

well-understood custom, called to vaccinate the child. I was not a little astonished when the mother expressed her regret at the trouble I was put to, informing me, at the same time, that the child was already vaccinated. She then went on to explain that one day, a short time previously, a medical gentleman, perfectly strange to her, called, and all but insisted upon his vaccinating the child, informing her she would otherwise be liable to be severely *fined*, he being appointed to vaccinate *all* for that district. She objected to this, informing him she expected her "family doctor" calling daily to do it, as he had done the other. But eventually, owing to the absence of her husband, and the dread of the *fine* for non-compliance, she reluctantly assented. The child was vaccinated, and medicine sent and paid for. The husband expresses himself as very dissatisfied and angry with such interference, and taking advantage of his absence to alarm his wife into compliance.

I submit to the profession the propriety of a parish vaccinator going into the houses of respectable tradesmen, who are both able and willing to pay their own medical attendant, unsought and objected to, but accomplishing his purpose by the anything-but-professional means above detailed.

So long as such vaccinator confined his operations to the "back-slums and by-ways," hunting up and vaccinating the needy poor, for which purpose, in my humble opinion, his office was created, he would be acting meritoriously, and but fulfilling his proper duty.

PREPARATIONS OF IRON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg to forward you the following formulæ for the use of the general practitioner, being at once eligible and economical, requiring but little trouble in the preparation, and always to be depended upon, as to the proportion of the active ingredient in a given quantity of the liquid. I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,

JOHN TODD, M.D.,
King's College, Aberdeen.

Mare-street, Hackney,
Sept. 5, 1842.

LIQUOR FERRI POTASSIO-CITRATIS.

Rx *Acid. citric. crystallizat.*, ℥j. ʒv;
Potassæ carbonatis, ʒvij;
Ferri sesquioxidi, ℥j;
Sp. ammonia aromati., q. s.;
Aquæ distillat., ℥xxiv.

Dissolve the acid, citric, and potass. carbonat. in the water, when the effervescence has ceased, add the ferri sesquioxyd., and digest for twenty-four hours (frequently stirring) in a gentle heat; filter the liquid, and neutralise any excess of acid by dropping in, gradually,

sp. ammon. arom., until it is saturated. The liquid is of a reddish-brown colour, not precipitated by alkalis, nor altered in colour by the ferrocyanide of potassium, or tincture of galls. The taste is slightly styptic, though not unpleasant. It will be seen that there are two equivalents of acid. citric. combined with one equivalent of potass. and one equivalent of the ferri sesquioxyd. :—*one drachm* of this solution contains *five grains* of the dry ferri potassio-citras.

An agreeable syrup may be made by dissolving sacchar. alb., lb. j in fʒviij of the solution, and liquefying by a gentle heat. We have thus fʒxviiij of syrup; consequently fʒj will contain 2.25 grains.

SYRUPUS FERRI IODIDI.

Rx *Iodine*, grs. 362;
Ferri limatur., grs. 90;
Aquæ distillat., ʒviij;
Sacchar. alb., lb. j.

Digest the iodine and iron in the water until it become nearly colourless; pour off the clear liquid, and dissolve the sacchar. alb. with a gentle heat. When cold, pour off the clear syrup, and keep it in half-pint bottles well corked, and in the dark. The deoxydising agency of the sugar renders it unnecessary to keep a piece of iron wire in the bottle. As no precipitate takes place, except when exposed to a strong light, and air combined. In this, 362 grains of iodine combined with 80 grains of iron, forming 442 grains of ferri iodidi, dissolved in water ʒviij, which by the solution of the sacchar. alb., lb. j makes ʒxviiij, being three grains of ferri iodidi in fʒj of the syrup.

QUESTION OF WINDOW-TAX ON HOSPITALS.

THE FEVER HOSPITAL.

THE 48 Geo. 3, c. 55, imposes a duty on *dwelling-houses* for not more than six windows or lights, and for seven windows or lights, and exempts hospitals, except officers' and servants' apartments, which it declares should be assessed as entire *dwelling-houses*; the 6 Geo. 4, c. 7, s. 1, repeals the above duties. Held, that the duty on *dwelling-houses*, for not more than six and for seven windows being so taken away, it must be likewise deemed to be taken off the officers' and servants' apartments in hospitals, such apartments being, by the clause of the repealed Act, so treated and assessed as *dwelling-houses*.

Middlesex, Holborn Division.

At a meeting of the commissioners of assessed taxes, acting for the said division, holden at the board-room, No. 24, Red Lion-square, in the said division, the 3rd day of September, 1841, Mr. Hyde appealed

against an assessment made on him as secretary to the Fever Hospital, at Battle-bridge, in the said division, as follows:—(48 Geo. 3, c. 55, sch. (A), rule 8.)

EXEMPTIONS—CASE 2.

Name of Inhabitant.	Description.	Windows. No.	Duty. s. d.
Charles Hyde, secretary to the Fever Hospital, Battle-bridge.	Matron's apartments	4	7 0
	and Housemaids.....		
	Medical officers.....	4	7 0
	10l. per cent.	1 4

The commissioners *relieved the premises from charge*, under case 2, exemptions, 48 Geo. 3, c. 55, schedule (A); but the surveyor being dissatisfied with such determination, requested us to state a case for the opinion of her Majesty's judges, which we state accordingly.

The 48 Geo. 3, c. 55, imposes duty on every dwelling-house according to the number of windows or lights in each dwelling-house, and the offices to be charged therewith, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Schedule (A).—Not more than six windows or lights, except in such house which shall be worth the rent of 5l. by the year, and shall be charged to the duty mentioned in schedule (B), according to the rent.....	0	6	0
Not more than six windows or lights, if of the value before-mentioned, and charged to the said duty accordingly.....	0	8	0
Seven windows or lights	1	0	0
Eight windows	1	13	0
And so on.			

By case 2 of exemption from window duty, any hospital, charity-school, or house provided for the reception and relief of poor persons, *except such apartments therein as are or may be occupied by the officers or servants thereof, which shall severally be assessed and be subject to the said duties as entire dwelling-houses.*

By the 6 Geo. 4, c. 7, s. 1, the duties imposed by 48 Geo. 3, as set forth in the schedule thereto annexed, marked (A), *for every dwelling-house*, with the offices therein described, containing not more than six windows or lights, &c., and for every dwelling-house containing not more than seven windows or lights, *are repealed.*

The Fever Hospital is a hospital provided for the reception and relief of poor persons, and supported by voluntary contributions.

The commissioners are of opinion, that previously to the passing of 6 Geo. 4, the apartments in question (containing only four windows each), would have been severally assessable as *entire dwelling-houses*, with the duty imposed by the said first-mentioned Act, on entire dwelling-houses with not more

than six windows, 6s. 6d. or 8s., as the case might be, according to the rental of the premises in question (under schedule (B) of the said Act, which said schedule (B) was repealed by the 4 Will. 4, c. 19); but inasmuch as the Act imposing the window duty (48 Geo. 3, c. 55,) is repealed, *quoad* the duties on houses with less than seven windows, it follows that since the passing of 6 Geo. 4, c. 7, there exists no rule for charging the apartments in question, seeing that no rule existed for charging them except as entire dwelling-houses, and they therefore fall wholly within the exemption, case 2, before set forth. The exception to such exemption, operating under 48 Geo. 3, *as a rule for charging*, viz., as entire dwelling-houses, but which rule for charging is repealed by 6 Geo. 4, thus leaving the exemption entire as to hospitals, &c., provided for the reception and relief of poor persons, where the apartments occupied by the officers do not contain more than seven windows.

The surveyor, however, has charged the apartments in question, under rule 8 of 48 Geo. 3, c. 55, for charging windows or lights, viz. :—

“Every distinct chamber or apartment in any of the inns of court or of chancery, or in any college or hall, or in either of the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge, or any public hospital, being severally in the tenure or occupation of any person or persons, shall be subject to the same duties as if the same was an entire house, which duties shall be paid by the occupier thereof respectively; provided that every such chamber or apartment which shall not contain more than seven windows or lights, shall be charged at the rate of three shillings and sixpence for every such window or light,” reduced by the 4 Geo. 4, c. 11, to one moiety.

The commissioners are of opinion, that this rule does not apply to a hospital for the reception and relief of poor persons; but to public hospitals, such as Greenwich and Chelsea Hospitals, the separate apartments in one of these latter establishments, having not more than seven windows, are still chargeable with a duty of 1s. 9d., one moiety of 3s. 6d. for each window, because this rule for charging public hospitals is not

touched by the 6 Geo. 4, c. 7; but with respect to apartments in hospitals, charity-schools, and houses provided for the reception and relief of poor persons, there does not exist, so far as the commissioners can discover, any rule for charging them.

The surveyor, in support of his charge, contends that the 8th rule of 48 Geo. 3, c. 55, is not affected by the exemption granted by the first section of the Act, 6 Geo. 4, c. 7, inasmuch as no reference is made therein to chambers or apartments mentioned in the said rule, but only to dwelling-houses, containing "not more than seven windows or lights," and which in his opinion was intended to give relief to poorer classes as occupiers thereof, and not to hospitals, charity-schools, or houses provided for the reception and relief of poor persons, the apartments occupied by the officers or servants thereof being expressly excepted in the second case of exemptions in the Act, 48 Geo. 3, c. 55, and the surveyor refers to the printed case, No. 1154, decided by the judges in respect to the liability of the officers of the Westminster Hospital, at the rate of 1s. 9d. for each window in their several apartments, and which decision was given subsequent to the passing of the Act 6 Geo. 4, c. 7.

The commissioners beg to observe, that in the case, No. 1154, referred to by the surveyor, the attention of the judges was not called to the distinction between rule 8, for charging public hospitals, and case 2 of exemptions, or rule for charging hospitals provided for the reception of poor persons; nor was their attention called to the 6 Geo. 4, repealing the duties on dwelling-houses containing not more than seven windows.

Given under our hands this 7th day of January, 1842.

JAMES MANSFIELD, }
JOHN TILL, } Commis-
EDWARD BAYLIS, } sioners.

29th June, 1842.—We are of opinion that the determination of the commissioners is right.

J. PATTESON,
J. WILLIAMS.

From the Justice of the Peace, Aug. 1842.

DEATH FROM THOMSONISM. — Dr. John Butterfield, of Lowell, Mass., reports, in the *Boston Journal* for May 11th, a case of erysipelas, "in the onset not severe," in which the patient was treated by a Thomsonian quack. He took capsicum, was put through a regular course, and finally steamed three times in twenty-four hours! In a state of coma with convulsions, he was handed over to the "regulars," and died after lingering a short time. — *Philadelphia Med. Examiner*,

THE LANCET.

London, Saturday, September 10, 1842.

WE have this week received,—but not in sufficient time to publish it until the issue of the next number of THE LANCET,—an article of very remarkable excellence and interest, from the pen of Mr. EDMONDS, Actuary of the LEGAL AND GENERAL ASSURANCE OFFICE, in Fleet-street, the history and an outline of which we shall give in this place. Its origin takes date from the publication, about six months ago, of a statement by the AMICABLE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, of the mortality experienced by the members of that society during the thirty-three years preceding the 5th of April, 1841. Mr. EDMONDS had made an investigation of the facts therein given, and wished to compare the results with the results of his previous observation on the mortality of the members of the EQUITABLE ASSURANCE SOCIETY which appeared in THE LANCET of October 28, 1837, page 154. But he found that the comparison could not be readily and directly instituted, in consequence of the classifications which he had made of the facts in the two observations being, in some degree, different. He was hence led to desire to institute, and afterwards to undertake, an entirely new investigation of the facts reported by the EQUITABLE. The results of his labour are embodied in the form of a complete analysis of all the information that was capable of being extracted from the two observations on the members of the AMICABLE and EQUITABLE Societies, his present classification of the facts being of a more general, and, as Mr. EDMONDS considers, a more useful character than that which was previously adopted by him, in the case of the EQUITABLE, in the year 1837.

In noticing the fruits of these two observations we may here mention that the results arrived at from both observations are entirely confirmatory of Mr. EDMONDS' theory of human mortality, at least among adults,