

POOR-LAW CHARGES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I find there is no mention made of paracentesis abdominis in the list of extras, which the poor-law commissioners have lately awarded to the medical men. No doubt it is an oversight, which if they be reminded of by you will meet with attention. I am, Sir, yours obliged,

ALEX. BROWN, Surgeon, &c.
Steeple Bumfield, Essex, May 15, 1842.

CAUTION.—(*From a Correspondent in Oxfordshire.*)—Medical gentlemen are respectfully warned against the practices of a person who has passed under the different names of—[Here four names are mentioned by our correspondent; but it would be useless to publish them now, as the party would at once assume a new name to cover a new imposition].—To obtain the situation of medical assistant he refers to a fictitious address, under cover of which he gives himself an excellent character, and thus introduces an unprincipled impostor into the house of his unsuspecting employer. He has practised this imposture in two instances lately in the county of Oxford. He has also made attempts, by means of false representations and forgeries, to procure valuable instruments from respectable manufacturers in London. His height is about five feet ten inches, complexion dark, nose reddish. He has a considerable Scotch accent. The present course of public notice is taken for the protection of medical practitioners, as well as for the sake of the character of the respectable members of the class of medical assistants.—May 11, 1842.

THE next annual meeting of "The Association of Medical Officers of Hospitals for the Insane," will be held at Lancaster, at mid-day, on Thursday, the 2nd of June next. Any visitor intending to favour the association with an essay or paper, or to introduce any particular subject for its consideration, would oblige the local committee by informing them, through me, Mr. S. W. M. Hitch, of Gloucester, of such intention to facilitate the arrangements being made for the meeting.

BRENTFORD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—At a meeting of medical practitioners resident in Brentford and its vicinity, held May 12th, 1842, it was resolved,—That an association should be formed, consisting of the medical gentlemen resident in the several parishes comprised in the Brentford Union, including all practitioners in the neighbouring districts who might be disposed to join it, to be called the "Brentford Medical Association," for the purposes of friendly intercourse and mutual advantage. A committee was appointed to draw up the requisite rules and

regulations, and report to a future general meeting. At the present time, when so many attempts are making, in various quarters, to degrade and annoy the profession, it is only by the formation of such associations as the above, that feelings of unanimity can be kept up among its members, and it behoves every medical man of the present day to bear in mind the adage—

"Where there is union, there is strength."

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
IN LONDON.

LIST of gentlemen admitted members on Friday, May 13, 1842:—Joseph Thomas La Presle; Alfred Tulk; Charles Edward Prior; Caleb Rose; Rowland Tilton; John Wright Long; William Jollie; Alfred Milner Moger; Henry Hamilton; John Howells Thornhill. Admitted Monday, May 16, Erasmus Stone; Thomas Herbert Barker; Thomas Philip Dennett; Richard Lead Maddox; William Henry Cane; William Brumfil; Farquhar Milne; John Gordon.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

PHOSPHORIC ACID.—If the gentleman who stated in the last number of *THE LANCET* that phosphoric acid may be safely and cheaply obtained, by acting on phosphate of lead by sulphuretted hydrogen, wishes for valuable information on that subject, he will examine Professor Kane's excellent work on Chemistry (2nd number), which says that bi-basic phosphoric acid is obtained by decomposing bi-basic phosphate of lead by sulphuretted hydrogen. J. M'C., late a pupil of Professor Kane.—Dublin, May 5, 1842.

The *Cork Constitution* has not been received. The subject which Dr. C. has mentioned is one of considerable importance, and ought to be fully discussed.

Septimus Senior.—As a SURGEON, but not as an apothecary.

Dr. Ayres's communication and many other papers are under examination. Is the letter of *Mr. Billet* written for publication?

Erratum.—Mr. E. H. Linnecar, of Aldermanbury, writes as follows:—In the report of a case related by me at the Medical Society of London in *THE LANCET* of May 14, I am made to say that "the presence of pain is a beautiful provision for the preservation of the child;" which is quite contrary to the idea I wished to convey, which is as follows:—"That in cases of pregnancy where serious disease is set up, or about to be set up, in the system involving the life of the mother, there appears to be a prehensile power of the *vis medicatrix naturæ* that produces premature labour, which I look upon as a beautiful provision to save the life of the child." I am sorry that the hurried manner in which I related the case prevented the reporter from catching my idea correctly.