

Statement of the grievances of the poor law medical officers, elucidated in a letter to the members of the legislature, and a draft of a proposed act of parliament for redress / by Richard Griffin.

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GRIEVANCES
 OF THE
 POOR LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS
 ELUCIDATED
 IN A LETTER
 AND A DRAFT
 OF A PROPOSED
 ACT OF PARLIAMENT
 —
 R. GRIFFIN

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1860

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THE GRIEVANCES
OF THE
POOR LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS,
ELUCIDATED IN A LETTER,
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE,
AND A DRAFT
OF A
PROPOSED ACT OF PARLIAMENT
FOR REDRESS.
BY
RICHARD GRIFFIN, J.P., M.R.C.S., & L.S.A.,
CHAIRMAN OF THE
Poor Law Medical Reform Association.

WEYMOUTH:—D. ARCHER, ROYAL LIBRARY.

1860.

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12 ROYAL TERRACE, WEYMOUTH,

JANUARY, 28, 1860.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

ON several occasions, during the last four years, I have, as Chairman of the Poor Law Medical Reform Association, had the honor of addressing you on the Grievances of the Poor Law Medical Officers, and again I venture to trespass on your valuable time to plead the cause of my much oppressed Brethren.

The question is one of considerable importance not only to the Medical Officers, but also to the Poor, as it involves the welfare of at least 4,000,000 of Her Majesty's subjects, who compose the lower order of the labouring class of this Kingdom, one-third of whom are annually placed under the care of the Union Medical Officers. [1,349,443 were attended in the year ended March, 1858.] Innumerable appeals have been made to the Boards of Guardians and Poor Law Board to redress the Grievances complained of, but without avail. It is therefore to the Legislature only the Medical Officers can now look for justice, which they feel sure will not be denied them.

In July, 1854, the House of Commons ordered to be printed "The Report of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the mode in which Medical Relief is now administered in the different Unions in England and Wales," which was moved for by F. Pigott, Esq.; and in April, 1858, the House also ordered to be printed "Returns relating to Medical Relief in England and Wales," which were moved for by Lord Elcho. These documents contain an immense amount of information, and prove that gross injustice exists in many Unions. For instance, there are 79 Union Medical Officers whose salaries average less than one shilling for each patient they attend; 290 with more than 1s. but less than 2s.; 437 with more than 2s. but less than 3s.; 504 with more than 3s. but less than 4s.; and 462 with more than 4s. and less than 5s. It will thus be seen there are 1772 Medical Men who receive less than 5s. for each case of illness they attend; whilst there are 1246 Medical Men who have sums varying from 5s. to upwards of 20s. per case.

The Select Committee of the House of Commons in their 4th Resolution recommend "That the Poor Law Board should direct their attention to the salaries of the Medical Officers, which in some cases appear to be inadequate to the duties they are required to perform."

On Feb. 26th, 1856, The Right-Hon. E. P. Bouverie, the then President of the Poor Law Board, in reply to Mr. Pigott, said in Parliament:—

"That in regard to the salaries of the Medical Officers, these were matters not immediately under the control of the Poor Law Board, they being settled in the first instance by the Guardians; but the recommendation of the Committee had been attended to by the Poor Law Board, who had directed the Guardians to take into consideration the carrying out of those objects, and considerable increase was going on in the amount of the allowances to the Medical Officers."

From this statement of the Right-Hon. gentleman, it would be understood that every thing was being done that was necessary, and that considerable increase was going on in the salaries of the Medical Officers, but he evidently overlooked the circumstance that a considerable increase had taken place in the population, for we find that in 1839 the Unions had a population of 11,841,454, and the payments to the Medical Officers were £148,652, or a shade over three pence per head. In 1857 the Unions had a population of 17,913,873, and the payments to the Medical Officers were £213,655, or a little over two pence three farthings per head, clearly shewing that the receipts are now actually less, in proportion to population, than they were in 1839.

In other respects, the Medical Men are worse off now than formerly, as they have an increased number of patients to attend, as originally few but paupers had medical orders given them; now the labouring classes are liberally supplied with them.

Mr. Bouverie's statement was made in 1856, and yet we find, from the Report laid before Parliament, that in the following year, there were 1772 Medical Men whose salaries averaged less than 5s. for each case they attended, proving that if any increase had been made in their salaries, it was but little. I, myself, have repeatedly petitioned the Guardians and Poor Law Board for an increase of salary, as the following replies to my letters, from the latter body, will testify:—

October 2, 1855.—“To inform you that the statements which it contains will meet with their consideration.”

November 22, 1855.—“The Guardians will, at the end of twelve months from the date of your appointment, give the subject of your salary their further consideration. Under these circumstances, and looking to the short period for which you have been Medical Officer of the Weymouth Union, the Board must decline to interfere further in the matter.”

March 10, 1856.—“To inform you that the statement which it contains shall meet with their consideration.”

December 18, 1856.—“To inform you that the subject to which it relates will receive their attention.”

April 18, 1857.—“To acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 4th and 15th inst. in reference to the remuneration which you receive for your services as the Medical Officer of the Weymouth district of the Weymouth Union.”

April 29, 1857.—“To acknowledge the receipt of your letter in reference to the amount of your remuneration as the Medical Officer of the Weymouth district of the Weymouth Union.”

October 15, 1857.—“With reference to the alleged inadequacy of the salary which you receive for your services as the Medical Officer, the Board can only refer you to the communications which they have addressed to you on the subject.”

February 11, 1858.—“The Board have considered the statements which you have submitted to them on this subject, but are of opinion that there are not sufficient grounds for their interference.”

I will not attempt to criticise these answers, but merely relate my own case, as it is a very fair sample of that of numerous other Medical Men. I am one of those 290 men who have more than one shilling and less than two shillings per case; my salary is £35 per annum, for which I find all medicines, and have no extra medical fees, as they were commuted before my time. During the last four years I have attended 1741 patients; of these, ten were midwifery cases, (one serious), two fractured legs, one fractured thigh, two fractures and dislocations of the arm, two amputations above the knee, one amputation of part of the hand, one, an excision of the entire elbow joint, (the woman having now, at the end of two years, an arm nearly as perfect as the other, and which she bends and straightens at the elbow almost to the same extent;) for these services my salary gives an average payment of 1s. 7½d. each, and had I been paid for these cases, which I have specially enumerated, as they are all included in the Table of Extras allowed by the Poor Law Board, excepting the excision of the elbow-joint, I should then have received for the remaining cases but 1s. 2½d. each.

A Guardian has said that some of my cases were “trivial” such as extracting teeth; but the average duration of illness during the last four years has been five weeks, three days, six hours, proving that if some of them were “trivial” others were frightfully severe, and this is further attested by the number of deaths, which have been 81 or 1 in every 21 of those attended; this may appear a large proportion, and so it is, but it is less than in many other Town Districts; indeed, I know one where the

number of deaths is 1 in 15 on an average of the last four years. The fact is, the stamina of the poor are at so low an ebb, that they cannot withstand the ravages of serious disease, more still would die were it not for private charity, and the meat, &c., ordered them by the Medical men, as the Guardians usually give only one shilling, or it may be one shilling and sixpence, and a loaf, as the weekly allowance for the aged. Sir John Trollope truly said, "it is notorious that in the case of illness of paupers, private charity is compelled to supply the medical comforts which the Poor Law Unions do not provide."

During the last four years I have attended 402 patients who came to the surgery, and 1339 at their own homes; to the latter I have made 15,883 visits, or nearly thirteen visits to each patient, and as the proportion of my salary is £107. 7s. 11d. for these 1339 patients, it gives just one penny and a half-penny for each visit, which said sum of 1½d. is to cover the cost of drugs and all other expenses—loss of time, and the value of my professional services. I have been thus particular in my own case, because I can vouch for its accuracy, and I believe it is almost a *fac-simile* of the duties of most of my brethren.

In the Returns relating to Medical Relief in England and Wales, laid before the House of Commons in 1858, it is stated there are 3307 Union medical appointments, held by 3018 Medical Men, who attended in one year 1,094,939 patients in their Districts, and 254,504 in the Union Houses, or a total of 1,349,443, and that the amount paid for those services was £213,655, or 3s. 1d. per case only. In the same Return it is recorded that certain Unions find their own medicines, the amount for which varies considerably in different Unions. The charge for St. Luke's I have omitted altogether, as the number of cases of illness recorded is so enormous, when compared with the number of paupers, that I think there must be some error; but, by taking the average of the other Unions, it will be seen that 1s. 5¼d. per case is expended for drugs alone. Deduct this from the average payment of 3s. 1d. per case, and there is left but 1s. 7¼d. as a remuneration for the skill necessary for the treatment of disease, mental and bodily anxiety, the wear and tear of surgery appliances, and the providing of horses and carriages, with the keep of the former, and the repairs of the latter.

In Dispensaries in Cities and Towns where the Guardians find their own medicines, the number of cases is large, as but little restraint is placed upon the really poor having medical assistance, many, therefore, with but slight ailments apply, and a dose or two of medicine is all that is required, hence the low cost for drugs; but if you take the case of charitable Dispensaries, where cards must be procured, which are similar to our orders, there, a large proportion of severe cases come under treatment, and we have a higher cost for medicines. In a report of the Medical Charities of the Metropolis, it is stated that there are 60 Dispensaries where are relieved 232,878 patients annually at a cost of £29,064, or 2s. 5¼d. each case. In the Reading Dispensary it is 6s. 5d., the Bury, 8s. 4¼d., Spalding, 7s. 11¼d., Leeds, 4s. 5d., Ludlow, 7s. 11¼d., Weymouth, 3s. 5¼d., or an average of 5s. 10¼d.

How then is it to be expected that at the average payment of 3s. 1d. per case, a Medical Man can properly do his duty to the Poor? Can he be expected to order a dozen leeches, which will cost 6s., when his whole payment is only 3s. 1d. for the case? The words of Judge Willmore, in a trial at Yeovil, in 1855, are not inappropriate here, "If Medical Officers are screwed down too tight they are placed in a very painful position. Either they must be wanting in their duties to the poor, or they will be out of pocket, and one would not like to make a man suffer for his honesty; I am glad, therefore, for anything which promotes a liberal tendency in these matters."

The Poor Law Board in their instructional letter, dated March 12, 1842, stated:—"It is the earnest wish of the Commissioners to carry into effect the recommendation of the Committee of 1838, *that the remuneration of Medical Officers shall be such as to insure proper attention and the best medicines, and the Guardians will doubtless perceive, that, unless the Medical Officers be adequately remunerated, no vigilance on their part will suffice to secure proper attendance and medicines to the poor under their care.*" The Poor Law Board, in their minute, dated October 31, 1840, say, "It is difficult to over-rate the importance to a Union of possessing a body of efficient paid officers. Without efficient paid officers no Union, of whatever size, can conduct its Poor Law business in an economical and satisfactory manner; although the vigilant superintendence of the Guardians is necessary to the well-working of the Union, it is not alone sufficient. *Here and there an individual candidate, well-fitted for a Union Officer, may, from peculiar circumstances, be willing to accept it for an inadequate salary; but even he will probably, after a short time, become dissatisfied and will desire to transfer his services to some other Union, or to seek some other employment.*"

This is abundantly proved by direct evidence—as, during the last five years, no less than 1418 medical men have quitted the service of the Poor Law Board, or nearly one-half of the whole number. These continual changes are the more to be deplored, as it is natural to conclude that the services of the Medical Officers become valuable in proportion to the experience they have obtained, and that such constant mutation is prejudicial to the interests of the poor. Some of these vacancies, it is to be lamented, have arisen from death or diseases brought on in the discharge of their arduous duties; but surely, my Lords and Gentlemen, this is a still more powerful argument in favour of giving the Medical Officers a fair remuneration for their services.

The Poor Law Commissioners, in June, 1848, could not help commenting in the following terms on this sacrifice of life; they say, "It is to be lamented that several medical men have lost their lives in the course of such attendance." (typhus fever).

One correspondent writes—"My son, has since sacrificed his life by leaving his bed, on the 6th of November, three times in one night, with the thermometer at six degrees below freezing, to answer the queries of a pauper." Another, "My husband died last month of typhus fever, caught from some Irish poor he was attending." A third, "My husband is quite prostrated with fever, caused by attendance on a midwifery case four miles off, when in the midst of a profuse perspiration after taking a warm bath; on his return he was seized with rigors, and has never left his bed since."

The following letter, from the widow of a fourth, will convey to you some idea of the hardships endured by Union Medical Officers and their families:—

SIR,

COLLUMPTON, DECEMBER 4TH, 1859.

A LETTER from you to my late lamented husband (received a short time since) reminded me you might possibly be able to give me some assistance in my appeal at the next Election to the Governors of the Royal Medical Benevolent College. I see by the list you have votes, and if not promised, may I ask them for my boy, as also your influence with others who may have votes.

And now, dear Sir, as the widow of one who hoped so fervently to live to see the day when the reform so much needed (and sought for by you) would be brought into action, allow me to add my fervent prayers that the day may not be distant when the hard-worked, ill-paid drudges may meet with justice. I can truly bear testimony to the sad need there is of reform, for my poor husband worked night and day for years, in this Union, upon a pittance scarcely the pay of a workman in the meanest trade, and which did not even allow of his keeping a horse to work it with: and I do not hesitate to say, the toil he endured has laid him in an early grave (*he died at 40!*) and left his five children fatherless, and his wife a widow, before he had time to make any provision whatever for them. God's will be done. If it were not for all the loved ones left behind, I should say, thank God he's "gone to his rest"—he *had but little here*; toiling from morning till night seemed to be his weary lot, and I fear it is the lot of many other Poor Law Surgeons—but I trespass on your time—I would not have done so, but to shew you how much need there is of the work you have taken in hand, if indeed any more instances be needed than you already know. It can no longer benefit him, but I shall be thankful for the sake of others to hear your endeavours have been crowned with success, and in the meantime, if you can assist me, it will greatly oblige,

R. Griffin, Esq.

Yours truly,

ELIZABETH MILSOM.

Since the foregoing letter was written, I regret to say, the poor widow has lost the son for whom she pleaded, and to show the situation in which she is left, she says in her second letter, "I cannot stand the expense of the application for either of my other boys; the expense I have already been at, regarding the dear little fellow departed, has sorely shrunk my little store, and in the future, I dread to think what is to become of me, and my poor children. I enclose you a circular for a very bad case, and should you have any votes to bestow, I shall be most thankful if you will give them to poor Mrs. Parker for her son, James Coles Parker, whose father was a Union Surgeon, and died in 1858, leaving his widow, now in a precarious state of health, and eight children, totally destitute."

The area of the District held by the late Mr. Milsom, in the Tiverton Union, was 12,630 acres, and, according to the Parliamentary return, he attended 618 cases of illness in one year, for which he received only 2s. 2d. per case; no wonder he could not afford to keep a horse; and, as a consequence, that he was worked to death. We pity the man, but there is another party also to be pitied, namely, the poor. Is it not possible they also suffered through the inadequate pay of their Medical Officer, who could not afford to keep a horse? And without one, how could he make those frequent visits to the poor, which urgent sickness imperatively requires?

The late Mr. Parker made a return of 1099 cases, in the year 1857, for which he received as salary £65, and for extra Medical fees, £13 10s.; divide these sums by the number of cases attended, and it gives just 1s. 5d. for each case. No wonder, poor man, that when he died his family was left totally destitute.

These are but a few of the lamentable instances that are continually occurring among the Poor Law Medical Officers. Their salaries are utterly inadequate to the duties they are called upon to perform, hence their inability to make the slightest provision for old age, or the exigencies entailed upon their families by death, which is too frequently premature, and occasioned by diseases caught in their attendance on the poor. The reply often made to our complaints is, "you have your private practice," but what right has our private practice to be burdened with almost gratuitous attendance on the poor? No other profession is called upon to make such sacrifices. The Army, Navy, and most of the Civil Servants of the State are fairly paid when on duty, and when unfit for further service have a pension, but Union Medical Officers have no pension. I pray you, My Lords and Gentlemen, to amend the laws which so heavily oppress the Poor Law Medical Officers, and I especially commend to your serious consideration these three poor widows and their eighteen children, as it is possible, some of you may be enabled to assist them.

Mr. Drummond said in the House of Commons, on June 13, 1857, that "It was the duty of *ex-officio* Guardians to see that something else besides the interests of the ratepayers was thought of. (Hear.) That interest alone was too generally considered * * It was what would save most money to the ratepayers, and what was most economical, that guided the Guardians, not what was most beneficial to the poor. (Hear, hear.) *The same principle regulated the allowances made to the Doctors, which were reduced to so low a sum, that it was utterly impossible for those gentlemen to attend properly to the duties of their position upon such terms.*"

The Right.-Hon. Sir John Trollope, on July —, 1856, in the House of Commons, said:—

"I beg to call the attention of the Right.-Hon. Gentleman, the President of the Poor Law Board, to the numerous petitions that have been presented on the subject of Medical Relief; nothing can be more unsatisfactory than the mode in which Medical Relief is now administered throughout the country. In many

Unions, I know that the mere medicines required would absorb the whole of the salaries given to the Medical Officers, leaving them no remuneration or any allowance for their necessary expenses. The amount asked by these petitions is not exorbitant, being only 5s. a case, and 1s. a mile for a single journey. Perhaps the medical gentlemen themselves are somewhat to blame for this state of things. Under the operation of excessive competition they have been induced to take contracts at a lower scale than they can afford to do. It is notorious that in the case of illness of paupers, private charity is compelled to supply the medical comforts which the Poor Law Unions do not provide. I wish this Bill had dealt with the question; and hope that in any future general Bill on the Poor Law, the subject of Medical Relief will be included. The whole amount expended for the Medical Relief of the poor throughout England and Wales, is £250,000 a year; if that sum were doubled, it would only make £500,000 to preserve the lives of the poor. Surely the people could not object to such an expenditure for such a purpose; on the contrary, I am quite sure the ratepayers would most cheerfully assent to it, as, when spread over the entire kingdom, its increase would scarcely be felt."

The Select Committee of the House of Commons in their second resolution recommended "That the Poor Law Board should continue to direct their attention to the extent of the Medical Districts; to the reduction of the area where they are found to be inconveniently large; and to the appointment of additional Medical Officers in such cases."

A Medical Man with whom I am acquainted applied for an increase of salary, which of course was refused, but on another District becoming vacant the Guardians gave it to him, in addition to the one he already held, and thus indirectly increased his salary by £16 16s. a year, but at the same time his labours were increased more than in proportion to the increase of salary; the extremities of his Districts are now fifteen miles apart, and he has patients nine miles from his residence. This heaping of District upon District in order to stop the complaints of the Medical Officers as to the inadequacy of their salaries, is in direct contravention of the intention of Art. 159 of the Poor Law Board, which declares that "The Guardians shall not assign to a Medical Officer a District which exceeds in extent the area of 15,000 statute acres." But if we look at the Parliamentary returns, we find not only Medical Men holding Districts of four times that size, but also the recommendation evaded by giving one man two or more Districts; thus we have 3685 Districts held by 3018 Medical Men, and even during the last year 37 men have been elected to Districts in their own or other Unions in addition to those already held by them.

The words of the Royal Commissioners are not inappropriate. They state, in their report of 1832:—

"After a most searching inquiry, and collecting a mass of evidence from all parts of England and Wales, and having sought for and obtained much information as to the manner in which relief to the poor was administered in various parts of Europe, made their report to His late Majesty, William IV., in which they recommended the establishment of a Central Board of Control for administering the Poor Laws, on the ground that no legislative enactments in this department of administration could be relied upon as self-acting, because they would be inefficiently executed or perverted from the want of appropriate knowledge on the part of the distributors of relief; the short duration and division of their authority; the inadequacy of their motives to support a correct administration; the strength of their interests in abusive administration and intimidation on the part of the ratepayers." The result of this report was, that the Poor Law Commissioners were appointed and a Board of Central Control established, and yet in the very face of the declared incompetency of the Boards of Guardians, the Poor Law Board have delegated to them the power to fix our salaries, they merely exercising a nominal power of confirmation.

In Unions where the salaries are low and the Medical Officers continually complaining, it is no unusual thing to find a gradual falling off in the orders, the severer cases only coming under treatment. Four years

since I had 579 orders in the year, last year I had only 228 ; mark the result ! The average duration of illness in the first year, was four weeks, four days, seven hours ; in the last year it was seven weeks, two days, two hours. In the first year but one person in thirty-six died, but in the last year one in nineteen died.

This statement clearly proves the necessity of not leaving the power to give or withhold orders entirely in the hands of the Relieving Officers, for they, and not the Guardians, give or refuse them ; disease is prolonged and mortality increased by withholding prompt medical assistance. The poor, therefore, should have greater facilities in obtaining orders than they now have, as frequently they have to walk many miles to the Relieving Officer's house for an order ; this can be avoided by allowing the Overseers of each Parish and Justices of the Peace to grant them, instead of limiting them, as at present, to accidents and sudden illness. Should they abuse the power entrusted to them, the Guardians at their meeting will have the right to strike the names of those patients off the list whom they may consider not fitting objects for parochial assistance, or they may reimburse themselves by declaring the past to be a loan. The Poor Law Board in their minute, dated April, 1840, say :—

“ If the system of giving medical relief by way of loan be generally adopted, those who find that they will ultimately have to pay for the relief which they obtain from the poor rates, will find it so obviously their interest to have recourse to Medical Clubs or Friendly Societies, or other similar institutions, that the Commissioners look forward with confidence to an increase and prosperity of institutions of this nature, and the consequent growth of forethought and frugality amongst the labouring classes.”

There is another cause in operation which prevents many persons obtaining orders, viz : the disfranchisement which the receipt of Parochial Relief in any shape entails. This in many towns is strictly carried out, and often the Medical Officers are subpoenaed to produce their books at the Municipal Revision Courts. A child, formerly my patient, died without having had medical advice, because his father, who had previously lost his vote in consequence of his having had medical assistance for another child, would not allow his wife to apply for an order, and thus again be disfranchised. Many other cases might be quoted. One of the political agents said to me, “ All of our side, in future, must go to the druggist, and I will pay for the medicines.” Now the druggist is not a man qualified by education to treat disease. It is computed that thousands die annually without any medical advice, many of them because their fathers, who, in nine cases out of ten, are of the lowest class of voters, will not risk the loss of their votes, and with them the power of getting as much drink as they please at the expense of the candidate for municipal honours. Surely, with such facts before us, it is right to do away with the penal clause, and let it not be a disqualification to have parochial medical advice. An example we have already before us, in the case of vaccination, which it is declared “ shall be no disqualification whatever,” and the Select Committee of the House of Commons in their fifth resolution, recommend “ That persons should not be placed on the pauper list through the receipt of medical relief.”

The Select Committee of the House of Commons recommended in their third resolution “ That every Medical Officer to be appointed after the 25th March, 1855, should continue in office until he may die, resign, or become legally disqualified to hold such office, or be removed therefrom by the Poor Law Board :” this resolution has been carried out conditionally only, for an order was issued by the Poor Law Board, making residence in the District as one of the qualifications for permanency of appointment. In consequence of this order I am liable at any moment to be displaced, as I do not live in my District, which is situated on the other side of the river, and yet my furthest patient is not a mile from my

residence; whereas, a colleague of mine, because he lives in his District, is permanently appointed, though he has patients nine miles from his residence. In the Blue Book it is recorded there are 1045 Medical men who do not reside in their Districts, and are, therefore, not permanently appointed. The mischief of this order is, that it keeps men too much under the control of the Guardians, and for fear of being displaced, there are many officers who dare not give those directions for meat, &c., which the good of their patients absolutely requires. To remedy this state of things, we suggest, that all Medical Officers should be permanently appointed to those parts of their Districts which are not more than six miles from their residences; this will be of great good to the poor, as the Districts will then be made smaller, and the poor will not have to travel those enormous distances for their medicines which some are now called upon to do—nine, and even more miles out, and as many home again for a bottle of medicine, is cruel toil; with such difficulties placed in the way of the poor, no wonder illness is prolonged, and the purses of the ratepayers suffer.

The Guardians of some Unions take advantage of the order relative to non-residence of Medical Officers in their Districts, in order to displace them if they are not sufficiently compliant with their wishes.

Mr. Pullin's case is an example of the necessity for a change in the present law. That gentleman had held his appointment eight years, and, without the slightest notice was superseded by a person who actually lived two miles further from the principal part of the inhabitants; clearly proving that the change was not made for the convenience of the poor.

In the Pamphlet which Mr. Pullin has published of his correspondence with the Poor Law Board on the subject, we find the following, "My successor, Mr. Cullenan, though resident in the Union, lives five miles from the nearest point of 1300—Otterton—out of 1500 of the population of his District, whereas I reside only three miles distant at furthest, though he is somewhat nearer to the other 200—Bicton, which included only 12 cases of sickness last year, and Otterton had 300, and he had no dispensary in the District, as stated, and is only known as the assistant to Dr. Brent. The only true reason that occurs to me for my dismissal, is, that my urgent recommendations for relief in extreme cases were not approved of by the Guardians or Relieving Officer, and as they were not attended to I appealed to the Board of Guardians, but to no purpose. I then complained to the Ratepayers and the Guardians in vestry assembled, on the 24th March last, nine days before my dismissal."

It is somewhat singular that in the same Union there is another Medical Officer, Mr. Tohill, of twenty years' standing, who in his Pamphlet, says, "I think it my duty to report to you (the Board of Guardians) that this child, now six years of age, and born an idiot, is positively languishing for want of proper and sufficient food, &c., I received no answer to the above letter, but some time afterwards I asked the Relieving Officer what the Board had done for the poor idiot, Litton, when he told me they would not grant any relief at all." These two Pamphlets contain some important facts, and are not unworthy the serious attention of the Members of the Legislature, and prove the necessity of Medical Men having more power than at present, in the ordering of nourishment in the case of sickness; if the Guardians believe the individuals can afford to pay for the nourishment ordered, then let it be granted as a loan, but do not let the poor die for want.

The Poor Law Board issued an order, many years since, that none but Medical Men, holding certain Medical, as well as Surgical qualifications, should be elected Medical Officers; this order was rescinded, and another issued 10th December, 1859, whereby Medical Men possessing Diplomas or Licenses from certain other Public Bodies were rendered eligible for Union appointments. This order is generally considered judicious, and the

only suggestion proposed is that those degrees omitted in the order of the Poor Law Board, but allowed to be registered by the Medical Act, should have equal privileges with those in the order. That the Guardians have not acted up to the order of the Poor Law Board is abundantly proved, and it has given rise to much complaint on the part of the Medical Officers. In the Return made to Parliament for 1857, we find that out of the 3018 Medical Officers, there are 632 who admit they have only one qualification, and possibly there are others even without any at all, as a great many Medical Officers are still unregistered, though the Medical Act expressly declares no one shall hold office who is not. Many gentlemen with single qualifications are doubtless as intelligent as those doubly qualified, and in former times one qualification only was considered necessary, but as the Poor Law Board have decided by their order that none but men possessing the double qualification shall hold office, excepting "in special cases," we ask that this order may be fairly carried out in future, and that the Poor Law Board shall refuse to confirm the appointments of the singly-qualified, unless it can be shewn to them there are no doubly-qualified men living in the neighbourhood.

Men who have both a Medical and Surgical qualification, obtained after great labour and considerable expense, ought to be encouraged and not placed on an equal footing with those men who have recently obtained but one qualification. If the list of Poor Law Medical Appointments made in the last year be examined, it will be seen that 339 men were elected, of whom 229 have the qualifications laid down in the order of the Poor Law Board, and 19 with other Medical and Surgical qualifications now recognized by the order of the 10th December, 1859; of the remaining 91 there are 19 who have not registered up to Jan. 1, 1860, and 19 others who may or may not be registered, as, though the same names appear in the Register, the residences differ; of these I am therefore unable to ascertain the qualifications; 31 have a Surgical qualification, and 22 a Medical one only.

Giving the 19 unregistered men the credit of each holding a double qualification, which most probably is not the case, (otherwise why do they not register?) still there have been 53 Medical Men elected during the last year, each of whom has one qualification only. I have been thus minute in these details, as it is this system of electing men with one or no qualification whatever, that has tended to keep down the salaries of the Medical Officers, for when men have struck for higher remuneration they have frequently had their appointments taken on the old terms by men with one qualification only. Should the argument be used that these 53 elections were "special cases," I unhesitatingly declare that the Guardians could, in most of these instances, have found plenty of Medical men with double qualifications to have filled the offices, had they chosen to offer a fair remuneration.

In October last, I wrote to the Poor Law Board offering a respectful remonstrance to their sanctioning the appointment of unregistered and singly-qualified men, but I regret to say, it appears to me no attention has been paid to that communication, if I may judge from the fact, that in addition to those already named, four men have been elected within the last month with single qualifications, and two who were not registered. In some of the 53 instances named the appointments were made by Local Incorporations; if the Poor Law Board have no control in these cases, then they are exonerated from blame, but it proves the necessity of those public bodies being brought under their jurisdiction.

The Poor Law Board, by sanctioning the appointment of singly-qualified men, have done much to lower the standard of Medical Education, for it must be borne in mind, that out of the 15,000 Registered Medical Men three thousand hold Union appointments,

or a fifth of the whole number; and, as it is well-known by the students that the Poor Law Board rarely, if ever, reject any one with a single qualification only, even though opposed by a man who has a double qualification, they are apt to quit their studies before completion, and enter into practice. The case of Mr. Pullin, previously mentioned, is to the point; that gentleman is registered as possessing a double qualification, dated as far back as 1850, and quite in accordance with the regulations of the Poor Law Board; he was opposed, and his office taken by Joseph Cullenan, who is registered as possessing only a License from the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, which bears date in 1858, a license not then even named in the regulations of the Poor Law Board, and which is purely a Surgical one. It is represented he was merely an assistant to another medical man; certain it is that in a very few months he was temporarily succeeded by a second individual, and finally by Mr. Joseph Manning, who is also believed to be an Assistant, and therefore not acting *bona-fide* on his own account; all these changes taking place in the short space of six months. This surely cannot be a right system, nor one that is just to the poor.

Where Medical Men refuse to take the appointment at the salary offered, it is no unusual thing for the Guardians to advertize in the Medical Journals that the vacant office affords *a capital introduction to private practice*; this too frequently answers the effect intended, and drives the Medical Officer to resume his duties on the old terms rather than risk the introduction of a stranger into the villages where his private practice lies, and thereby cause a division of that, which is already too small for its possessor. Should however the Officer stand out for better remuneration, a young man is brought down, tempted to quit his studies when only half completed, in order to obtain "*the capital introduction to private practice.*" The experience in the treatment of disease which he ought to have acquired in a public hospital, under the guidance of able tutors, he will gain by practice on the poor; but what care the Guardians how he obtains his knowledge, so long as they save a few pounds, for that is their main object. Do not, however, imagine I wish to blame all Guardians, for there are some good men amongst them, but the majority outvotes them; were this not the case, you would rarely hear of the complaints of the Union Medical Officers.

The Edinburgh College of Physicians have had their year of grace, and for a pecuniary consideration have elected men to their honors without examination. The Royal College of Surgeons of England have also been admitting men on their rolls without even having undergone the usual curriculum of study. The Poor Law Board, I presume, have also had their year of grace, and have sanctioned the appointment of all. The Medical Council put a stop to the doings of the Edinburgh College. The Medical Profession are protesting against the acts of the Royal College, and you, My Lords and Gentlemen will, I trust, request the Poor Law Board in future to refuse to confirm the appointments of all who are not doubly-qualified, unless under *very* "special circumstances."

Several Deputations of Poor Law Medical Officers, numerous attended and supported by many Members of the House of Commons have, during the last four years, waited upon the Poor Law Board, praying for a redress of their grievances, which it is well-known the Board have the legal power to effect, as the following minute of their own, dated December 31, 1840, shows:—

"By section 46 of the Poor Law Amendment Act, the Poor Law Commissioners are empowered, when they may see occasion, to regulate the amount of salaries payable to such officers respectively, and the time and mode of payment thereof. It follows from the provisions just quoted that the Commissioners can authorize the Guardians to appoint paid officers, but that the appointment of the officers is made by the Guardians; and that the power of determining the amount of the salaries of such officers is vested in the Commissioners, and they cannot forbear from calling the attention of the Guardians to the obvious advantages of the arrangement, that the same authority should not fix the salary and make the appointment."

From the above quotations it is perfectly clear the Board have the power to fix our salaries, but from the annexed statement of its then President, it also certain they are afraid to exercise it; it is therefore necessary that Parliament should take the case into their own hands.

The Right-Hon. Mr. Bouverie, on June 25, 1857, in reply to Sir John Trollope, said:—

“In those cases in which the remuneration of the Medical Officers was extremely low, the Poor Law Board endeavoured to procure an addition to, it but he was sorry to say that, generally speaking, the Poor Law Guardians were not disposed to agree with the Poor Law Board as to the propriety of such addition. Unless the Poor Law Board entered into a violent contest with the Boards of Guardians on that subject—which he was not at all disposed to do—it would be difficult, indeed, to obtain an increase of the salaries.”

The Right-Hon. T. Sotherton Estcourt on his accession to office, issued a set of questions to Boards of Guardians and Medical Officers, and has publicly said “the matter ought not to continue in its present state.” The latter part of his speech to the Deputation which waited on him 24th February, 1859, I beg to quote:—

“What I hope to do is, in the course of the present Session, to prepare a Bill (if we can arrive at a fair solution of the difficulty), lay it on the table of the House, without any intention, however, of attempting it this year. It may thus be printed and circulated in the shape of a Bill towards the end of the Session, and if it is duly considered during the recess, there will next Session, be no difficulty in carrying it. * * * The matter ought not to continue in its present state, and, if I continue in office, I shall use the best means in my power to put this question on a better footing, and to make such arrangements as will be satisfactory both to you and to the public.”

In a former Pamphlet, dated 1858, which I had the honor of submitting to your notice, was a draft Bill on the subject of medical relief. In that we asked 5s. as a remuneration for each case of illness, with Extra Fees for Surgical Cases, and mileage, to cover the horse expenses of the Country Medical Officer, but in order to meet the views of Mr. Estcourt, who issued his “Scheme for a suggested new arrangement of Medical Relief,” we have adopted the three elements mentioned by him as a basis for our remuneration:—

1. “That the Medical Officers should receive not less than One Shilling and Sixpence per head upon the average number of persons in the Parish in receipt of relief in the First week of January, and the First week of July in each year.”
2. “Not less than One Shilling and Sixpence per case, upon the number of cases attended in the Parish upon an average of the last three years.”
3. “An additional sum per case to be fixed by the Guardians, with the sanction of the Poor Law Board, as a remuneration in respect of the distance which the Medical Officer may have to travel in attending the sick poor, or in respect of other local circumstances.”

“A Table of Fees for Midwifery and Surgical Operations, and a list of more expensive drugs and appliances, shall be drawn up by the Poor Law Board, with the advice of the Medical Council appointed under the New Medical Act. Every Medical Officer appointed to attend any Workhouse, Town, or Country Parish, shall, in addition to his salary or other remuneration, be entitled to his fee according to such table, after attending a case included in it; and any such Medical Officer shall be at liberty to direct any drug or surgical appliance included in such list to be made up and supplied by some Chemist approved by the Guardians, or at their own Dispensary, if they shall establish one.”

The second element at 1s. 6d. for each case of illness, was probably put as a sort of a feeler by the Right Hon. Gentleman, but as this was too low a sum, as the annexed Table (page 14) will prove, we have increased it to 2s. 6d., and as the third element was left indefinite, in consequence probably of hardly knowing how to fill it up at the time, we have considered it would be the best met by acreage, and have named one penny as the sum to be paid for each acre.

The first element at 1s. 6d. for each person in receipt of relief in the first week in January and the first week in July, will produce for the District Medical Officers, £59,345, and for those of the Union Houses, £8793, and the second element at 2s. 6d. for each case of illness will realize for the District Medical Officers £136,840, and for the Union Houses Officers, £33,992, or a total of £238,970, which if divided by 1,349,443, the number of patients attended in one year, will give 3s. 6½d. for each case of illness where the Medical Officers find the medicines, and 2s. 6½d. for each case of illness where the Guardians find the medicines; a sum sufficiently low, I should imagine, to satisfy the most economical of Guardians.

The present Extra Medical Fees amounted in 1857—8 to £36,386; but take it at £50,000, to which sum it is expected those now commuted will increase it, it will average 8½d. per case. These extras ought on no account to be spread over the entire salaries, as it is well known there are many Medical Officers who never performed a capital operation in their lives; besides, it damps the ardour of a man when they are commuted, and he might shirk his duty, knowing full well that he will get quite as much whether he works or not. No one likes to get out of bed in a cold wet wintry night, and to travel many miles to a confinement, for which he will get nothing, extra, but give him a guinea and he will go the more readily.

The third element is acreage, which, at one penny per acre will produce £146,210, or an average payment of 2s. 2d. per case of illness, but of this, the Medical Officers in Town Districts will receive next to nothing, and it will be paid in varying sums according to the size of the District, and the number of patients; it is therefore in vain to name any specific sum per case that it will realize. Put all these sums together and they will give 6s. 3d. as the average payment throughout the kingdom, instead of 3s. 1d. which is now received. It is somewhat singular that so close an approach to the former sum was made years since by the Poor Law Commissioners, who say in their minute of June 6th, 1839:—

“With regard to the amount of the remuneration, the Commissioners are disposed to give much weight to the concurrent testimony of the witnesses examined before the Committee of the House of Commons of last Session, in reference to medical relief; and they deduce from that testimony that the fixed remuneration to be paid in rural districts for the permanent list, should be such as to afford to the Practitioner a payment of 6s. or 6s. 6d. per case, on the average number of *bona-fide* cases, subject to be augmented if the district is extensive. The remuneration per case for those not on the pauper list may reasonably be on a somewhat higher scale, but the Board are inclined to think that it will not be found necessary to exceed 10s. per case. In the arrangements which have been indicated it is presumed that the midwifery cases and surgical operations of a serious character will be paid for by a separate fixed charge for each case. The Commissioners entertain no doubt that if the principle of the payment per case be thus adopted, it may be easily modified to suit the special circumstances of the Union, and the further experience of its operation will enable them to ascertain accurately whether the rates above alluded to, which at first will be of a somewhat experimental character, furnish an adequate and not unreasonable remuneration for the services performed.”

In a per case payment a fear has been entertained that the Guardians might object to the Relieving Officers giving medical orders so freely even as at present, and thus cause great suffering to the poor; to obviate this, it is proposed that Government should pay out of the Consolidated Fund the 2s. 6d. for each order, the cost of which would be £136,840 in the Districts, and £33,992 in the Union Houses, or a total of £170,832, or little more than is now annually paid in the vote of Parliament towards the salaries of the Medical Officers. All other medical charges might be paid out of the common fund of the Union, or from any other source that might be thought advisable. By the Poor Law Board making the former payment, they would have the power to establish Dispensaries in those situations where they might deem it desirable, and deduct 1s. for each order from the Medical Officer's salary towards their expense.

DIVISIONS.		Amount of Salary if each Pauper in receipt of relief on an average in July, 1857, and Jan. 1858, were paid for at 1s. 6d. as proposed by Mr. Estcourt.	Average amount of Salary if each case of illness be paid for at 1s. 6d. as proposed by Mr. Estcourt.	Amount of Salary if each case of illness in 1856-7 were paid for at 2s. 6d.	Amount for acreage at one penny per acre.	Total payments by Mr. Estcourt's plan, if acreage at 1d. per acre be added.	Total payments by Mr. Estcourt's plan, if acreage at three farthings per acre be added.	Total payments by Mr. Estcourt's plan, if acreage at one half-penny per acre be added.	Present Salaries of the Medical Officers of Districts.	Payment for each In-door Pauper in receipt of relief on an average in July & Jan. 1857 & Jan. 1858, at 1s. 6d.	Average amount of Salary if each In-door case of illness be paid for at 1s. 6d.	Total payment by Case Pauper, at 1s. 6d.	Present Salaries of the Medical Officers of Union Houses.	Cost of Medicine for the In-door Pauper in receipt of relief, on an average in July, 1857, and Jan. 1858, if charged at 1s. 6d. & each Case of illness at 2s. 6d.
No. 1	The Metropolis	£ 3,924	£ 15,006	£ 25,010	£ 310	£ 19,240	£ 19,162	£ 19,085	£ 10,864	£ 1539	£ 7725	£ 9264	£ 4,747	£ 12,749
2	South-Eastern	5,490	10,773	17,955	15,972	32,235	28,242	24,249	23,309	1203	1723	2926	3,586	4,075
3	South-Midland	5,509	8,638	14,395	12,896	27,043	19,500*	16,276*	18,302*	991	1136	2127	2,281	2,885
4	Eastern	4,714	8,832	14,720	12,572	26,118	22,965	19,822	15,769	675	1290	1965	2,888+	2,825+
5	South-Western	7,954	11,092	18,485	20,030	39,076	34,070	29,062	21,224	836	1285	2121	2,853	2,978
6	West-Midland	5,685	8,538	14,230	15,450	29,673	25,810	21,948	17,319	817	1503	2320	3,307	3,322
7	North-Midland	7,074	4,117	6,860	13,602	24,793	21,394	17,992	9,799	510	667	1177	1,120	1,622
8	North-Western	7,036	6,351	10,585	7344	20,731	18,895	17,059	12,298	1138	4161	5299	2,460	8,073
9	York	3,859	3,169	5,280	14,452	21,480	17,865	14,254	8,869	486	861	1347	1,334	1,921
10	Northern	2,811	1,941	3,235	13,644	18,396	14,985	11,574	4,754	342	629	971	634	1,389
11	Welsh	5,289	3,652	6,085	19,938	28,879	23,894	18,910	8,428	256	414	670	880	946
	Loss in Division								6				8	
	Total . . .	59,345	82,109	136,840	146,210	287,664	246,782	210,231	150,941	8793	21,394	30,187	26,098	42,785

NOTE.—In many large Unions the Guardians now find their own medicines; were this not the case, the present salaries would be higher; if, therefore, the 2s. 6d. and 1s. 6d. scales be adopted, this must be borne in mind; and also, that a medium between these two sums would, in reality, be paid.

*At three-farthings per acre, the South-Midland Division will receive a little more than at present, but at one half-penny the payment would actually be less, and therefore that sum cannot be adopted.

†The Surgeons of the Union Houses for the Eastern Division will, at 2s. 6d. per case of illness, receive a shade less than at present, but mileage, in some cases, will have to be added, and thus increase the amount.

The appointment of a Medical Secretary to the Poor Law Board is one of considerable importance, as upon him would devolve an immense amount of labour, which none but a Medical Man can properly carry out. It would be his task to decide the numerous questions which are constantly arising between the Medical Officers and the Guardians; specimens of these are recorded in the Official Circulars of the Poor Law Board, and serve to illustrate the necessity of such an officer. The medical orders of the Poor Law Board, and especially the one issued December 10th, 1859, relative to the qualifications of Union Medical Officers, clearly point out the necessity of having a Medical man at the Poor Law Board. The Secretary of the Board admits the fact in his explanatory letter to the Boards of Guardians, wherein he says, "The Board are aware that this list is not complete; but they have no adequate information at present as to the nature of the diplomas, degrees, or licenses, granted by any other bodies than those just specified." A Medical Secretary would not have advised the Board to issue an order until he had obtained the requisite information, which he would readily have acquired by simply turning to the Medical Act, Schedule A, and taking the qualifications granted by all the Public Bodies named therein. Had this been done the late instructional letter would never have been issued with so startling an omission as that of the King's and Queen's College of Physicians of Ireland, the Universities of Dublin, St. Andrew's, &c., and the Foreign Degrees allowed to be registered; but what is still worse, that a Surgeon holding a commission in the Army is now ineligible as a Poor Law Medical Officer, whilst his brother in the Navy, or even he of the late Hon. East India Company's Service, whose commission bears date prior to 1826, is admissible.

At present, no register exists of the diseases which affect the million and a quarter of the sick poor of this Kingdom, or of the number of deaths occurring among them; a Medical Secretary would be most competent to compile such a document, and it should be part of his duty to lay a classified report of it annually before Parliament; a statement of this kind would lead to an inquiry being instituted into the causes of certain diseases, especially affecting particular localities, and, ultimately be the means of their diminution or prevention. The Registration of Deaths has done much, but the Registration of Diseases would tend still more to prevent that great sacrifice of human life which annually takes place from preventable causes, and which adds materially to the Poor Rates of this Kingdom. The Hon. Mr. Cowper stated in the House of Commons in December, 1858, "That the number of deaths from preventable causes was estimated at 80,000 a year, a large portion of which arose from diseases altogether to be prevented if towns were properly cleansed." The election of a Medical Secretary by the Union Medical Officers is not a question of vital importance, but it would be an act of grace in the Members of the Legislature to allow them to do so.

The Clauses on Vaccination are of considerable importance, and I trust are so framed as to meet the requirements of the public generally, who desire to see an efficient system of vaccination carried out. The protective powers of vaccination have of late been called in question by persons who perhaps have not thoroughly investigated the subject. Vaccination is merely the insertion of the matter of cow-pox, which itself is only small-pox deprived of its contagious power and virulence by passing through the system of the cow, as is proved by the following experiments. Inoculate a cow with small-pox, and if it succeed, which it will not always do, as the animal is not over-susceptible of the disease, and the matter (lymph) be taken from the vesicles so formed, and a child vaccinated with it, cow-pox is produced. Again, if a cow be vaccinated with the matter (lymph) used in ordinary vaccination, the effect will be precisely the same, clearly proving the identity of the two diseases; the protection in the one case is therefore equal with that in the other. That each

VACCINATION STATISTICS.

Divisions.	Population of Unions in 1857.	Births in the year ended Sept. 1857.	Deaths 8 per cent. under Three months.	Number of children alive at the end of three months.	Deaths during the first year of life.	Number of children alive at the end of twelve months.	Number of successful vaccinations during the first year of life.	Number of successful vaccinations after first year of life.	Total number of successful vaccinations by the public vaccinators.	Vaccinations recorded by the Registrars.	Unsuccessful vaccinations by the public vaccinators.	Total vaccinations by the public vaccinators.	Vaccination fees for the year ended March 1857	Average payment to the Medical officers for each successful vaccination.
The Metropolis ..	2,359,185	100,282	8022	92,260	13,931	86,351	41,976	6441	48,417	44,324	1577	49,994	£ 2507 17 3	s. 1 0 1/2
South Eastern ..	1,627,091	43,988	3520	40,468	7104	36,884	20,081	7122	27,203	27,122	758	27,961	£ 3229 11 11	s. 2 4 1/2
South Midland ..	1,230,151	41,276	3302	37,974	6478	34,798	18,170	5103	23,273	19,569	841	24,114	£ 2974 12 2	s. 2 6 1/2
Eastern ..	1,113,410	36,489	2918	33,571	5512	30,977	15,198	6567	21,765	15,055	1529	23,294	£ 2213 8 5	s. 2 0 1/2
South Western ..	1,802,454	56,076	4486	51,590	7145	49,031	25,340	12,426	37,766	34,951	1251	39,017	£ 3359 14 11	s. 1 9 1/2
West Midland ..	2,134,771	79,335	6345	72,990	13,588	65,747	44,180	15,504	59,684	46,985	1962	61,646	£ 4008 5 1	s. 1 4
North Midland ..	1,210,409	43,153	3452	39,701	6901	36,252	23,378	6107	29,485	26,496	291	29,776	£ 2569 16 5	s. 1 8 1/2
North Western ..	2,492,930	100,938	8074	92,864	19,315	81,623	57,920	5888	63,808	66,603	1103	64,911	£ 5010 14 9	s. 1 6 1/2
York ..	1,788,662	66,052	5284	60,768	15,308	50,744	37,054	4543	41,597	41,345	868	42,465	£ 3444 2 11	s. 1 7 1/2
Northern ..	968,624	40,306	3224	37,082	5,991	34,315	23,733	3360	27,093	26,210	890	27,983	£ 1830 8 3	s. 1 4 1/2
Welsh ..	1,186,187	42,068	3366	38,702	5,361	36,707	22,245	8932	31,177	28,138	1093	32,270	£ 2678 2 4	s. 1 8 1/2
Schools ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£ 20 9 6	s. ..
Total and average	17,913,873	649,963	51,993	597,970	106,634	543,329	329,275	81,993	411,268	376,798	12,163	423,431	£ 33,847 3 11	s. 1 7 1/2

+ In the Tenth Annual Report of the Poor Law Board, the Vaccination Fees are set down as £41,255 for the year ending Lady-day, 1857, but in a Return made to the House of Commons for the same time by the Medical Men, they only admit to have received £33,847, the difference arising in all probability from the Fees to the Registrars, &c., being included.

occasionally fails in affording perfect immunity against small-pox is a well known fact, and arises from a peculiar predisposition in certain individuals to take particular disease a second time, whereas in the usual way people are but once affected by them. Many instances are recorded of persons having had the small-pox a second time, and some so severely as to cause death, proving that even small-pox itself is not always protective against small-pox; therefore we need not be surprised that vaccination occasionally fails, but to prevent this failure re-vaccination is recommended, and the Privy Council, doubtless under the advice of their excellent Officer of Health, Mr. Simon, (to whom the public are deeply indebted for that valuable compilation of facts recorded in the Blue Book, entitled "Papers relating to the History and Practice of Vaccination,") have named fifteen years as the age, under ordinary circumstances, when re-vaccination should take place, or 12 years, if small-pox is prevalent in the locality. That the present Vaccination Acts have to a certain extent failed is well-known, and arises from too much labour being imposed upon Public Vaccinators, and too little pay being given them. According to the present plan twenty persons may be vaccinated in a given time, but it will take three times as long to make out the certificates, which accounts for many medical men declining to fill them up; simplify this part of the plan, as is proposed in our Draft Act, and every vaccination will be recorded. The present payment for each vaccination varies from 1s. to 2s. 6d. a case, giving an average of 1s. 7½d. each, increase this amount in the way proposed, the highest sum asked being but 2s. 6d., and vaccination will be effectually carried out, and thus due homage will be paid to the memory of the immortal Jenner.

PAYMENTS MADE TO THE MEDICAL OFFICERS.

DIVISIONS.	Number of Officers who receive for Vaccination												
	Under 5l.	5l. under 10l.	10l. under 20l.	20l. under 30l.	30l. under 40l.	40l. under 50l.	50l. under 60l.	60l. under 70l.	70l. under 80l.	80l. under 90l.	90l. under 100	100l. under 120l.	160l.
The Metropolis ..	15	27	41	27	14	3	1	..	2	..	..	..	..
South Eastern	141	140	86	20	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South Midland ..	99	97	84	13	8	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Eastern	118	104	57	9	0	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
South Western ..	176	124	84	24	5	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
West Midland	87	103	79	40	13	9	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
North Midland ..	73	91	53	15	6	5	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
North Western ..	16	40	68	39	22	16	5	3	1	2	2	1	1
York	109	112	83	22	14	6	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Northern	44	59	39	4	7	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Welsh	37	27	56	24	7	8	3	3	..	1	..	..	..
Total	915	924	730	237	98	59	11	9	5	3	2	1	1

The section on sudden deaths is one of great value when it is recollected the vast number that annually take place, some of which, their is little doubt, are from unnatural causes; these are registered upon the mere verbal statement of some unprofessional person who was present at the death. The Coroner's duty used to be to institute an inquiry into cases of this kind, but of late years, it is notorious, that in consequence of the over-anxiety of the Magistrates to keep down the rates, few inquests are now held. To obviate the possibility of persons losing their lives from other than natural causes, it is proposed that the Registrar should issue an order to the District Medical Officer to enquire into all cases of sudden death, and upon his report give or withhold his certificate.

The proposal to allow Justices of the Peace for Boroughs and Towns to act as *ex-officio* Guardians may possibly be viewed as foreign to the subject of a Medical Bill, but every thing that tends to improve the Boards of Guardians, must be for the benefit of the sick poor, who constitute a very large proportion of those receiving relief. It will also remove an invidious distinction between a County and Borough Justice, which ought never to have existed. At present, the election of Guardians is annual, but it is well known that certain local politicians are chosen year after year, and in many villages the Guardian is the sole occupier of the soil, and he annually returns himself. These men, who, with some few exceptions in every Board, are generally little farmers, millers, and shopkeepers, have the control over considerable sums of money annually, and the welfare of a vast number of people is entrusted to their care; it is therefore most desirable that men of education, as well as of intelligence, should have a seat at their Board; and, as the Borough Magistrates are generally men of either influence, education, or property, there cannot exist a doubt that they have a fair claim to a seat at the Board of Guardians.

The proposition to make the Union Medical Men Officers of Health is one of immense importance, when it is considered that a body of 3000 Professional Men, already existing, might at once be employed in the cause of sanitary science—a science which is of vital interest to the twenty-eight millions of this kingdom. The Poor Law Medical Officer is conversant with every nook and corner of his district, and knows of nuisances better than any other man; place him in power, and make it part of his duty to lay before the local authorities the various plague spots that infest his district, and many of the diseases that are now rife will cease to exist. In the metropolis, and a few other places, Officers of Health have been appointed with the best possible results. The Legislature, conversant with its importance, have empowered local Boards to appoint these officers, but they have done so in a few instances only. Let the appointments be extended and the advantages will be manifest.

There are some other parts in the proposed Act of Parliament which might fairly be commented on, but the length of this letter precludes my doing so. I will therefore conclude by saying that the Poor Law Medical Officers ask for nothing more than common justice; and in their proposed bill they have taken the recommendations of the Poor Law Commissioners of 1839, coupled with the "Scheme" suggested by a late President of the Poor Law Board, The Right. Hon. T. Sotherton Estcourt, and the orders and recommendations of the Board as their guide, simply amending those that do not advance the interests of the poor, and the Medical Officers. The Bill is founded on the principle of paying a man for what he does, and not, as in the present mode, for what he is expected to do. The payments proposed will be just sufficient to enable the Guardians to obtain and retain the services of efficient medical men, which will be an advantage not only to the poor, but also to the ratepayers. Greater facilities are also given to the poor, to obtain gratuitous medical assistance; at the same time an efficient check will be in force to prevent imposition upon the Medical Men and the Ratepayers. Let the principles of the proposed Bill be fairly carried out, and it will be found that the position of the Poor Law Medical Officers will be improved, the health of the Poorer Classes better cared for, and, as a consequence, the burden on the Ratepayers and Country at large actually lessened.

I have the honor to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your very obedient Servant,

RICHARD GRIFFIN.

To the Members of the Legislature.

DRAFT OF AN ACT FOR THE BETTER REGULATION OF
MEDICAL RELIEF TO THE POORER CLASSES IN ENGLAND
AND WALES, AN AMENDMENT OF THE VACCINATION
ACTS, AND OTHER MEASURES OF A MEDICAL CHARACTER
FOR THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE.

WHEREAS it is expedient to alter and amend the Laws relating to the Medical Relief of poor persons in England and Wales, and the Vaccination Acts, and to adopt other measures of a Medical character for the welfare of the People, be it therefore enacted, by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal and Commons in the present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

SECTION I.—That from and after the passing of this Act it shall be the duty of the Relieving Officer of every District, and the Overseers, or Assistant-Overseer of every Parish, the poor of which are resident more than one mile from the abode of the Relieving Officer, and for the Guardians as a Board, and legal for every Justice of the Peace, residing in a Union, on demand of any person, either on behalf of himself, or some other person requiring medical aid, who is destitute of the means to procure such relief, to grant an order on the Medical Officer appointed by the Board of Guardians to attend the sick poor in the district in which such poor person, requiring relief, may at the time be residing. Such order to continue in force until the ensuing quarter-day, unless the Board of Guardians direct to the contrary, or the party's name be previously struck off the list as not requiring further medical aid. [Art. 215, No. 3; Overseers' Order, Nos. 1, 3; Out-door Relief Order, 1844, 1849, 1852.]*

[Arts. 75, 76, omitted as useless, if a per case payment be adopted.]

II.—That it shall be the duty of the Guardians at their meetings as a Board, to examine the books of the Medical Officers and inquire into the circumstances of each patient recorded therein since their last meeting, and should it appear to them that any such person is capable of paying for medical relief, then the Chairman of the Board shall strike his pen through the name and attach his initials thereto, and from that time the Medical Officer shall not furnish further medical relief, at the cost of the Union, without a fresh order; the value of the relief already granted to be paid for by the Guardians as an ordinary case of illness, or by half the fee pointed out by Sec. 17., should the services rendered be one of those described therein excepting in the case of child-birth, or immediately afterwards, when the whole fee shall be paid; or that of an operation, or the reduction of a dislocation, when two-thirds of the fee shall be paid; and the Guardians may, if they think fit, declare the same to be a loan, and be recoverable in like manner as is now provided by law for loans granted by Guardians. [Art 41, Nos. 3, 5; Arts. 182, 183, 215.]

III.—That on the Board-day immediately preceeding each of the usual quarters of the year, the case of all patients then on the books of the Workhouse or District Medical Officer shall be inquired into by the Board of Guardians, and should it appear to the Board, after consultation with their Medical Officer, that any of the cases will not be benefitted by further medical advice, they shall be struck off the books, and shall not again be attended by the Medical Officer until a fresh order be procured. Those cases retained by the Board to be counted in the same manner as if fresh orders had been procured and paid for accordingly, excepting in the case of patients who have been under treatment for a less period than one week prior to the termination of the quarter; or when fees have been claimed under Sec. 17. by the Medical Officer, when they shall be retained on the books until struck off by him in the usual course, unless they continue for a longer period than the ensuing quarter-day, after which they shall be considered as ordinary patients, and obtain fresh orders quarterly. [Arts. 99, 148, 149.]

*NOTE.—[Arts. and Nos.] are merely put to show the parts of the Consolidated Order of the Poor Law Board, bearing on the Sections, and will be omitted in an Act of Parliament.

IV.—That should a Medical Officer attend any poor person without an order, in any case represented to be of emergency, or of difficulty in obtaining such order, he shall not be required to repeat his attendance, if he so inform the patient, until an order be given, but should he do so, and the sick person's right to have an order be not objected to by the Board of Guardians at their next meeting, then the Medical Officer shall be remunerated in a similar manner as if the sick person had obtained an order: that the holder of an order for medical relief during sickness shall, if taken in labour during such sickness, be entitled to medical attendance during childbirth, and the Medical Officer shall receive a fee in accordance with the Table of Fees, as provided for by Sec. 17, for such additional service, if he has rendered it.

APPOINTMENT OF MEDICAL OFFICERS.

V.—That the Guardians shall, whenever it may be requisite, or whenever a vacancy may occur, appoint a fit person to hold the office of Medical Officer, and to perform the duties assigned to him. [Arts. 153, 195, 196.] The Officer so appointed to or holding office, shall perform such duties as may be required of him by this Act, and by the Rules and Regulations of the Poor Law Board, as the Guardians may require of him. Provided, always, that every regulation applying to an officer elected after the passing of this Act, shall apply to every officer already elected by the Guardians. [Art. 154.] That “every Medical Officer to be appointed under this Act shall be appointed by a majority of the Guardians present at a meeting of the Board, consisting of more than three Guardians, or by three Guardians if no more be present, and that where there are two or more candidates for the office, the Guardians shall choose one of those who is doubly qualified in accordance with Sec. 7 of this Act, in preference to one who is only singly qualified. Every such appointment shall, as soon as the same has been made, be reported by the Clerk to the Poor Law Board, whose duty it shall then be to ascertain if the appointment has been made in conformity with this Act, and if it has, to confirm the same, if not, to annul it.” [Art. 155; Order, May, 1857; Art. 7.]

VI.—That “no appointment of Medical Officer shall be made unless an advertisement, giving notice of the consideration of such appointment, shall have appeared in one or two Newspapers (of the County in which the Union is situate), by the direction of the Guardians, at least seven days before the day on which such appointment is made, provided that no advertisement shall be necessary for the appointment of an assistant or temporary substitute to an officer already appointed, but no Medical Officer shall be elected to any District or Workhouse who is the paid assistant of another Medical Man, and who is not practising *bona fide* on his own account, neither shall any Medical Officer continue to hold his appointment after the passing of this Act, unless he be a registered Medical Man.” [Instead of Art. 156.] But “the Guardians shall not invite tenders for the supply of medicines, or for the medical attendance on the paupers of the Union, but such advertisement shall specify the district or place for which such supply of medicines and such attendance is required, together with the estimated amount of salary in accordance with Section 16 of this Act, and other remuneration as mentioned in the Table of Fees, as provided for by Section 17.” [Arts. 44, 48, 157; Order, Feb., 1855.]

VII.—That no person shall hold the office of Medical Officer under this Act unless he be registered as a—

- Fellow, Member, Licentiate, or extra Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians of London. Or,
- Fellow, Member, or Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. Or,
- Fellow, or Licentiate of the King's and Queen's College of Physicians of Ireland. Or,
- Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries, London. Or,
- Licentiate of the Apothecaries Hall, Dublin. Or,
- Doctor, or Bachelor, or Licentiate of Medicine of any University of the United Kingdom. Or,
- Doctor of Medicine of any Foreign or Colonial University or College.

And also registered as a—
 Fellow, or Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Or,
 Fellow, or Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Or,
 Fellow, or Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland. Or,
 Fellow, or Licentiate of the Faculty of Physicians & Surgeons of Glasgow. Or,
 Master in Surgery of any University of the United Kingdom.

Or,
 Holds a Commission as Medical Officer in the Army or Navy, dated prior to
 the passing of this Act. Or, as
 Surgeon or Assistant-Surgeon in the Service of the Hon. East India Com-
 pany, dated previous to the first day of August, 1826. Or,
 Was in practise as an Apothecary, on the 12th day of August, 1815.
 [Instead of Art. 168; Order, July, 1855.]

“Provided always that if it be impracticable, consistently with the proper
 attendance on the sick poor, for the Guardians to procure a person doubly
 qualified as before-mentioned, to attend on the poor in such District or Work-
 house, or that the only person so qualified shall have been dismissed from office
 by the Commissioners or Poor-Law Board; then, and in such case, the Guard-
 ians shall cause a special minute to be made and entered on the usual record of
 their proceedings, stating the reasons which, in their opinion, make it necessary
 to employ a person not doubly qualified as required by this section, or who has
 been dismissed from office by the Commissioners or Poor-Law Board, and shall
 forthwith transmit a copy of such minute to the Poor Law Board for their con-
 sideration; and the Poor Law Board may permit the employment by such
 Guardians of any person if registered to practise as a medical man, although
 such person be not doubly qualified, or has been dismissed from office by the
 Commissioners or Poor Law Board.” [Art. 169.]

But nothing herein contained shall authorize the Guardians to continue for a
 longer period than from year to year any Medical Officer *hereafter* to be appointed,
 who at the time of his appointment shall not be doubly qualified as before-
 mentioned, or shall not, during the period of his office, become so qualified:
 but previous to the termination of each year the Guardians shall advertise the
 office as vacant, and a fresh election shall take place in the usual way. [Instead
 of Art. 170, 197; Order, May, 1857.]

VIII.—That every Medical Officer *already appointed*, whatever his quali-
 fications may be, or hereafter to be appointed, if doubly qualified, whether
 of a Workhouse, District, Parish, or District School, resident in, or within
 two miles of the Workhouse, District, Parish, or District School for which
 he has or shall be appointed to act, or shall at any time during the contin-
 uance of his office become so resident, shall continue, if registered, to
 hold his appointment according to the regulations of the Poor Law Board then
 in force until he shall die, or resign, or by evidence, which the Poor Law Board
 shall deem sufficient, be proved to be insane, or become legally disqualified to
 hold such office, or be removed by the Poor Law Board for non-fulfilment of his
 duties as Medical Officer. Should any Medical Officer at any time be incapacitated
 by sickness, accident, or other sufficient reason, for the performance of his duties,
 he shall appoint a registered Medical man to act as his temporary substitute,
 subject to the approval of the Guardians, failing which, the Guardians shall
 appoint a substitute and pay him the proportion of the salary that would
 have been payable to the officer whose duty he performs. [Instead of Arts.
 187, 191, 193, 197; Orders, February, 1855; May, 1857.]

IX.—That where a change in the extent of the district of a Medical Officer
 shall be deemed necessary for the more convenient supply of medical relief to
 the poor, or otherwise for the general benefit of the Union, Parish, or Incor-
 poration, it shall be lawful for the Guardians, with the consent of the Poor
 Law Board, but not otherwise, to take from the said district a certain parish or
 parishes, or parts of a parish or parishes, and add thereto or not, as it may seem
 convenient, another parish or parishes, or parts of a parish or parishes; or the
 Guardians may, when, and as often as it may seem desirable to them, and with
 the consent of the Poor Law Board, but not otherwise, appoint additional
 Medical Officers, qualified as aforesaid, to act in any of the said districts or parts
 of the same. [Instead of Art. 158; Order, May, 1857.]

X.—That when any District Medical Officer shall cease to hold his office,
 or shall give notice of his intention to do so on a certain day, the Guardians

shall proceed to make a new appointment to the vacant office in the manner prescribed for the appointment of Medical Officers, unless the Guardians, with the consent of the Poor Law Board, shall divide the said district amongst the other districts, and thus render a fresh appointment unnecessary. [Instead of Arts. 195 and 196; Order, May, 1857.]

XI.—That the Guardians shall not assign to any Medical Officer hereafter to be elected a district which extends beyond six miles from his residence, or if at the time of his appointment this distance has been exceeded, the appointment to that part of the district beyond the six miles shall only be continued as a yearly office, and so long only as it may be found impracticable to obtain the services of a Medical Man qualified as before-mentioned, and living within the prescribed distance. Whenever any Medical Officer shall have had more than one thousand five hundred patients on his list in any one year, excepting in the case of an epidemic, it shall then be the duty of the Guardians to reduce the size of the district, or to appoint an additional Medical Officer thereto. [Instead of Arts. 159, 160, 161.]

“Provided also, that nothing herein contained shall prevent the Guardians, in any case of emergency or under any special circumstances, from appointing one or more registered Medical Officers to act temporarily for such time and upon such terms as the Poor Law Board shall approve.” [Orders, Feb., 1855, Art. 3; May, 1857, Art. 6.]

XII.—That Public Vaccinators shall be registered Medical Men, and have the same qualifications as Union Medical Officers.

DUTIES OF A MEDICAL OFFICER.

XIII.—That “the following shall be the duties of every Medical Officer appointed by the Guardians, whether he be the Medical Officer for a Workhouse or for a District:”—

1. “To visit and attend personally, as far as may be practicable, the poor persons intrusted to his care, and shall be responsible for the attendance on them.” [Art. 199, 200.]
2. “To give to the Guardians, when required, any reasonable information respecting the case of any pauper who is or has been under his care; to make any such written report relative to any sickness prevalent among the paupers under his care, as the Guardians or the Poor Law Board may require of him; and to attend any meeting of the Board of Guardians when requested by them to do so.”
3. “To give a certificate respecting children whom it is proposed to apprentice, in conformity with Arts. 59 and 61 of the Consolidated Order of the Poor Law Board.”
4. “To give a certificate under his hand in every case to the Guardians, or the Relieving Officer, of the sickness of a pauper or other cause of his attendance, when required to do so.” [Certificate to the Pauper omitted, as it is sometimes made use of for begging.] [Art. 62, 63.]
5. “In keeping the books prescribed by this Order, to employ, so far as is practicable, the terms used or recommended in the regulations and statistical nosology issued by the Registrar General; and also to show when the visit or attendance made or given to any pauper was made or given by any person employed by himself.” [Art. 205.]

DUTIES OF A DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER.

XIV.—That the following shall be the duties of a District Medical Officer:”—

1. “To attend duly and punctually upon all poor persons requiring medical attendance within the district of the Union or Parish assigned to him, and according to his agreement to supply the requisite medicines to such persons, whenever he may be lawfully required to furnish such attendance or medicines by a written or printed order of the Guardians, or of a Relieving Officer of the Union, or of an Overseer, or Assistant-Overseer, or a Justice of the Peace.”

[No. 2 of the order omitted, as, if each case of illness be paid for, Art. 76 cannot stand.]

3. "To inform the Relieving Officer of any poor person whom he may attend without an order." [Art. 215, No. 4.]
4. "To make a return to the Guardians at each ordinary meeting, in a book prepared according to the Form marked (P), and to insert therein the date of every attendance, and the other particulars required by such Form, in conformity with Art. 205, No. 4," [of the Consolidated Order of the Poor Law Board.]

"Provided, however, that the Medical Officer may, with the consent of the Guardians, but not otherwise, make the entries which he is directed to make in such book on detached sheets of paper, according to the same Form, and cause the same to be laid before the Guardians at every ordinary meeting, instead of such book; and the Guardians shall, in that case, cause such sheets to be bound up at the end of the year." [Art. 206.]

DUTIES OF THE MEDICAL OFFICERS FOR THE WORKHOUSE.

XV.—That "the following shall be the duties of the Medical Officer for the Workhouse:"—

1. "To attend at the Workhouse when sent for by the Master or Matron," [and as often as the sick may require his attendance.]
2. To attend duly and punctually upon all poor persons in the Workhouse requiring Medical Attendance, and according to his agreement to supply the requisite medicines to such persons."
3. "To examine the state of the paupers on their admission to the Workhouse, and to give the requisite directions to the Master [according to Articles 91, 92, 93" of the Consolidated Order of the Poor Law Board.]
4. "To give directions and make suggestions as to the diet, classification, and treatment of the sick paupers, and paupers of unsound mind, and to report to the Guardians any pauper of unsound mind in the Workhouse whom he may deem to be dangerous, or fit to be sent to a Lunatic Asylum."
5. "To give all necessary instructions as to the diet or treatment of children, and women suckling children, and to vaccinate such of the children as may require vaccination." [Art. 108.]
6. "To report in writing to the Guardians any defect in the diet, drainage, ventilation, warmth, or other arrangements of the Workhouse, or any excess in the number of any class of inmates, which he may deem to be detrimental to the health of the inmates."
7. "To report in writing to the Guardians any defect which he may observe in the arrangements of the Infirmary, and in the performance of their duties by the nurses of the sick."
8. "To make a return to the Guardians, at each ordinary meeting, in a book prepared for the purpose and to insert therein the date of every attendance, and the other particulars required by such Form to be inserted by the Medical Officer, and to enter in such return the death of every pauper who shall die in the Workhouse, together with the apparent cause thereof."
9. "To enter in the commencement of such book, according to the Form marked (R.) of the Consolidated Order of the Poor Law Board, the proper dietary for the sick paupers in the House, in so many different scales as he shall deem expedient." [Art. 108, 207.]

REMUNERATION OF THE MEDICAL OFFICERS.

XVI.—That from and after the 24th day of June next, the Salary of a District Medical Officer shall be fixed in accordance with the number of statute acres contained in his district, the number of paupers in receipt of relief on an average in the first week in January, and the first week in July of each year on an average of the last three years, and the number of patients attended by him, or his predecessor in office, on an average of the last three

years; and annually for three years, a fresh calculation shall be made on an average of the three preceding years, after which time a triennial calculation shall be made.

But should any dispute arise as to the number of cases attended during the last three years, then the Poor Law Board shall settle such dispute, or may direct that the payments shall be made in accordance with the number of cases the Medical Officers may in future attend, but after three years, the salary shall be fixed upon a triennial calculation, in the manner already described. [Art. 172.]

1. The salary shall be calculated at one penny per acre for each acre contained in the district, together with
2. 1s. 6d. per head upon the average number of persons in the receipt of relief in the district, in the first week in January and the first week in July in each year, on an average of the three preceding years, together with
3. 2s. 6d. for each patient attended by the Medical Officer on an average of each year during the last three years, when the Medical Officer finds the medicines, and 1s. 6d. for each patient when the Guardians or Poor Law Board find the medicines.

That the Salary of the Medical Officer of a Workhouse shall be fixed on the same basis as that of the District Medical Officer, but instead of the acreage payment he shall receive per head for those in receipt of relief on an average in the first week in January, and the first week in July of each year, 1s. in addition, for each mile beyond the first mile, and 2s. for each mile beyond the first three miles a Union House may be situated from the residence of the Medical Officer.

MEDICAL FEES.

XVII.—A Table of Fees for Midwifery and Surgical operations shall be drawn up by the Poor Law Board, with the advice of the General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom, and revised every seven years, and every Medical Officer, whether of a Workhouse or District, after attending a case included in that Table, shall, in addition to his salary, be entitled to his fee accordingly; and on no account shall the Guardians be allowed to compound for the same; or should the case be sent to an Hospital, by order of the Board of Guardians, Relieving Officer, or Overseer, the Treasurer for the time being of such Hospital shall be entitled to receive the said fee for the benefit of the funds of the Hospital. [Instead of Art. 177, 182, 183.]

All the fees shall include the payment for the supply of such medicines as may be required, and of apparatus and splints, excepting wooden legs, crutches, trusses, elastic bandages, or any apparatus which will require to be worn after the Medical Officer has ceased to attend the case.

“Provided that if several of the fees specified in this Section become payable with respect to the same person, at the same time, and in consequence of the same cause of injury, the Medical Officer shall be entitled only to one of such fees; and if they be unequal, to the highest” (Art. 180.) But in the case of fractures and dislocations of separate limbs, and amputations of more than one limb, each shall be paid for in full, if the patient survives the injury more than thirty-six hours, if not, then only one such fee shall be paid. [Art. 179.]

Provided also, that in the case of a patient who has been under treatment only a short time before being removed into the district of another Medical Officer, or into the Workhouse, then the fee payable in accordance with the Table of Fees, to one of the Medical Officers, shall be divided between them in such proportion as is fair; or should the patient be removed into an Hospital within one week after his application to the Medical Officer, and without any operation having been performed, then the case shall be considered as an ordinary order, excepting in the case of fractures, where half the fee shall be payable, or dislocations, which, if reduced, shall be paid for in full. In case of dispute as to the actual sum due to the Medical Officer, the Poor Law Board shall decide the question.

XVIII.—That in any serious surgical case not enumerated in the Table of Fees, and for which an operation shall be performed, the Guardians shall make to the said Officer such reasonable extra allowance as the Poor Law Board may think fit. [Instead of Art. 181.]

XIX.—That in any case where it is impossible or unsafe for a Medical Officer to perform an operation without the advice and assistance of one or more Medical Men, or any other case where the welfare of the patient imperatively requires that a consultation should be held, then such assistance and advice shall be procured by the said Medical Officer, and paid for by the Guardians, if the Medical Man called in be registered, but not otherwise, and the payment shall be after the following rates:—

When the patient resides within one mile of the Medical Man consulted, who must be a registered Medical Man,—10s.

If more than one mile, and less than three miles,—£1.

If more than three miles,—£2.

Provided always that the Guardians shall in no case be called upon to pay for the advice of more than three medical men; and not even that number, unless satisfactory proof be given of their absolute necessity; neither shall they be called upon to pay higher fees than is here specified, unless they enter on their books a specific resolution to that effect.

XX.—That except in cases of sudden accident, or other cause immediately threatening life, no Medical Officer shall be entitled to receive such remuneration for any operation, the payment for the performance of which is £5, unless he shall have obtained the advice of a registered medical man before performing such operation, and unless he shall, subsequently, produce to the Guardians a certificate from such registered medical man as aforesaid, that in his opinion it was right and proper to perform such operation. [Instead of Art. 178.]

XXI.—That in all cases of sudden accident or other cases immediately threatening life, in which a registered medical man, not an Union Officer, or if an Union Officer, not appointed to the district or parish where the patient may be, shall render important service in the absence of the Medical Officer of the Union, or his substitute, whose duty it would have been to have rendered such service, had he been present, the Guardians shall pay him a reasonable fee, and the same shall be charged to the account of the common fund of the Union, but his services shall not be continued longer than is sufficient to procure the attendance of the appointed Medical Officer, whose duty it will then be to take charge of the patient. [Art. 172—Provided.]

XXII.—That it shall be the duty of the Relieving Officer to provide for the conveyance of the Medical Officer's book (marked P.) to and from the Board each Board-day.

XXIII.—That in all cases where the Guardians of an Union, Parish, or Incorporation, have already established a Dispensary, find medicines, and employ a dispenser, and in every case where they, or the Poor Law Board may hereafter do so—and which by this Act they are empowered to do—then, in either of these cases it shall not be lawful for the Guardians to compel the poor living more than six miles from the Dispensary, to visit the Medical Officer there, or send that distance for their medicines; neither shall they permit a Medical Officer to have a District extending beyond six miles from his residence, if there is a registered medical man living nearer, who is willing to attend them on the terms of this Act. [Arts. 159, 160, 161.]

XXIV.—That in case of the employment of a Medical Officer who is debarred private practice by the Guardians, his salary shall be fixed in accordance with this Act, and not less than at the rates set out in it.

XXV.—That in no case shall the Guardians be allowed to enter into a contract with a druggist for the supply of medicines and dispensing them to the poor, but shall either find them through the medium of their own Medical Officers, or purchase the drugs and have them dispensed at a Dispensary belonging to the Union, by a dispenser resident at the Dispensary, who shall not be a visiting Medical Officer, but shall in all respects make up the medicines in accordance with the orders of the Medical Officers.

XXVI.—“The salary of every Medical Officer shall be payable up to the day on which he shall cease to hold such Office, and no longer.” [Part of Art. 173.]

XXVII.—“An Officer who may be suspended, and who may, without the previous removal of such suspension, be dismissed by the Poor Law Board, shall not be entitled to any salary from the date of such suspension.” [Arts. 175, 192.]

XXVIII.—That cod-liver oil, leeches, bread, linseed-meal, and other requisites for poultices, cotton-wool and calico, and a list of more expensive drugs and appliances, as shall be drawn up by the Poor Law Board with the advice of the General Council of Medical Education and Registration, shall not be considered as included in any contract by the Guardians with their Medical Officers, but shall be found by the Guardians, through the medium of the Relieving Officers or Master of a Workhouse, whenever ordered.

XXIX.—That the Poor Law Medical Officer shall be free from all tolls between his residence and the furthest part of the district of the Union for which he is appointed to act, while on duty visiting Union patients.

XXX.—That the Poor Law Medical Officer shall be free of the tax assessed on one horse, carriage, and man servant.

XXXI.—That the Medical Officer may direct in writing such diet for any individual sick person as he may deem necessary, and the Relieving Officer or Master of the Workhouse, as the case may be, shall obey such directions until ordered to the contrary by the Board of Guardians, and all meat, wine, brandy, (which shall be South African Wine or Colonial Brandy, unless ordered to the contrary) and British gin so ordered, shall be kept at the workhouse and given out by the Master of the Workhouse, provided the patient for whom they are ordered does not live more than three miles from the Union House; if at a greater distance, then in such manner as may be more convenient for the poor; but in no case shall a daily allowance of meat be given at one time for a longer term than three, or at most four days, under ordinary circumstances, but the Medical Officer shall not be required to give an order each time, if he has previously stated the period for which the meat or wine is to be continued. [Instead of Art. 108.]

XXXII.—That Medical Relief received under this Act if unaccompanied by other relief shall not be deemed parochial relief, alms, or charitable allowance to such person, and that no such person shall by reason of such medical relief or assistance, be deprived of any right or privilege, or be subject to any disability, or any disqualification whatsoever. [Vaccination Act.]

XXXIII.—That all payments for Medical assistance shall be a Union charge, excepting those named in Sec. XVI., No. 3, which shall be paid for out of the Consolidated Fund, and the Poor Law Board shall have the power to order Dispensaries to be established in such Unions, or parts of Unions, as they may think desirable, and all Dispensaries now established, or hereafter to be established, shall be under the management of the Guardians, subject to the control of the Poor Law Board, who shall furnish the drugs, and pay for the same out of the Consolidated Fund, as well as the rent of the Dispensaries and salaries of the Dispensers, whose qualifications for office must be that of being registered as Medical Men, or be members of the Pharmaceutical Society.

XXXIV.—That it shall be the duty of the Relieving Officers to mark with red ink, every week, all fresh patients recorded in the Medical Officers' books who are not in the receipt of other than Medical Relief, in order not only that the attention of the Guardians may be called to them, but that a half-yearly calculation may be made of the amount of sickness occurring in each class, which shall be laid before Parliament by the Poor Law Board in their Annual Report: together with the number of deaths, and the sum total of the cases of diphtheria, cholera, diarrhoea, continued fever, scarlet fever, measles, hooping cough, and small-pox, in each Union. [Accounts Order, part of Article 22.]

XXXV.—That it shall be the duty of the Poor Law Board to appoint an additional Commissioner or Secretary, who shall be a registered medical man, and possessed of both a Medical and Surgical Diploma, Licence, or Degree, in accordance with Section 7, of this Act, and have been an Union Medical Officer of not less than 3 years' standing, [and shall be nominated by the Union Medical Officers on one month's notice being given by the Poor Law Board, in two or more of the Weekly Medical Journals, published in London, that such

appointment will be made on a certain day; the nomination to be by letter sent to the Poor Law Board; should there be more than one candidate, that candidate shall be chosen who has a majority of votes, and should there be an equality of votes, the President of the Poor Law Board shall give the casting vote.] The duty of the said Commissioner or Secretary shall be to conduct the Medical Correspondence, and prepare the Medical Report to be laid before Parliament annually, and adjudicate in all matters having reference to the Union Medical Officers, subject to the confirmation of the Poor Law Board. The said Commissioner or Secretary shall be awarded such salary as the Lord High Treasurer or the Commissioners of the Treasury, or any three of them may direct, with a Superannuation Allowance after not less than ten years' service, of one-third at least of the said income, or such higher sum as the Lord High Treasurer or Commissioners may direct.

VACCINATION.

XXXVI.—That from and after the 24th day of June next, it shall be the duty of every Registrar of Births to deliver to the person registering the birth of a child, a Form of Vaccination Certificate, according to the Schedule hereinafter annexed, marked (A), the blanks for the name of the child, the date of its registration or birth, its parents name, the number of the house, street, or other locality, parish and county in which resident, number on the register, name of the public Vaccinator of the District, his place of residence, or other house in which he vaccinates, with the days and hours on which he attends for that purpose, to be filled up by the Registrar previous to his delivery of it; which form of certificate it shall be the duty of the father or mother of the child, or in the event of death, illness, absence, or inability of the father or mother, then the person who shall have the care, nurture, or custody of the said child, to deliver within twelve months after the registration of its birth to a registered medical man or the appointed public Vaccinator of the District in which the child is then resident, who shall, after vaccination of the said child, and inspection on the eighth day therefrom, or later, fill up the blanks therein with his own name, residence, and day of the month and year, and strike his pen through the words not required to be retained, as "successfully vaccinated," or "is unsusceptible of vaccination," or "is not in a fit state to be vaccinated," as the case may be, and deliver or cause to be delivered, the said certificate to the Registrar of the District, who shall then append his name and die of office to the certificate, and give it to the parents, &c. of the child on their applying for the same, or a copy thereof, and record in his books that the child has been successfully vaccinated or is insusceptible of vaccination, or is not in a fit state of health to be vaccinated, according as the vaccinator may have declared. A copy of the blank form, if lost, or otherwise required, to be furnished, free of charge, by the Registrar.

XXXVII.—That in the months of March and September of each year a list of all persons born since August 1, 1858, and above the age of twelve months, and under that of sixteen years of age, and then living in each Registration District, and not registered as successfully vaccinated, be made out by the Registrar and delivered to one of the public Vaccinators of the District in which the child resides, whose duty it shall then be to call upon the parents or other persons having the custody of the said child, and offer to vaccinate it at the public expense, if it be in a fit state to be vaccinated, and does not appear insusceptible of vaccination in consequence of having been previously successfully vaccinated, or having had the small-pox: it shall then be the duty of the Public Vaccinator to make his report accordingly to the Registrar, who shall enter the same in his book, and if the parents or other persons having the custody of the said child have refused to have it vaccinated, it being at the time in a fit state to be vaccinated, the Registrar shall immediately sue the father or mother, or other person having the care, nurture, or custody of the said child for a penalty of Ten Shillings and costs of the prosecution, or in default of payment thereof, to be imprisoned in the common gaol or house of correction for any term not exceeding one month, nor less than one week, which penalty shall be incurred annually until a certificate be furnished that the child has been vaccinated, or is insusceptible of vaccination, or is sixteen years of age.

XXXVIII.—That should the said child be vaccinated in some other Union or District of an Union than that in which it was born, the certificate of the successful vaccination, insusceptibility, or that it is not in a fit state to be vaccinated, shall be delivered to the Registrar of Births of the District in which the child then resides, and it shall be the duty of the said Registrar immediately to forward by post a copy of the said certificate to the Registrar of its birth, and append his name and die of office to the original certificate, and return it to the parents, or other persons having the care or custody of the said child, on application, and shall record the same in a book, to be specially provided for such purpose.

XXXIX.—That a certificate of the postponement of vaccination in consequence of the ill state of health of the said child shall only continue in force six months, and must at the end of that time be renewed if required.

XL.—That the Vaccinators appointed by the Boards of Guardians shall be entitled to the following fees:—

1. For every vaccination, if successful, up to one hundred in number, annually performed—2s. 6d.
2. For every vaccination, if successful, beyond one hundred and less than four hundred in number, annually performed—2s.
3. For every vaccination, if successful, beyond four hundred in number, annually performed—1s. 6d.
4. For each certificate as to the state of a child on the half-yearly list furnished by the Registrars—2s. 6d.

In addition to these several fees of 2s. 6d., 2s., and 1s. 6d., there shall be paid an additional fee of 1s. for each case vaccinated, beyond one mile from the residence of the Public Vaccinator, and 2s. for each case of vaccination beyond four miles from the residence of the Public Vaccinator.

That no case of vaccination shall be paid for a second time unless the person vaccinated be above the age of 15 years, or an order be given for the vaccination by the Board of Guardians or Privy Council.

XLI.—That every registered Medical Man, whether he be appointed a Public Vaccinator or not, who shall deliver to the Registrar of the District in which he resides one of the printed forms, filled up in accordance with No. 36 of this Act, shall be entitled to a fee of—1s.

XLII.—All the above fees for vaccination and vaccination certificates shall be paid by the Registrars, who shall be repaid the same quarterly by the Boards of Guardians, on their being furnished with a receipt from the vaccinators or certifiers that the money has been paid to them.

XLIII.—That every child under the age of 16 years, and above that of twelve months, who dies of small-pox, at a later period than twelve months after passing this Act, who has not been registered as vaccinated, or insusceptible of vaccination, or of unfitness for vaccination, shall subject the father, mother, or other person having the custody of the said child, to a penalty not exceeding Five Pounds, nor less than One Pound, and costs of the prosecution, or in default of payment thereof, to be imprisoned for a term not exceeding three months nor less than one month, unless it shall be proved that the child had been vaccinated by a registered medical man previous to the appearance of small-pox on it, or the Justices before whom the case may be tried, shall consider there are sufficient reasons why the penalty should not be enforced.

XLIV.—That any person who shall, from and after the passing of this Act, produce, or attempt to produce in any person, by inoculation with variolous matter, or by wilful exposure to variolous matter, any matter, article, or thing impregnated with variolous matter, or wilfully by any other means whatever, produce the disease of small-pox in any person in England, Wales, or Ireland, shall be liable to be proceeded against summarily before any two or more Justices of the Peace in Petty Sessions assembled, and for every such offence shall, upon conviction, forfeit and pay the sum of Five Pounds, or in default be imprisoned in the common gaol or house of correction for any term not exceeding two months, nor less than one month, with hard labour.

XLV.—That no case of vaccination shall be deemed successful unless a decided vesicle be formed, from which lymph might be taken, if desired, on the eighth day, or later, capable of producing the vaccine disease in other persons, if vaccinated with it.

XLVI.—That a medical man or other person giving a certificate that a child has been successfully vaccinated, without having ascertained the fact by inspection on the eighth day or later after vaccination, or refusing to give a certificate that a child has been successfully vaccinated by him, shall be subject to a fine of Five Pounds.

XLVII.—That all penalties, by this Act imposed, shall be enforced by the Registrar of the District in which the child, or other person infringing this law is residing, before two Justices of the Peace, for the county, city, borough, or place where the offence may have been committed; and the provisions of the Act of the twelfth year of her present Majesty, chapter forty-three, shall be applicable for the recovery of the same.

XLVIII.—That the half of all penalties under this Act shall be awarded to the Registrar for his trouble, and the other half shall be applied in aid of the funds applicable to the relief of the poor in the union, parish, or place maintaining its own poor, where the offence may have been committed, and all expenses incurred in enforcing the penalties under this Act shall be a charge upon the union, parish, or place in which the child may at the time be residing.

XLIX.—That should a Registrar fail to enforce the penalties under this Act, within six months after their occurrence, he shall, on proof being afforded to the Poor Law Board of his culpable neglect, be dismissed from his office.

L.—That so much of the Act of the 3 and 4 Victoria, Cap. 29, 4 and 5 Victoria, Cap. 32, and the 16 and 17 Victoria, Cap. 100, as is incompatible with this Act, shall be, and is hereby repealed and annulled.

LI.—That Justices of the Peace for Boroughs and Towns shall have the right to act as ex-officio Guardians, in the same manner as Justices of the Peace acting for a county, riding, or division, are now entitled by 38 sec. of 4 and 5 Wm. 4., cap. 76.

LII.—That where Medical Officers of Health have not been appointed, and when vacancies in these appointments shall occur, the District Medical Officers of the several Unions, Parishes, and Incorporations shall be the Medical Officers of Health for their respective districts, and have the like powers, and perform the same duties as they would have to perform had they been appointed by the Local Boards of Health, or other authority having the power to make such appointments; and they shall receive such remuneration for their services from [the Consolidated Fund or] the Poor Rates as the Privy Council, who are hereby empowered to make such order, shall direct.

LIII.—That in case of sudden death, and where no registered Medical Man has attended a deceased person immediately preceding his death, it shall be the duty of the Registrar of Deaths for the District wherein the deceased is lying dead, to give an order to the District Medical Officer of the district in which the body is, to institute an inquiry; and should it appear to the said Medical Officer, after viewing the body externally, which by this Act he is authorised to do, and on inquiry, that the person died from natural causes, or, if from violence, that it was accidental, and blame did not appear to attach to any person, then he shall give a certificate to that effect to the Registrar of the District; but should he have reason to believe that the death was not from natural causes, or that blame did attach to some person or persons, then he shall give a certificate accordingly, and also immediately give notice of the same to the Coroner, who shall thereupon hold an inquest. The District Medical Officer for such service, shall be entitled to a fee of 5s., with 1s. per mile as travelling expenses, which the Registrar is hereby required to pay, and charge the same to the Board of Guardians, who are hereby authorized to pay the fee and mileage so charged, and debit the same to the common fund of the Union. Nothing in this Act, however, shall prevent a Coroner holding an inquest on any case that he may think demands an inquiry.

LIV.—That every registered Medical Man shall receive 1s. for every Certificate of the cause of death which he furnishes to the Registrar of Deaths, and the said Registrar is hereby empowered to pay the same, and charge it to the Board of Guardians, who are to pay the fee so charged, and debit it to the account of the common fund of the Union.

LV.—That the Statutes now in force, or Rules, Orders, and Regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners or Poor Law Board, or parts of either one or the other, which are contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act, shall be, and they are hereby repealed and rescinded, and from and after the 24th day of June next shall have no force or effect.

LVI.—That the Poor Law Board shall have full power to make all Rules, Orders, and Regulations, in order effectually to carry out the true intent and meaning of this Act.

LVII.—That a copy of this Act be sent by the Poor Law Board to every Poor Law Medical Officer now in office, and to every one that may hereafter be appointed, as well as all Rules, Orders, and Regulations of the Poor Law Board, that have reference to the discharge of the duties of the Medical Officers, and are not repealed or rescinded by this statute, and all future Rules, Orders, and Regulations that shall be made from time to time by the Poor Law Board, relating to the Medical Officers, and also a copy of the Official Circular as often as it is published.

LVIII.—That in the construction of this Act, the words "parish" shall be construed to include any parish, city, borough, town, township, liberty, precinct, vill, village, hamlet, tithing, chapelry, or any other place or division or district of a place maintaining its own poor, whether parochial or extra-parochial; the word "union" shall be construed to include a parish or any number of parishes united under the provisions of any Act, whether general or local, relating to the relief or maintenance of the poor. The words "a doubly qualified Medical Man" shall mean a man possessing both a Medical and Surgical Qualification, in accordance with the meaning of Sec. 7 of this Act. "A registered Medical Man" shall mean a man registered pursuant to Acts passed in the xxi. and xxii. Victoria, cap. xc. and the 22 Vict. c. 21. And whenever, in this Act, in describing any person, party, matter, or thing, the word importing the singular number or masculine gender only is used, the same shall be understood to include, and shall be applied to several persons or parties, as well as one person or party, and females as well as males, and several matters and things, as well as one matter or thing respectively, unless there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction.

LIX.—That this Act shall embrace all Unions formed by the Poor Law Commissioners and the Poor Law Board, and also all Unions under Gilbert's Acts, and places maintaining their Poor under Local Acts, but shall extend only to England and Wales.

LX.—That this Act may be amended or repealed by any Act to be passed in this present Session of Parliament.



VACCINATORS CERTIFICATE, No.

To be transmitted to the Registrar of Births and Deaths of the Sub-district in which the operation was performed,
[who is to send a copy to the Registrar of the child's birth, should it be in another District.]

I, the undersigned, hereby certify, That (date of birth or registration)

the Child of residing at No. in Street, in the Parish of in the County of

has been successfully Vaccinated by me, or is insusceptible of Vaccination, or is not in a fit state to be Vaccinated.

Signature of the Registered Medical Man

Residence

Date of Signature

N.B.—This Certificate, when it cannot be delivered to the Registrar in person, may be forwarded to him by the
Post, leaving the Postage unpaid.

DIRECTIONS for filling up this Certificate.—The Registrar is to insert in the several blank spaces the following particulars:—Child's Name and Surname; Child's Age; Father's, or (if the child be illegitimate) Mother's Name and Surname; Parents' Residence [If in a Town, the No. of the House, the Street, the name of the Town,] also the County, and No. of the Entry of the Child's Birth in the Register-Book, and after the Vaccination, or other Certificate, his own name, date of Registration, and Date of Office.

The Vaccinator is to strike his pen through the parts not required, and fill up the remaining blanks, with his name, residence, and date of signature.



I hereby acknowledge to have received from the Registrar the sum of One Shilling for Certificate, No.

the sum of for vaccination, No.

The number vaccinated by me this year being less than

and above also the sum of

for a report of this case, No.

in answer to

the Quarterly Return sent me by the Registrar.

(*Signature of the Registered Medical Man*)

(*Date of Month and Year*)

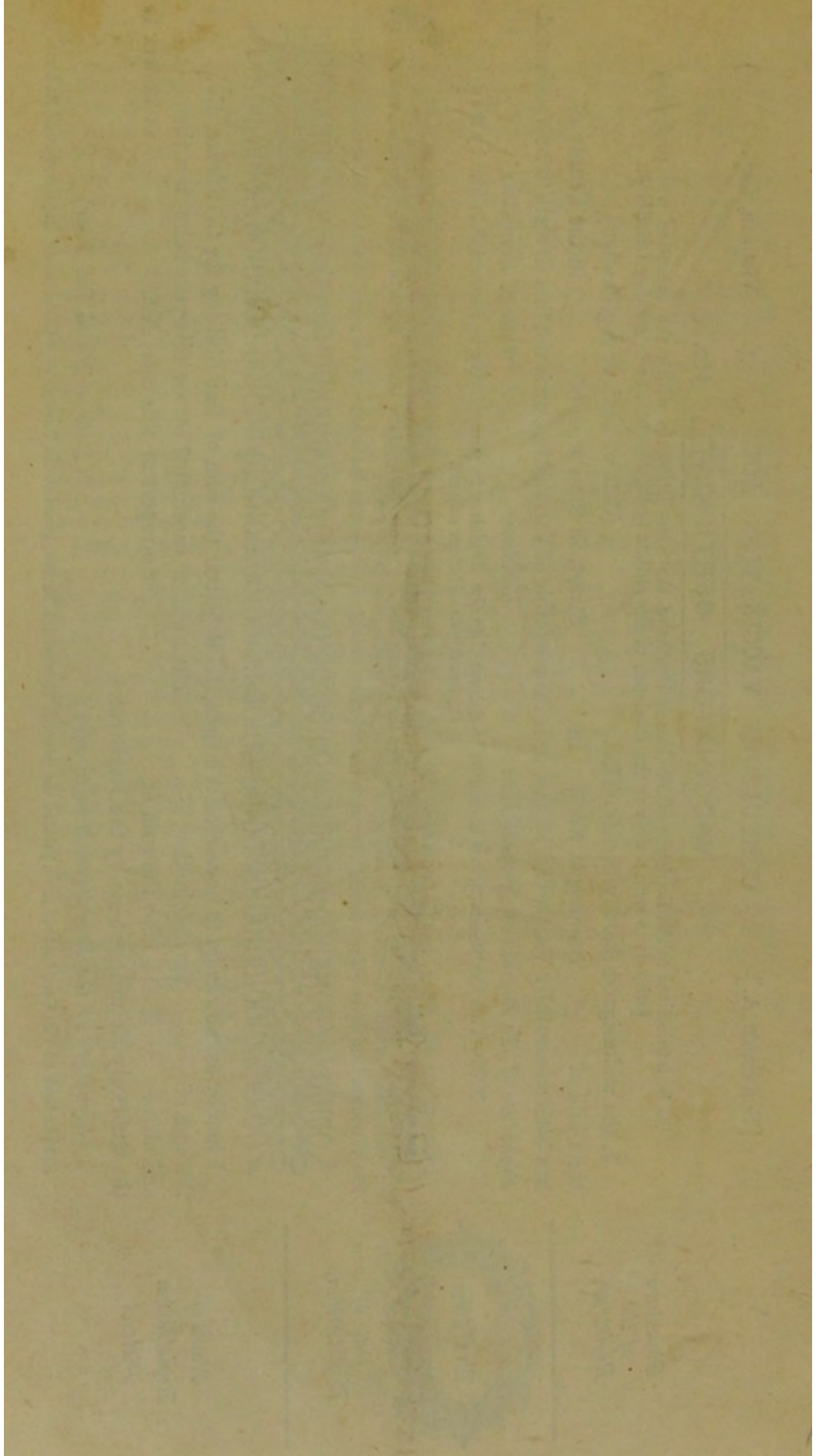
[At the back of this Certificate is to be printed the present Vaccination Notice, given to the Parents of a Child on the Registration of its birth.]

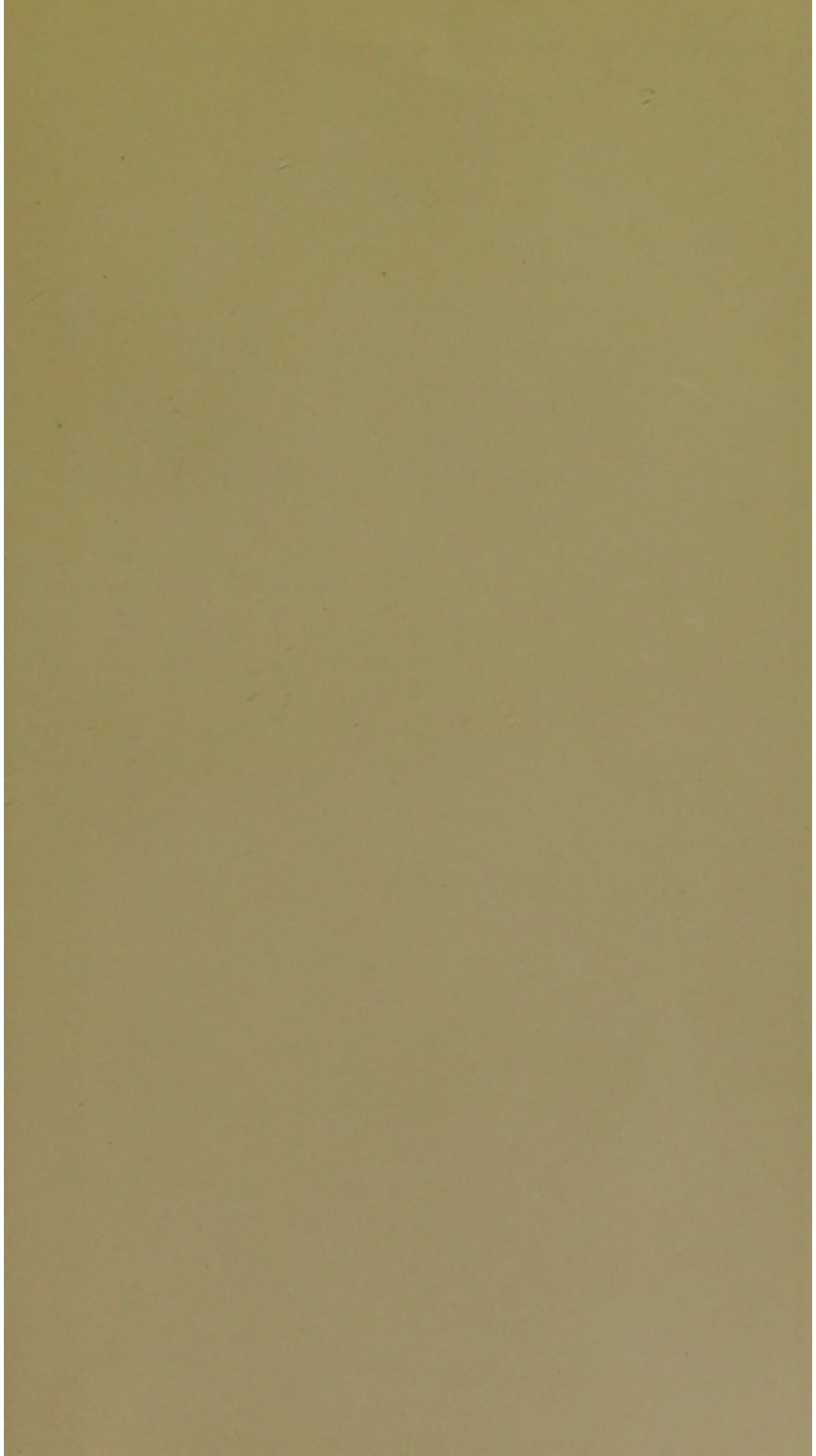
*Signature
of the
Registrar,*



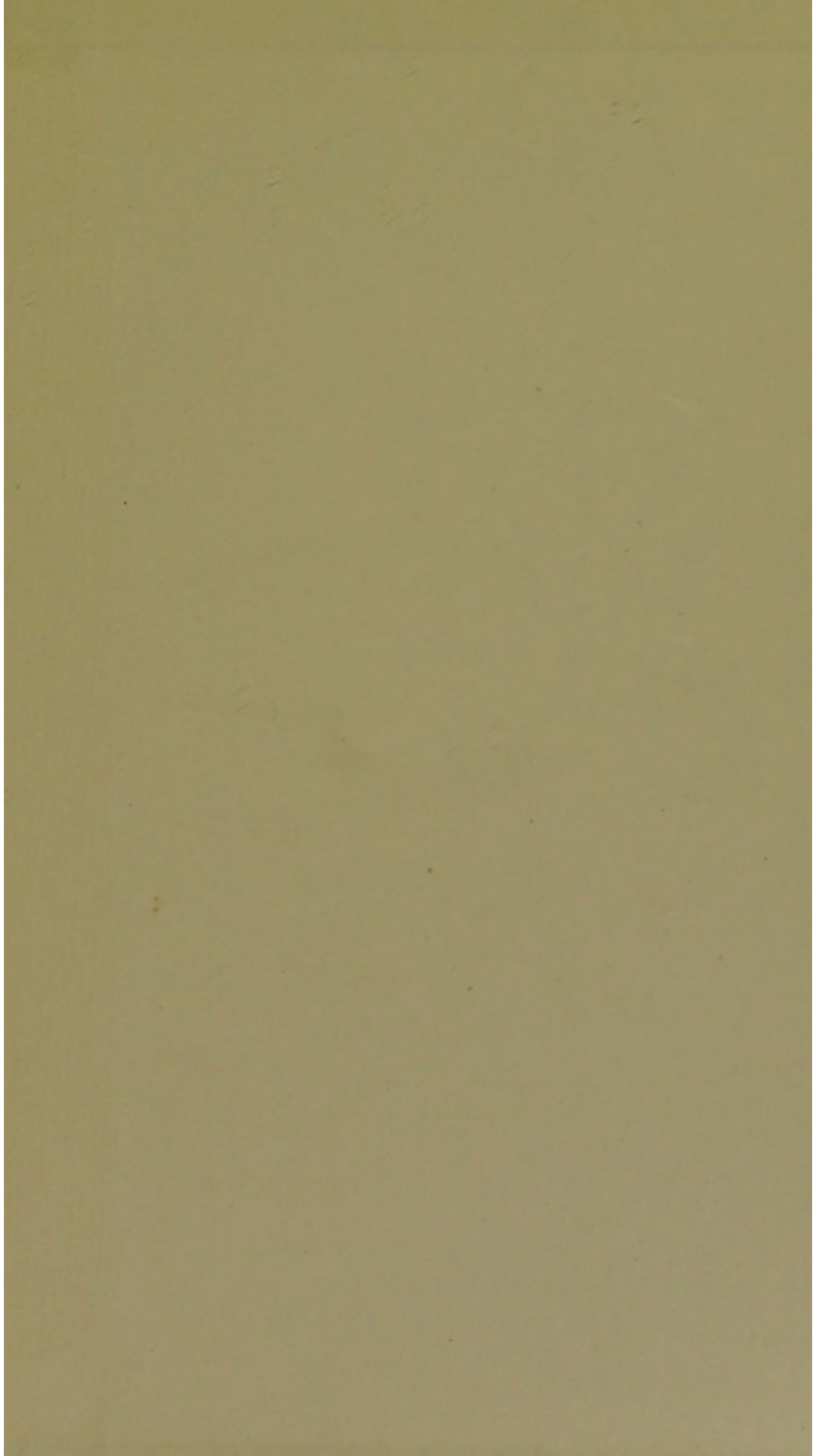
*Date of
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