CORRESPONDENTS are particularly requested by the Editor to observe that communications relating to advertisements, changes of address, and other business matters, should be addressed to the Manager, at the Journal Office, 161A, Strand, London, and not to the Editor.

MEDICAL ATTENDANCE ON THE POOR.

Medical Attendance on the Poor.

Sir, —It is no doubt often an anxious and difficult question for a medical man te decide where the "necessity of living" for himself and his right to fair payment for services, and often for medicines, supplied, should give way to claims for such service, without payment, on the grounds of the urgency of the claim. Upon humanitarian grounds, every sick and suffering person is, per sc, an object of compassion. On the other hand, it is the regular way of livelihood of doctors to be paid for their efforts to relieve such suffering and sickness; and there are a great number of voluntary organisations in which doctors take their special part to afford relief where poverty prevents such payment, as well as a great State organisation, to support which doctors pay rates and taxes in common with other citizens. Nevertheless, the doctor who does not respond to the special appeal to his free service, which is so often made, is apt to be taxed with heartless inhumanity; and lately such headings and paragraphs have multiplied more than usual. I subjoin one, which is, I think, a good test case. Can we lay down among ourselves any rules? I should like to have the opinions of some of our fellow-members on this paragraph. "Mr. S. F. Langham held an inquest relative to the death of John B. G. Manchester, aged 15, of Elliott's Row, Southwark.—Augusta Manchester deposed that the deceased was her son. He was in the employ of a carriage-builder, and left home apparently in good health, and went to work. About 11 A.M. witness was suddenly sent for to go to the lad, who had been taken ill while at Messrs. Alfords', carriage-builders, Newington Butts, having been sent there on an errand. When she got to him, he was in a kind of fit, and quite unconscious. A neighbouring doctor was sent for (Dr. Lamb), who ordered his immediate removal home in a cab, and told witness to come to his surgery at once for some medicine, as the case was most urgent. Upon going to the surgery a few minutes afterwards, the medi Coroner: You have heard what Mrs. Manchesser has stated with respect to D., Lamb's refusal to supply her with medicine unless she first got the money. Do you think, if medicine had been given, that the life of the deceased might have been saved?—Witness: From all I can see, the case was hopeless from the first.—A verdict of Natural Death was recorded."

Supposing that what is alleged in evidence is true, what are the principles on which a medical man should act in such cases? What is the experience of medical men as to cognate cases? what is their practice, and what their rules of conduct? men as to cognate cases? what is their practice, and what their rules of confidence. I observe that you are manfully grappling with some of these hard cases. If you will admit this letter, and any subsequent correspondence, I think it might let in some light, and help you to assist us to settled principles and conclusions. I am, G. P.

SIR,—Your remarks in the JOURNAL of January 14th, in the article on "Medical Attendance on the Poor", would lead one to ask more than ever, and yet once again, Attendance on the Poor", would lead one to ask more than ever, and yet once again, why should a medical man give his services to a case when he has great doubts of receiving a penny in payment, more than a tradesman should give his wares to one he never expects to pay for the same? If the latter refuse a customer on such grounds, the public back him up, and say "quite right too"; but, if we refuse giving our time, and (in respect of the case in point) I may add health too, and any contretemps like the present arise, everyone blames us; but rarely, as in this instance, our brethere. instance, our brethren.

Let me narrate an incident which occurred soon after I arrived here. I often wonder Let me narrate an incident which occurred soon after I arrived here. I often wonder how it was terminated; and if fatally, for want of attendance, who would be blamed? One very cold night, a respectably dressed man, apparently a mechanic, rang at my bell, and implored my immediate attendance on his wife, hourly expecting her confinement; but, as I was expecting to be called out hourly myself, I had to refuse him, though he informed me he had been to eight medical men, none of whom he could induce to turn out. I think those who read the case will thank the coroner for his charitable view of the case; for, if a medical man, he may speak from the experience of many of us, who can tell of many a sleepless night spent without receiving a ghost of a fee.

I only wish we could unanimously follow the example of the admirable co-sperive stores, and reduce, if necessary, our fees, but demand cash payment.

tive stores, and reduce, if necessary, our fees, but demand cash payment. Surely our advice is as valuable to those who seek it, as the contents of our stores are to those who purchase there; why should, then, the latter be always paid for, whilst the former so often has to take its chance—and that a poor one.—Yours, etc.,

"," We have many times referred to the excellent system of paid night service in vogue in Paris, New York, and other capitals, by which system such difficulties are avoided.

Ozæna. UZ.R.N.

IR,—Would some of your readers kindly inform me whether there is any prospect of a patient with ozena deriving benefit from residence in another climate; and what district and country they would recommend? I have already tried innumerable sprays and other local applications, but with only slight advantage.—Pours truly,

G. A.

S.—The alleged conduct of E., in sending for republication in a lay newspaper, matters relating to medical ethics is, we consider, very objectionable. As S. was not aware, at the time that he notified the case to the sanitary authority as one of measles, that there was any dispute as to the diagnosis, he was quite right in reporting it. It does not appear, from the information before us, that E. visited the case the second time in his official capacity as officer of health, but as the medical attendant who had previously had charge of the case, and for the purpose of satisfying himself as to its nature.

ELECTION OF AN UNQUALIFIED PRACTITIONER TO A FRIENDLY SOCIETY. SIR,—Will you kindly express your opinion in the following case? A qualified registered physician and surgeon and an unqualified man contest the appointment of medical attendant on the members of a lodge of a registered friendly society. By medical attendant on the members of a lodge of a registered friendly society. By the registered rules of the said society only a qualified man is eligible. The unqualified man gets the majority of votes, and is declared elected. Is not the qualified man nevertheless duly and legally elected under the circumstances? and on these grounds? 1. He was the only eligible candidate who applied. 2. All votes given in favour of the unqualified, and thus totally ineligible, man, were as if never recorded, and thus null and void. 3. The unqualified man recorded just two votes more than the qualified man, and the lodge is a strong one.—Yours, etc., LOGGE SURGEON.

LODGE SURGEON. LOGGE SCRGEON.

. The Medical Act of 1858 prohibits a person from holding any appointment as a physician, surgeon, or other medical officer to any friendly society unless he be registered. We are also of opinion that the unqualified individual referred to by our correspondent as having been chosen to fill the appointment of medical attendant to the members of a lodge of a registered friendly society was not legally elected, inasmuch as we are informed that, by the certified rules of this association, only a duly qualified medical man is eligible for such a post. In Pratt's Law of Friendly Societies, it is stated that "great strictness must be observed in following the rule as to the appointment of officers"; and the case of Roberts 7t. Price on this point materially corroborates such assertion. According to this the election of 2 the rule as to the appointment of officers"; and the case of Roberts 7. Price on this point materially corroborates such assertion. According to this, the election of a treasurer to the Overton Friendly Society was declared to be void by Mr. Justice Coltman at the Flint Assizes, and this decision was subsequently affirmed in the Court of Common Pleas, on the ground that the whole of the members of the committee in whom the duty of electing officers had been vested by the society, had not been summoned to the meeting in question. Although it does not appear to us, after referring to the Friendly Society Acts, and the cases decided in connection with them, whether our correspondent is legally elected as medical attendant to the lodge, we are of opinion that he is lawfully appointed to this position according to the decision in the case of the Tipperary Election Petition, tried before the Court of Common Pleas in Ireland in 1875; and which judgment is, we believe, applicable in many respects to the appointment of officers to associations and other corporations. In this case the election of Mr. John Mitchell as member for the county of Tipperary was declared to be void, on the ground that he was disqualified from being elected a member of the House of Commons, and that, upon a notification of this incompetency to the electrors who voted for him, their suffrages were useless, and the candidate in the minority was cutilited to the scat. were useless, and the candidate in the minority was entitled to the scat.

MEMB. BRIT. MED. ASSOC., who writes a letter concerning the Collective Investiga IEMB. BRIT. MED. ASSOC., who writes a letter concerning the Collective Investiga-tion Committee, is reminded of the rule which requires every person to append his signature to a letter for authentication, though not necessarily for publication. If the "Member" wish for any further information on the subject, he should address the General Secretary of the Association, at 1614, Strand; or the Chairman of the Collective Investigation Committee, Professor Humphry, Cambridge.

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