

house, and as he was the landed proprietor no one would care to lodge me, and I had to walk away for want of a residence.

In another parish a large farmer, backed by a clergyman, thought he could tyrannise over me; when I resisted I got notice of dismissal in two weeks. If I were to ask my present parish council to give me a holiday, I fear they would tell me to walk away. Personally, I am much obliged to Dr. Muir, our Secretary, for his earnestness in our cause.—I am, etc.,
October 17th. DESPAIRING.

THE LICENTIATES OF THE SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON.

SIR,—With regard to the alteration of the letters L.S.A., I consider the suggestion of Mr. C. G. Higginson in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of October 20th a very good one, namely, that Licentiates of the Society of Apothecaries of London holding their diplomas since 1886 should be entitled to use the letters M.L., Ch.L., Lond., after their names, in the place of L.S.A. At the same time I should strongly be in favour of the title, "Society of Apothecaries," as an examining body, being retained by the Hall, as being both an ancient and historical one.—I am, etc.,

R. LE GYTT WORSLEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.S.A.
Newcastle-on-Tyne, Oct. 22nd.

COVENTRY PROVIDENT DISPENSARY.

SIR,—Will you allow me space in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* to reply to your correspondents of September 22nd, on the subject of the above institution?

First, with regard to the number of members. Our statement is quite correct. It is true that some years ago the Chairman at an annual meeting stated that the membership was approximately 25,000 or 26,000, but this was merely guess-work—no attempt was made to ascertain the correct number from the books, and at that time no estimate of any kind was made by the collectors.

Dr. Phillips's demand that "these dispensary doctors must either insist upon the reforms asked for or resign their appointments," has no weight whatever with us. Such an offensive dictatorial spirit only calls for one line of treatment. He speaks of the profession of Coventry, backed by the majority of the members of the British Medical Association and the profession generally, being on his side. No doubt the members of the British Medical Association, and the profession generally, like ourselves, are desirous of seeing institutions of this class reformed and conducted on lines such as are approved of by our profession, but we do not believe that they consider the best way of effecting these reforms is to single out a particular institution for the purpose, and at the same time make personal and abusive attacks on the members of its staff such as we have been subjected to.

Dr. Phillips accuses us of putting into his mouth the words "bring the staff on their knees and smash the Institution." The words were addressed by him to two members of the staff.

Mr. White still prefers to believe that anyone can join the Dispensary, and speaks of the inspection of the admission book by two of the staff. He has evidently not read, or has read very carelessly, our letter of September 11th, wherein we stated that this book was placed before the staff at their monthly meeting. Whatever we may think of the likelihood of an objection being supported by a lay Committee, or of our knowing anything of the majority of the names entered, the statement on this subject in our letter is quite correct. The name, occupation, and address of each applicant are submitted to the staff, and objections when raised by the latter are carefully considered, investigated, and as a rule sustained by the Committee.

We are glad to be able to afford Mr. Jackson the gratification of knowing that the rule that "the pecuniary circumstances of an applicant should be no bar to membership" was rescinded several years ago at our request. Mr. Jackson states that he did not say "that canvassing is actively carried on." We refer him to page 1167 of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, May 12th, 1900, which says that Mr. G. Jackson read a paper in which he said that "canvassing is actively carried on and there is no wage limit." He refers to an old rule which says that any person can join when ill if he can procure two healthy persons to join with him and imagines that this entails

canvassing. There have not been 10 admissions under this rule in the last dozen years. Mr. Jackson expresses his regret that he was unable to attend the meeting at Ipswich in order to have moved the expulsion of the members of the staff from the British Medical Association. We cannot understand such bitter animosity as he exhibits towards us; it cannot help to promote reforms either in our institution or in similar ones, of which there are many in existence in this country.—We are, etc.,

D. McVEAGH, M.K.Q.C.P.,
CHARLES DAVIDSON, M.D.,
W. J. PICKUP, M.D.,
T. A. HIRD,
JOHN A. LONDON, M.B., C.M.Edin.,
WILLIAM FLETCHER, M.B.,
The Staff of the Coventry Dispensary.

October 13th.

THE EASTBOURNE PROVIDENT MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

SIR.—The fifth annual meeting of the Eastbourne Provident Medical Association was recently held, and the report read showed that the Association was in a healthy and well-established condition.

There are ten medical men on our acting staff, and we have a membership of nearly 4,000 persons. The gross income for the year ending August 31st, 1900, was £1,071 9s. 9d. Our working expenses have been reduced to 15 per cent., and the remainder goes directly to the members of the acting staff. During the year we have adopted the plan of employing only one collector instead of two, and this has proved successful, as the work is now done not only more cheaply, but also more efficiently.—I am, etc.,

A. HARPER, M.D.,
Honorary Secretary Eastbourne Provident Medical Association.
Eastbourne, Oct. 23rd.

FAHRENHEIT'S THERMOMETER.

SIR,—In reference to the account which I gave in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of Fahrenheit's thermometer, I should now like to express my regret that I had entirely forgotten the paper by Dr. Stevenson in the *Guy's Hospital Reports* for 1880. He there states that Fahrenheit made his fixed point the temperature of the human body. This is confirmatory of my statement, and I shall now look upon the fact as established.—I am, etc.,

Grosvenor Street, W., Oct. 22nd.

SAMUEL WILKS.

THE PLACE OF THE LECTURE IN MEDICAL TEACHING.

SIR,—Instead of attempting to abolish the lecture altogether from our medical schools, whereby much valuable teaching would undoubtedly be lost, would it not be better if attendance on lectures were no longer made compulsory before the student is allowed to go up for examination?

The average medical student may, I think, be given credit for sufficient intelligence to decide for himself whether or not a given course of lectures is of value to him. If it is, he will attend them; if not, he will stay away. At present, I believe, he not infrequently slips out as soon as he has been "marked," agreeing, apparently, with the writer of your article that he will be better employed elsewhere.

If the plan I suggest were adopted the lecturer who failed to secure an average attendance would probably very soon see the wisdom of resigning. The quality of the lectures would not suffer, and there would be no more talk of time wasted in attending them.—I am, etc.,

Norton Folgate, E.C. Oct. 20th.

C. B. DALE.

OPEN OPERATION FOR TALIPES EQUINO-VARUS.

SIR,—In your report of the discussion on Dr. Phelps's paper on this subject, published in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* for October 20th, Dr. Phelps is stated to have said, "Mr. Smith has a fear of non-union of tendons. Unless infection takes place, the fear is entirely unfounded."

There is an error here which I trust you will allow me to point out, as it is, I think, a matter of some importance. I have no recollection of making any statement which could be understood to express such a fear, and I am quite certain that