results, whether successful or unsuccessful, together with the remedies used, properly arranged and classed, and forming a *statistical report* of the predominance, or otherwise, of particular diseases in particular districts. To obviate jealousy, or impressions arising from unsuccessful treatment, it would not be needful to publish the names of the medical or surgical staff interested, so long as the authenticity of the report, or "monthly state," were certified by the resident medical officer. No possible injury, I conceive, could arise to the importance or confidence attached to any medical officer, hospital, or dispensary, by this step; whilst a valuable statistical return, interesting to all, would be thus obtained. I do not claim originality in this idea,—I find it was urged by an eminent individual, who has filled the high post of president of the Royal College of Surgeons, on the attention of the committee upon the Factories' Bill, of which my highly valued and lamented friend, the late Michael Thomas Sadler, was chairman; but, somehow or other, a proposition I am prepared to defend, as one of the most advantageous in its objects, has since that time been allowed to pass into supine *abeyance*!

London, Sept. 23, 1840. MEDICUS.

THE APOTHECARIES' COMPANY AND MR. NOTT.

THE following correspondence has taken place between the Sub-committee of the Eastern Branch of the Provincial Medical Association, and the Solicitor of the Apothecaries' Company. It relates to a gentleman who practised as an apothecary at Coggeshall, and we publish it not only in justice to that gentleman, who seems to be fully qualified, in point of professional knowledge, to practise medicine, but also for the purpose of showing that the Company are sometimes disposed to relax, in favour of deserving persons, the penal dispositions of the Act of 1815.

TO ROBERT STEVENS, ESQ. M.D., JAMES YOUNG, ESQ., AND
C. B. ROSE, ESQ.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed by the master and wardens of this society to acknowledge your letter of the 14th inst., in which you state that you have been appointed, at a meeting of the Eastern Branch of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association held in the town of Bury, a committee to again address this society respecting the case of Mr. James Stuart Nott, whom you represent to be illegally practising as a general practitioner, at Coggeshall, in Essex.

The master and wardens readily accede to your request to be informed what steps the society have taken in reference to this case.

In the month of June, 1839, the society, having been furnished with evidence of Mr. Nott's having practised as an apothecary without legal qualification, and having satisfied themselves, by the examination of witnesses by their professional agent on the spot, that such evidence existed as would warrant their instituting proceedings with a view to enforce the provisions of the act, an action for penalties was commenced against Mr. Nott.

Mr. Nott allowed judgment to be taken against him by default in the action, and made a strong appeal to the society against any penalties being enforced against him. The circumstances of Mr. Nott's case were peculiar. He was regularly bound apprentice to an apothecary, and had served two years of the five when his master died. He had subsequently attended the whole of the lectures and hospital practice required by the Court of Examiners, and was ready and urgent to be admitted to an examination. The Court of Examiners, however, had no power to do so, because he had not completed the full term of the apprenticeship required by law.

The object of the society, in all cases, is to enforce obedience to the law by lenient measures, rather than by an exaction of penalties, if their object can be attained without it; and the society, in the present instance, felt that they should be better discharging their duty to the public by

holding the judgment which they had obtained over the defendant's head, as a security against his future practice, reserving to themselves the right of issuing execution if he should not abide by the assurance which he gave to the society that he would *bonâ fide* relinquish the practice of an apothecary until he was legally qualified, than by exacting payment of penalties at the time. Mr. Nott was required to pay the costs of the action, which he did.

The society much regret to learn that Mr. Nott is still practising as an apothecary, and they will not fail to institute immediate inquiries on the subject. Should it appear that Mr. Nott has forfeited his word, the society will not hesitate to exercise the power which they possess.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

ROBERT B. UPTON,

Clerk to the Society.

APOTHECARIES' HALL,
15th Sept. 1840.

TO ROBERT A. UPTON, ESQ.

SIR,—On behalf of Messrs. Young and Rose, as well as myself, I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst., and to thank you for the very prompt and satisfactory reply contained therein.

I have communicated with Messrs. Young and Rose, the gentlemen appointed by the Eastern Medical and Surgical Association, to form with me a committee to inquire into the case of Mr. Nott; and they agree with me in thinking that his is a very hard case, and that the Apothecaries' Company have exercised a sound judgment in not proceeding to extremities with this gentleman, and that if we were to urge any further proceeding it would be an act of oppression; but on the contrary, we take the liberty of suggesting whether it would not be an act of justice, under the peculiar circumstances of this case, to relax the rule in favour of him, and admit to an examination, and if found qualified, to grant him their license to practise.

I am, sir, your very obedient servant,

Ely, Sept. 23, 1840.

R. STEVENS, M.D.

TO DR. ROBERT STEVENS, ELY.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 23d inst. I am happy to have the opportunity of explaining to you that the five years apprenticeship is not the requisition of the Court of Examiners, but of the act of parliament, and that the court have no power to admit any one to an examination who has not conformed to the act in that respect.

I feel myself at liberty to state that cases not unfrequently occur in which the Court of Examiners would very gladly exercise a discretion in reference to the admission of a candidate to an examination, who has not complied with this provision of the act to its full extent, if they had the power of doing so; and I am able to add that it was with much regret that the court found themselves under the necessity of refusing Mr. Nott's application to be allowed to present himself for examination.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

ROBERT B. UPTON,

Clerk to the Society.

APOTHECARIES' HALL,
26th Sept. 1840.

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL & SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1840.

"THE injurious absence of systematic legislation for the medical profession—the degradation of the general practitioner, and the discord among the members from the want of systematic legislation—the crying injustice evinced in exacting hard studies and heavy fines with increasing strictness from every one who receives his diploma from any of