that they have done so; and I cannot better conclude my notice of your correspondent of the "old school" than by exhorting him to go and do likewise. Assured that the importance of the subject will be my best apology for trespassing on you,

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

SAMUEL FLOOD.

Leeds, Feb. 14, 1844.

LETTER FROM DR. LEE ON THE BENEVOLENT FUND.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—I am very glad to find that my letter has called the attention of others to the subject of our Benevolent Fund; and the more frequently it is brought into notice the greater is the probability of ultimate success.

No one would be more sorry to see the Benevolent Fund "rendered obnoxious to any member" than myself; and I quite agree with Dr. Heygate "that compulsory benevolence always works badly." Reverse the picture, and let us examine the effects of voluntary benevolence, and what is the melancholy truth? why, that in an Association of at least sixteen hundred members, the annual subscriptions do not reach £140, and Mr. Phenè observes with regret, that he only received twenty-five answers to nearly two hundred applications. What, then, is to be done? My proposal of an additional 4s. would be hardly felt by him who pays it; yet this alone would produce £350 per annum; and I think Dr. Cowan's, of 9s., would be seriously felt by many. After all, when the subscription had been established a year or two, it would cease to be even thought compulsory, but would be considered the usual subscription of the Association.

I am decidedly of opinion that district branches will never effect the amount of good their benevolent projectors contemplate. Our strength lies in union. A district branch can do but little towards the attainment of so god-like an object as our Benevolent Fund is intended to promote. Look at the number of applicants, and how small a portion of aid to each such district, though well meant, charity will yield. God forbid, that I should wish to check any spirit of "fervent charity" that finds delight in shedding consolation o'er the sorrows of others; rather would I urge ought this we to have done, but not at the same time to leave our assistance to the general fund undone.

Dr. Inglis is "glad to think that every member is not called upon to do likewise." I can only say that I should be glad to find that every member did feel himself *individually* called upon, and that he did go and do likewise; then, and not till then, will our Benevolent Fund become a component part of our Association, and not be considered as an "after growth."

I am, Gentlemen,

Your very obedient servant,

JOHN LEE, M.D.

Market Bosworth, Feb. 6, 1844.

MEDICAL OFFICERS AND POOR-LAW UNIONS.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—Your constant efforts to ameliorate the conditions imposed on medical officers of poor-unions has, I know, called forth the warmest commendations of our brethren in this neighbourhood, who, like myself, are placed at the tender mercy of guardians, assistant overseers, and relieving officers; and as some of your professional as well as non-professional readers may not be aware how things are managed here (I omit the name for particular reasons), I will, with your permission, give you a few more "Rough Notes for Lord Ashley." I must premise my remarks by stating that I have held the appointment of medical officer nearly four years—that the district consists of three townships, having an area of 8,754 acres, and a population of nearly 11,000 inhabitants; the townships are intersected by a portion of another union, which make the extremes of the district in one direction seven, and in the other five miles. The guardians in this union pay upon the "per case" system, at the rate of six shillings for each case of disease, and ninepence for each successful case of vaccination. The medical orders, sent by the *worthies* entrusted with the power of granting them, are generally for cases of a very serious nature, and frequently not given until after repeated applications have been made, and when the patient is in a dying state, or the disease so far advanced as to render the duties of the medical officer far more onerous, and the patient's sufferings far greater than they otherwise would have been, if the first application had received proper attention. Another grievance of which I loudly complain is this: the relieving officer, on paying my quarter's salary some time ago, stated, upon my complaining of the paucity of orders, that if I would conform to the plan adopted by Mr. B., of paying him 10 per cent. out of the money received, the number of orders should be doubled. I refused to submit to so gross an imposition, and the pauper, when making application for a medical order, is now not infrequently dismissed with a shilling, and advised to go to a druggist.

As far as my observations have allowed me to judge, I have formed the following opinions, but I am aware they are crude. Some of your numerous readers may be induced to give them more attention, and let Lord Ashley, in his philanthropic efforts to benefit the poor, have the advantage of them.

That the resident clergyman or minister in any town or village should have the power of giving an order for medical relief, in the case of any permanent or casual pauper who might come under his observation.

That a graduated scale of payment should be made, so as to place a medical man living in the country, and having three, four, or five miles to ride to see his patient, on an equality with his brethren in a town, who can visit a dozen patients in the same time the country practitioner requires to see one.

That all union surgeons, when elected, should have a certainty of tenure during such time as they perform the duties of their office to the satisfaction of the guardians; and that before any complaint against the