upper and a lower part; the upper can be wound up as high as you please from the lower part, by a winder contained in the latter. The upper part has attached to it arms to receive the axillæ, straps to cross round the body, a strap to receive the head and chin, and a bar going across the top, from which a rope hangs on each side, with handles attached to it to allow the patient to relieve herself when tired during the suspension."

When the patient is placed in this machine, the upper part is raised till the feet are just taken from the ground, and the spine is elongated and straightened by the weight of the body. Sometimes bags of shots may be suspended to the hips, in order to add to the weight.

In the treatment of stooping, Mr. Stafford recommends a weight to be suspended from the shoulders in the same manner as a drum is carried. He observes that the person who carries the great drum is invariably the straightest man in a regiment of soldiers. Another very good exercise, he says, would be to make the patient play the cymbals; he would thus be forced to extend his arms in the air, and look upwards, by which the head and trunk would be thrown backwards, whilst the muscles at the shoulders would be in constant action. To show the utility of this exercise, he refers to the two blacks who used to play this instrument at the rotunda in Vauxhall; it would be almost impossible to point out two men who carry themselves so uprightly.

QUALIFICATION OF UNION MEDICAL OFFICERS.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—As some of your correspondents have stated that union medical officers are required to produce a license to practise medicine, surgery, and *pharmacy*, in order to enable them to be appointed to the honorable post of "parish doctor," I beg leave to transmit the following opinion on the law of the subject.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,
X.

Poor-law Commission-office,
Aug. 31, 1843.

SIR,—In consequence of a communication made to them by her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, the poor-law commissioners have consulted the Attorney-General and other counsel on the competency of medical practitioners possessing Scotch and Irish qualifications to act as officers in a union or parish under the Poor-law Amendment Act.

The effect of this opinion is as follows:—

1. That persons having a surgical diploma or degree, from a royal college or university in Scotland or

Ireland, are *legally* as competent to be medical officers, under the Poor-law Amendment Act, as persons having the diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons in London.

2. That persons having only Scotch and Irish medical qualifications are not, as such, competent to practise pharmacy in England and Wales.

The commissioners think they are, by this opinion, justified in admitting persons, having a *surgical diploma* or *degree* from a royal college or university in Scotland or Ireland, to the same rights, under the Poor-law Amendment Act, as members of the Royal College of Surgeons of London.

The commissioners will, therefore, be prepared to consent to such arrangements, and to make such modifications in their general order of the 12th of March, 1842, as may be necessary to give effect to the above recited opinion of the Attorney-General.

I am, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,
E. CHADWICK, Sec.

Mr. ———.

MEDICAL REFORM.

On Tuesday last Sir Valentine Blake proposed the following questions to Sir James Graham in the House of Commons:—

1. Is it your intention to introduce a clause or clauses into your bill for regulating the medical colleges and the medical degrees of universities, by which it will be enacted, that henceforth the College of Physicians in London will be enabled to prevent any physician from practising in any part of England unless he be possessed of the license of the College of Physicians in London?

2. If this power be given by the bill to the College of Physicians, is it intended that medical graduates of Edinburgh and of Dublin Universities, at present practising in England, shall be admitted licentiates of the College in London without examination on the payment of a small fee, say £5, the additional stamp duty being altogether remitted?

3. Is it your intention to modify the charter lately granted to the College of Surgeons of London, so as to allow prescribing surgeons who practise midwifery to be eligible for the fellowship; and also to allow a surgeon apothecary to become immediately eligible on abandoning the business of an apothecary?

The answers of Sir James Graham were not very explanatory. With reference to the two first questions, he stated that his intention was not to make any new restrictions on medical practitioners, but to relax those already existing. He had no idea of modifying the charter of the College of Surgeons, so as to make accoucheurs eligible for the fellowship. Sir James further stated that he would bring in his bill before or immediately after Easter.

We are glad to perceive that independent members, like Sir Valentine Blake, &c., are beginning to evince an interest in the question of medical reform. The profession is much indebted to them for the efforts which they have made in our behalf.