

**AN APPEAL.**—The Rev. H. Bromfield, vicar of Blockley, Worcester-shire, begs to call the attention of the members of the medical profession to a case of great destitution; and to solicit their contributions on behalf of the bereaved widow and children. Mr. Edgar Bull, surgeon, etc., resided and practised for several years in the village of Blockley. In January 1863, on his way home at night from visiting a patient, he fell from a bank and sustained a bad fracture of the leg. A long confinement to his bed, and the consequent loss of income, preyed heavily upon his mind; and, although he partially regained the use of his limb, the constitution had received so severe a shock, that his mind gave way, and in a paroxysm of mental aberration he precipitated himself from a window, and was killed. Mr. Bull has left a widow and four children. The eldest son, aged 19, is an assistant in a draper's shop; but two daughters, a son, and the widow, are utterly destitute. The money collected will be applied to establish the widow in a grocery business, in the hope that she may support herself, and keep a home for her children, until some provision can be made for them. Contributions will be received by—Rev. Henry Bromfield; or Admiral Collier, C.B., Blockley; Dr. Kingsley, Stratford-on-Avon; Dr. Moore, 15, Charles Terrace, Victoria Park, London; or Charles W. Morris, Esq., Surgeon, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire.

**THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND THE TITLE OF DOCTOR.**—Sir: The recent resolution of the College of Physicians to address some of its members by the title of Dr., induces me to inquire how far, consistently with the terms and spirit of the Charter of the College, the title can be extended to all physicians.

I find the following remarkable passage in the Charter: "Doctoribus Joan. Chambré, Thomæ Linacre, Ferdinando de Victoria, Medicis Nostris, Nicholao Halsewell, Johanni Francisco, et Rob. Yaxley, Medicis."

Considering that not one of these gentlemen was a Doctor of Medicine of an English university, that they must have been qualified physicians under Act 3 of Henry VIII, and that they are named physicians, and not doctors of physic (in fact, the expression doctor of physic does not once occur in the Charter), I think we are justified in concluding that the founders of the College were entitled doctors on the ground of their being qualified English physicians, and not because some of them happened to be graduates of foreign universities. The fact that just before the very same names in the same order, with the same affix, are mentioned with this difference, only that the prefix "*doctorum*" is used instead of "*doctoribus*", strongly supports the view that the substantive and adjective are used much in the same sense, and are given on the same grounds. It would thus seem that all physicians are *ipso facto* "doctors", just as the clergy are reverend, and barristers are esquires.

I have pointed out the passage to several legal friends, and they are all confident that the prefix could only have been given on the grounds stated, and that it recognises and sanctions the claim of all physicians to the prefix doctor.

I am, etc., JAMES GAGE PARSONS, Physician.  
Bristol, July 23rd, 1864.

**OPHTHOPIUM FRAGATULI.**—Sir: I believe that, in considerable collections of that class of persons in whom the stamina of health is somewhat below par—I mean those who are generally admitted into our workhouses and workhouse schools—many are very liable to become the subjects of strumous ophthalmia; perhaps not of a very severe type, yet sufficiently so to become very troublesome. Many, especially children, have it in succession; and some several times over. The usual remedies are generally successful, in apparently curing the disease; but no known means have as yet been found successful in rooting it out of the establishment. The workhouse school in which I am interested has been subject to it for several years; in fact, is never without it. All ordinary means have been perseveringly tried, such as good diet, plenty of air, and out-door exercise, cleanliness and cold bathing. The persons affected are carefully kept separated, and that for a considerable time. I have suggested in addition, quinine and cod-liver oil.

If any of your correspondents, who may have had experience of this kind, would obligingly furnish me with any means or suggestion that may have been successful in their hands, I shall feel greatly obliged, and they will be conferring a great boon on a considerable number of poor suffering children.

I am, etc., M.D.

**GRIFFIN TESTIMONIAL FUND.**—Sir: The following subscriptions have been further received on behalf of the above Fund:—H. Olivey, Esq. (Taunton), 5s.; C. H. C., 2s. 6d.; R. M., 1s.; Dr. Harts-horne (Maddely), £1 1; Messrs. Howell and Kingsford (Clapton), £1 1; Messrs. Bush and Parsons (Frome), £1; Thomas Hewlett, Esq. (Harrow), £1 1.

Amount previously announced, £43 11 6. Received at the Lancet office, £2 18.

I am, etc., ROBERT FOWLER, M.D.,  
Treasurer and Hon. Sec.  
145, Bishopsgate Street Without, August 3rd, 1864.

**COMMUNICATIONS** have been received from:—Dr. GEORGE E. PAGER; Dr. ORMEROD; Dr. G. M. HUMPHRY; Mr. TIMOTHY HOLMES; Mr. CLEMENTS; Dr. KITCHING; Mr. T. M. STONE; Dr. RICHARDSON; and Dr. FOWLER.

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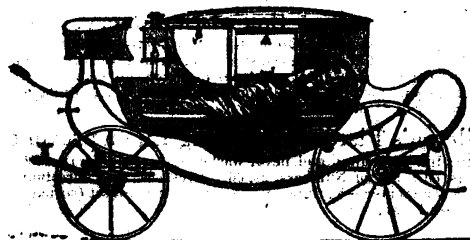


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