

tracted as fees from the pupils. The general expenditure at this hospital exceeded £20,000 a year; out of which the sum allowed for the medical and surgical staff (without which the institution would have been not a hospital but a poor-house, therefore the very soul and essence of the establishment) was £240 a year, divided amongst six of the most efficient members of the profession. Like starving individuals amongst the lower animals, they stayed their appetites by preying on their own young, (as it were,) increasing the miserable stipend by extracting from the pupils large fees for dresserships, hospital attendance, &c.

Do not let it be supposed that the managers of the hospital were so over-careful of its funds in order that the largest possible amount might be expended on the suffering patients—oh dear no! The said hospital occupied nearly the whole of a parish, and contained the parish church within its walls. The extra hospital parishioners must have been less than a dozen in number—surely, it might be supposed, that the rector of this parish and his curate might (for it is not a bad living) have performed the clerical duties, instead of which there were at that time, and I believe still is, a hospital chaplain, with a salary of several hundreds a year, and even an assistant-chaplain, receiving also a large annual payment. At the time I was a student, the dinners eaten by the treasurer and friends (I think the medical staff were invited) on the days of auditing the accounts, cost the hospital more annually than all the medical and surgical staff combined. The salaries at this institution have been since that period increased, but only by making the surgeons and physicians give up the pupil's fees to the general fund, and receiving them back in the shape of increased salary.

Taking these high appointments as starting points, the *rationale* of the tariff of payment becomes evident. Full surgeon to a large hospital, £40 a year. Ditto to a dispensary, an annual vote of thanks. Ditto to a Poor-law district, the sum he expends in drugs, horse, &c.

The whole system is faulty, and requires entirely remodelling. The emoluments received by medical men are so inadequate, that I really believe they amount to less than their expenditure, the balance being made up by the proceeds from private property held by them. In all other businesses the amount received over the expenditure accumulates, and constitutes wealth. I believe there is no such fund accumulating amongst the profession as a body; that they are getting poorer, and vast numbers are partly supported either by property bequeathed by extra-professional parents, or assistance rendered to them by friends and relatives engaged in more lucrative paths of life.

Do not let the subject drop; it is deeply interesting to the profession, and the opinions you have expressed in your leaders will be heartily echoed throughout the country.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

July, 1853.

MULTUM RESTAT.

#### "SURGEONS" TO EMIGRANT SHIPS.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—Having lately been across the Atlantic as surgeon to an American emigrant-ship, I am enabled to furnish some information as to that service, which may be of some interest to many of your readers.

I left Liverpool for Boston, U.S., last April, in charge of 340 emigrants, for Train and Co., of Liverpool, having stipulated to receive, in consideration of my services, a free cabin passage to and fro, and a gratuity of £10. Of the treatment I received on my way out, I have no reason to complain; but on my passage home I was thrust into the second cabin, together with five other so-called doctors, who had gone out in charge of ships belonging to the same house. Four of these persons were druggists, who had made a specific agreement to return in the second cabin; but the fifth was a qualified Irish gentleman, whose advanced age should have secured him from such an insult, which was felt the more as there were some first cabin passengers in the ship. We were constantly obliged to listen to the most abominable oaths and the most disgusting language, indulged in not only by the mates, but also by some of those pretenders whom our laws permit to assume and sully the name of surgeon. These druggists had obtained their appointments by means of a Liverpool druggist, who charges them £1 out of the £10 which he usually procures for them, and who supplies most of the Liverpool emigrant ships both with their surgeons and medicine, the quality of the latter being, to judge from what was furnished to my ship, much on a par with that of the former. One of these spurious surgeons told me he had been in business as a druggist, had failed, and afterwards had spent some time in prison. Another, who was a runaway druggist's apprentice, said that he went to the above Liverpool agent, who asked him how he would

treat a case of fever, and then gave him a note to Train and Co., who thereupon actually engaged him for £8, to go out as surgeon to a ship (the *Windermere*) carrying 470 passengers. Now this young man could not give me the symptoms or treatment of the simplest affections, nor could he tell the name of a single instrument in my pocket-case. This class of men is, I believe, preferred by many American captains, as they save them some trouble in serving out provisions, swearing at and bullying the emigrants, &c. The Government Emigration agent requires ships bound for British America to carry qualified surgeons, as also those bound for the United States, having more than 500 passengers; but in all other cases druggists are eligible.

Hoping that this, as well as the many other exposures which have been made from time to time in the columns of *THE LANCET*, may soon lead to a better state of things,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

July, 1853.

M.B. LOND.

#### THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICES.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—I beg to enclose the following correspondence, which you may think worth publishing. Any comment would be unnecessary from, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Hinde-street, Manchester-square,  
July, 1853.

WALLER LEWIS.

##### No. I.

Consisted of a printed set of queries from the Legal and General Life Assurance Company concerning a patient, to which queries I was requested to furnish answers. No allusion was made to any fee.

##### No. II.

Was my reply, refusing to practise gratuitously.

##### No. III.

Was from the Secretary, as follows:—

Legal and General Life Office, London, July 14, 1853.

SIR,—In answer to your communication of yesterday, I beg to inform you that on receipt of your replies to the official inquiries submitted to you, relative to the health &c. of G. H. L—, Esq., I shall be happy to remit you the usual fee of half-a-guinea.

I remain, Sir, your very obedient servant,

Waller Lewis, Esq., M.D.

JOHN NETTLETON, Sec.

##### No. IV.

3, Hinde-street, July 14, 1853.

SIR,—Never having been asked by any Assurance Company to give an opinion for half my usual fee, which is one guinea, I beg to decline to do so now.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

John Nettleton, Esq.

WALLER LEWIS.

##### No. V.

Legal and General Life Office, London, July 16, 1853.

SIR,—On submitting your communication of the 14th inst. to the Directors, I am desired to inform you that (the amount for which Mr. L— proposes to assure being a large one) on receipt of your replies to the inquiries relative to his health &c., your fee of one guinea will be remitted.

I remain, Sir, &c.,

Waller Lewis, Esq.

JOHN NETTLETON, Sec.

#### THE POSITION OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—There seems but one opinion concerning the position of our profession: society despises, the church and bar look down upon us, and we ourselves, while complaining with child-like garrulity, seem impotent to suggest a reformation. Each little squabbler sees in his peculiar ill the error. None, I think, comprehend it in its broad true spirit. The fault springs from the head. The governing bodies, councils, and heads of colleges are the impediments to our advance. From their apathy, arrogance, and cupidity, springs the obstacle that impedes the onward movement of a noble science. Puffed up with their position—

glutted with the fees incidental to their standing, they remain the barriers to progression, instead of the pioneers to a noble cause. The Council of the College of Surgeons, while with a farce-like examination admitting crowds of young men within their portals, sit content with their fees, instead of using their influence to obtain from Government some patronage to bestow upon its members. While our troops in India, our ships in the navy, our mercantile fleet, our emigrants, and poor at home, remain but badly attended, and that attendance ill paid for. There are crowds of men of good medical attainments rusting from want of employ. Surely these highly respectable men—these members of Council, could exert more pressure on Parliament, and procure more patronage for our profession. Think you, Sir, the country, if it were properly put to it, would refuse that our soldiers and sailors should have proper medical attendance,—that such scenes as the wounded uncared-for in Burmah—our ships carrying unqualified men, &c., should continue. And is it not a part of the Council's duty to attempt to remedy this? or do those sapient masters look upon their post as the simply pocketing so many fees? Do they think it beneath them to care somewhat for the welfare of its junior members? There lies their mistake and our ruin. Increase the medical patronage in India and elsewhere, and it would give increased dignity to the College, and numbers of its younger members, who now either leave the profession entirely, or lapse into a questionable manner of practising it, would become ornaments to our body, and a graceful support to our College.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

July, 1853.

CELSUS JUNIOR.

## House of Commons.

MONDAY, AUGUST 1.

THE returns relating to the College of Physicians, which formed the subject of a notice of motion by Mr. Ewart, and which were published *in extenso* in our last number, were ordered on the 1st inst. These returns extend to two points: 1st, the financial condition of the College; 2ndly, the mode in which the College has exercised its powers of licensing to practise, and of interfering to prevent the practice of those who were not licensed by the College.

### THE DUBLIN HOSPITALS.

On the House going into Committee of Supply, Mr. GROGAN stated that, considering the period of the session, he should not proceed with the motion of which he had given notice—That a select committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the expediency of the grants made from the public funds for the hospitals in the city of Dublin, and how far the circumstances of those institutions, and their utility as medical schools, require the continuance of such grants.

Mr. VANCE thought the hon. gentleman had exercised a sound discretion in postponing the motion until next session. He hoped the Dublin hospitals would then be put on a proper footing.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2.

### SURGEONS AND ASSISTANT-SURGEONS OF THE ROYAL NAVY.

Mr. Kinnaird presented a petition from the medical profession of Aberdeen in favour of proper accommodation being provided for assistant-surgeons on board her Majesty's ships. Mr. George Duncan presented a similar petition from the medical practitioners of Edinburgh, earnestly praying an improvement in the condition of royal naval assistant-surgeons. Mr. S. Fitzgerald also presented a petition from the profession at Horsham, praying that the resolutions of the House in favour of assistant-surgeons be carried out, and that the superior naval medical officers be placed on the same footing with those in the army, as regarded rank, pay, and retirement.

### VACCINATION BILL.

Mr. J. H. Vivian presented a petition from the South Wales branch of the Medical and Surgical Association against the Vaccination Bill.

NOTICE OF MOTION.—SIR ROBERT HARRY INGLIS.—On consideration of Charitable Trusts Bill, as amended, in clause 60, to add the following to the list of exemptions:—

The Royal hospitals in the city of London, Guy's Hospital, the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy, and the Clergy Orphan Corporation.

## Military and Naval Intelligence.

MILITARY.—HOSPITAL STAFF: W. Stewart, M.D., assistant-surgeon of the Forces, vice Deakins, deceased; W. Mackenzie Skues, M.B., assistant-surgeon of the Forces, vice Roe, promoted to the Gold Coast corps.

NAVAL APPOINTMENTS.—Surg. W. Hannant (1851) to the *Philomel*; Surg. Jones Campbell (1852) to the screw steam-sloop *Vulcan*, at Portsmouth; Assist.-surg. Edwin G. Watkins (1848) to the *Agamemnon*, 91, screw steam-ship, at Portsmouth, vice William Richardson (1848) to the *Antelope* steam-vessel, at Portsmouth.

### EAST INDIA SERVICE.

BENGAL.—Assist.-surg. J. B. S. Brown to medical charge of Murree station during present season; Surg. H. A. Bruce, M.D., from 1st European Fusiliers, to 49th N.I.; Assist.-surg. H. B. Buckle, 15th N.I., to afford medical aid to 1st N.I., vice Lee; Surg. D. Butler, M.D., 29th N.I., to be garrison surgeon at Allahabad, vice Guthrie; Assist.-surg. F. Corbyn, M.D., 65th N.I. to perform medical duties of garrison of Govindgurh and civil station of Umritsur, vice Brown; Assist.-surg. Farquhar, M.D., 10th L.I., to proceed to Attock, and afford medical aid to garrison and to establishments on the Peshawur and Lahore road between Hussam Abdul and Nowshera; Surg. E. Hare, posted to 1st European Fusiliers; Assist.-surg. J. Macrae, placed at disposal of officiating governor of Straits settlements; Assist.-surg. W. F. Mactier, 9th N.I., to afford medical aid to 20th N.I., in addition to other duties, vice Lee; Dr. C. Murchison to officiate as professor of chemistry in medical college, June 1—services placed at disposal of government of Bengal, June 3; Assist.-surg. D. Scott, M.D., to afford medical aid to 8th irregular cavalry, vice Lee; Assist.-surg. T. R. Tucker, M.D., posted to 7th irregular cavalry; Surg. J. Wilkie, M.D., 19th N.I., to continue to afford medical aid to 61st N.I.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.—Assist.-surg. J. B. S. Brown, six months from May 15, to Murree, on medical charge; Assist.-surg. J. T. Glover, M.D., to Europe, on furlough, on medical charge; Assist.-surg. T. S. Lacy, 8th irregular cavalry, six months from May 17, to Mussoorie, on medical charge; Surg. W. Thomson, to Europe, on furlough, on medical charge.

Assist.-surg. Wray, of H.M.'s 87th regiment, with the whole of his servants, shikaries, &c., has perished by the fall of an avalanche in the snowy mountains to the north of Cashmere.—*Hurkaru*, June 11.

MADRAS.—Supt.-surg. J. T. Maule to be a lay trustee of Kamptee, vice Lieut.-col. Wardropper; Assist.-surg. J. Miller, M.D., to afford medical aid to officers and people employed in the construction of the Kistnah annicut, and in subsidiary works, June 11; Vet.-surg. T. Pritchard passed examination in Hindustani, June 10; Assist.-surg. J. Ratton to act as zillah surgeon of Chingleput, during absence of Currie, June 10.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.—Assist.-surg. G. E. Aldred, M.D., two years to sea, the Cape, and New South Wales, on medical charge; Vet.-surg. T. H. Aston, artillery, to Sept. 20, to Eastern coast; Assist.-surg. E. M. Jackson, one month.

BOMBAY.—Surg. J. J. Atkinson, 24th N.I., to act as garrison surgeon at Surat, during absence of Pitcairn, June 8; Assist.-surg. Ballingall to be curator of the Museum of Grant Medical College; Assist.-surg. J. M. Barnett, recently arrived, attached to 1st battalion of artillery at Ahmednuggur, May 30; Assist.-surg. Cameron, artillery, to assume medical charge of 3rd company of 4th battalion of artillery, May 18; Assist.-surg. Clay delivered over charge of civil medical duties at Kurrachee to Assist.-surg. Cameron, May 18; Assist.-surg. N. P. Foley, relieved from duties in I.N., June 1—to medical charge 27th N.I., June 13; Surg. A. Gibson to be conservator of forests and superintendent of botanical gardens, June 4; Assist.-surg. Haines received charge from Dr. Pelly, of civil medical duties at Dhoolia, March 21; Surg. M. T. Kays, M.D., to officiate as superintending surgeon, during absence of Edwards, May 31—is attached to Poona division, June 8; Assist.-surg. Laws, 1st Belooch battalion, to receive medical charge of staff and details at Hyderabad; Surg. Mackenzie, 1st battalion of artillery, to receive medical charge of 26th N.I., June 14; Surg. Malcolmson, 3rd L.C., to afford medical aid to 3rd company of 2nd battalion of artillery, vice Imlach, May 30; Assist.-surg. Sanderson to assume medical charge of 23rd N.I., vice Imlach, May 30; Assist.-surg. Skelding, 3rd N.I., to receive medical charge of 27th N.I., and staff corps of sappers and miners, and medical store department, vice Kays, with Poona division, May 13; Assist.-surg. Smith, 8th N.I., to act as deputy medical storekeeper and staff surgeon at Kurrachee, during absence of Surg. White, June 1; Assist.-surg. J. F. Steinhauser, to be civil surgeon at Aden—to be