

scarcely credit that his lordship was cognisant of the Act. Reg. v. Baker was the precedent on which the Caxton magistrates convicted Dr. Hunter; and so the evil grows, and it is alarming even to contemplate what might be the latest development of Hunter v. Clare, unless some steps be taken, as Mr. Wilson suggests, either to review that decision or to render such a course unnecessary by further legislation.—I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

MAJOR GREENWOOD, M.D. Brux., LL.B. Lond.,
Barrister-at-law.

Hackney-road, N.E., May 29th, 1899.

THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION AND ITS MEDICAL STAFF.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The enclosed correspondence, arising from a misunderstanding in a class which I examined, is, I think, of some interest to the profession. The cause of, or responsibility for, the mistake is quite irrelevant to the point at issue, although I may say, in passing, that a request in other terms for an explanation would have produced a sufficient one.

Now that the Central Executive Committee of the St. John Ambulance Association have unanimously resolved that the expression "why you neglected your instructions—*under your eyes*" (the italics are mine) is not "offensive in tone" or "lacking in a reasonable amount of courtesy"—it is only fair that members of the medical profession should know what is the standard of courtesy at St. John's Gate and the kind of estimation in which the profession is held by the authorities there.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

May 29th, 1899. VALENTINE MATTHEWS.

[COPY.]

St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, London, E.C., April 18th, 1899.

DEAR SIR,—I have received your report on the — Institute with reply to my inquiry. In regard to the fact that — and — held both First Aid and nursing certificates, please explain why you neglected your instructions printed on page 3 in red ink under your eyes and omitted to re-examine these two candidates in both subjects. The consequence is that they will have to be examined again. A great deal of irritation has been caused at the — Institution, to say nothing of the annoyance and trouble given to myself.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Valentine Matthews. (Signed) HERBERT C. PERROTT.

[COPY.]

To the Right Hon. Viscount Knutsford, G.C.M.G., Director of
the Ambulance Department and Chairman of Com-
mittee, St. John Ambulance Association.

April 20th, 1899.

SIR,—I have received from Sir Herbert C. Perrott, chief secretary of the St. John Ambulance Association, a letter of which I enclose a copy referring to a mistake which occurred at a recent examination. The tone of the letter is, I consider, most offensive, and even if the mistake were entirely due to my fault—which I do not for one moment admit—I think I have a right to expect a reasonable amount of courtesy in communications from the chief secretary. If this were a private communication from Sir Herbert Perrott I should not hesitate about the method of dealing with it, but as it is an official letter from the chief secretary of the St. John Ambulance Association to one of its examiners a wider question is opened and I think it right to bring the letter to the notice of the committee of the association. I am not unaccustomed to discourtesy at the hands of the executive of the association, but I cannot think that it is the wish of the committee that a member of the medical profession who has done much gratuitous work for the association should be subjected to receiving a letter in such terms as the one which I complain of.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

VALENTINE MATTHEWS.

[COPY.]

St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, London, April 20th, 1899.

DEAR SIR,—With further reference to the examination conducted by you at the — Institute on the 28th ult. Mr. — is very much upset because I am unable, in consequence of your omission, to allow the final re-examination of — and —. The best way out of the difficulty appears to be that you should make an appointment with Mr. — of the — Institute to re-examine these two ladies in First Aid either at the — or at your house. Mr. — would require about a week or 10 days' notice of the time that would suit your convenience and would of course expect you to conduct this re-examination without charge.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) HERBERT C. PERROTT,
Chief Secretary, St. John Ambulance Association.

Dr. Valentine Matthews.

[COPY.]

To the Right Hon. Viscount Knutsford, G.C.M.G., Director of
the Ambulance Dept., and Chairman of Committee,
St. John Ambulance Association.

April 20th, 1899, 10 P.M.

SIR,—Since closing my letter to you of earlier to-day I have received a letter from the chief secretary of to-day's date suggesting a method

by which the mistake in question may be rectified. I may say that I am quite prepared to assist in any reasonable way to put right the difficulty and also, as the question of charge is mentioned by him, that as the greater part of my work for the association has been gratuitous, the question of fee is not a consideration with me. I venture to ask the committee, as it is impossible for me, for the present at least, to reply to any letters from the chief secretary, to so far favour me as to send any communications they may desire to make through a different channel.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

VALENTINE MATTHEWS.

From the Right Hon. Viscount Knutsford, Chairman of Com-
mittee, &c., St. John A. A., to Mr. Valentine Matthews.

[COPY.]

April 23rd, 1899.

SIR,—The two letters from Sir Herbert Perrott to yourself and your two letters to me have received my careful consideration. I need hardly say that Sir Herbert Perrott disclaims any intention of being discourteous to you and I must frankly add that I do not consider that either his letter of April 18th, which is the one most complained of, or his letter of the 20th are "offensive in tone" or lacking in "a reasonable amount of courtesy," though I regret that you should have felt hurt by them.

In the first letter Sir H. Perrott calls, as he was bound to call, for an explanation why the instructions—most clear in themselves and printed in red ink so as to ensure observation—were not acted upon. You must remember that considerable annoyance has been felt by the — Institution that owing to the non-observance of the instructions a re-examination has to take place, and it was only due to them as well as to ourselves to ask for an explanation. Sir Herbert Perrott refers to the annoyance and trouble given to himself and I am bound to say this reference is not unjustifiable, as you would yourself admit if you saw even a part of the correspondence that is caused by examiners not following the instructions. As to the second letter, Sir Herbert Perrott necessarily referred to the question of "charge," as he is stating what Mr. — of the — Institute would expect. He does not assume that you would make a charge for this "re-examination" nor is there any question raised by this as to your readiness to promote gratuitously ambulance work. I trust that after this explanation from myself as head of the department you will not think it desirable to press your request that the correspondence should be laid before the committee, but I am ready to do so should you still wish it.

I have only to add that all official letters of the association must be sent through the chief secretary.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) KNUTSFORD.

[COPY.]

To the Right Hon. Viscount Knutsford, G.C.M.G., Director, &c.,
St. John Ambulance Association.

April 24th, 1899.

SIR,—I am much obliged for your letter of yesterday's date, but regret that I cannot adopt the view that there is nothing offensive in the chief secretary's letter of the 18th which is the one I complain of. As the matter is one which affects the relationship of the chief secretary to the medical staff, and indirectly the attitude of the association towards the medical profession generally, I shall feel obliged if the correspondence is laid before the committee. The question of responsibility for the mistake does not affect the point which I have raised. I quite appreciate the fact that a mistake is likely to cause "irritation,..... annoyance, and trouble," but at the same time, as shown in the present case, the tone of a letter such as the one I complain of tends to intensify rather than diminish these feelings. I am unwilling, whosoever the mistake, that the candidates should suffer and have written to Mr. — with the view of arranging a convenient place and time for their further examination.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

VALENTINE MATTHEWS.

[COPY.]

St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, London, E.C., May 19th, 1899.

SIR,—I am requested by the chief secretary to inform you that at a meeting of the Central Executive Committee held here yesterday the following correspondence was read and considered: two letters from you to the director and chairman dated April 20th; one letter from you to the director and chairman dated April 24th; copies of letters from the chief secretary to you dated April 18th and 20th. Copy of a letter from the director and chairman to you dated April 23rd.

It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously resolved that the committee sees no reason to depart from the opinion already expressed by Viscount Knutsford, the director and chairman, in his lordship's letter dated April 23rd.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) WM. R. EDWARDS, Accountant and Storekeeper.
Valentine Matthews, Esq., M.R.C.S.

"FEES TO MEDICAL WITNESSES AT ASSIZES AND SESSIONS."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—For some years past efforts have been made by the council of the United Kingdom Police Surgeons' Association to secure better fees for those who have to attend as medical witnesses in the police, the sessions, and the assize courts. We find that in the police or magistrates' court the practice varies. In all cases committed for trial the medical witness is paid the inadequate fee of half-a-guinea each day (before the magistrate) after the case has been tried at the sessions or assizes. When the case is summarily disposed of by the magistrate the medical witness is paid half-a-guinea (each case, not each day) in some places. In Leeds and Leicester the