

AN INGENIOUS IMPOSITION.

SIR,—The Charity Organisation Society does excellent work in this neighbourhood as well as elsewhere, but the credit of exposing the imposture referred to by your correspondent, Mr. Kernot Butt, is due, not to the able and energetic local honorary secretary of this society, but to Dr. Hancock Wathen, of Clifton, who deserves our thanks for his public spirit in bringing to justice two clever scoundrels who were systematically trading upon the benevolent tendencies of our profession. Fortunately they found Bristol, on the whole, too wide awake to be profitable.—I am, etc.,

E. MARKHAM SKERRITT.

Thornton House, Richmond Hill, Clifton,
February 12th.

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH AND COUNTY COUNCILS.

SIR,—I quite agree with the letter of "Medical Officer of Health" in the JOURNAL of February 15th, concerning the action of the Lancashire County Council in reference to the six months' notice on either side to terminate the engagement of the medical officer of health. The appointment certainly ought to be *ad vitam aut culpam*, and any other condition would undoubtedly prevent any application on my part for any post of the sort.—I am, etc.,

W. LIFFE.

Derby.

MEDICO-LEGAL AND MEDICO-ETHICAL.

PUBLIC HOSPITAL OR PRIVATE DISPENSARY?

SOUTHEAST.—With reference to the announcement made in the handbills which have lately been widely circulated in the town in question, we have, in response to our inquiries on the subject, received information to the effect that the so-called Hospital and Dispensary form "part of a small watch-maker's shop," the attendant physician being a reputed M.D. Brux. and F.R.C.S. M.B.C.P. Lond.; and in regard to the alleged honorary secretary thereto, our informant, a life-long resident, is altogether ignorant of the personage in question. We long that the description "Hospital and Dispensary" has since been dropped. We need scarcely remark that the modern practice of assuming, apparently for the purpose of personal advancement, the titles and status of our public institutions, and parading private speculations as *bona fide* hospitals and dispensaries, is alike censurable and ethically dishonest, and not only derogatory to the profession, but to the true interests of the public. Moreover, every practitioner who resorts to such unprofessional devices must not be surprised at being ignored by the faculty.

AN UNFORTUNATE MISUNDERSTANDING.

A CRITICAL examination of the correspondence (extending over seventeen folio pages of manuscript, inclusive of ten several questions), which has passed between Dr. L. and Mr. G., leaves a distinct impression that the former has, however unwittingly, misinterpreted the true intent and meaning of the latter's reply to his note of January 31st; and before assuming an unfriendly attitude, and expressing his resolve to refer the matter to the JOURNAL, he would, in our opinion, have acted wisely in soliciting some further explanation from Mr. G., inasmuch as the note in question admits of a different construction to that he attaches thereto. He would also, we think, have done well to have accepted Mr. G.'s friendly assurance that his attendance was given at the lady's "own particular desire," and that the name of her previous attendant was "not once mentioned during such attendance."

In view, moreover, of the fact that he (Dr. L.) had held with Mr. G. "friendly relations, both professional and social, for nearly eighteen years," it is, we think, to be regretted that he should have hesitated to acquiesce, otherwise than conditionally, in the declaration made in Mr. G.'s note of February 3rd, and so have amicably closed a regrettable contention.

In regard to the relative meanings of the word "supplant," Dr. L. may advantageously consult the standard work, Roget's *Thesaurus*, and so far disabuse his mind as to its one exclusive signification, as specified by himself.

PARTICULARS OF CHARGES.

J. A. C. writes: Can a patient legally demand from a medical man a detailed statement of his account for professional attendance and medicines? I have hitherto been in the habit of sending my accounts according to the following form:—

For professional attendance, etc.—	£ s. d.
From	}
To	
	£

But a patient of mine evidently means to be disagreeable, and demands the particulars and items of my account. It would entail a good deal of labour to do so, because it is for more than two years, and for the whole family. I have charged at the rate of 3s. 6d. per visit, inclusive of medicines, and two guineas for a confinement. Another point I should like to know is whether, having sent my account for a certain sum, I can now alter and make a higher charge, since he probably means to give me as much trouble as possible.

* * J. A. C. would certainly be required, on bringing his action to recover fees, to supply full particulars. He is at liberty to withdraw his present account, and send in a higher claim, but such a course might operate to his prejudice on the hearing of the action.

NAVAL AND MILITARY MEDICAL SERVICES.

SURGEON LE QUESNE AND THE VICTORIA CROSS.

THE following is an account of the presentation of the Victoria Cross to Surgeon Le Quesne at Rangoon, as given in the *Pioneer*:—"The troops in garrison paraded in review order this morning for the purpose of witnessing the presentation of the Victoria Cross to Surgeon Le Quesne. The brigade was under the command of Major-General Rowlandson. The Commander-in-Chief and Staff, with General Gordon, arrived on the ground about 7.30. After the usual compliment paid, the brigade formed in line of quarter-column, and were inspected in that formation by his Excellency. The whole force then formed a square, advancing on the saluting point. After the officers and colours had taken post in review order, the Commander-in-Chief and Staff moved into the centre of the square and dismounted, and Surgeon Le Quesne was called to the front. Colonel Rolland then read the extract from the *London Gazette*, dated October 29th, awarding him the Victoria Cross for his conspicuous bravery during the attack on the village of Tartan by a column of the Chin Field Force on May 4th."

His Excellency, in addressing Surgeon Le Quesne, said he knew of no act more deserving the Cross than that of a medical officer who, regardless of his own life, when in an exposed condition under fire, at close range, attends to a wounded man with perfect calmness and self-possession. You (addressing Surgeon Le Quesne) not only did this in the case of Lieutenant Michel, who unfortunately died, but later on you attended to another wounded officer, also under fire, and were yourself severely wounded. It must, I think, be added, be a matter of great gratification to the Medical Service, both staff and departmental, to know that the two Victoria crosses which have been given during the Burmah operations have both been conferred on medical officers, for very similar and gallant acts. Having pinned the decoration on the breast of Surgeon Le Quesne, his Excellency shook hands with him, and the proceedings terminated.

THE NAVY.

FLEET-SURGEON GODFREY GOODMAN has been placed on the retired list at his own request. His commissions are dated: Surgeon, September 23rd, 1859; Staff-Surgeon, January 6th, 1869; and Fleet-Surgeon, October 14th, 1879. He was especially promoted for his valuable services during outbreaks of yellow fever in the West Indies. During the Egyptian War of 1882 he was Fleet-Surgeon of the *Euphrates*, and received the medal and Khedive's bronze star granted for that campaign.

Surgeon J. L. BARRINGTON, who has been attached to the Chatham Division, Royal Marines, since November, 1888, has been appointed to the *Warspite*, and superseded by Surgeon HERBERT CANTON, of the *Duke of Wellington*.

The following appointments have been made at the Admiralty:—ROBERT HAY, M.D., Fleet-Surgeon, to the *Warspite* February, 14th; THOMAS E. H. WILLIAMS, Staff-Surgeon to Haslar Hospital, temporarily, February 14th; THOMAS H. ATKINSON, Fleet-Surgeon to the *Wildfire*, additional, temporarily, February 17th; ALFRED PATTERSON, Staff-Surgeon to the *Vivid*, temporarily, February 15th; HENRY D. STANISTREET, Fleet-Surgeon to the *President*, additional, temporarily, March 3rd, and then to Royal Victoria Yard, Deptford, March 26th; MR. THOMAS HOPE LEWIS to be Surgeon and Agent at Auckland, New Zealand, February 17th; SIDNEY H. YOEEL, Surgeon, to the *Pigeon*, February 18th.

THE MEDICAL STAFF.

BRIGADE-SURGEON A. ALLAN, M.D., who is serving in the Bombay command, is appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Viceroy, *vice* Brigade-Surgeon W. Temple, M.B., V.C., who has proceeded to England on completion of his tour of foreign service.

Brigade-Surgeon C. A. MAUNSELL, M.D., has taken over the duties of Senior Medical Officer at Mauritius from Brigade-Surgeon J. Fleming, M.D.

Surgeon-Major S. H. CARTER, M.B., has been appointed to the medical charge of the Cavalry Brigade at Aldershot, in succession to Surgeon T. A. P. Marsh, who has been posted to the Second Station Hospital at Aldershot for duty.

Surgeon-Major J. G. HARWOOD has been appointed to the Royal Horse and Field Artillery at Aldershot, in succession to Surgeon-Major G. R. Rae, appointed Medical Officer in charge of the Third Station Hospital at Aldershot.

Surgeon W. H. HORROCKS, M.B., has been appointed to the Royal Engineers at Aldershot, in succession to Surgeon J. R. A. Clark.

Brigade-Surgeon W. KEIR, M.D., is appointed Medical Officer in charge of the Cambridge Hospital at Aldershot, in succession to Brigade-Surgeon C. A. Maunsel.

Surgeon S. N. CARDOZO is posted to the Third Station Hospital at Aldershot for duty, in succession to Surgeon A. F. Russell, M.B., who is appointed to the medical charge of the officers, women, and children at the North Camp.

Surgeon-Major WILLIAM TAYLOR, M.D., ranking as Lieutenant-Colonel, is promoted to be Brigade-Surgeon, *vice* T. H. White, M.D., retired. Dr. Taylor entered the service as Assistant-Surgeon, September 30th, 1864; became Surgeon, March 1st, 1873; and Surgeon-Major, September 30th, 1878. He has no war record.

The *London Gazette* of February 18th announces that "the Queen has been pleased to give and grant unto Surgeon THOMAS HEAZLE PARKER, Army Medi-