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ART. LI.—*On the prospect of an Annuity Fund.* By ANTHONY VON IFFLAND, M.D., M.R.C.S.E., and late Vice President College of Physicians and Surgeons, Lower Canada, &c.

A fact, full of painful interest, presented itself at a last session of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in the application of one of our professional brethren for pecuniary relief from his actual state of destitution. I regret that this application was so indelicately and prominently thrust upon the public, yet, I trust that it will have a tendency to unite the feelings and benevolence of every member of our noble and useful profession, and prove the means of originating an institution of a most important character, not only to the interests of those who may, from misfortune or adverse circumstances, become its objects, but as infusing a large social improvement throughout the whole body of the medical profession. Some fifteen years ago a medical gentleman, with great zeal and characteristic benevolence, brought before the members of the profession a project for the beneficent object of organizing an institution for the relief of superannuated members, who, from infirmity or age, had been rendered incapable of exercising their profession. The project, I believe also extended to their widows and orphans, and, although it excited the deepest interest at the time, it was shortly afterwards treated with apathy and neglect. The project of this gentleman has long since occupied my attention, and I have often regretted that his earnest appeal to the feelings and interests of our long neglected profession had not then been responded to, for the voice of the widow and the orphan would, many times, have invoked the blessing of Almighty God upon the authors of so beneficent an institution.

It has been my painful lot, during a long professional career, to see the dying moments of more than one generous and noble-minded professional brother who had sacrificed his life to the service of suffering humanity, embittered by the agonizing reflection that the wife of his bosom and a beloved and helpless family would be left to the neglect and pity of a cold, calculating world. I shall, among others, select one instance brought before the College of Physicians and