complainant would not, as at present, have the no mean advantage of the first statement wholly to himself, and of being at all subsequent hearings directly represented by the board, which in these cases forms at once the complainant, jury, and judge.

I am not without hope you may think well of the foregoing plan of heightening the condition, and distinguishing medical men as they ought to stand, into hallowed and thoroughly unfettered administrators of health to the poor, and into the truest conservators of the poor-rates. If you even consider it to be sufficiently promising to be submitted, partially or not, as you think proper, to the profession, I shall be much gratified; or should it be honored so much by your approval as to induce you to adopt it, and strenuously to recommend it to serious consideration as a part of Lord Ashley's plan of medical relief, it will afford me the sincerest satisfaction.

I cannot conclude without adding a few to the "Rough Notes for Lord Ashley," published in one of your late Numbers.

1. Paupers attended on the per case system should in fairness have their tickets renewed every *three* months, if so long on the medical reports; and not as now, expected to be attended throughout the contract on one ticket, value, for example, 5s., and living perhaps a distance of five or six miles.

2. Tickets should be of two classes, in-door and out-door, of different value, changed at any time, if necessary, on the representation of the surgeon, as a security, both to the medical man—who, when an order is once given, is now often made to visit, unnecessarily, many cases where the patient is able but too lazy to visit him, and to the patient—who, in slight cases, is nearly always refused relief, until the malady by neglect becomes serious, and perhaps incurable.

3. Midwifery orders, given after a woman or irregular practitioner has been employed, or in one month after such attendance, should bear a double fee.

4. Severe burns and scalds should be paid extra.

5. Some extra inducements should be offered to union surgeons to remedy deformities, and attempt the cure of cripples, &c., lying, as it is, for life on the poor-rates.

Lastly, an order should be made *imperative* for union surgeons to consult and assist each other, on very important cases, without fee.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

A PROVINCIAL.

Warwick, Jan. 19, 1844.

BENEVOLENT FUND.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—I thoroughly agree with the remarks Dr. Inglis made in your last week's Journal on the subject of the Benevolent Fund. Compulsory benevolence always works badly; and much as I approve of the Benevolent Fund, I shall be sorry to see it rendered obnoxious to *any* member of the society. I trust, therefore, that Dr. Cowan will

kindly reconsider the matter, because I am sure his plan will have the effect of withdrawing many annual subscriptions.

Such is my good opinion of the principles on which your Benevolent Fund is based, that I trust we shall be able to establish one for this county on a similar plan.

I remain, Gentleman,

Yours faithfully,

JAMES HEYGATE, M.D., F.R.S.,
Physician to the Derbyshire General Infirmary.

The College, Derby, Jan. 23, 1844.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—In the last Number of the Provincial Journal, you have inserted a letter from Dr. John Lee with reference to the Benevolent Fund of the Provincial Association, in which Dr. Lee has suggested that each member's subscription should be raised to £1 5s., instead of £1 1s. In this proposal I do not quite agree, as it makes it a compulsory measure; still it is very desirable that each member should contribute according to his means in addition to his annual subscription, and as the Benevolent Fund has a secretary and treasurer in our worthy associate, Dr. Conolly, of Cheltenham, the additional subscription had better be kept separate, and forwarded to the right quarter. At the last meeting of the Southern Branch, held in the Isle of Wight, it was proposed to divide that district into three divisions for the purpose of collecting subscriptions, and it fell to my lot to collect for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight; in consequence of which I forwarded a copy of the last report, with a note in explanation, to nearly 200 medical practitioners soliciting assistance for this excellent charity, and I regret to add I have received no more than about 25 answers to my applications; and instead of collecting £50 to transmit Dr. Conolly, I have received only £8 since October; still I hope I may yet receive a further amount, and I feel assured that if the members generally exerted themselves in this useful cause, the subscriptions might be greatly increased. Would it be thought possible that in an Association of 1600 members the annual subscription reached only £137! Yet such is, I regret to say, the fact. It is, however, very gratifying to observe (even with so small an amount), the great good which has been effected; and if in every town or city one member would take the trouble of collecting from each medical practitioner any sum he may be disposed to contribute, the benevolent objects of this fund could be carried to such an extent that the hand of charity might be held out to all our poor but equally deserving brethren.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your very obedient servant,

HENRY PHENÉ.

Ryde, Isle of Wight,
Jan. 20, 1844.