

men who have studied elsewhere than at a university are desirous of obtaining a degree in medicine, which under present regulations they are unable to do until they are of an age at which its possession or not is of very little importance.

This it is sought to ameliorate by the change before referred to, and as it is very desirable that all who approve the movement shall sign the memorial, even if unable for a year or two to avail themselves of its privileges, I shall be glad to receive the names both of those who are now eligible for the degree, and also of those who, intending to graduate at Durham, have yet a few years to wait before they are of sufficient standing.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Leigh, Lancashire, April 28th, 1884. B. JONES, Hon. Sec.

\* \* We see little objection to the proposals of our Correspondent, provided that the character of the examination is maintained.—ED. L.

### THE ASSOCIATION OF MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you kindly insert in your next issue the enclosed copy of a letter addressed to the Hon. Sec. of the Association of Members of the Royal College of Surgeons.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Dorset-square, May 5th, 1884.

WILLIAM HICKMAN.

[COPY.]

To the Hon. Sec. of the Association of Members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

DEAR SIR,—Will you please withdraw my name from the Association of Members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. When you were kind enough to urge my joining the Committee of the proposed new Association, I understood that other Fellows of the College had consented to act on it, and that the Association would be representative of the Fellows and Members generally. Under present circumstances my presence on the Committee might be misconstrued, and I should be very sorry to take up a position which could, under any possibility, be considered as one of antagonism to the Fellows.—I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

WILLIAM HICKMAN, F.R.C.S. Eng.

1, Dorset-square, N.W., May 5th, 1884.

### SCARLET FEVER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have been surprised at some of the opening remarks of Mr. Cripps Lawrence in his discussion on Scarlet Fever at the Harveian Society of London, as reported in THE LANCET of the 3rd inst., p. 801. He speaks of the reproduction of the disease by the injection of scarlatinal blood into healthy animals, and the power of propagation possessed by the inoculated variety of the disease; and then he goes on to refer to "the chief characteristics of the scarlatinal poison," foremost among which he places "its volatility." As scarlet fever is a disease in which I have for many years taken much interest, I shall be greatly indebted to Mr. Cripps Lawrence if he will refer me to the evidence in support of his statements. I have repeatedly tried to produce scarlet fever in animals, and signally failed on every occasion—so signally that I have come to regard scarlet fever in animals as entirely different from the human disease. Then as to volatility being foremost among the characteristics of the scarlatinal poison, I take it that such information as we have regarding the poison all tends to indicate that it is particulate, and incapable of being volatilised without being destroyed.

I believe that scarlatina being ordinarily classed with measles, rōtheln, &c., is a mistake—it has little in common with such diseases. The diseases it is most closely allied to are diphtheria and idiopathic erysipelas. All three diseases are much influenced by insanitary surroundings, though all are contagious and they probably all may arise *de novo*, and the *post partum* state appears especially to attract them. In all, the incubation period is short.

I am, Sir, &c.,

FRANCIS VACHER.

Birkenhead Fever Hospital, May 7th, 1884.

### "THE VIRUS OF CHOLERA."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You refer in last week's issue to some investigations recently made by Dr. Vincent Richards on cholera virus, an inaccurate report of which has appeared in some papers. As you state, the true nature of Dr. Richards' experiments "has been misapprehended." They do not relate to the discovery of any bacillus, but to a poison of chemical nature. I have just received a letter from Dr. Richards in which he says, "I have just been rather successful in some investigations into the nature of choleraic alvine discharges. I find they contain a fearfully virulent poison. I will send you a reprint of my article on the subject. This confirms what Macnamara observed once in regard to the poisoning of several people who drank water containing choleraic discharges. The poison acts in a most marvellous manner on pigs."

When Dr. Richards sends me the promised article I shall have the pleasure to make a further communication on the subject. In the meantime this short statement may remove some doubts as to the nature of the investigations, which you, Sir, have properly apprehended to be of a chemical, and not of a bacillary, character.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

R. NORRIS WOLFENDEN.

Upper Wimpole-street, May 5th, 1884.

### SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF MEDICAL MEN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have just received my voting paper for the Royal Medical Benevolent College at Epsom, and find that out of seventy-three candidates, forty are said to have been left "unprovided for"—"totally," "entirely," or "wholly." Of this number of forty, nine might have been widows or children of members of the Society for Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men, the fathers living within a radius of twenty miles of Charing-cross, upon the payment of but two guineas a year, when their widows and orphans would have been entitled to some provision. It appears useless to attempt to help those who will not take the means of making some provision for their widows and children in case of early death. Not one in ten of those eligible as members of this Society avail themselves of its advantages. It cannot be wondered at that the profession are apathetic in their support.—I am, Sir, yours &c.,

May 3rd, 1884.

AN OLD MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY.

### NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

#### SEVERE SURGICAL CASE IN COLLIERY PRACTICE.

I HAVE seen a case here in the practice of Mr. F. F. May, surgeon to the Elswick Colliery in this city, which illustrates the serious nature of surgical cases met with among miners. Mr. May was called to see the case on the evening of March 27th last. A collier boy aged fifteen, in attempting to enter a cage, used for drawing up men and coals, while it was in motion, was dragged up by it before he had quite entered. The ulna and radius of the right arm were found to be fractured in the lower third; there was a compound comminuted fracture of the right tibia, and a simple fracture of the right fibula just above the external malleolus; the whole of the integuments encircling the right leg from the middle were torn off, with the entire sole of the foot. The integuments of the dorsum were found in the stocking which he was wearing, with all the toes. On the inner aspect of the left thigh was a large irregular-shaped wound, measuring in the long axis of the thigh five inches and a half; its widest breadth being five inches, narrowing to four inches and a half and three inches and a half; a large flap of the integument was nearly detached and reflected, which was loaded with