

THE LANCET RELIEF FUND.

THIS Fund, which came into operation on the 1st of February, 1889, has for its Almoners the President of the Royal College of Physicians of London (Sir THOMAS BARLOW, Bart., K.C.V.O., F.R.S., M.D. Lond.), the President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England (Mr. HENRY T. BUTLIN, D.C.L., LL.D.), the President of the *Almoners.* General Medical Council (Sir DONALD MACALISTER, K.C.B., M.D. Cantab., LL.D., D.C.L., F.R.C.P. Lond.), and the EDITOR of THE LANCET (S. SQUIRE SPRIGGE, Esq., M.D. Cantab.), with Sir JOHN TWEEDY, LL.D., F.R.C.S., as Honorary Auditor.

FOR the guidance of those seeking assistance and of those desirous of recommending deserving cases, it may be useful to record that THE LANCET Relief Fund is sustained solely by the Proprietors of THE LANCET, who provide every January the sum of at least £300, which is administered free of cost, with the object of affording *Scope of the immediate pecuniary assistance to registered medical practitioners, or to their widows and orphans, in Fund.* cases of distress and emergency, by the grant of money by way of loans free of interest, or gifts, as the circumstances of the various cases may require. In the case of widows and orphans, in order to come within the scope of the Fund, the death of the Husband or Father must have been of recent occurrence.

WHEN the Fund was inaugurated considerable misapprehension existed as to the precise objects for which it had been established, and, as a result, the majority of the earlier applications, being cases of *chronic* distress, and not coming, therefore, under the designation of *emergency*, could not be entertained. As the *Chronic Cases Almoners still receive applications for assistance for cases which are obviously of a chronic Ineligible.* character, it is thought advisable to append a statement concerning cases of this nature which appeared in THE LANCET of Feb. 16th, 1889:—

“We are requested by the Almoners to state that, from the character of a number of the applications received, both personally and by letter, for relief, it is evident that in many cases the object for which this Fund has been established is not quite clearly understood; and if relief had been afforded in the cases of those who suffer from chronic distress the Fund would have been completely exhausted within the first few days of its existence. They would therefore be greatly obliged if those readers of THE LANCET who may be asked to endorse applications would carefully peruse the Application Form and explain the precise object of the Fund to those applicants whose cases do not seem to come within the scope of the purpose for which the Fund has been established, which is to afford prompt aid to registered medical practitioners, or to the widows or orphans of members of the profession, who, in consequence of the supervention of some unexpected emergency, which is not likely to recur, have pressing need of immediate and temporary pecuniary relief”—

And who, it may be again pointed out, are likely to be benefited permanently thereby.

Twenty-second Annual Report of the Almoners, *For the year ending December 31, 1910.*

IN presenting their Twenty-second Annual Report, the Almoners have to record that the balance in hand on Dec. 31st, 1909, was £332 1s. 2d., to which on Jan. 5th, 1910, the Proprietors of THE LANCET added the sum of £300, making, with £2 10s. repaid on loans account, a total sum of £634 11s. 2d. available for grants during the year 1910.

The number of applications for assistance received by the Almoners during the year was 32, of which number 5 were declined by the Almoners after due consideration; 7 application forms were not returned—doubtless owing to the applicants realising that their cases were not of a nature qualifying them to receive assistance from the Fund; and 20 applicants were relieved by gifts or loans of money ranging from £2 10s. to £30. The relief of these 20 cases, a detailed list of which is given in the accompanying Statement of Accounts, involved the expenditure of the sum of £307 10s. The total amount voted by the Almoners since the commencement of the Fund is £6661 16s. 3d.

The Almoners have received many expressions of gratitude

for the assistance which they have afforded to applicants—in some urgent cases the relief being given within a few hours of the application being received. An example of this promptitude was Case No. 842, which was considered and helped within two hours of the appeal being made to the Almoners. The timely help of the Fund has enabled more than one applicant to keep his practice together when pressing claims threatened to destroy his home and his means of livelihood; and the widow and the orphan have also been helped at the moment of their greatest need.

Sir Thomas Barlow, Bart., K.C.V.O., F.R.S., M.D. Lond., having succeeded Sir R. Douglas Powell, Bart., K.C.V.O., as President of the Royal College of Physicians of London in March last, thereupon became an Almoner of the Fund, and kindly consented to act as such. The Almoners desire to record their warm appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the Fund by Sir R. Douglas Powell during the period of his Almonership.

In conclusion, the Almoners would point out that they will

at all times be glad to have their attention called to any cases of genuine distress coming within the scope of the Fund, but they trust that those recommending cases or giving testimonials will first take steps to satisfy themselves of the *bona fides*, as well as of the suitability, of such cases before endorsing them. In the administration of such a Fund as this the Almoners are of necessity largely

guided in their decisions by the testimonials accompanying the applications.

(Signed)

THOMAS BARLOW. HENRY T. BUTLIN.

DONALD MACALISTER. JOHN TWEEDY.

S. SQUIRE SPRIGGE.

Feb. 6th, 1911.

THE LANCET RELIEF FUND.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31st, 1910.

| DR. | £ | s. | d. | By Loans:— | CR. | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. | |
|--|-----|----|----|---|-----|----|----|----|---|-------------|-----------|----------|
| To Balance at the London County and Westminster Bank, Limited (Westminster Branch), Jan. 1st, 1910 ... | 332 | 1 | 2 | Case No. 843 ... | ... | 25 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| „ Proprietors of THE LANCET, Jan. 5th, 1910 ... | 300 | 0 | 0 | „ 844 ... | ... | 10 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| „ Repayments on Loan:— | | | | „ 847 ... | ... | 10 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| Case No. 844... .. | 2 | 10 | 0 | „ 851 ... | ... | 8 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| „ Cheque unrepresented:— | | | | „ 861 ... | ... | 25 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| Case No. 868... .. | 12 | 0 | 0 | „ 866 ... | ... | 25 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | | | | By Gifts:— | | | | | | 103 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | Case No. 839 ... | ... | 20 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | | | | „ 840 ... | ... | 30 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | | | | „ 841 ... | ... | 5 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | | | | „ 842 ... | ... | 15 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | | | | „ 855 ... | ... | 15 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | | | | „ 857 ... | ... | 15 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | | | | „ 858 ... | ... | 25 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | | | | „ 859 ... | ... | 15 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | | | | „ 862 ... | ... | 10 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | | | | „ 863 ... | ... | 20 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | | | | „ 864 ... | ... | 10 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | | | | „ 865 ... | ... | 10 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | | | | „ 867 ... | ... | 2 | 10 | 0 | | | | |
| | | | | „ 868 ... | ... | 12 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | 204 | 10 | 0 |
| | | | | „ Bank Charges: Cheque Book ... | ... | | | | | | 4 | 2 |
| | | | | Balance at Bank, Dec. 31, 1910 ... | | | | | | 338 | 17 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | <u>£646</u> | <u>11</u> | <u>2</u> |

I find by the Banker's Book that the actual Balance on Jan 1st, 1910, to the credit of the Fund was £332 ls. 2d., to which the sum of £300 was added by the Proprietors of THE LANCET on Jan. 5th, 1910. The balance at the Bank on Dec. 31st, 1910, was the sum of £338 17s. 0d.

I have examined this statement and compared it with the Vouchers and Bank Account, and find same correct.

Jan. 30, 1911.

JOHN TWEEDY, Hon. Auditor.

EXHIBITION OF FRACTURES.—On the occasion of the Third Congress of the International Society of Surgery which is to be held at Brussels from Sept. 26th to 30th, 1911, it has been decided to hold an Exhibition of Fractures. Exhibits intended for the exhibition must reach the Secretary-General, 75, Avenue Louise, Brussels, from August 20th to 31st, who will return them at the end of the Congress. Specimens of every kind as well as documents relating to the study of fractures may be exhibited, notably (1) pathological specimens (various types of fractures and rare fractures); (2) radiographs, drawings, plaster casts, moulds, &c.; (3) apparatus for bloodless treatment (including apparatus for immobilisation, extension and ambulatory treatment); and (4) specimens and

documents relative to osteosynthesis. Non-members approved by the international committee, for which approval the secretary-general will arrange, are invited also to take part. The sessions will be arranged so that exhibitors will be able to show their exhibits to the members of the society during the Congress, and subjects will be placed at the disposal of those who require them. Arrangements are being made for special reductions in the railway transport rates, as was the case with the Cancer Exhibition. Professor J. Lucas-Championnière is the President of the Third Congress, and Monsieur A. Depage is the secretary-general. Monsieur L. Mayer is the secretary of the Congress. Forms of application may be obtained on request.