

*hundred persons* are now killed weekly by the filth and open drains in and about London; and unless energetic steps be taken for remedying this state of things, we may anticipate a visitation either of epidemic typhus, influenza, or cholera.

### THE INCOME-TAX.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—Having occasion, in carrying on my profession, to use a four-wheel carriage drawn by a pair of horses, and another four-wheel carriage drawn by a pony, I wrote to the commissioners of taxes, at Somerset-house, to inquire whether I should be permitted to deduct these articles in making up my return under schedule D of the present income-tax. In reply to my inquiry I received a letter, of which the following is a copy, made for publication in your excellent Periodical; and I hope as a friend of the profession that you will direct your attention to the subject of the present excessive medical taxation in the ensuing parliamentary session. It appears to me to be most unfair that surgeons and physicians, requiring the use of carriages and horses in the exercise of their profession, should not be allowed to use those articles occasionally for the necessary accommodation of their families, without being subject to the penalty of a property-tax upon them in addition to the assessed taxes, already peculiarly oppressive on that class. I am, Sir, &c.

J. MILMAN COLEY.

Bridgnorth, Aug. 15, 1842.

“Stamps and Taxes, London,  
Aug. 11, 1842.

“Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 7th instant, I am directed by the board to inform you, that as your horses and carriages are not solely kept for the purposes of your profession, but are occasionally used by your family, you cannot be allowed, in making your return for assessment under the Property-tax Act, to deduct the expense thereof; neither can you deduct the assessed taxes paid for such horses and carriages. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

“C. PRESSLEY.”

### MEDICAL PUBLICATIONS SOCIETY.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—Allow me to suggest that the proposed medical publications society shall not be confined to the publication of standard works of the *old school alone*, but that now and then the copyright of some modern medi-

cal or surgical work of first-rate merit be purchased, and that it be published at a lower rate to the members of the society than to purchasers out of the society.

Look at the Art Union, which has worked well, and its object professedly is to encourage *living* artists. In that society every subscriber of one guinea annually receives an impression of an engraving of greater value than the amount of subscription, and has the chance of gaining valuable modern paintings in a kind of lottery held every year. Why should not living writers on medicine and surgery be similarly encouraged? I believe that if the members of the profession generally were induced to expect that a well-organised society of the kind would secure to them annually more than their subscription's worth of some valuable production, ancient or *modern*, the society would consist of double the number anticipated by Dr. Branson. What facilities would be afforded by an extensive society of this kind for the publication of splendid anatomical, obstetric, or pathological illustrations.

I would merely throw out these hints to the members of the profession, at the present time engaged in forming their plans for the organisation of a society, and to the medical book publishers of the metropolis, whose business-tact will enable them to see the practicability of the scheme in a clearer light than medical men, wishing that, by the combination of the two, we may have an extensive and prosperous society, a society calculated to benefit the profession generally, and enhance the medical literature of our country. By giving this note an early insertion, you will oblige, Sir, your obedient servant,

T. HERBERT BARKER.

Bedford, Aug. 16, 1842.

### MR. GARLIKE'S STATEMENTS.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—I much regret feeling obliged to ask your opinion of the case you were kind enough to insert in *THE LANCET* of July 16th, page 544, Mr. Spencer Pidcock not having ventured a reply to the allegations made in the case in question. I am, Sir, yours obediently,

T. W. GARLIKE.

Rickmansworth, Aug. 15, 1842.

\* \* We are always very reluctant to express opinions, or pronounce a judgment, on cases which rest in dispute between private practitioners. In the present instance, without offering any remarks on the conduct of Mr. Pidcock, we have no hesitation in saying that it appears to us that Mr. Garlike's treatment of his patient was strictly correct, and that his behaviour to his brother practitioner appears to us to have been in all respects unexceptionable.—ED. L.