

limb, rendered it necessary first to alter the positions of the bandages and splints, and, secondly, to remove them altogether. After the active stages of the fever terminated, its sequelæ from the worst form of scarlatina ensued; excessive debility was apparent; the vital powers greatly weakened; some of the excoriations became irritable sores, and, notwithstanding soft cushions, and bladders partly filled with air were used, the ulcers, for a time, continued to extend, and their condition was much aggravated by the continued fecal and urinary discharges. The poor child was a great sufferer; and the father, contrary to the established rule of the hospital, was permitted to visit her three or four times a day. When she had been in the hospital between six and seven weeks, he complained that she had been kept in a dirty state, and expressed a determination to remove her, and, on the 22nd of May, before eight in the morning, he did remove her to his own habitation, about 300 yards from the hospital. On the afternoon of the same day he conveyed the child to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and she entered that establishment about three, and was admitted under the care of Mr. Stanley. Two nurses from St. Bartholomew's Hospital stated that she was in an extremely dirty state on her arrival there; but Mr. Stanley noticed nothing of the kind. She was placed on a water bed, by direction of that gentleman; and she was not treated for the fracture by Mr. Stanley, union having already taken place. Yet Quelch, in his evidence, declared on oath, that the limb, when the patient was removed, swung about like a flail. Still it is a fact, as proved by the testimony of Mr. Stanley, that she was not treated for fracture at St. Bartholomew's Hospital; and Mr. Lowe, the then house-surgeon there, and who, we regret to state, was prevented from attending the court by illness, confirms Mr. Stanley's evidence, and positively asserts, that the broken ends of the bone had united before the girl was admitted into St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Having remained at that institution during a period of seventeen weeks, she was discharged. The child now appears to be in good health, and walks so well that a casual observer would scarcely discover any imperfection in her step. Immediately after the child's removal to St. Bartholomew's, Quelch began to complain of her treatment at the Royal Free Hospital. He alleged that she had been kept in a filthy state; that the nurses had neglected their duty; that *syphilis* had been communicated to her by means of foul sponges and bandages. He complained of Dr. Peacock, a most able and conscientious physician; he complained of Mr. Jackson, a skilful and assiduous house-surgeon. But neither at that time nor until long afterwards did he utter one word of accusation against Mr. T. H. Wakley. After the verdict of the jury, it is almost needless to observe that the charges he made against Dr. Peacock, Mr. Jackson, and the nurses, were entirely unfounded. Quelch next embodied his slanderous allegations in a pamphlet. He admitted before the jury that he was well acquainted with the Rev. Dr. Worthington, a discarded chaplain of the Royal Free Hospital; and Quelch stated also that he knew a person of the name of *Healey*, who had been connected with the *Medical Times*. He admitted that he had sent a man to walk the streets with placards, headed "Caution to Parents," whereon the name of the defendant was printed in conspicuous characters. He also attended before the hospital committee, to make his charges, but whilst there, not a word was heard from him against Mr. Wakley. All his efforts failed, and he got no money. Next he got, with the aid of his literary friends, his vile pamphlet copied into two or three newspapers. Still he got no money. Then he was introduced to a solicitor, and brought his action *in formâ pauperis*. A letter was next addressed to the defendant by Quelch's solicitor, offering to refer the case to the arbitration of three surgeons. The offer was promptly accepted by the defendant, who, however, denied that there was anything to arbitrate. The plaintiff's solicitor then ran from his own proposition, and next offered to submit the matter in dispute to arbitration before a barrister. That offer was also accepted, and again abandoned by the proposer. Still Quelch got no money.

At last the cause is heard in the Court of Queen's Bench, and Quelch repeats, on oath, the disgusting tale and trash printed in his pamphlet; but at last the touchstone of truth is applied to him—he is cross-examined by the attorney-general, and the result is known. Not a surgeon could be found to swear that the case was wrongly treated, or that the cure is a bad one.

Mr. Stanley, who was called as a witness for the plaintiff, gave the most unequivocal and decided evidence in favour of the defendant, whose conduct in the treatment of the child was also justified by the clear and decisive testimony of Dr. Peacock, Mr. Gay, and Mr. Jackson, the colleagues of the de-

fendant at the Royal Free Hospital; and by Sir Benj. Brodie, Mr. Guthrie, Mr. Bransby Cooper, and Mr. Hancock, who had been subpoenaed for the defendant, all of whom declared that the treatment had been right; and that, taking into consideration the situation of the fracture and the attack of scarlet fever, the cure was a good one.

After such testimony had been given by such distinguished men, it is not surprising that the jury, without quitting the box, returned a verdict for the defendant; and that the announcement of the verdict should be received with plaudits by a crowded court.

We have omitted to observe, that, in opening the case, Mr. Serjeant Wilkins made a very fair and temperate address, and that the attorney-general, in stating the case of the defendant, was peculiarly eloquent and impressive. Mr. Serjeant Wilkins, in his reply, spoke with much energy, and some point; and, as usual, attacked the medical profession.

We have also omitted to notice, that the jury wished to stop the cause, by expressing themselves satisfied relative to the treatment of the patient. Thus, the cause is over, and still Quelch has got no money. Whether the persons whom he has called his "good backers" have given him any for being their tool, we know not; but we strongly suspect, that the claims upon them elsewhere leave them little to bestow, even upon so deserving an instrument.

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### Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

#### ON THE REWARDS TO CHOLERA DOCTORS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I read with much gratification, in THE LANCET for Nov. 17, that their high and due appreciation of Dr. Ayre's medical attendance on the subjects of cholera, at Hull, has induced the governor and guardians of the poor to vote him £100, in addition to their verbal acknowledgments of his assiduous services, and of the ability which he displayed as superintendant of the medical staff, in that city, during the late epidemic. It redounds much to their proper sense of feeling; and it is probable that the boards of guardians in other localities may be, or may have been, induced to testify their estimation of the exertions of their medical officers in a similar way. Large sums of money were collected on the day of thanksgiving, and have been subscribed by charitable persons for the relief of those families that have suffered by the devastating influence of the recent pestilence, and it has been suggested that a portion of that money might be well employed for medical remuneration. Far be it, however, from me, Sir, to deprive the poor of one farthing of the inadequate compensation which money can bring to those widows and orphans who have lately been bereaved of the husbands and fathers to whom they looked for their protection and support. I am fully sensible of their distress, and deeply sympathize with them in their affliction—it mocks the power of language to describe it! But, when we reflect on all the anxiety which medical men underwent, on the unremitting efforts which they made, on the perils which they incurred, on the fatigue which they endured, and on the slender remuneration which they received, it occurs to me—it must occur to every one—that a further and a substantial tribute is due for their meritorious and unflinching labour. Some, as is well known, not only risked their lives, but lost them in the service; and their widows and families are probably suffering in a similar ratio from the loss. Thirteen crosses of the Legion of Honour (I see by THE LANCET of Nov. 17) have been bestowed on various medical men practising in Paris, as an acknowledgment of their services in the same cause, and the military surgeons have likewise shared in the gratitude of the French government!

Why then, should the English, (so justly celebrated as they are for liberality and a sense of justice) withhold, and why should English practitioners forego, their merited reward? Why should not the English government evince a corresponding generosity; and thus, without abstracting from the poor one farthing of the money subscribed for their relief, award a sum to each Board of Guardians for their distribution amongst those medical practitioners who merit the memento? Commit this proposal to your pages, in the hope that it may meet the eye of some well-disposed and influential persons, who, imbued with a sense of its justice, may distinguish themselves by bringing it before the proper authorities; and thus not only reward the medical officers for their past, but encourage

them to the cheerful employment of their future labours, should it please God to visit this nation with a renewal of the affliction.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
Chelmsford, 1849. J. C. BADELEY, M.D. Cantab.

P.S.—A resident in Jersey assured me that on the cholera appearing in that island, the "States," that is, the public treasury, immediately ordered that one guinea per day should be given from their fund to each of the medical men who should be employed in arresting its ravages, together with an unlimited order on the fund for brandy or other stimulants and nourishment, which, in their judgment, the subjects of the disease might require.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In THE LANCET of Nov. 24th, a letter appears, signed J. W. Jones, Eldon-place, Vauxhall, complaining of the inadequate remuneration for his services, in assisting the regular medical officer of the fifth district of the parish of Lambeth, during three months of the late epidemic, and personally alluding to me as one of the guardians: the private conversation I have had with him I shall not notice except, regretting his allusion to it in his letter. Cholera visited Lambeth severely, more so than Mr. Jones anticipated, or he would not have consented to assist in attending the poor of that district for three months, for the sum of thirty pounds. He complains, now, of his own want of foresight, and illiberality of the board of guardians; his agreement with them was two pounds seven shillings per week, for three months: they have paid him five guineas per week for the three months, or, sixty-eight pounds five shillings, instead of thirty pounds. Can that be called illiberal—more than double his contract! And this is not the solitary case where pounds, shillings, and pence outvie the honourable and humane feeling of medical men, whose services were called into action through the late epidemic.

Now to the heading of that letter, "Rewards to the Cholera Doctors."

The board of guardians of the parish of Lambeth have paid, during the four months of the late epidemic—viz., July, August, September, and October,—for extra medical attendance, only the sum of one thousand six hundred and sixteen pounds, fourteen shillings, and seven pence, (bear in mind, reader, there are poor as well as rich rate-payers,) in addition to which, their usual staff consists of eight district medical officers, and one for the workhouse, receiving, conjointly, about twelve hundred pounds per annum.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

Lower Kennington-lane, Dec. 1849.

JOHN BUSHELL.

## CAUSES OF THE SOUNDS OF THE HEART.

[LETTER FROM DR. STOKES, OF DUBLIN.]

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My attention has just been drawn to a communication addressed to you by Mr. Brakyn, in THE LANCET of Nov. 24, entitled, "An Experimental Inquiry into the Causes of the Sounds of the Heart, Confirmatory of the Views of Dr. Billing."

Mr. Brakyn is perfectly correct in his statement, that I examined his apparatus, and witnessed his demonstration of the causes of the sounds of the heart, and also that I introduced him to the class of the Meath Hospital, and begged him to explain his method. I did this in order to excite inquiry, and with a desire of honouring every man who devotes himself to original investigation; but he has misunderstood the observations I then made, for I did not admit the conclusiveness of the experiment, particularly with reference to the first sound. On this point I certainly never expressed myself as Mr. Brakyn represents me to have done.

I do not in the most remote degree accuse Mr. Brakyn of any wilful misrepresentation, of which I believe him to be incapable.

There is another point in Mr. Brakyn's letter which I must take leave to correct. It is, that in cases of softening of the heart in typhus fever the impulse is found, on the recovery of the patient, to return with considerable energy, but unaccompanied for some days by any sounds, and in some instances by the second only. In the investigations which I have published on the state of the heart in typhus fever, I have shown that in a few cases a returning impulse is perceptible before the development of the first sound; but the statement, that the heart may act with considerable energy for days, without producing any sounds, is altogether opposed to fact.

I have the honour to remain, Sir, your obedient servant,  
Dublin, Dec. 8, 1849. WILLIAM STOKES.

## THE COMING CHARTER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It is disagreeable to play the part of a killjoy, and to throw cold water upon a general jubilee; but I must say, it appears to me, that the exulting tone of your last two or three numbers, in reference to the proceedings of the College of Surgeons, is hardly borne out by the facts of the case. Depend upon it, we are far enough yet from the medical millennium.

After all, what is the scheme proposed? What does the great "concession" consist of, which is to satisfy "thousands" of the insulted members? Is it a new Charter, to do away with the injustice that was enacted in 1843? Nothing of the sort. It is merely an application to the Crown for leave to make another batch of fellows, selected out of those members who are now of twenty years' standing; and the object of it is to admit to the fellowship a "limited number," chiefly of army surgeons, the claims of that body having been unfairly overlooked in making out the original lists. There is no provision contemplated for the relief of the members generally, nor any thought whatever of opening a way to the fellowship for those who shall not yet have completed the vicissimal period. The conditions attached will not avail them *seriatim*, as year after year they attain the required seniority; and the member of nineteen years will, when the Charter is made out, be no nearer to the fellowship than he is at this moment.

Pray do not let your readers be deceived in this matter, for I have reason to know that a great deal of misunderstanding prevails with regard to it. Mr. Guthrie always told us that he would take care of the old army surgeons, but would not trouble himself about anybody else. The rest of the members must fight their own battle. He has kept his word. Will the members do their duty?

I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,

THE WRITER OF "A FEW WORDS ON  
THE FELLOWSHIP."

December, 1849.

## THE PROPOSED CHARTER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As the late decision of the Council of the College of Surgeons of England, to reconsider the charter, and to apply for an amended one, is very generally ascribed to your influence as a journalist, I address you, that the subject may be fully considered by the fellows and members at large. Whether the means by which some of the council think advisable to add twenty thousand pounds to their funds will be also the means of satisfying the members generally, is a subject I shall not at present enter upon. But what I wish principally to draw the attention of yourself and the surgeons of this country to, is the absolute necessity of taking care that no alteration be made in the late charter before such alterations are fully made public. I think no one will disagree with me in thinking, that the late heartburnings and bickerings might in a great measure have been avoided, had the council made public the late alterations in the constitution of the college, previous to the Crown granting the new charter. I wish here to call upon the fellows and members to take early means of memorializing Sir George Grey, that he do not recommend the Queen to grant any amended charter to the College of Surgeons, before the profession shall have had an opportunity of making themselves acquainted with the proposed alterations. With regard to such alterations, I wish to draw your attention, and to request your assistance in bringing before the public, what I think is required to be altered in the constitution of the council. When the council undertook lately to reform the constitution of the college, they forgot to make any reforms with regard to themselves, all members of the council and the Court of Examiners being allowed to hold their places for life, (a most vicious principle,) when the new members were only to be elected for a limited period. The following are what I consider should be the groundwork of any alterations:—

1. All members of the council to retire in rotation, and to be eligible for re-election, as are the new members.

2. All members of the Court of Examiners to be appointed for a limited period only. The present number, ten, to be reduced to seven, (six and the president, *ex officio*,) three of that number not to be members of council; the salary of the members to be fixed, say £400 a year, (of late years, the emoluments of the examiners have varied from £300 to £500 a year.) By this means about £1000 a year will be saved—a most desirable end at the present moment, when the expenditure so far exceeds the income, and prevent the necessity of reducing the number of the anatomical students