

compels him to submit. The influence which such feelings must have upon the mind, will vary with the disposition of the individual; but, generally, it must be unfavourable to the service, and must tend to generate discontent and indifference, as well to the interests of the navy, as to those of science. Another injurious effect of the disagreeable situation of the naval assistant surgeon is this,—that it indisposes men of talent and respectability to enter the service. No, Sir, a Scotch fir, or an Irish esculent, will thrive any where; but an English gentleman requires, and should have, better accommodation than a cock-pit can afford. I maintain, Sir, that a man of such intellectual acquirements, as the regulations of the navy now demand for the assistant surgeon, should be placed in a situation more congenial with his previous habits, and more appropriate for the important office he does, and is to sustain: in a situation where, free from the intemperate riot of unemployed minds, he may be at liberty to pursue those reflections to which his observations during the day may give rise. It appears to me, Sir, that the ward room is the place for the assistant surgeon, and that his qualifications entitle him to a seat there. Nor ought he to be without a private cabin, if the arrangements of the ship will admit of it. The appointment of a naval assistant surgeon would be then, what it is far from being at present, an object of desire to a respectable and talented man. By some arrangements of this, and the like nature, naval surgeons would be the most endowed body of the medical republic; and, it is probable, that from their extensive opportunities, their contributions to the arts and sciences would be neither few nor unimportant. I hope that the attention of the naval medical board will be directed to this subject, and that, if possible, some better arrangements may be made for the assistant surgeon, that he may hold a place commensurate with his qualifications and importance.

I am, Mr. Editor,
Your very obedient servant,
NAUTICUS.

London, Aug. 1, 1827.

PRESSURE IN UTERINE HÆMORRHAGE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As Mr. Walford has thought proper, in justice to that able teacher Dr. David Davis, to publicly dispute any claim I might make to the originality of applying *efficient* pressure, in order to restrain uterine hæmorrhage; I feel, in some measure, called

upon, in justice to myself, to make the following statement:—

I believe it is between three and four years since, that I mentioned, in conversation with Dr. Davis, the circumstance of having cured an ovarian dropsy by the application of pressure, and that I thought it might be successfully applied in cases of uterine hæmorrhage. Dr. Davis did not then inform me, that he had already adopted this mode of treatment, but replied either that he had, or was about, to construct an instrument for the purpose of applying cold in these cases. The form of the instrument was not particularly explained, further than it was to be made like a pan or well, to contain either ice or some refrigerent mixture, and to be fastened down upon the abdomen. Whether it was ever made, or used, I cannot say; but, from the mention of this plan, it did not appear that Dr. Davis had ever tried, or, at least, that he then valued the utility of pressure in uterine hæmorrhage. If, therefore, Mr. Walford means by “some years” an era not including more than three years, it is probable that Dr. Davis was polite enough to think favourably of my suggestion, and accordingly recommend its adoption. I will just observe, that if pressure be employed in a proper manner, I cannot perceive the utility of conjoining the painful process of “plugging the vagina.” In concluding these remarks, I beg to be allowed to acknowledge the very high respect I entertain towards Dr. David Davis, for the great improvement he has made in the surgical department of midwifery.

I remain, Sir,
Your obliged servant,
H. SEARLE.

MR. COOKE'S SUBSCRIPTION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I regret to say, that my endeavours in favour of Mr. Cooke, of Exeter, have proved so fruitless, owing to there being few, or no medical students in town at present. I have mentioned the case to several of the elders of the profession, and earnestly hope they will yet come forward in aid of Mr. Cooke, whose case ought to be considered national, and as involving the existence of the medical profession. It affords me much gratification, to observe the list of subscriptions augmenting weekly. Wishing him every success,

I remain, Sir,
Your very obedient servant,
JOHN LIZARS.
Edinburgh, 33, York Place,
July 27, 1827.