

Would the gentlemen of the bar, or still more those of the church, allow themselves to be plundered of their knowledge without adequate compensation? Very properly they would not; nor are they likely to be invited to do so. When will our services be equally valued?—When we learn to value them ourselves. When we learn to throw off that petty spirit of jealous rivalry (which is characteristic and almost peculiar to our profession) towards each other. Let that time be the present; at least let us resent this fresh insult while yet recent, before it is irremovably affixed to us by the law of custom. If we neglect to do this, then we deserve to be insulted and oppressed by an ever-increasing multiple to the end of all time.

I have the honour to remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
Oct. 1853. RADICI.

THE NATIONAL VACCINE INSTITUTION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—For fourteen years of my life I have been supplied with vaccine lymph, several times in each year, by the National Vaccine Institution. I think it but justice to inform your readers that my applications for lymph were always attended to with promptitude, and that I never during the whole period failed with the lymph I received from the institution.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Leigh Linton, Worcestershire, Oct. 1853. GEO. F. KNIPE.

We have received numerous communications from practitioners in different parts of the country, confirmatory of the attention met with when applications have been made for lymph to this establishment.—SUB-ED. L.

THE CHOLERA IN NEWCASTLE, AND THE OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

(LETTER FROM MR. GIBSON.)

"What cause have I to war at thy decree?
The distant Trojans never injured me."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As you have requested me to substantiate the statements I made in THE LANCET, Oct. 6th, I proceed to take my assertions *seriatim*, and to prove thereby the testimony of others; in doing which I shall "nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice."

The first statement is that the Board of Health allowed the disease to break out without taking any means of preventing it, notwithstanding the representations of more than one medical gentleman of the town, &c. This, and Dr. Gavin's insolence, &c., I refer you to *Newcastle Journal*, of Oct. 1st, p. 5, col. 2, line 72 from top; same journal, Oct. 8th; a letter in the *Globe* of Oct. 1st; an admirable letter in the *Morning Advertiser* of Oct. 7th; and p. 2 of Dr. Robinson's letter, which you deservedly praise in one of your leading articles.

Secondly, I purchased Dr. Gavin's work "On Feigned Diseases" at an old book-stall in Newcastle-market, the other day, for twopenny, and will be happy to present it to any gentleman wishing to peruse it.

Thirdly, I copy, *verbatim*, the prescription of Dr. Gavin, from the *Newcastle Journal* of Sept. 24th, the italics my own. Take of bicarbonate of ammonia, eight grains; tincture of opium, *eight grains*; tincture of ginger, twenty drops; tincture of catechu, one drachm; aromatic confection, ten grains; chalk mixture, or camphor mixture, to one and a half or two ounces; to form a draught. Creasote, three to five drops in the chalk-mixture, if accompanied by much pain.

Fourthly, that more than one of the seventeen men were homœopaths? Can any one deny so palpable a fact, when globules, *said to be strychnia*, were found in several dwellings by the medical officers. But can this be wondered at, when R. D. Grainger, Esq. stated, in the presence of the Chairman of the Board of Guardians, and of Messrs. Sang, Ianson, Newton, M'Nay, Winship, Allison, and others, (*I may not be correct in one of these names*), "that the homœopathic treatment of cholera was as successful as that of allopathy"—*ergo*, all remedies were vain, and patients should be permitted to die of collapsed cholera.

Fifthly, I have evidence to prove that Mr. Leake received a direct commission from Dr. Gavin, to bring forward charges of neglect of duty against Mr. Newton, the surgeon, who had the heaviest and most pauperized district in the Union, and who is also a leading member of the Town Council. In obedience to Dr. Gavin's instructions, fourteen cases of alleged

neglect were brought against this gentleman, and these cases being investigated at the houses of the poor, they were all found to be false, and instead of getting matter of accusation, the Committee reported that the poor themselves were grateful for the indefatigable services performed night and day by their medical officer.

"With deep-felt voice,
On every heart impress'd, thy deeds themselves
Attest thy praise. Thy praise the widows' sighs
And orphans' tears embalm."

Still, Dr. Gavin defended Mr. Leake, and promoted him to other service in the Union. This Mr. Leake, who is a personal friend of Dr. Gavin, and holding a testimonial of professional ability and high-standing from R. D. Grainger, F.R.S., &c., left upon the table of the coffee-room of the Queen's Head, the principal hotel in Newcastle, a parcel of strychnine, at present in possession of the landlord, Mr. Wm. Miller, sufficient to poison the inhabitants of the whole street, and with this he was, it is said, perambulating the district and administering without scales or any measure, to the patients under the charge of the medical officers who were responsible for the medical treatment of the cases. Mr. Miller will attest one portion of this statement, and the medical gentlemen and their assistants will prove, if necessary, upon oath, the other.—Vide letter above quoted in the *Morning Advertiser*.

Further, Mr. Joseph Hopper, one of the most respectable members of the Board of Guardians, wished that inquiries might be instituted with the view to the holding of an inquest upon a person who died in the Swirle Sandgate, whose death there was every reason to believe was caused by a poisonous dose of strychnine. The inquiry was shirked, and the coroner's office was suspended, when he should have been most active, and employed a deputy-coroner or two.

Since writing the above I have received a letter from a medical student in London, to whom I am an utter stranger, directing my attention to page 51 of a pamphlet "On Cholera," written by Dr. Venables, at Wick, in 1832, wherein the author states that he had a marquee erected, to which the cholera patients were sent in the febrile stage, with the most happy results, as none died that were so removed. So much for Dr. Gavin's valuable and *original* suggestion of the use of tents.

Either Mr. Greenhow, the author of an excellent work on cholera, in 1832, Sir John Fife, or Dr. Davison, who had great experience in former visitations of the disease, or Mr. Potter, or Mr. Newton, or—and though last not least—Mr. Robinson, in my opinion, were more adequate to the post of Inspector. Then why bring extraneous aid.

Lastly, with regard to the cooked accounts, vide *Gateshead Observer* of 15th and 22nd inst.

Having now finished the task assigned me, may I take the liberty, as an old subscriber to your journal, to inquire why you ask me to substantiate what I have written, and refuse to publish the letter of Mr. Newton, which would, I believe, corroborate my statements.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
GEORGE GIBSON, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C.,
Birtley, Oct. 1853. Lecturer on Materia Medica, &c.

THE WAKEFIELD ASYLUM: PURITY AND JUSTICE(S).

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You are perfectly correct in your conjectures, that certain local influences obtained Mr. Alderson his appointment to the Wakefield Lunatic Asylum. The Rev. Samuel Sharpe, Vicar of Wakefield, is Mr. Alderson's uncle, through whose interest no doubt the appointment was obtained. An elder nephew, many (say twenty) years ago, obtained the Chaplaincy to the Wakefield House of Correction, against a most learned opponent, by the same interest.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Islington, Oct. 1853. R. S. S.

THE LONDON HOSPITAL. ASSISTANT-SURGEONCY IN THE H.E.I.C. SERVICE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—“May we hope that next year all these appointments will be open under such regulations as will render success for the most deserving a matter of certainty.” (Leading Article, THE LANCET, Oct. 15, p. 33-4.) Two such appointments have been offered for competition at the London Hospital, one of which was previously announced in the Prospectus of 1853-4,