

therefore I feel certain he would be forbidden to use them; for if he cannot practise in one place, how can he in another?

2nd.—That, as registered persons, we have acquired certain legal rights. What can this mean but that all unregistered persons are now compelled to strip themselves of any presumed powers they have ventured to take upon themselves? They have *now* no legal rights; therefore, if they act like registered persons, they will be acting illegally, and must be punished accordingly. I think, therefore, that I have proved my

3rd conclusion.—That any unregistered person infringing upon our rights in any way whatever is liable to prosecution. These, Sir, are in my opinion the grand uses of our Registration Associations—namely, not only that we shall assist the Registrar so that no unqualified person shall get upon the Register, but also that we shall protect the public and ourselves from the illegal practice of medicine and surgery by unregistered and therefore unqualified pretenders. I say that we have power enough to prevent illegal practice *now*, and I trust that we shall use the power which we now possess.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Harrow-road, Paddington, Dec. 1858.

WM. THORN, M.D.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I rejoice to see the formation of Medical Registration Associations becoming so general throughout the kingdom. These societies once fairly established in every town of importance, their functions might be considerably extended, and they could be made a most powerful organ in forwarding the interests of the profession. They might become the means of supplying what has been so long wanting to enable us to assume our proper status in society—namely, combination and organization. Did a parliamentary measure, for example, require support or opposition, meetings could readily be called, the secretaries of each branch association could be in speedy communication, and the signature of almost every member of the profession be obtained to any desirable petition. For these associations are, or will be, joined by all in their neighbourhood—a result secured not only by their primary object, but by the smallness of the subscription and the absence of any cumbrous machinery; they would, in fact, become a means by which the sense of the great bulk of the profession might be at once taken on any subject (Poor-law Medical Reform, for instance,) involving their interests or welfare.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Dec. 1858.

AN HON. SECRETARY.

## THE NEW SYDENHAM SOCIETY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have much pleasure in answering the questions put by "A Member of the New Sydenham Society," in your journal of last week, as to what books he will receive for his first year's subscription, and when they will be ready. No. 1—Diday on Hereditary Syphilis—is within a few sheets finished printing, and will in all probability be in his hands within a month. No. 2—Selected Memoirs on Diphtheria, including a large part of Bretonneau's work, and portions of the Essays of Buchut, Daviot, and Trousseau—he may expect in about two months. Probably about the same time he will receive also No. 3, which in one volume will comprise Kussmaul and Tenner's monograph on the Effects of Profuse Bleeding upon the Nervous System, and those of Wagner on the Resection of Bones and Joints, and of Græfe on Iridectomy in the Treatment of Glaucoma and Recurring Iritis (two distinct essays). The production of No. 4, in which are numerous highly-finished engravings, will probably require a somewhat longer time. The volume will contain (bound in one) the two works of Schroeder Van der Kolk on the Nervous System. The title of the first of these is, "On the Anatomy and Physiology of the Spinal Cord;" that of the second "On the Medulla Oblongata, and on the Proximate Cause and Rational Treatment of Epilepsy." With this volume, the issue for the year 1859 will probably conclude, and I hope that not more than four months of that year will have expired before they are all out.

Respecting Gooch's book, I may state that it has been deferred a few months on account of circumstances over which the Council had no control.

Wagner's pamphlet has been translated for the Society by Mr. J. Holmes, and appended to it will be a short Appendix

by that gentleman, giving a *résumé* of such facts as have been recorded since its publication.

It is upon the selection of works for future years that the votes collected from the members generally will bear. All the above, including those of Professor Schroeder Van der Kolk, were in preparation before the results of the voting were known. Your correspondent, therefore, indulges in pure perverseness when he states that the latter books were selected in spite of their having received but a small number of votes.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JONATHAN HUTCHINSON, *General Secretary.*

Finsbury-circus, Dec. 7th, 1858.

## NEW ARMY WARRANT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Soon after the issue of the Royal Warrant relating to the surgeons of the army, the surgeons of Margate addressed the following letter to General Peel, to which he returned the accompanying answer; and if you think that they may with propriety be published, and that the first letter may tend to promote a more general expression of feeling on the part of the members of our profession, they are both at your disposal.

I remain, Sir, sincerely yours,

GEORGE YEATES HUNTER, F.R.C.S.E.,

Margate, Dec. 1858.

Mayor of Margate.

(COPY.)

To General J. Peel, K.C.B. and Secretary of War.

Margate, Oct. 25th, 1858.

SIR,—We, the undersigned surgeons of Margate, desire most respectfully to inform you that we have read with pleasure and approbation the Royal Warrant of the 1st of October, regulating the future pay and rank of the army surgeons.

Although we, Sir, being civilians, are not *directly* affected by that Warrant, so creditable to the Government and so pregnant with important results, yet, believing that a measure which raises the standard of the profession, while it confers proper distinctions upon and improves the social standing of one of its branches, is *indirectly* calculated to be beneficial to the whole, we venture to offer you our warm and grateful thanks for the rewards and honours which are by that Warrant so justly bestowed upon, and in such a generous and liberal spirit offered to, our brethren the army surgeons—a body of men of whom we are proud to record that, fearless of danger, regardless of personal risk, and unmindful of neglect, they have, surrounded by difficulties, cheerfully and calmly gone forth, amid the clash of arms and the carnage of war, to render upon the battle-field prompt assistance to the wounded, the suffering, and the maimed; and have, by conduct so self-denying and so noble, earned for themselves the thanks of the Queen and the gratitude of the country, and achieved a reputation for skill and humanity which no time can destroy.

We remain obediently yours,

GEORGE YEATES HUNTER, F.R.C.S.E.,  
Mayor of Margate.

DAVID PRICE, F.R.C.S.E.

HENRY GEORGE HOFFMAN, M.R.C.S.E.

A. WILLEY, M.R.C.S.E.

WM. HENRY THORNTON, M.R.C.S.E.

WM. PRESTON PRICE, M.R.C.S.E.

WM. BOLD ATKINSON, M.R.C.S.E.

OWEN ALBERT PHILIP, M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A.

GEORGE MAYRIS PITTOCK, M.R.C.S.

FREDERICK CHAMBERS, M.D.

(COPY.)

War-Office, Nov. 3rd, 1858.

SIR,—I am directed by Secretary Major-General Peel to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 25th ultimo, expressing the pleasure and approbation with which you and certain other gentlemen, surgeons at Margate, whose names are thereto subscribed, have read the Royal Warrant of the 1st of October, regulating the future pay and rank of the army surgeons.

Major-General Peel desires me to return his thanks to you for that communication; I am, however, to add, that he had only the satisfaction of carrying out the recommendation of a Committee presided over by Mr. Sidney Herbert on this matter.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

To G. Y. Hunter, Esq.

H. K. STOCKS.