

position. But while the Army Warrant has been so far changed as to affect all assistant surgeons promoted *in future*, a far more sweeping change is about to take place in the Navy: rank, uniform pay, pensions to widows, in fact all the advantages granted by her Majesty in Council two years ago to all classes of medical officers, are to be withdrawn, and, unlike the Army, the changes are to be *retrospective*. I trust, Sir, that you will point out to your student readers these gross breaches of faith; how little confidence can be placed even in her Majesty's Orders in Council; and how cautious they should be in entering these services. When there was a scarcity of medical officers privileges were granted them; now, owing to cessation of war, the market being somewhat glutted, the authorities, with a very short-sighted cunning, withdraw them, or rather attempt to do so; for I feel certain that the profession and the country will not allow of so gross a breach of faith.

I am, Sir, I am sorry to say,

May, 1861.

ONE OF THE DUPED.

ARMY SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I regret to see that the Army Medical Warrant of the 28th March, 1861, directs that army assistant-surgeons promoted after the 28th March, 1861, are to rank with majors, *but junior of that rank*.

The Warrant of the 1st October, 1858, directed that surgeons should rank with majors according to the date of their commissions. The new Warrant says that surgeons promoted *before* the 28th March, 1861, are to continue to rank with majors according to the dates of their commissions. At first sight some might think that this was so far fair, and certainly it is so, but at the same time it is not sufficiently so.

All the assistant-surgeons who entered the army between the 1st October, 1858, and the 28th March, 1861, did so on the faith of the Warrant of October, 1858, and they have a clear and distinct right, when they are promoted to be surgeons, to rank with majors according to the dates of their commissions, and not according to the new and offensive plan of being junior of that rank. The new plan cannot, in fairness, be made to bear, except on those who are so foolishly confiding as to enter as assistant surgeons *after* the 28th of March, 1861.

It is strange that some parties have so soon forgotten the Crimean disasters, that they take an uncalled-for step to injure and weaken an important and necessary department. Those persons who have advised this slight and affront to the medical officers seem not to have observed that they have recommended the Government to be guilty of a breach of faith towards all those who entered as assistant-surgeons between the 1st of October, 1858, and the 28th of March, 1861.

I hope that not only will the above omission be rectified, but, further, that the new Warrant will be rescinded, and the Warrant of October, 1858, allowed to stand as a proof of the respectability and honesty of the British Government.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

April, 1861.

COMMON HONESTY.

DIFFICULT POSITION OF THE HEAD IN TWIN LABOUR.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The case related by Dr. Timothy Pollock at the meeting of the Obstetrical Society, held on the 3rd, and reported in THE LANCET of the 16th inst., is so similar to the case which occurred in my practice about five years ago, that I feel induced to send you the following scant particulars:—

Mrs. M—, aged twenty-four, in her first pregnancy, sent for me at noon, when I found the os uteri dilated about the size of a half-crown. As the patient lived within a few yards of my residence, I left, directing that I should be sent for on a change taking place. I did not see her again until six o'clock P.M., when the liquor amnii escaped, the breech presenting. In about two hours the body came down, great difficulty being experienced in getting down the arms; but as the resistance was very great and the child dead, I did not hurry the delivery. The head and neck now remaining stationary, all justifiable force was used to no effect; and on passing the hand very high up in front of the neck, which was very much stretched, and appeared to go beyond the head which blocked up the pelvis, I felt the chin and head *above* the brim of the pelvis; but looking in front of the neck, I detected the head to be that of a second child, with its jaw hooked upon the jaw of the child already nearly born. By this time eleven o'clock

elapsed, and I requested the aid of another practitioner; but before his arrival, in about twenty minutes, the *head of the last child came first, followed by that of the first*. The second child came down shortly afterwards, lively and well.

I remain, Sir, yours, &c.,

Rotherhithe, April, 1861.

J. J. CREGG, M.D.

LEEDS MEDICAL PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.

THE gentlemen whose names are signed below will feel obliged if the Editor of THE LANCET will insert the following communication:—

The subjoined practitioners, whose names appear in a report in THE LANCET of April 20th of a pretended meeting in Leeds on the 15th of April, think it due to themselves and to the profession to disclaim all knowledge of such meeting and of the origin of the report.

But they must at the same time express their regret that such a circular as that of which a copy is given in the report, and the publication of which is avowed by Dr. Braithwaite in his letter in THE LANCET of April 27th, should have emanated from any qualified member of the profession.

GEORGE WILSON, M.B. Cantab.

CHARLES CHADWICK, M.D.

J. D. HEATON, M.D.

R. G. HARDWICK, M.D.

SAMUEL SMITH, F.R.C.S.

JOSEPH PRINCE GARLICK, F.R.C.S.

JOSEPH TEALE, M.R.C.S.

SAMUEL HEY, F.R.C.S.

B. EDWARD HOLWELL, M.R.C.S.E.

HENRY CHORLEY, M.R.C.S.

THOMAS NUNNELEY, F.R.C.S.E.

GEORGE MORLEY, M.R.C.S.

April 30th, 1861.

THE DENTAL HOSPITAL OF LONDON.

ON Thursday, April 25th, a dinner was held in aid of the funds of this institution, at the Albion Hotel, Aldersgate-street, to which 140 gentlemen sat down. Professor Owen, F.R.S., took the chair, supported by Mr. Beresford Hope, M.P., Dr. Mayo, Mr. Thos. Bell, F.R.S., and many influential members of the profession.

Professor OWEN, on giving the usual loyal toasts, incidentally mentioned, as a proof of the general interest taken by the Royal family in the cause of science, that Prince Alfred had sent home from the Cape of Good Hope specimens of natural history, obtained during his recent visit there, upon which he (Prof. Owen) was now engaged.

Mr. BERESFORD HOPE, M.P., in returning thanks for the toast of the Universities, expressed the great pleasure it had given him to have been the instrument in carrying through Parliament the Bill which had placed the dental profession upon an equal footing with their medical brethren. He felt the greatest interest in the success of the Dental Hospital; and had a firm conviction that the school in connexion with it for the education of students, and the museum appropriated for the use of the lecturers, would prove of great value in the promotion of science. The official recognition of the Dental Hospital by the College of Surgeons during the past year, and the large increase in the number of pupils, afforded the highest testimony to its efficiency. He sincerely wished it prosperity, and felt every confidence that it would meet with the support and patronage of the public.

Professor OWEN, in proposing the toast, "The Dental Hospital," said the progress of anatomical investigation since the time of John Hunter had developed the various structures of which the human frame was composed, the maladies of which were part of the province of surgery. Man was an animal who applied nature to his own uses. The knowledge thus arrived at required an institution as a field of operation; the Dental Hospital supplied that want as regarded odontological science. The relief afforded by this institution to a malady so universal as the toothache must be appreciated by all, "for there was never a philosopher who could bear the toothache patiently." The rich would derive benefit as well from the advancement of the science of dentistry which so extensive a field of operations ensured, as from the facility afforded for the immediate relief