

years be taken; that a fixed sum of 10s., or more according to circumstances, be paid for each case; and that the amount per annum be increased or diminished according to the number of cases.

4. That an extra sum be paid for vaccination and midwifery, according to the distance; for fractures and dislocations of all kinds; for serious injuries; and for all surgical operations

5. That orders (except for urgent cases) be delivered by a certain hour,—say ten o'clock.

This, I think, is a matter of very great importance, and demands the attention of the Poor-law Board. If an arrangement on this head could be effected, it would be an immense saving of time and trouble; for, from the lax, lavish, and irregular way in which orders are given, it frequently happens that the medical officer is in the immediate locality whence they are sent, just at the moment they reach their destination, thereby entailing on him the necessity of perhaps again and again going over the same ground on the same day, which might have been avoided had the orders been delivered at an appointed time. As no hardship nor inconvenience is found to arise from hospital patients being obliged to deliver their orders for admission at a stated hour named by the governors, I can see no reason why paupers should not be compelled to observe some regularity in this respect.

6. That leeches, and some of the more expensive drugs, together with all surgical appliances, be provided by the boards of guardians.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Chichester, Jan. 1859. ALLEN DUKE, M.D.

PROPOSED SOCIETY OF ASSISTANTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—There appeared some weeks ago several letters in THE LANCET concerning a Society to be organized for the aid of assistants. I have given the subject consideration, and have communicated with a large body of medical practitioners on the matter; and have received numerous replies, suggestions, and promises of support, so soon as the larger body of assistants can come to some definite agreement amongst themselves. My first attempt would be this: if assistants are really heart and soul in this matter, I am ready to take the trouble of receiving communications from them, and to endeavour to commence the Society, making it at head-quarters a place of application for assistants and principals, either by letter or personally; and to provide an allowance for assistants when they are out of a situation, under certain regulations, upon payment of a small subscription—say 2s. 6d. per annum.

I shall feel obliged if you will give this publicity in your journal, as being the best means of furthering this object.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
SHEARNES, FEB. 1859. MARTIN H. IRVING,
A Medical Assistant.

FACILE MODE OF CUPPING.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—A correspondent in THE LANCET of Jan. 15th, makes an excellent suggestion for the manufacture of cheap cupping-glasses of common green glass, such as may be readily and not grudgingly used by anyone when leeches are not to be had.

Let me offer a suggestion for a safe and easy mode of exhausting them, free from all the trouble of pumps and the danger of spirits and ethers, and which will answer equally well with a wine or liqueur glass as the best ground cupping-glass.

Wipe the glass you select for use quite dry, drop into the bottom of it one drop of melting wax from the candle in your hand; on this lay the smallest imaginable dossil of gun-cotton, a morsel not larger than a grain of rice will be enough. The softness of the wax will suffice to keep this *in situ* if but one fibre is entangled. Then set fire to it with a bit of lighted paper, holding the mouth of the glass up, and its edge close to the part of the body on which you mean to apply it. At the instant of the puffy explosion, invert the glass on the part. The vacuum formed is perfect, and the action immediate. You have no ugly scalds from half extinguished ether, no flames from its droppings on the patient's dress, &c. The cotton may be carried about quite safely in the head of your lancet-case; and instead of the deep ugly gashes of a scarificating machine, a few light superficial cuts rapidly made with the shoulder of a lancet over the part will give less pain, less fright, and more blood.

Warley Depôt, January, 1859. Yours obediently, D. STEWART.

PROFESSIONAL ETIQUETTE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following letter displays such a truly rich specimen of medical etiquette, that I must beg you will give it a place in your publication, for the benefit of our profession. The writer of it has been in our town only about five months, and I think his production promises well for his future career. I must say, by way of a preface, that I was originally engaged to attend Mrs. D—, and when sent for, I was not at home; in consequence of which my servant went for the writer of the following epistle. I, however, arrived at home before he had any possibility of leaving his own house, and sent another of my servants to him to say that I had gone to attend my patient, and that he need not go.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
Morpeth, Jan. 1859. ROBERT SHUTE, M.R.C.S.

[COPY.]

Morpeth, Jan. 18th, 1859.

DEAR SIR,—I received a call this morning to attend Mrs. D—, at —; and when preparing to start, a message arrived through your servant, to say that I need not go now, as her master had gone. Now I infer from this, that you had been asked in the first instance, but not being at home, or otherwise engaged, the man came for me. The case, therefore, became virtually mine, and you had no right to go after you knew that I had been called. This is not gentlemanly conduct, and, although submitted to on this occasion, I beg you to understand that in future, if called upon under similar circumstances, I shall pay my visit and claim my fee.

Yours respectfully,
R. Shute, Esq., Morpeth. R. PATON.

THE PROPOSED ARMY MEDICAL SCHOOL AT CHATHAM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As I am sure that you and all well-wishers to the profession take an interest in the affairs of the Army Medical Department, I am induced to address you relative to the Army Medical School about to be formed at Chatham.

A committee, presided over by Mr. Sidney Herbert, has been for some time sitting to arrange its details; and one of the difficulties which it would appear they have experienced has been in agreeing on who are to be the professors; the Director-General, the only military member of the committee, very properly holding that the chairs should be filled by officers of the department; and the civil members contending that they should be given to civilian friends of their own. As the Army Medical School cannot be intended to afford instruction on general subjects better than that supplied by the civil schools, it would seem that the effort to appoint civilians to fill the chairs is intended to express that there are no officers of the department capable of teaching the specialties which the service requires; but this the department, I know, is by no means disposed to admit, inasmuch as there are officers who have offered to be tested by *concours* as to their capabilities for such duties, and who have had ample experience of service and disease in all our colonies and dependencies; in fact, the subjects to be taught in a military medical school are those only which experience of service at home and abroad with soldiers can furnish, and hence the appointment of civilians to such offices can be considered in no other light than as a joke.

As I am anxious only to draw your attention to the matter on this occasion, I will not enter at any greater length on the subject, but subscribe myself

Your very obedient servant,
Feb. 1859. AN ARMY SURGEON.

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF COMBINING THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE AND OBSTETRICY AND DISEASES OF WOMEN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—May I call your attention to a very common but somewhat arbitrary practice,—that of a separation of Medicine from Obstetricy, enforced either by custom or by the rules of many hospitals in town and country. I hope that some member of the new Obstetrical Society will be induced to take up the