

fied with it. We also conversed on the subject of Mr. Heckford's non-election, and, knowing that Mr. Walker was Mr. Heckford's intimate friend, I was not surprised to find what his views were on this point. That I had been made conversant with any general dissatisfaction prior to the meeting referred to, or that any special grievances except Mr. Heckford's had ever been mentioned to the Council, I must deny. The expression I have used is perhaps somewhat stronger than I would, on second thoughts, again make use of; but it still conveys a truthful impression of my state of ignorance up to within, at most, a very few days of the time mentioned.

Sept. 3rd.

THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have seen several letters concerning the Indian Medical Service of late in THE LANCET. If not tired of the subject, would you permit me to add a few lines by way of caution to any young man who may be thinking of entering the Indian service?

In November, 1864, an order was published, in which may be found the following passages:—

"47. The above measures, which obviously tend greatly to improve the condition and prospects of the medical service in India, cannot be carried out without a heavy expense to the State. It is hoped, however, that the result will be at once to diffuse a spirit of satisfaction and contentment among the officers now in the service, and to secure for the future a certain supply of medical officers of good social position, liberal education, and professional ability for her Majesty's service in India."

Again, we read in paragraph 30, thus:—

"The salaries of other medical appointments in the civil and military departments will be revised with reference to the above, and fixed at a consolidated sum; and I request that a report may be made to me upon the subject with *as little delay as possible*."

Are the orders of a Secretary of State the vehicle of fun and irony?

In April last, two years and five months after the publication of the orders containing the above passages, another order was issued sanctioning a paltry increase in the salaries of civil surgeons, but making the order retrospective only to November, 1866! Even for this we might have been thankful; but there is a clause in the order directing that civil stations are to be divided into first and second class, so till this arrangement is made no civil surgeon can draw the increase of pay. It is now the end of June, and no order on the subject has yet been published.

As yet the only benefit I and several hundred other medical officers have derived from these promising warrants and orders is, that we have had to pay a heavy donation to the military fund, and an increased monthly subscription. I need hardly say that the hoped-for "spirit of satisfaction and contentment" has not yet made its appearance.

Rumour has it that there are to be about *four* first-class civil stations in Bengal, and *three* in the N.W. provinces. On this point, however, I shall say nothing, nor on the absurdity of paying officers more for doing nothing than for performing the duties of a large civil station. I only mention them for the benefit of any young man who may be thinking of entering what has of late been truly characterised as "a beggarly service."

In conclusion, I would earnestly warn all young medical men to beware of entering into any agreement with a Government which can thus mock, insult, and pillage the medical officers who have been unfortunate enough to enter its service.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

June, 1867.

A CIVIL SURGEON.

HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST, CITY-ROAD.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In answer to the circular signed by Drs. Richardson, Leared, and Powell, which appeared in your journal of last week, I beg to say that a letter of mine, addressed to the Council of Management of the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, is included in the report of the meeting of the Council, which, I am informed, will be forwarded to you for publication. I trust that this will be perfectly satisfactory to the profession. I will not, therefore, occupy your valuable

space further than to point out the extraordinary character of the mode of attack adopted by the authors of the circular.

At our hospital, the House Committee sits every week; the Council of Management every month, and oftener if required. The Annual General Court of Governors was held on July 2nd last, followed by a *déjeuner*, at which all the physicians were present. At this annual court all officers are elected for the year, and all the affairs of the hospital are open for investigation. Yet neither to me privately nor at any of these meetings did my three colleagues utter their complaints, or suggest, even by a word, that my election to the post of hon. secretary was otherwise than agreeable to them. And they had so carefully concealed their plans from the Council and from me that the Council did not hear of them till they received individually, by post, in common with the whole body of governors, the printed circular; and I myself knew nothing of it till a governor showed me a copy which he had received, the authors not having thought proper to send one to me.

It is not necessary for me to make any comments upon a proceeding which speaks so plainly for itself.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HORACE DOBELL, M.D.

Harley-street, Cavendish-square, Sept. 2nd, 1867.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—On receipt of the circular letter issued by Dr. Richardson, Dr. Leared, and Dr. Powell, under date of the 22nd ultimo, which was received by the Council and governors on the 28th, and appeared in THE LANCET of the 31st ultimo, the Council of the hospital was immediately summoned, and after a lengthened discussion the following resolutions were unanimously passed:—

1. "That the resignations of Dr. Richardson, Dr. Leared, and Dr. Powell be accepted; and, whilst fully appreciating their past services to the hospital, the Council consider it expedient to intimate to them that their further attendance will not be required."

2. "That the secretary be authorised to communicate with Dr. Richardson, Dr. Leared, and Dr. Powell, and intimate to them that they are at liberty to attend any patients at present in the hospital who have up to this date been under their charge, and that they be requested to inform the secretary whether they desire to do so or not."

And I am instructed to enclose you a copy of the reply of the Council issued to the governors in answer to the circular letter of the 22nd August.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

City-road, Sept. 4th, 1867.

CHAS. L. KEMP, Secretary.

* * Two printed circulars accompanied and were received with Mr. Kemp's letter. One is a copy of a communication of Dr. Dobell addressed to the Council of Management of the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest. The other, a circular sent by the secretary, Mr. Kemp, to the governors of the same hospital. Both are in explanation of the circular letter issued by the members of the medical staff who have retired. These documents, which are of great length, arrived too late for insertion this week.—ED. L.

Medical News.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Aug. 29th:—

Eager, Reginald, Guildford, Surrey.
Goodworth, Roger Portington, Hatfield, Doncaster.
Jordison, Christopher, South Ockendon, Essex.
Norman, Bersford, Guy's Hospital.
Sells, Charles John, Guildford, Surrey.

The following gentlemen also on the same day passed their first examination:—

Darby, John Thomas, University College Hospital.
Milligan, William, ditto.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN.—The following candidates, during the late Medical Graduation term, and after the usual examinations, received degrees in Medicine and Surgery:—

THE DEGREE OF M.D.

Grabham, M. Comport, Madeira. | Hunter, W. Guyer, Bombay Army.