indignantly, no; otherwise you might cease your efforts after reform, and give up all idea of enlisting public sympathy and assistance to rid you of evils and grievances which some of your own body are seeking to perpetuate.

Bring the matter, Gentlemen, at once before the Provincial Association; show all members of your profession to be spotless in this matter, and devise means for meeting and eradicating this *endemic* scourge; but, at the same time, award the merits of the discovery now made to your obedient servant, who hath sorely and severely suffered long and often.

OS COCCYGIS.

Nov. 27, 1843.

DR. EAGER'S REPLY TO MR. BARRETT'S LETTER.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—On perusing your Journal of the 6th inst., a letter, signed Jos. E. Barrett, came under my notice, in which the writer very elaborately endeavours to falsify all the statements I made in a previous letter, regarding the nature and extent of my connection with the Christian General Burial Society. I beg leave to repeat that *all* I have said respecting this subject is substantially correct. The subjoined letters fully attest this fact, and render it sufficiently obvious that all Mr. Barrett's counter-assertions are unworthy of credence. The only difference between Mr. Barrett's and my statement regarding the circulars is, that, instead of their being sent from the printer's to Mr. Barrett's, they were sent for from Mr. Barrett's to the printer's, leaving the facts of the spurious publication of the circular, and its connection with Mr. Barrett's residence, essentially as I have stated them. The error with regard to the packet being sent to Mr. Barrett's house, was the more admissible, as that portion of the order (the crest) would have been forwarded to Mr. Barrett's residence, had not Mr. Fleming ascertained that a policeman was in waiting to detect the author of the fraud. Of this I was informed by Mr. Fleming yesterday. I beg most particularly to direct the public attention to the following facts, and shall leave the inference to their discernment:—In the first place I found it necessary to decline this Mr. Barrett's acquaintance for *unprofessional conduct* long before he tendered his resignation as surgeon to the orphan-house. Secondly, a person living in Mr. Barrett's house at the time (whom I have ascertained to be Captain Dudley Byrne) called and gave the order to the printer. Thirdly, this Captain Byrne (who had nothing whatever to do with the Burial Society) is well known to be Mr. Barrett's *intimate friend*. Fourthly, Mr. Barrett acknowledges having sent one circular at least as a "curiosity" to a friend; and finally, this same Mr. Barrett (as appears from Mr. Fleming's letter) has disinterestedly endeavoured to prevent Mr. Fleming from bearing testimony as to Captain Dudley Byrne's identity. I cannot of course condescend to notice the insulting language which Mr. Barrett uses so plentifully in his labored epistle,

convinced that abuse neither adds to nor diminishes the value of facts.

I remain, Gentlemen,

With due respect,

Your humble servant,

JAMES EAGER, M.D.

St. Peter's-square, Manchester,

Jan. 9, 1844.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—Having seen, in the last Number of your Journal, a statement made by a Mr. Barrett, surgeon, of this town, respecting Dr. Eager's connection with the "Christian General Burial Society,"—in reference to this statement, we are sorry to add that (to say the least of it) it is full of inaccuracies; Dr. Eager had nothing whatever to do with the drawing up or composing of *any part*, much less the obnoxious and objectionable part of our circulars; and we express our regret that what was done innocently by us has been made an instrument to *injure* Dr. Eager's professional character. In a word, we solemnly testify that Dr. Eager has never composed or written one of our *rules*, nor a single sentence in any of our circulars, but highly disapproved of the clauses alluded to.

(Signed) WILLIAM KIRKHAM, 170, Rochdale-road Manchester, President.

JAMES SMITH, General Agent, 24, Richmond-street, Oldham-road, Manchester.

Jan. 9, 1844.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—Having seen, from a copy of the Provincial Journal put into my hands, the use that has been made of a note given by me to a Mr. Barrett, surgeon, of Manchester, I think it right to give a full statement of the facts.

Captain Dudley Byrne called on me with a copy of a circular of the Christian Burial Society, with an order to print 180 circulars to pattern. I did so accordingly; he called for the packet, and paid for it, leaving his crest to be cut, which I promised. Next day he came; it was not finished; he said he was leaving town, and I was to send it to Mr. Barrett, surgeon, Oxford-road. Since this event Mr. Barrett called on me to say that I could not be sure it was Captain Dudley Byrne; but I am convinced of his identity with the individual who gave me the order.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

E. L. FLEMING,

Removed from St. Ann's Churchyard to
25, St. Ann's-square.

Manchester, Jan. 9, 1844.

MIDWIFERY ATTENDANCE UNDER THE NEW POOR LAW.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—Your correspondent J. J., in his Rough Notes for Lord Ashley, remarks on the false economy and inhumanity of withholding from the poor

women, in their confinement, the assistance of the parish medical officer. The majority of these poor women would be allowed the parish surgeon if they were to *suffer from the effects of their accouchement*. If, for instance, they were attacked with puerperal fever, phlegmasia dolens, &c. &c., the guardians would feel shocked if it were only intimated that they refused, or could refuse medical relief; for now the case becomes one within the control of the surgeon, for which *he is not paid extra*.

The following three cases, illustrative of the manner in which the poor are left to the tender mercies of the midwife, have recently come under my observation, and in the retrospect of a year or two, I could furnish an abundance of similar cases:—

1. I was called on Wednesday last to a poor woman in an adjoining village, who was represented to be dying in labor. I found her very feeble and exhausted, more from the conviction of the hopelessness of her case and approaching death, than from any physical cause, for the midwife had repeatedly told her that she had no chance of living. The case was a very simple one; the woman had been in labor ten or twelve hours. The os uteri and soft parts were well dilated, but the pains feeble. I ruptured the membranes, and gave a dose of ergot; in ten minutes the child was born. The poor woman told me she felt as one restored from the brink of the grave, and would hardly credit my assurance that she had been in no danger.

2. On Sunday last I was summoned to the same village to a similar case. The child had been born three or four hours; profuse hæmorrhage had taken place; the midwife in her anxiety to depart had, by tugging at the funis, severed it close to the placenta. The patient luckily was a powerful woman, and the hæmorrhage, although considerable, has not injured her.

3. About a month since, in passing through a neighbouring village, I was requested to see a poor girl who had been in labor two days. She had applied to the relieving officer a few days previously for an order to be admitted into the house, or to have the parish surgeon. The relieving officer took time to consider the matter, and, as the sequel will show, his *consideration* nearly cost the girl her life. The poor thing had had hæmorrhage from the commencement of labor; the sheets and bedding were saturated; the patient blanched and nearly bloodless. I ruptured the membranes; the pains became stronger, and the hæmorrhage ceased. I remained with her three hours, and requested the attendants to send for me when they thought proper, which they did in about three or four hours, but not until they had delivered her, and had, contrary to my strict injunctions, pulled heartily, but ineffectually, at the umbilical cord; they did not, they said, like to trouble me, for the overseer and guardian would not grant an order. The poor girl is not yet well, perhaps she will never wholly recover the effects of the immense *draining* she has experienced. I ought to add that the father had been endeavouring for hours to get an order for my attendance, but could not, and never did; and had I not been stimulated by a little more charity than they, the woman must have died.

No practitioner can very much desire the paltry fee allowed by the poor-law commissioners; but better let him have that than the poor suffer.

If, Gentlemen, you think my communication worthy of publication in your valuable Journal, do me the favor to insert it; it may stimulate others to bring to the notice of Lord Ashley and the public similar cases that must "speak, like angels, trumpet tongued" against the ill-judged parsimony of the poor-law commissioners.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours, very obediently,

FREDERICK COX.

Welford, Northamptonshire, Jan. 9, 1844.

RETROSPECT OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES.

CEREBRAL AUSCULTATION.

(Continued from p. 282.)

VII. In the seventh place, the cephalic bellows-sound has been observed accompanying an *aneurysm of the basilar artery*.

Jan. 15, 1841. I was consulted by Mr. S—, aged thirty-seven years, in regard to the nature of a complaint which, he had been told, arose from an affection of the heart. The particular symptom, which was the more immediate cause of trouble to him, was a continued and uninterrupted *buzzing* or *whizzing* noise in his head, "as though," to use his own quaint language, "a swarm of bees had made his head their hive." This symptom, together with an obstinate headache and deafness, which had induced an extremely nervous and irritable state of the mind, were indications which demanded something more than a passing consideration.

Having for a number of years labored under hypertrophy and dilatation of the left side of the heart, he had been induced to believe that the present indication of trouble about the head "could be nothing more than the noise produced by the impetuosity with which the blood was thrown into the brain." Accompanying this peculiar *whizzing sound*, he occasionally experienced something more than his ordinary dullness of hearing. This, however, was only temporary, and never prolonged more than a few minutes at a time. During these moments of temporary surdity, the buzzing sound before referred to entirely vanished, returning again, however, so soon as the deafness had passed away. He has also been subject to frequent attacks of epistaxis, and thinks this affords him oftentimes the most decided relief from that most annoying symptom, the buzzing noise in the head. Once in two or three weeks, moreover, he is troubled with a most violent cephalalgia, which is relieved only by the recurrence of the hæmorrhage from the nose. In years gone by, he had frequent recourse to copious venesection; this, however, he had long since abandoned, as a remedy of only temporary and exceedingly doubtful utility.