others, in respect of salary, I had not, as is now proved, a chance of their being accepted; and why? A few weeks before the expiration of the year the assistant-commissioner visited the union, when he inquired of the guardians if there was any complaint against the medical officers; to which there was a reply in the negative. "Oh!" says he, "then they must be re-elected." "But what will Mr. — say, for we have not acted quite the thing towards him?" was the immediate question. "Oh! never mind him; he lost it in the lucky year," was Mr. Commissioner's rejoinder.

Such, then, is a part of the "tender system," as appertains to the conduct of guardians, assistant-commissioners, and of one medical man towards another. Now, however, the office is made permanent altogether, and I have no further interest in the matter. I give this as another and a pretty specimen of fair conduct and treatment towards a professional man.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A.

March 6, 1844.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL RELIEF.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—The medical officers of this union were summoned to meet the board of guardians to-day, for the purpose of making arrangements for their professional services for the ensuing year.

Some slight alterations were suggested by the profession, but were not acceded to by the board.

The medical officers retired, and after considering the matter, unanimously agreed to the resolutions of which I enclose a copy, in the shape of a petition or memorial to "Lord Ashley's Select Committee of the House of Commons." The original document has been forwarded to his lordship.

Should you deem it of sufficient importance, and can find space in the next Number of your useful Journal, the insertion of this memorial will confer a favor on my colleagues, and oblige,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient and humble servant,

RICHARD FAIRCLOTH.

Newmarket, March 19, 1844.

To the Honorable the Members, &c.

We, the undersigned medical officers of the Newmarket Union, beg most respectfully and humbly to approach the honorable committee of the House of Commons now sitting, and state that the system of remuneration to the medical officers of this union is by a pauper list, for which half a-crown per head is paid, and by a fixed sum of seven shillings and sixpence for every special case.

We object to this system not in principle, because if fairly carried out it is one of the best, if not the best, of plans hitherto offered to the profession and to the public.

In making any alteration we feel assured the

honorable committee will have the chief regard to the comfort and advantage of the sick poor.

If it were possible, therefore, to adopt a system which would facilitate the communication between the doctor and his patient, in lieu of the present objectionable one of seeking medical relief through an order from the relieving officer, much suffering would be saved to the poor, the protraction of the case would be averted, and life frequently saved, besides saving an immense amount of labor to the ill-paid surgeon.

In other words, the paupers seeking assistance by the special order system are often deterred from applying so early as they would otherwise do, from the difficulty of prevailing on the relieving officer to consider their illness sufficiently serious to grant such order; often being told, too, the order can only be granted as a loan, and thus, by delay in proper attendance, urgent, or in some cases mortal, symptoms have set in.

In the Independent Laborer's Medical Club, established in this district under the benevolent patronage and high sanction of the Duke of Rutland, the Marquis of Bute, and other influential persons of the neighbourhood, members have the privilege of selecting their own doctor, and apply for his assistance at any time when they feel to require it, without losing time by seeking an order elsewhere.

It is to avoid the evils at present inseparable from the plan adopted here, that we humbly and earnestly call the attention of the legislature to modify the arrangements for medical relief in the coming Poor Law Bill, so as to put the sick and indigent poor upon a better plan for quickly obtaining assistance when they may be overtaken by accident or by disease.

And we humbly submit this desirable consideration will be best accomplished by strengthening the power vested in the poor-law commissioners, as we have ceased to confide in the liberality entertained by boards of guardians, who are generally actuated by feelings of economy or local advantages in their arrangements for providing medical assistance to the sick poor.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

(Signed) E. N. KNOWLES.

ALFRED JONES. A. FYSON.

THOMAS LUCAS. W. G. STUTTER.

HENRY CALTHROP. F. M. PECK.

HENRY MILLER. RICHARD FAIRCLOTH.

EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—In your number for January 6th, a statement is made by Mr. Morris, of Spalding, which appears to me so improbable, that (suspecting some fallacy), I beg through you to request of Mr. Morris the facts from which he appears to conclude that laborers are more liable to take or die of typhus by being teetotalers.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS EDEN.

Liverpool, Feb. 27, 1844.