

concluded by urging members to put the facts of their cases boldly before their respective Boards, from which the Poor-law Board would be sure to hear of them.

Dr. WELCH, in seconding the resolution, said he had been fourteen years medical officer for Bethnal-green. The number of cases he attended in 1865 was 1213; in 1866 they had amounted to 1871; and in 1868 to 2198. His salary for all this work and 10,917 mixtures and medicine was £120 per annum. He had applied for an increase of salary under these circumstances, but the guardians had put off the consideration of his application. In the cholera year a professional gentleman was engaged for a certain time to take a part of the work, and he had calculated that if he (Dr. Welch) were paid according to the same scale as that gentleman was paid—and the charge was sanctioned by the Poor-law Board—he ought to be in receipt of £1600 a year. Instead of this, the Bethnal-green guardians were hesitating as to whether he was to have more than £120 a year. He gave them the facts of his own case, but he believed he might justly say, *ex uno disce omnes*.

Mr. HOGG, a member of the St. Giles's Board of Works, wished to impress upon the Association the necessity of making known all this to the public out of doors. He was sure the facts were not known as they ought to be. Sir John Gray and Mr. Torrens had told him they were powerless in the House unless public sympathy went with them. He would therefore move, if he were not out of order, that the President's speech should be printed and extensively circulated.

Dr. FIRTH (Rotherhithe) seconded the motion, which was put and carried.

Dr. GODDARD moved the third resolution: "That permanence of appointment is essential for the due and independent discharge of the duties of Poor-law medical officers." In support of the resolution the mover quoted from the evidence of the Rev. Chairman of the Hampstead Board of Guardians before a Select Committee. That gentleman, while he wished no change to be made in respect of medical officers, strongly maintained that in the case of chaplains, permanence of appointment was essential. Dr. Goddard maintained the two cases were parallel. Permanence was as necessary for effective and independent action in the one case as in the other.

Dr. THOMAS briefly seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. BENSON BAKER moved the fourth resolution, which affirmed "that the medical officers are justly entitled to superannuation allowance in common with the members of the Civil Service." The medical officers had no half-holiday, no vacation. Their duties were perpetual; and he, therefore, maintained they were as well entitled to a retiring allowance as any other public servants.

The resolution was seconded by Dr. SMYTHE, and carried.

The PRESIDENT read a letter which he had received from a country medical officer, who expressed his sympathy with the Association's views, and gave him permission to lay his case before the meeting. He had been a Poor-law medical officer over forty years; he had received testimonials—at one time a silver salver, at another a piece of plate, presented to him by the poor—and yet all his applications for an increase of salary were without effect. After forty years he was still receiving £75 a year for attending to a country population of 6000 inhabitants.

Other resolutions were passed, to the effect that a petition, embodying the foregoing resolutions, should be presented to the House of Commons; likewise that the report of the Council and of the meeting should be forwarded to the President of the Poor-law Board; and the meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the Council for their zealous services.

**MANCHESTER MEDICAL SOCIETY.**—The following gentlemen were elected office-bearers for 1869, at the annual meeting held on the 13th ult. President: Dr. Simpson. Vice-Presidents: Dr. W. Roberts, Mr. Windsor, Dr. Fletcher, Mr. Galt. Treasurer: Mr. Lund. Librarian: Dr. Little. Hon. Secretary: Mr. W. Heath. Committee: Dr. Finlayson, Dr. Gumpert, Dr. Hardie, Mr. Mellor, Mr. Melland, Dr. John Roberts, Dr. Lloyd Roberts, Mr. G. W. Smith, Dr. Stone, Dr. Thorburn, Dr. Wahltuch, Mr. Whitehead. Auditors: Dr. Browne, Dr. Nesfield.

## Correspondence.

Audi alteram partem."

### SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF MEDICAL MEN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—By desire of the President of the Society for Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men, I beg to forward you the following particulars, thinking the information may be acceptable to the members of the profession.

During the last year, the total amount distributed in relief was £2504 10s., the number of recipients being fifty-four widows and twenty-six children. Additional relief was granted to two widows and two children from the Copeland Fund. This fund the directors were enabled, through the great liberality of the late Thomas Copeland, Esq., to form for giving additional assistance to widows and orphans already in receipt of ordinary relief, under special circumstances of unusual distress from great bodily or mental infirmity.

The Society, although at present able to meet the demands made upon its funds, cannot continue to do so unless well supported by the richer members of the profession. The number of applicants is yearly increasing, and likely to do so, as a reference to the list of members will clearly prove.

Trusting you will kindly accord a prominent notice in your journal of the foregoing statement,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOS. B. BLACKETT,

Secretary.

Berners-street, Feb. 4th, 1869.

### CASE OF EXTROVERSION OF THE UTERUS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following most extraordinary case, which occurred in the practice of my father, may be considered not unworthy of record in the pages of THE LANCET.

He was summoned, some time since, to attend Mrs. A—, who had fallen in labour of her sixth child. The case went on quite well, the patient being soon delivered; but on proceeding to extract the placenta, and applying, with that object, a comparatively slight degree of force to the funis, the uterus, with the placenta still contained in it, descended bodily below the os externum, falling below the patient's thighs. My father, having carefully removed the placenta, while the uterus was thus abnormally situated, reduced the prolapsus, which was done with the utmost ease, and the case went on afterwards without a bad symptom. There was very little hæmorrhage. It is very remarkable that the patient had never previously suffered from prolapsus uteri in the slightest degree; nor has she been troubled with that distressing affection since.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ANTHONY CLARENCE FOSTER, M.R.C.S.

Park-place, Leeds, Jan., 1869.

### HOSPITAL APPOINTMENTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I am anxious to call the attention of the profession to a great abuse in the present system of junior hospital appointments. A striking example of the injustice I refer to has lately occurred in connexion with one of the best metropolitan hospitals.

It is usual to advertise the vacant posts of resident medical officer, house-surgeon, &c., in the medical journals. The objects are twofold—firstly, competition; secondly, the best man for the place. But are such the practical results? No. As regards competition, the candidate from the hospital school generally gets it. This seems only just. But why put other candidates to expense and trouble without the faintest chance of success? Why cannot the system in force at one or two large provincial hospitals, with which I am acquainted, be adopted generally? A notice of the vacancy and requirements is posted up in the hospital for a