

## THE NEW NEWSPAPER STAMP ACT.

THE Publisher respectfully informs Subscribers to THE LANCET, and the Newspaper Trade generally, that STAMPED COPIES can only be transmitted by Post WITHIN FIFTEEN DAYS from the date of Publication, and also that copies must be so folded that THE STAMP IS FULLY EXPOSED TO VIEW.

## To Correspondents.

*The International Statistical Congress.*—The space necessarily occupied by the Introductory Lectures compels us to postpone the valuable Reports of M. Parchappe on Mental Alienation, and of M. Marc d'Espine on the Nomenclature of the Causes of Death.

*A Candidate.*—The following regulations have been issued:—

"Gentlemen corresponding with the Army and Ordnance Medical Department are requested to write a *separate letter* upon every *distinct head* of communication; and to quote the *date* and *number* on letters emanating from this office, and to be particular in writing each character of their name and rank at full length.

"All communications to the Director-General must be addressed, *outside*, to 'The Right Honourable the Secretary at War, War Office, London,' with the words, 'Medical Department' in the left-hand corner. Letters not strictly official are returned, and charged with postage."

*Mr. Roper's* case is in type, but is unavoidably deferred until next week.

*Country Surgeon.*—The authoress is Mrs. Mary Wedlake; it is published at 118, Fenchurch-street, London.

*Dr. R. Fowler.*—The paper was received. It would meet with earlier insertion if it were half the length.

## BRITISH MEDICAL STAFF, TURKISH ARMY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg to correct a statement recently made by "our own correspondent of the *Daily News*" at the seat of war, as to the doings of the British Medical Staff of the Turkish Army at Varna. I will, in contradiction, state what has been done since our residence here. On the 9th of May 400 patients were sent from Eupatoria, 370 of whom arrived and were placed under our treatment. They were all suffering from severe disease, as diarrhoea, dysentery, scurvy, fever, &c.

We have since received into the hospital the worst cases of 2600 more patients sent from the Crimea; others have been admitted into the Turkish Hospital, and the very mild cases are billeted on the inhabitants of the villages in the neighbourhood. The average number of cases daily under treatment has been more than 60 for each surgeon. Our total number of cures is 200, 100 of which have been sent to their regiments in the Crimea, and 100 are at the barracks ready to leave. We have the uncontrolled management of two hospitals, and treat our patients quite independently of the Turkish authorities, who appear to be perfectly satisfied with us, if we may judge from the opinions expressed by the Pasha, recently sent by the Minister of War.

I myself have already had under treatment in the hospital 165 patients, soldiers and officers, all of whom were suffering from a severe form of disease on admission, and at present I have 78 patients, 4 of whom are commissioned officers. I therefore will leave you to judge whether we have not sufficient reason for contradicting a statement, put forward by the *Daily News*, calculated to be highly prejudicial to our future interests, and whether we have not had sufficient occupation during our residence here, instead of living in idleness and being on the point of death from *ennui*; when you consider, too, that we have had to acquire a knowledge of the climate of the country, and not only the manners, habits, and prejudices of our patients, but also their language. In addition, I may mention that of 13 medical officers sent here, there are only 3 of them who have not been seriously ill; 3 of the 6 surgeons and 7 assistants have suffered much from the climate, and 3 of them have been invalidated, 2 as unfit for further service.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ONE OF THE VARNA STAFF.

British Military Hospital, Varna, Aug. 1855.

*A Medical Assistant*, (Sunderland).—A druggist is not warranted in changing the ingredients of a prescription. No respectable druggist would do so. We fear there is no remedy for instances of impertinence like that detailed.

*Mr. Best's* letter shall receive attention in our next.

*A Student.*—By reference to the Students' Number, our correspondent can choose for himself. We do not recommend any particular school.

*Juvenis.*—It is quite a common case.

## BEGGING IMPOSTORS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I wish to warn the profession in London against a begging impostor of more than ordinary pretensions. He is a man about five feet eight inches in height, about forty-five or fifty years of age, of greyish or lightish coloured hair, gentlemanly appearance, and good address. He does not ask money for himself, but on behalf of a patient (?), a medical man, who has been reduced to penury by illness and misfortune. The malady under which this unfortunate is said to suffer is a "white swelling;" and although at the moment the term sounded strangely to my ears as coming from a medical man, my suspicions were well-nigh disarmed by the readiness and accuracy with which questions were answered relative to the steps which had been taken, with the view of enlisting the assistance of the various medical benevolent societies. Fortunately, when I asked whom I had the pleasure of addressing, the vagabond unwittingly gave the name of one of my intimate professional acquaintances, and thus exposed his own knavery. As I had not given him money, I could not detain him; but I hope this notice of his mode of proceeding may check his career, if it does not lead to his apprehension by those he has duped.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Manchester-square, October, 1855. HENRY WM. FULLER, M.D.

*Mr. John Ross*, (Stirling).—The best mode of preserving frogs is to place them in shallow water in a large dish, tied down with linen; the whole should be kept undisturbed in a cool place. At this season they live in a state of sub-hibernation, and do not require any food.

*A Statistician.*—Our correspondent remarks upon the absence of M. Quetelet's name from the list of distinguished men who formed the Section on Medical Statistics at the Paris Congress. Illness alone prevented that illustrious savant from assisting in person at the labours of the Congress.

## THE SUBCUTANEOUS OPERATION FOR STRICTURE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The class of cases to which my operation for stricture refers is of such a distressing character, that I may perhaps be permitted a few further remarks on the subject.

I have, in the first instance, to thank Mr. Henry Thompson for the information I have derived from his communication in THE LANCET of the 8th ult. I have since performed the operation on the dead subject, and find that it is a matter of no difficulty to divide any length of the sound urethra deep in the perinaem on a Syme's staff with a tenotomy-knife. I find further, that unless the bladder be emptied previous to operating, extravasation occurs at once; so that, should any surgeon feel inclined to act on my suggestion, this preliminary precaution should be observed. As I stated before, I apprehend the passage of a full-sized catheter immediately after division would obviate extravasation; and should it be found to occur in exceptional cases, the operation could, as it were, be completed into a Syme's operation by dividing the superficial structures down to the subcutaneous division.

Your obedient servant,

J. ZACHARIAH LAURENCE.

Devonshire-street, Portland-place, Oct. 1855.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I shall be obliged to you to insert, in the next number of your valuable journal, the following lines in reference to a letter from Mr. Zachariah Laurence, which appeared in your pages of September 1st.

If Mr. Laurence will turn to the *Medical Gazette*, May 28th, 1853, page 559, he will find the operation described, which he now proposes for the subcutaneous division of impermeable stricture, and that I had at that time performed it. I am about to bring the subject immediately, however, under the notice of one of our societies, and will therefore not trouble you farther than to draw Mr. Laurence's attention to the fact, that I had, in 1853, operated successfully in the manner he now proposes for the subcutaneous division of stricture of the urethra.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HENRY DUK, M.D., M.R.C.S.

Brook-street, Grosvenor-square, Oct. 1855.

*Dr. Hooper.*—The paper shall be published.

*A. B.*—It might, but not under ordinary circumstances. Frictions in cases of inertia of the uterus during labour have been recommended by Dr. Power to produce uterine action.

*Ethelbert* will find an answer to his question under the head of "A Candidate."

## PROFESSIONAL ADVERTISING.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg to submit to the first medical journalist of the kingdom whether the following advertising method of Dr. Hewson, M.R.C.S., of Cheltenham, is quite up to the standard of professional respectability:—

On the shop-door of a chemist (weekly known by advertising the following economical favour in the *Cheltenham Examiner*:—"Prescriptions dispensed at the retail prices of the ingredients they are composed of, at Hands, 17, Suffolk-parade") is the following notice, in large print, on the door, *verbatim*, as far as I can bear in mind from passing:—

"Orders received here and forwarded to Dr. Hewson, Surgeon, &c."

I may remark that this is the fashion of fly-drivers and coal-merchants in this town, who have messages forwarded them from shops; and whilst believing it no very reputable model for a medical man, lest I should be supposed an invidious druggist or surgeon, as to what certainly cannot be envied either as to plan or results, I beg, in confidence, to enclose my card, and to subscribe myself,

Yours, &c.,

DECENCY.

Cheltenham, October, 1855.

*A Sufferer.*—It is difficult to obtain admission. Make an application to one of the governors.

THE following advertisement is copied *verbatim* from an United States paper:—

"MEDICAL CARD.—J. E. F. Vailes, Physician and Surgeon, most respectfully offers his professional services to the citizens of Weston and surrounding country, having permanently located himself in this place. Having been upwards of ten years in the British Army as Physician and Surgeon in one of Queen Victoria's light Cavalry Regiments, and sometimes in the Mill Bank Penitentiary, London, and a graduate of Cambridge College, and St. George's and Middlesex Hospitals, London, and having visited several Hospitals on the Continent of Europe, and now eight years in the United States, feels confident of giving entire satisfaction to those who may require his professional services. He may be found at all hours, day or night, except when called on professional duty, at the City Hotel, Weston, Mo."

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, &c., have been received from—Dr. Andrew Smith; Dr. Marshall Hall; Dr. Merriman; Dr. Martin Duncan; Enquirer; Mr. Best; The Secretary of the Royal Panopticon; Dr. Hooper; Mr. J. Ross; Dr. Fuller; Country Surgeon; Mr. R. Thompson; A Candidate; A. B.; Dr. R. Fowler; A Student; Juvenis; A Medical Assistant, (Sunderland); Mr. J. Z. Laurence; Dr. H. Duk; Decency; Ethelbert; Mr. Roper; A Sufferer; Dr. Birch, (Kilkelly); Dr. Duncan, (Tunbridge Wells); Mr. Evans, (Littlehampton); Mr. Ling, (Saxmundham); Mr. Allen, (Staffordshire); Mr. Brown, (Burnley); Mr. Clarke, (Huddersfield); Mr. Watson, (Hemington); Mr. Murray, (New Brunswick); Dr. Di Ornellas, (Madeira); Mr. Chorley, (Taunton); Madame Chalaust, (Clifton); Mr. Williams, (Oxford); Mr. King, (Hereford); Mr. Crosswell, (Llanboidy); Mr. Phillips, (Hales Owen); Mr. Deeley, (Manchester); Mr. Nicholls, (Hitchin); Mr. Mackinder, (Gainsborough); Mr. Carruthers, (Halton); A Statistician; &c. &c.