

When such a statistical return shall be made, more correct reasonings may arise upon it than can now be offered; but however small the proportion of *pures*, it will not, I apprehend, alter the force and justness of some remarks contained in the *Medical Gazette*, such as when the editor asks whether "there be aught disreputable in any man of liberal professional education sending to his patients from his own house the medicines which he had himself prescribed? We think we have said enough to satisfy every unprejudiced mind, that the general practitioner, with his private surgery, and whose apprentice or dispenser, compounds his prescription, is every whit as good and as respectable a man as he whose recipe goes to the next druggist's shop."* These ideas will prove so palatable in the provinces, that we shall be glad to hear more from this writer in the same strain, and can pardon his literary and statistical mistakes.

I would have your journal, Mr. Editor, exhibit the real state of the profession in the provinces; and unless an experience of some thirty years has misled me, I predict that it will evince a gradual improvement in the general practitioners, both as to knowledge, manner, and respectability, until they have come so powerfully into collision with the *pures*, whether surgical or medical, that these latter classes, and particularly the medical, have descended to half-crown fees for advice or visit, and are no longer what the press represents them to be, "superiorly learned, more extensively educated, more at leisure to advance their science, more capable of doing it—the consultants in all difficult cases," &c.

Hoping the collision will continue to the further advancement of the class to which I belong, and until each shall pass for *quantum valet*, reckoning his talent, industry, acquirement, practical skill, and integrity.

I remain, your obedient servant,

May 6, 1844.

Q. Q.

* *London Medical Gazette*, p. 145.

[We cannot agree with our correspondent, Q.Q., in whom we recognize, notwithstanding his assumed incognito, an accomplished surgeon as well as an esteemed general practitioner, in the wish to estimate the services of *any* class of practitioners by half-crown fees. His advice in any capacity we should value at a much higher rate than he seems disposed to place upon it; the drugs, appliances, &c., with which it might be accompanied at precisely the sum for which they may be obtained genuine in any commercial establishment.]

VACCINATION UNDER THE POOR LAW.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

I have to inform you, in reply to the letter of the Medical Officer of the Ely Union, that 2s. 6d. is paid for every successful case of vaccination, either at a home station or otherwise, by the Guardians of the Clutton Union, near Bristol.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

VERAX.

POOR LAW MEDICAL RELIEF.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

The subject of Medical relief to the sick poor is just now occupying a good deal of public attention, and both in parliament and without, I believe an opinion prevails that the systems for affording medical aid to the indigent sick are by no means *faultless*, and that the Medical Officers are very inadequately remunerated.

I see numberless complaints published in different Journals by correspondents, anonymous and otherwise; but I do not see any account of memorials to the legislature prepared and signed by Union Medical Officers themselves, setting forth their real grievances, and praying for relief. In this Union, (Newmarket) all the Medical Officers agreed to and signed a memorial to the Select Committee of the House of Commons now sitting, to deliberate upon this important question. (See *Provincial Medical Journal* for March 23.) And I do think, Sir, if the Surgeons in other Unions were to petition in a similar manner, stating the evils to be remedied, and asking the support to such prayer, of every member of the legislature with whom the individual practitioners might have interest, that the present unenviable position of the Union Doctor might be very much benefitted.

Any permanent or satisfactory amendment in the system can only be looked for from the legislature and from the Poor-Law Commissioners. I submit, most respectfully, that now is the time to make known our grievances in the proper quarters. To my brother Union Surgeons then I would suggest, but humbly and with deference, "Petition! petition! petition!" Trusting you will excuse my intrusion,

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient and humble servant,

RICHARD FAIRCLOTH.

Newmarket, May 10, 1844.

CHELTHENHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY.

The following gentlemen were unanimously re-elected Medical Officers of this Institution, on Monday, May 6th, having completed their term of five years in office:—Drs. Gibney and Collings Robinson, Messrs. Fowler, Eves, Earle, Wright, and Hawkins.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Gentlemen admitted Members Monday, May 6, 1844.

—S. G. Downing; A. Iles; S. R. Pittard; G. F. Mitchelson; F. Fitch; J. Lewis; F. L. Clementson; J. Clifton; J. P. Walker; H. N. Brake; J. R. Throbalds; T. Scott; J. Hakes.

Admitted Friday, May 10, 1844.—J. B. Barry; M. H. Higginbottom; R. T. Cobbold; N. F. Hedley; J. Fitzmaurice; E. H. Edge; A. Stansbury; W. T. Walsh; W. Leapingwell; W. Brown.

It is requested that all letters and communications be sent to Dr. Streeten, Foregate Street, Worcester. Parcels, and books for review, may be addressed to the Editor of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal, care of Mr. Churchill, Princes Street, Soho.