

acknowledged position as the most highly professionally-educated men in the United Kingdom, and provides for the elevation of the future body of medical practitioners to one uniform standard. At the same time, Sir, urge upon the legislature the necessity which exists for a legal enactment—not to prohibit practitioners of medicine from dispensing their own prescriptions, (which in rural districts must be done by the medical man,) but to prohibit him from receiving payment through this hurtful channel. Reform will then commence naturally, and a brighter day will dawn on the profession of medicine in this country.

I am, Sir,
A (DISOWNED) M.R.C.S.L.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England do not feel themselves in the necessity of asking permission to be tacked on to the skirt of any institution. They are well pleased with the old-fashioned respectability of their College, and desire neither to be engulfed in a frightful incorporation of general practitioners of medicine, surgery, and midwifery, nor to be indulged with admittance within the portals of a juvenile and precocious university. Regretting as they do the late unsanctioned changes in the charter of their College, they still desire to retain their connexion with it, as that institution with which from early study and association they have become identified.

As regards their own position, the present members have little to fear or hope for from change of any kind, the majority having already taken their places in the social fabric. But they wish to see the respectability of the profession maintained and secured; and while desirous of avoiding exclusiveness on the one hand, they expect, on the other, that every man who would associate with them on equal terms, and enjoy a community of privileges, will be able to produce his diploma from one of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of England, Edinburgh, or Dublin, as well as a medical diploma or licence. While they claim for themselves the title of Surgeon, they leave to those who profess to practise "pure" or special surgery, the selection of their own appellation. But they will not part with that to which they have been bred up and are legally entitled—viz., the rank and title of surgeons.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
A BROTHER MEMBER.

Nov. 1848.

MEDICAL FEES AT ASSURANCE OFFICES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You have been pleased, in your late notice of life assurance companies, to distinguish the British Mutual as one recognising the principle of medical remuneration. May I trespass on your valuable time by asking you to peruse the enclosed printed form and letter. I received the latter from the secretary of the above Society, in consequence of my having declined answering "the questions" without a fee.

Your obedient servant,
W. B. KELLOCK.

Abney-villas, Church-street, Stoke-Newington,
January 31, 1849.

P.S.—I have seen my patient within the last few days, who tells me that he appeared before the board, and that his life was insured, I may add, without "troubling me any further in the matter."

British Mutual Life Assurance Society, New Bridge-street,
Blackfriars, January 2, 1849.

SIR,—In reply to your favour of the 29th ultimo, I beg to say that it always has been the practice of this office to "remunerate medical referees for their report in all cases referred to them," as is stated in the prospectus enclosed to you.

The fee we pay is 10s. 6d., where the assurance is for an amount under £1000, but as I believe that Mr. — will himself appear before our own medical officers at the board this day, I expect I need not trouble you further in the matter.

Apologizing for the trouble I have given you,
I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
CHARLES JAMES THICKE.

W. B. Kellock, Esq., Church-street, Stoke-Newington.

PRIVILEGES OF COLLEGE LICENTIATES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you allow me to ask you whether those of the extra-urban licentiates who have never obtained a diploma of M.D. at any university, are entitled to call themselves doctors of medicine, and to put such a title on their visiting-cards, &c.?

What an extraordinary set of men must the acting men of the London College of Physicians be! for whilst they reject such a man as Dr. Crisp, they have allowed a number of general practitioners in the country suddenly to metamorphose themselves into *soi-disant* M.D.'s, and to go on practising a mongrel practice, neither physician, surgeon, nor apothecary, but all three in one. Thus are some of us country practitioners lorded over by men who, not having graduated at any university, have, like ourselves, practised always as general practitioners, till the London College of Physicians chose to open wide their gates to extra-urbans. If inquiry were made, in many a case would it be found that the extra-urban man practises still as he always did—that is, as a general practitioner—but self-dignified (?) with the title of doctor in addition. Wherefore I have written to ask the question above stated. Do the extra-urban examination and licence confer the right of M.D. just the same as if such person had studied and graduated at some university? If so, it was not so formerly, I think, for if the extra-urban had not been an M.D. before his examination in London, he remained a simple Mr. as before.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
London, Feb. 1849. A WOULD-BE CORRECTOR OF ABUSES.

TREATMENT OF GONORRHOEA IN THE FEMALE.

[NOTE FROM DR. DE MERIC.]

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I had almost made up my mind to leave Dr. Mayne's attacks without a reply, as wrangling cannot answer any scientific end. The question at issue has been handled in a masterly and gentlemanly manner by Dr. Egan in his various letters; and as regards my personal share in the matter, I hold it useless to follow up a rational discussion with one who is so easily maddened into invective and abuse as Dr. Mayne. Had I had the slightest notion that a member of a liberal profession (even were I in the wrong) could have debased his pen by such unworthy language as seems familiar to Dr. Mayne, I would carefully have shunned a controversy from which I retire with disgust.

I remain, Sir, yours much obliged,
Upper Baker-street, Regent's-park,
February 12, 1849. VICTOR DE MERIC.

CONVENTION OF POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

Office, 4, Hanover-square, February 14th, 1849.

SIR,—I am requested by the Committee to draw your attention to the general meeting of Poor-law Medical Officers, appointed to take place at the Hanover-square Rooms, on Monday, the 19th instant, at three o'clock precisely, on the subject of parochial medical relief; and to inform you that every facility will be afforded to gentlemen of the press, who may attend on that occasion.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HERBERT WILLIAMS, Assistant-Secretary.

Medical News.

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

February 1st, 1849.

BARRATT, OGLETHORPE WAKELIN, Birmingham.
KING, FRANCIS TURNER WELBY, Melton Mowbray.
RICHARDSON, FELIX WEEKES, Banbury.
WOODFORD, WILLIAM THOMAS GARRETT.

CHOLERA: QUESTION OF CONTAGION.—A Kentish paper lately informed us that the children removed from Tooting to the Asylum at Margate, were about to be sent to their parish, St. Mary, Newington. A controversy has been carried on in the local papers, as to the contagiousness or non-contagiousness of the disease, and our correspondent, Mr. Waddington, has, on a late occasion, thus expressed himself:—

"With regard to the two fatal cases of Asiatic cholera, which have lately occurred among the adults at Perry's Invalid Pauper Establishment, the Wilderness, near this town, I am firmly of opinion, that the disease was not taken from the children removed from Drouet's Pauper Establishment at Tooting, but was generated at the Wilderness; and that the exciting causes were—the impurity of confined air, want of cleanliness, and the bad smell of the patients, acting upon debilitated constitutions."

In another communication he has remarked—

"If it be true that, as the law stands at present, there appears