

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

MILITIA SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As you are such a thorough medical reformer, I shall be obliged by your inserting the following remarks in the next number of your journal.

The just claims of militia surgeons being likely to be brought before the profession and the public at an early period, would it not be advisable, Mr. Editor, for assistant-surgeons of militia regiments to throw in their just claims. I, with many other assistant-surgeons, have held for some time past commission as assistant-surgeon and ensign, with the pay (when on duty) of 8s. 9d. per diem; but owing to recent regulations, assistant-surgeons are no longer to be allowed to hold commission as ensigns, but are in future only to have the pay of 7s. 6d. per diem, and to rank with lieutenants. Surely this is unfair, as during the period of training great tax is made on our valuable time; and therefore no reduction ought to have been made in the pay, more particularly as coming events are likely to assume a grave aspect, when it is not unlikely that the militia regiments may be called upon for duty; therefore I consider it behoves our government to place not only the surgeons, but likewise the assistant-surgeons, upon their proper footing; for if not, the country will be deprived of their services when most required.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

AN ASSISTANT-SURGEON IN A MILITIA REGIMENT.

Nov. 1853.

DR. GAVIN AND THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS OF NEWCASTLE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Allusion having been made in your pages to the manner in which the service as Medical Superintending Inspector of the General Board of Health was carried out by me at Newcastle, I hope I do not trespass too much in transmitting to you the accompanying documents, which I received this morning. I need scarcely add, that the address is the spontaneous act of the professional gentlemen of Newcastle.

I would take this opportunity, Mr. Editor, on behalf of my colleagues and of myself, if you will permit me, of thanking my professional brethren in Newcastle for this highly gratifying and honourable mark of their good opinion and approbation. Under no circumstances could the officers of the Board be placed in more trying circumstances, or be more exposed to competent observation and criticism.

I would add, that it will ever be the earnest desire of the medical inspectors of the Board to exercise their duties so as to obtain the confidence, approbation, and good feeling of the members of the profession.

With that confidence and good feeling, great things may yet, it is to be hoped, be accomplished, not only in the prevention of disease by efficient medical arrangements, but in the interests of the profession itself. With an appreciation of the value and importance, therefore, of harmonious co-operation, it is to be hoped that the officers will be animated with a proper and due regard to the obtaining and meriting the respect, approval, and co-operation of their professional brethren.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Editor,

Your obedient servant,

Dundee, Nov. 28, 1853.

HECTOR GAVIN.

Newcastle, Nov. 24, 1853.

DEAR DR. GAVIN,—I beg to forward to you an address from forty-seven of the medical practitioners of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, testifying their opinion of your proceedings in Newcastle during the late very severe attack of cholera.

Doubtless you will give it that publicity which appears necessary.—I remain, dear Dr. Gavin, very truly yours,

(Signed) D. EMBLETON.

Hector Gavin, Esq., M.D.,
Superintending Inspector General Board of Health,
9, East Claremont-street, Edinburgh.

(COPY.)

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, November, 1853.

The undersigned medical practitioners of Newcastle-upon-Tyne desire to express their appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Dr. Gavin and the officers of the General Board of Health, and their approval of the vigorous measures

adopted by these gentlemen during the epidemic cholera, with which this town and neighbourhood have recently been visited.

They are especially anxious to bear testimony to the untiring energy displayed by Dr. Gavin in carrying out the necessary requirements of his responsible office, and to the uniform courtesy shown by him to the members of the profession in the difficult circumstances under which he was called upon to act.

T. E. HEADLAM, M.D., Consulting Physician of the Infirmary.

D. B. WHITE, Physician to the Infirmary, &c. &c.

T. M. GREENHOW, F.R.C.S.E., Senior-Surgeon to the Newcastle Infirmary.

HENRY HEATH, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Infirmary.

J. M. BATES, M.D., Physician to the Infirmary.

JOHN FIFE, F.R.C.S., &c. &c. &c.

EDWARD CHARLTON, M.D., Physician to the Infirmary.

DENNIS EMBLETON, M.D., Physician to the Infirmary.

JOHN SANG.

SAMUEL M. FROST, M.R.C.S.E.

JOSEPH BAINBRIDGE, Fife.

R. R. FROST, M.R.C.S. Eng.

W. C. PRESTON.

WILLIAM WINSHIP, M.R.C.S.

THOMAS ANNANDALE, M.R.C.S.

ARTHUR H. TALMADGE, M.R.C.S. Eng.

ROBERT W. BLEASBY, M.D.

WILLIAM NESHAM, M.R.C.S. Eng.

JAMES EDGECOME, M.R.C.S. Eng.

W. GAVIN, M.R.C.S. Eng.

W. A. IANSON, M.R.C.S. Eng.

D. MACKINTOSH, M.D., Physician to Newcastle Lunatic Asylum.

THOMAS HUMBLE, M.D., Physician to the Dispensary and Town Hospital.

JOHN LITTLE, M.R.C.S.E.

JAMES LUNN GILCHRIST, M.R.C.S.E.

JOHN HOUSEMAN, M.D. Ed., M.R.C.S.L., &c. &c.

HENRY HARVEY, M.R.C.S.E.

CHARLES J. GIBB, M.R.C.S.E.

WM. BOYD, M.R.C.S.E.

JOHN HAWTHORN, M.R.C.S.E., Surgeon to the Dispensary.

HENRY R. ALLISON, M.R.C.S.E. &c.

JOHN SAMUEL PEARSE, M.R.C.S. Eng.

WM. PRESTON, M.R.C.S.E. &c.

ARTHUR UMPHELLY, M.D., M.R.C.S.E.

THOMAS Y. THOMPSON, M.R.C.S. Eng.

JAMES MILLER, M.R.C.S. Eng.

M. BURNUP, M.D. Edin.

CHARLES GIBSON, M.D.

FRANCIS W. MANFORD, L.R.C.S. Edin.

CHARLES BIRLEY, M.R.C.S.E.

JOHN STEVENSON PAGET, M.R.C.S.

JAMES ALEXANDER, M.D., M.R.C.S.

THOS. LESSLIE GREGSON, M.R.C.S. Eng.

GEORGE Y. HOOD, M.R.C.S. & L.A.H.

W. H. FIFE, M.R.C.S.L. &c.

JOHN LANG, M.R.C.S. Edin.

GEORGE A. HUTTON, M.R.C.S. Eng.

MR. STATHAM ON INFLAMMATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I hope you will permit the insertion of the following statements mentioned in the paper read at the last meeting of the Medico-Chirurgical Society. That inflammation is an independent, anomalous development of plasma, and low inflammation—not *asthenic*, being always due to the presence of low poison—an imperfect form of the same. (For descriptions of specimens of these forms of low pus, I would refer to THE LANCET of June 18th, 1853.) Another form of low inflammatory corpuscles as occurring in the lungs was now (November) for the first (?) time described. That the low inflammation may occur in any tissue, or by absorption of the poison be set up in any preferable part of the body. For ordinary hospital practice, excluding midwifery, absorption was stated from thirteen cases to have occurred: in six by the lymphatics, three by the veins, in the remainder it is very probable that a