

ARGUS.—No award has yet been made by the Jacksonian Committee.

HOSPITAL BUILDING ESTIMATES, LONDON.

SIR.—Mr. Hart, in his criticisms of Mr. Hardy's Metropolitan Poor Bill, refers to the estimate of Mr. Farnall: viz, that the scheme of six metropolitan hospitals, to contain 1000 beds each, would cost £250,000; and compares this sum with the proposed expenditure in Mr. Hardy's Bill; viz, £400,000. Mr. Hart then remarks on Mr. Hardy's estimate: "No saving here." But is this remark just? Can any one believe that at this present time a hospital, with the large space now required for the sick, can be built in London, or in any part of the country, at £40 per patient? Why the very ground which six such hospitals would occupy in London would cost something like half the £250,000! Can any one produce a builder who could, at this time of high wages and trades' unions, undertake to find the land and build a hospital, with all its modern required appliances, in the metropolis, for less than about £100 per bed? On such calculation, Mr. Farnall's estimate should be £800,000 instead of £250,000.

I am, etc.,

AN ASSOCIATE.

INQUIRER. Llanidloes, Montgomeryshire.—Mr. C. P. Price's work, published by Churchill and Sons.

PROFESSIONAL ETIQUETTE.

SIR.—Will you be so good as to inform me, in your "Answers to Correspondents," whether it is the duty of a resident medical practitioner to call first on a surgeon who comes to practise in the same neighbourhood, or *vice versa*? I am, etc.,

February 13th, 1867.

CHIRURGUS.

* * In all cases, the rules of social intercourse require that the new comer should leave a card with the earlier residents, who have otherwise no positive intimation of the advent of the stranger.

OWING to pressure on our space, we are compelled to postpone various letters and articles, and numerous answers to correspondents.

GRATUITOUS MEDICAL SERVICE.

SIR.—Our JOURNAL has always advocated the suppression of the above monstrous injustice to the profession. I therefore hand you a copy of what appears an unwarrantable demand on my time and labour.

As Medical Officer of Health for a poor portion of the metropolis, I devoted the whole of my time and energies to superintend the treatment and prevention of cholera for some six months without the addition of a shilling to a very moderate salary. Now, although I sent a weekly return of all cases of diarrhoea and cholera to the Medical Department of the Privy Council, I am requested to supply *gratuitously*, chapter and verse, facts and figures, in short, all the materials for the well paid sanitary officer of that department and his nominees, to concoct a report on the late cholera epidemic. Am I justified in doing so?

The country, I believe, pays very handsomely for these annual reports, about £15,000 a volume; so that the question will probably be as to the equitable division of the fund.

I am, etc.,

AN ASSOCIATE.

London, February 14th, 1867.

M. A. B.—We have complied with the request; but cannot undertake to do the same on any future occasion.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, ETC., have been received from:—

Mr. T. Smith (with enclosure); Mr. W. P. Nimmo, Edinburgh (with enclosure); Mr. Steele, Liverpool (with enclosure); Dr. George Buchanan, Glasgow (with enclosure); Dr. George Johnson (with enclosure); Dr. Lombe; Messrs. John Churchill and Sons; An Inquirer; Mr. Trotter; Mr. Weeden Cooke; Dr. 'Ede; Mr. A. Mortimer; Dr. Morgan, Manchester; Mr. Franklyn; Mr. Furneaux Jordan, Birmingham (with enclosure); Mr. E. Bellamy; Staff-Surgeon R.N.; The Secretary of the Health Section of the Social Science Association; Dr. Hardwicke; The Secretaries of the Pall Mall Gazette Testimonial Fund; The Secretary of the Poor-Law Medical Officers' Association; Mr. Benson Baker; Mr. M'Cloy, Liverpool; Mr. T. M. Stone; Mr. W. Fairlie Clarke; Mr. George Sankey, Maidstone; Dr. John Ogle; Dr. John B. Potter; The Secretary of the Western Medical and Surgical Society; Mr. George Moss; Dr. Beigel; Mr. Edward Meyrick, Manchester; Dr. Francis C. Howard, Linton; Mr. Berkeley Hill (with enclosure); The Hon. Sec. of Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society; Mr. Arthur Ransome, Manchester (with enclosure); Mr. De Tatham; Dr. Cobbold; Mr. R. I. Nisbett, Gravesend; Mr. W. Copney; Dr. Thomas Shapter, Exeter (with enclosure); Dr. Dean Fairless; The Registrar-General; Mr. Couper; Dr. Maudsley; Dr. T. J. Woodhouse; Dr. J. Vale, Birkenhead; Dr. E. T. Hughes, Mold (with enclosure); Mr. R. A. Jones, Carnarvon; The Director-General of the Army Medical Department; Mr. J. B. Franklin, Manchester.

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