

water, alternating with salt-and-water, beef-tea and salt; these were at first rejected as fast as swallowed; after a time, however, the stomach was able to retain what was given, and the purging ceased. The powers of life were some time rallying, and they both suffered from subsequent fever, through which they have been brought to a state of convalescence.

Seven cases of violent vomiting and purging, with cold extremities, in children of different ages, were rescued by these means before the confirmed collapse came on. Three cases were fatal; the first, a female, seventy-eight years of age, in twenty hours, attended with violent cramps, no reaction taking place; the second, a child of eight years, in eight hours, taken suddenly with vomiting and purging, collapsed and pulseless from the commencement, without any premonitory symptoms; the third, although it partially rallied and become warm, the powers of life seemed to sink from the shock which the system had sustained.

The treatment adopted throughout in these cases I consider as a modification of that recommended by Dr. Ayre, aided by the hot air-bath, and combined with the free use of cold water, (iced when it may be procured,) salines, and effervescing drinks, which has been strongly advocated by many authors, and would appear to me to afford the most rational among the manifold methods of treatment which have hitherto been proposed.

To produce reaction, you can have no more powerful means than the hot air-bath; it is cheap, within the reach of every individual, of easy application; a few minutes suffices to bring it into action, the very interval required in seeking professional advice, and it is done without causing the slightest fatigue to the patient, the cradle being so contrived as to be slipped under the bedclothes without their being removed, and in the same way withdrawn.

By cold drinks you assist it most powerfully, while you are, at the same time, fulfilling two other most important indications attending to the dictates of Nature, in giving your patient what he so eagerly craves for, and supplying the system with fluid, which is so much demanded; you are acting on the liver, and endeavouring to restore its secretion by the intervention of calomel-and-opium.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Saumarez-street, Guernsey, Aug. 1849. EDWARD CAREY, M.D.

THE PRIVILEGES (!) OF EXTRA-LICENTIATES IN MEDICINE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have been several times a candidate for the office of physician to various hospitals, and the answer to my application has been that I am not qualified, not being a graduate of medicine of any university. What trash, what prejudice. What constitutes a physician, but a knowledge of those diseases which fall to his province? Of what importance, whether an M.D. from an university, or a licentiate of any college of Physicians? He has, in both instances, been tested by examination, and pronounced a fit and proper person to practise his profession, in the words of the London college—"Examinee eumque dignum judicasse ad practicam medicinam."

The London college, in my opinion, should protest against it, and thus uphold the rights of their members. In the meantime, I beg to state that I have the highest respect for the graduates of Oxford, Cambridge, London, Dublin, and Edinburgh, and the graduates of our other British and continental universities.

Yours obediently,
AN EXTRA-LICENTIATE.

REFUSAL OF MEDICAL FEES AT ASS. OFFICES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg to forward you the following correspondence between the Temperance and General Provident Institution, 39, Moorgate-street, London, and myself. I beg also to call your attention to the exceedingly polite note dated the 19th of July.—I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

Montgomery, July 28, 1849. J. P. WILDING, Surgeon.

On the 17th of this month, I received a circular from the above office, requesting me to answer a long string of questions relative to the health of a gentleman, who had been a patient of mine, and who wished to insure his life, signed "Theodore Compton, Secretary." The following was my answer:—

SIR,—Mr. — was a patient of mine some time since, and I believe he has not consulted any one else. I probably can

give you the best account of his health for some years past, and am willing to do so if you pay me for it.

The information you seek is for the benefit of your office, and ought to be paid for accordingly. Should my certificate of health be satisfactory to your office, it is worth paying for, as you must gain by insuring a good life. If unsatisfactory, you should pay, as your office would avoid a heavy loss, and probably cause me the loss of a friend. Should you think proper to remit me a fee of one guinea, I will give you every information, otherwise my friend can apply to another and more liberal office if he chooses.

Your obedient servant,
J. P. WILDING.

In reply, I received the following, dated July 19, 1849:—

SIR,—Your remarks may be just as regards proprietary offices, but this is a mutual assurance society, and, of course, the fees, if paid at all, must be paid by the members, and the accommodation we ask of our medical attendants ought not to be refused. I have only to add, that no mutual assurance office pays fees to the medical attendants of its members, and a person would be rather silly to go to a proprietary office, and pay shareholders' profits, in order to save a trifling fee, if his medical man will not give his certificate without it.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,
T. COMPTON.

The following was my rejoinder to the above note:—

SIR,—In answer to yours of the 19th, I beg to refer you to my former letter. I wish also to say, that my reason for refusing you the necessary information about Mr. — was not for the sake of a fee, but for the sake of an honourable profession. As regards your sneering remark of the silliness of a person insuring in a proprietary office when he can insure in yours by paying a trifling fee, I have nothing to say, further than you probably would set me down (in your own mind) in the same silly list if I filled up your forms without being paid by you for my trouble and responsibility. One thing more, and I have done. You either misrepresent known facts, or are ignorant of them, when you state that no mutual office pays a fee to the proposed member's medical man.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
Montgomery, July 21, 1849. J. P. WILDING.

* * A mutual assurance office, is it? Cut out the first epithet in the title. An "assurance" office it may be, but what can there be *mutual* in demanding of a medical man the opinion which only the education he has paid for enables him to give,—and refusing to pay him in return? As Paddy would say, the reciprocity is all on one side!—ED. L.

POOR-LAW JUGGLING.

If an out-door pauper fracture or dislocate a limb, and a union surgeon be called in to treat the injury, and if it be necessary for the patient's recovery to send him to a workhouse, (which is generally the case, as the pauper's dwelling is rarely fit for the treatment of such accidents,) there to be treated by the same or another surgeon, neither one nor the other of these surgeons is entitled to the extra allowance which the poor-law commissioners hold out in Article 177 of their consolidated order: the former, because "the setting of a limb, where the patient is afterwards sent to an hospital, is not treatment," (vide note 42, page 103, consolidated order); the latter, because "the payments for operations are limited to operations on out-door poor, and do not include those performed in the workhouse." (Vide note 40, page 102, consolidated order.)

Thus the surgeon who adjusts the fracture or dislocation is not remunerated, because he *does not treat* the accident, and the surgeon who treats the accident is in the same condition, because he *treats it in the workhouse!*

A SUBSCRIBER TO THE POOR-LAW CONVENTION.

NAVAL ASSISTANT-SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg for insertion for the following observations:—Assistant-surgeons that are appointed to the naval hospitals are put under a bond for £200 to serve five years at sea, if required to do so.

The services of these gentlemen are thus forced; and without the bond the Admiralty would lose them entirely.

I refer to the records at Somerset House, as a reason for my assertion that the navy would be deprived of the services of those assistant-surgeons who might serve in the hospitals.