MORE ROUGH NOTES, AND A FEW FACTS,
FOR LORD ASHLEY.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL
JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—As I think the cause of the Profession *versus* the New Poor-law will be best served by every member of it stating his own peculiar grievance, and suggesting the remedy he judges most appropriate, I will recount mine.

The district of which I am medical officer comprises six villages, at the respective distances from my residence of five, three and a half, four, three, four, and four miles. The system of payment adopted is by a permanent list, comprising the old and infirm paupers, thirty-nine in number, at 2s. 6d. per head, sick or well, throughout the year, and, by special cases, 7s. 6d. per head. I have copied the following cases, as they stand, at random from one leaf of my weekly report-book, and added the length of time I was in attendance on each:—

A. B., marasmus	10 months.
C. R., chronic bronchitis	5 "
H. B., hysteria	12 "
J. B., ascites and anasarca	3 "
A. B., typhus	1 "
S. T., marasmus	4 "
S. S., lepra	6 weeks.
W. L., typhus	5 "
J. L., typhus	7 "
J. T., ascites	13 "
R. B., typhus	5 "
M. T., typhus and pneumonia	3 days.

Of these only two ever came to my residence during treatment; many required seeing every other day. I can honestly attribute the protracted and too often fatal nature of many who fall under my notice to the length of time allowed to elapse before assistance is sought or granted, the per case system discouraging them from seeking orders of the relieving officer, he being so unwilling to grant them, as every one is a fresh 7s. 6d. out of the pockets of the rate-payers.

I need not point out what a loss to me the foregoing cases *must* be. I am so situated that I must take the district, yet can ill afford to lose by it, in doing my duty to the poor placed under my charge. Many of my young *confreres* will understand how this may be. What must be the result where a man must take it who *cannot* afford to lose by it? I would propose substituting for the per case system a fixed salary, proportionate to the population and distance, placing with the medical man a list of all those persons entitled to medical relief, and enjoining them to apply to him as soon as anything was the matter with them, *venienti occurrere morbo*. If any casual cases, not on the list, become entitled to relief, let them be paid for per case. I frequently have great difficulty in obtaining, without delay, meat, wine, or beer, for the sick, from their having first to present *my* order to the relieving officer, to get one *from him* on the tradesman. Why not make the order of the medical man *payable at sight* by the tradesman?

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
A COUNTRY DOCTOR.

Jan. 21, 1844.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL
JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—In my late communication, I regret to say that I have made an erroneous statement. Will you allow me to correct it?

I instanced three workhouses of equal size, in which the surgeons' salaries were respectively £80, £40, and £20. This latter sum is incorrect. It *was* £20; but when the Vaccination Act came into operation, some time since, the board of guardians, in order to meet the increased expenditure of the poor-rate, caused by the eighteenpenny fees, reduced the salary to £19, at which sum it now stands. I need not make a single comment upon this liberal proceeding.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,
H. W. LIVETT.

Wells, Somerset, Jan. 30, 1844.

SURGERY AT BATH—REPLY TO THE
ACCUSATION OF OS COCCYGIS.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL
JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—In common with many other practitioners in this town, I have felt both injured and insulted by a communication in your last Number, signed Os Coccygis, the purport of which is to throw upon the profession generally in this town an imputation which now, and in all former times, they have indignantly disclaimed.

It is no part of my business or intention to single out individuals for censure or attack; public opinion is quite strong enough, both in and out of the profession, to do itself full justice. But the case is different when, as is done by your correspondent, an attempt is made to bring against all, or many, a charge which attaches only individually. It is *not* true that "cases of this kind are numerous, nor are they, as formerly, confined to one practitioner, but distributed among many, 'all, all honorable men.'" It needs only to reverse this picture in every particular, in order to substitute truth for misstatement.

I assert, and without fear of contradiction, that nowhere more than in this city has the abominable and deceptive practice in question been denounced and disavowed by honorable and intelligent men, and that it needed no fresh "untoward event" to prove to practitioners here that its danger was hardly less than its dishonesty.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your very obedient servant,
MEDICULUS.

Bath, Jan. 19, 1844.

MR. EVANS'S RARE CASES IN MIDWIFERY.

We received last week, too late for insertion, the following addendum to Mr. Evan's case of Hæmorrhage before Delivery:—

The umbilical cord was tightly strung round the neck of the fœtus, and, on examination, was found to be not more than fourteen inches long.

Mr. Smith thought the cause of flooding would be found in some portion of placenta, but I am of opinion that the shortness of the cord, and its twist round the neck, is quite as satisfactory, having, about a year ago, had a similar case, in which none other could be assigned.