET of Saturday last a letter by Robert Crawford, M.D., on the effects of arsenic applied externally, in which he shows a lack of knowledge of the subject upon which he writes, or he must be aware that the arsenical solution used for the purpose of dipping sheep contains several other ingredients, and is not (as he would wish to induce the readers of his letter to suppose) a simple solution of arsenic in water. Arsenic is very sparingly soluble in water, and were it placed at the bottom of a vessel, and water poured upon it, very little indeed would be either dissolved or suspended.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Manchester, August, 1857.

JAS. EDW. BELL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Miss Smith has had a fair and impartial trial. Now let the *medical* profession leave her alone. If arsenic is to be a subject for discussion, well and good; but I say, molest Miss Smith no longer. If she is guilty, woe be to her! if innocent, why should Dr. Crawford or Dr. anyone else come down upon her?

Now, the difference between Miss Smith using water impregnated with arsenic as a cosmetic and the sheep-washer is this: the latter not only uses the water, but *takes quantities of arsenic in his hands*, and rubs it into the sheep, hence the eruption; the former *used water*, into which arsenic was put. Now, arsenic is dissolved *very sparingly* in water, consequently Miss Smith's supply to her face must have been very, very limited.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. A. SPARLING,

August, 1857.

Assistant-Surgeon, H.E.I.C.S.

TESTIMONIAL TO A SURGEON.—A valuable time-piece was last week presented to John Orrell, Esq., M.R.C.S., with the following inscription:—"Presented to Brother John Orrell, Esq., M.R.C.S., by the members of the Loyal Imperial Lodge No. 3353, and the Widow and Orphans Lodge No. 3254, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, M. U., Cheltenham District, as a token of esteem for his uniform kindness and attention to their sick brethren, and as a testimony of their appreciation of his character as an Odd Fellow and a gentleman.—July 28, 1857."

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the Diploma, were admitted members of the College at the meeting of the Court of Examiners on the 31st ult. :—

ARMSTRONG, DAVID JAMES, Brecon, South Wales.
BELCHER, PAUL, Burton-on-Trent.
BROADBENT, WM. HENRY, Longford, Huddersfield.
CHAMBRES, CHARLES, Denbigh, North Wales.
FOSTER, MICHAEL, Huntingdon.
GOLDSMITH, JOHN, West-end, Hambleton.
HEELIS, EDWARD, Limehouse.
HOGG, FRANCIS ROBERTS, Gower-street.
LAMBERT, HENRY STONE, Croydon-common, Surrey.
LEE, PERCY, Ramsgate.
LEESON, ROBERT HENRY, London.
ROBERTS, CHARLES, Gloucester-terrace, Hyde-park.
SCOTT, THOMAS ALEXANDER FRASER, Aberdeen.
SKAIFE, HENRY, Easingwold, Yorkshire.
WISE, THOMAS, Kent.

The following gentlemen were also admitted members on the 3rd inst. :—

DAVISON, GEORGE WM., Tynemouth.
FARRANT, MARK, Collumpton, Devon.
GRATTAN, JOHN SMITH, Belfast.
GRIFFIN, RICHARD WM. WAUDBY, Weymouth.
MCFALL, DAVID CHAMBERS, Belfast.
SHARP, CHRISTOPHER, Oldham.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise, on

Thursday, July 30th, 1857.

BROADBENT, HENRY, Longwood, Huddersfield.
CAREY, FRANCIS EDWARD, Guernsey.
HAZARD, JOSEPH, Litcham, Norfolk.
LOWE, JOHN, Sleaford, Lincolnshire.
ROBERTS, ROBERT, Festiniog.
ROSE, GEORGE COWPER, Melbourne.

UNIVERSITY AND KING'S COLLEGE, ABERDEEN.—The degree of M.D. was conferred on the following gentlemen, after examination in the various branches of medical science, on the 30th ult. :—

BETTS, GEORGE HARVEY, Watford, Herts.
COGAN, JOSEPH, London.
DAVIDSON, SAMUEL, Aberdeenshire.
DRAGE, CHARLES, Hatfield.
HATHERLY, NARCISSUS COLLINS, Plymouth.
HILTON, WILLIAM RICHARD, Whitehaven.
LEYS, ROBERT, Ellon.
NORTON, ALGERNON CHARLES WODEHOUSE, London.
REEVE, JOHN FOSTER, London.
STEPHEN, ALEXANDER, Aberdeenshire.
WILSON, JOHN, Whitby.

THE CONSUMPTION HOSPITAL IN VICTORIA-PARK.—Last Sunday morning a sermon was preached by the Lord Bishop of London, at the parish church of South Hackney, in aid of the funds of the Consumption Hospital in Victoria-park, Bethnal-green. A collection of nearly £70 was the result.

DEATH FROM AMYLENE.—There has been another death from the new anæsthetic, amylen. It occurred on Thursday last, at St. George's Hospital. Dr. Snow administered the agent. The patient was a man who had a fatty or some other benign tumour on the back, and it was in consequence of the operation about to be undertaken for its removal that the anæsthetic was administered. We are not yet informed what condition of the organs of circulation and respiration were discovered at the autopsy. This is now the second death from amylen. It is incumbent upon Dr. Snow to show that the proportion of deaths from amylen has not exceeded those from chloroform. The statistics are certainly narrow as yet, but we are very doubtful whether chloroform had *two* victims in so short a time and after so few experiments. We trust that a full report upon the subject will appear without delay, for some people are halting between two opinions, and the profession has an immediate interest in being able to judge of the comparative value of the rival anæsthetics.