

punishments could be as condign and picturesque as those of the Middle Ages, they might prove more efficacious than fines as deterrents from repetition of the offence. A category of wholesome chastisements was abolished with the pillory, the stocks and the ducking-stool.—*Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*, Dec. 21, 1911.

THE NATIONAL MEDICAL UNION.

On Dec. 15th a union with the above title was formed at Manchester, England, to fight the National Insurance Bill. It is not quite clear whether this is a union in the accepted sense of the word or whether it means simply an amalgamation. It is certain that the 2,000 members are greatly dissatisfied with the action, or rather inaction, of the British Medical Association's Council in relation to the bill. Upon Dr. Sackville Martin's statement that the late medical secretary of the B. M. A. had been appointed an insurance commissioner, there were cries of "Shame" and "Traitor," and when Sir James Barr, president-elect of the B. M. A., rose to propose a vote of thanks to the chairman and attempted to defend the B. M. A. he was told to sit down.

Dr. W. Coates summed up the grievances of the profession when he said that the independence of the medical profession had been challenged; their livelihood was at stake; their utility was in danger, and not only were the doctors in danger, but the whole of suffering humanity was in danger also. It was determined to maintain the union so long as any danger to the profession existed.

SPECIAL WESTERN NUMBER.

In furthering the plan of producing special issues of the *American Journal of Surgery*, composed of contributions by surgeons residing within a certain geographical area, yet of international reputation, there will be issued in the early part of 1912 a special Western number of this magazine.

Subjects and those to contribute:

The Operation of Gastroenterostomy, by William J. Mayo, Rochester, Minn.

The Surgery of Tendons, by John B. Murphy, Chicago, Ill.

Operative Treatment for Grave's Disease, by George W. Crile, Cleveland, Ohio.