

His Lordship also considers that graduates of any of the universities are entitled by their education and attainments to the right of voting. The same argument applies with equal force to solicitors possessing certificates and to Fellows and Members of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, by virtue merely of their education and attainments.

I have only time to throw out these hints for the consideration of my medical brethren. It may be long ere they have another favourable opportunity of urging their just claims to representation in the legislature.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

Much Wenlock, Feb. 1854.

W. P. BROOKES, M.R.C.S.E.

* * We shall offer some remarks on this subject in a leading article next week.—Ed. L.

THE MEDICAL REFORM BILL AND QUALIFIED ASSISTANTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—At the meeting of the South London Medical Association, I was happy to see Mr. Rugg drawing the attention of the profession to the great evil of medical men employing unqualified assistants.

As I trust a Medical Reform Bill will pass this session for the protection of medical men in practice, so I trust that a clause will be inserted for the protection of the qualified assistant—without such no Reform Bill can be complete. The evil is so apparent that any comment on my part will be unnecessary. But, Mr. Editor, can we not obtain the aid of your powerful pen, or are there no spirited qualified assistants in London or elsewhere to rally us on to obtain rights, the justness of which no one I think can question. For my part, if funds are wanted, I shall be happy to come forward with my mite, and I have no doubt that numbers will be found to assist in rooting up this hot-bed of quackery.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Feb. 1854.

A COUNTRY QUALIFIED ASSISTANT.

THE CROYDON POISONING CASES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My attention has been directed to an article in THE LANCET of Saturday last, which is calculated to reflect upon my character and injure me in the opinion of my professional brethren.

Had it appeared in a local paper, where the facts are fully known, I should not have thought it necessary to notice the matter; but as your *ex parte* statement must have a wide circulation, and Mr. Bottomley having asserted (on application) that he has furnished you with a full report of the proceedings, in justice to myself I am compelled to request that you will publish the evidence, *in extenso*, with Professor Taylor's report of the analysis. This, I feel convinced, will fully justify the opinion I have given, and I ask no further vindication.

I am, Sir, your's obediently,

Croydon, Feb. 1854.

EDWARD WESTALL.

* * This note did not arrive at our office until after twelve o'clock on Thursday, when it was impossible to comply, even in part, with Mr. Westall's request. In THE LANCET of next week we will endeavour to do Mr. Westall the justice he requires; but we cannot undertake to publish the full account of the proceedings that appeared in the local papers, or Mr. Carpenter's report.—Ed. L.

THE ROYAL MATERNITY CHARITY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I should have done myself the pleasure ere this of noticing your observations in reference to the Royal Maternity Charity, but by the advice of my friends have abstained from doing so, feeling assured with them that the object of those who have taken so much pains to place this matter before the public in a *false point of view*, both by *deliberate misrepresentations*, and unfounded charges, was not in any way to benefit the Charity, but solely to gratify *personal spite*.

As I am resolved, however, to meet manfully and unhesitatingly, the result of the most rigid inquiry into all the circumstances involved, I shall place the matter in question in the hands of the committee, in the fullest confidence that ample justice will be awarded me.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

New Broad-street, Feb. 1854.

THOMAS LEIGH BLUNDELL.

POOR-LAW EXTRA FEES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Since writing the letter published in THE LANCET of the 11th inst., I have received a communication from the Board of Guardians, in which the following sentence occurs:—

"The following is an extract from a note by the Secretary of the Poor-law Board on Art. 177 of the General Consolidated Order, showing what cases are not to be paid for as extras, and by which the Guardians are guided—viz., 'Fractures of the ribs, clavicle, scapula, acromion, elbow, carpus, metacarpus, fingers, or thumbs.'"

Now, Sir, can anything be more unfair or more ridiculous? Fractures of the bones of the arm are to be paid for as extras, but so soon as fractures of the self-same bones become most difficult, from their complication with joints, they are no longer to be considered as extras! Why does not the Poor-law Board carry its exceptions a little farther, and include the bones of the lower extremity also? Surely such a law as this needs but little comment.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Iver, Feb. 1854.

WILLIAM ATKINSON.

Military and Naval Intelligence.

EAST INDIA SERVICE.

BENGAL.—Surg. T. Anderson, M.D., from 72nd to 13th N.I. at Dinapore, with effect from Dec. 31; Assist.-surg. A. R. Atkinson, M.D., removed from 63rd to 39th N.I., to continue in medical charge of the former corps until relieved by Assist.-surg. Moore; Assist.-surg. A. Bell, M.D., made over charge of duties of surgeon to residency at Nagpore to Assist.-surg. Hende, 10th Madras N.I.; Assist.-surg. J. C. Cape, horse artillery, Peshawur, to assume medical charge of 3rd company of 1st battalion of artillery, and No. 17 light field battalion of artillery, and proceed towards Sealcote; Assist.-surg. J. E. Cathcart, 5th N.I., to afford medical aid to 1st troop of 2nd and 1st troop of 3rd brigade of horse artillery, Lahore, making over medical charge of 5th to Assist.-surg. C. K. Webb; Assist.-surg. F. J. Chaldecott, to do duty in artillery hospital at Dum Dum; Surg. H. Clark, artillery, to medical charge of 4th L.C.; Assist.-surg. J. J. Clarke, doing duty in 5th N.I., passed colloquial examination in Hindustani, Dec. 15; to be civil assistant-surgeon of Bijnore; Assist.-surg. J. J. Cole to do duty in H.M.'s depôt hospital at Kurrachee, Dec. 1; Assist.-surg. J. D. Crawford to afford medical aid to 10th L.C.; Assist.-surg. J. M. Cunningham, medical charge of artillery, to assume duties of 2nd troop of 2nd brigade of horse artillery, and staff of division (Lahore), during absence of Mackinnon; left wing of 2nd battalion of artillery, Lahore, for Mackinnon; Assist.-surg. W. F. B. Dalzel, M.D., to medical charge of artillery at Cawnpore; Assist.-surg. A. J. Gee to receive medical charge of 39th N.I. from Assist.-surg. Moore; Assist.-surg. W. R. Gerrard to be surgeon; Assist.-surg. J. B. Harrison, 5th Punjab cavalry, to afford medical aid to left wing of 3rd Punjab cavalry, 4th or police battalion, 5th and 6th companies of 6th police battalion, and No. 2 Punjab light field battalion; G. W. Hemming to be sub-assistant-surgeon of Etah, Dec. 16; Vet. Surg. J. R. Hoey, 1st brigade of horse artillery, to afford professional aid to horses belonging to No. 5 light field battalion, arrived from Bareilly from the annual practice, Dec. 9; Surg. J. Inglis, M.D., permitted to retire from the service of the Company on a pension of £250 from Dec. 31, 1853; Surg. K. W. Kirk, M.D., artillery, to medical charge of civil and gaol establishments, and staff of the station of Ferozepore; Assist.-surg. R. C. Knight, M.D., to assist medical charge of head quarters, and 2nd company of 6th battalion of artillery; Surg. W. J. Loch, 27th N.I., to afford medical aid to head quarters, and 2nd company of 6th battalion of artillery; Surg. J. M'Rae, 8th L.C., to relieve Assist.-surg. Gee from medical charge of 39th N.I.; the latter officer will rejoin his own corps; Surg. A. M. M'L. Minto from 39th to 72nd N.I. at Barrackpore; Assist.-surg. G. E. Morton, M.D., 9th irregular cavalry, to medical charge of 51st N.I., for Surg. Shillito, proceeding on leave; Assist.-surg. J. A. Nisbet, 18th irregular cavalry, to afford medical aid to gaol and civil establishments at Jhelum, vice Johnson, resigned; J. Norval to be medical officer of Sylhet; Assist.-surg. S. B. Partridge, attached to 18th Royal Irish, to proceed to Midnapore, and relieve Assist.-surg. J. H. Jones; Surg. A. Reid, artillery, to officiate as superintending surgeon of cis-Ravee circle, vice Greig, to resume medical charge of staff and civil duties,