

The Green brothers, surgeons to the Settle to Carlisle Railway

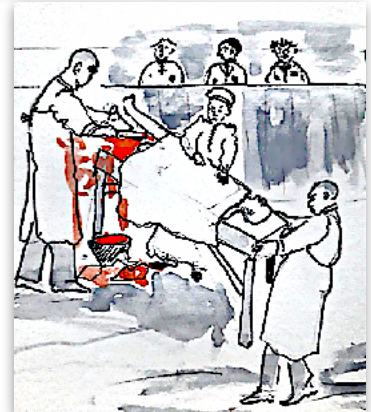
19th century Settle was privileged to be served by several physicians who qualified in Edinburgh, reputed to provide the very best training of the day. The Green brothers were two of them.

Edwin Septimus Green, born in November 1843, was the seventh (hence Septimus) of eight children of **Joseph Septimus Green**, a surgeon in County Durham. Joseph was also a seventh child. In 1867, after qualifying as a surgeon, Edwin married **Harriet Anderson** from South Shields and they moved straight to Settle, living in Linton Court, the large house opposite the Golden Lion. Harriet's recently widowed mum, **Harriet (Oyston) Anderson** lived with them too. Edwin and Harriet had three daughters. Edwin took over the practice and house from **Dr Robert Simpson**, another Scottish surgeon.

As well as providing for regular private patients Edwin was appointed '*Surgeon to the Settle and Carlisle Railway*'. His district included everywhere up the line from Settle to the Ingleton Fells and Batty Green, the home of thousands of navvies building the railway. Edwin's work was difficult and gruesome and he had minimal facilities and staff. In January 1871 Edwin and **James**

ACCIDENT.—Alfred Johnson, an excavator, employed in the construction of the new Settle and Carlisle Railway, met with an accident on the 6th inst., whilst at work in the "eleventh bridge cutting." The accident was caused by a fall of earth by which the foot of the poor fellow was nearly torn off. He was, immediately after the occurrence, conveyed to the Hospital, a temporary wooden erection, provided by Mr. Ashwell, the contractor, and Drs. Green and Hartley were sent for who found it necessary to amputate the injured limb below the knee, which was accordingly done. We understand the man is progressing favourably.

Hartley had to amputate the lower leg of the unfortunate **Alfred Johnson**, a railway tunneller. There had been a fall of earth at the '*Elworth bridge cutting*' in which his foot '*was nearly torn off. He was immediately after the occurrence, conveyed to the Hospital, a temporary wooden erection provided by the contractor, Mr Ashwell*'[1]. Alfred would have been transferred to the hospital in a horse drawn covered wagon. Let's hope they had some laudanum. Incredibly he appeared to survive!



With no sick pay and overcrowded navvy huts, disease amongst railway workers was rife. A third of all deaths in the 19th century were from disease but up at Ribbleshead, because of the conditions, almost half the navvies died of infectious disease and another third died of non-infectious disease, such as heart disease. In 1871 an outbreak of smallpox at Batty Green caused 30 deaths of navvies, wives and children. The smallpox was introduced by navvies travelling from other parts of the country and so, working with **John Lister**, the clerk to Settle Union, Edwin asked the Midland Railway to contribute to the cost of a '*Smallpox and Fever Hospital*' to isolate patients in an attempt to stop it spreading. Edwin and John were successful — the railway contributed £100. The new 'hospital' was another temporary wooden hut which housed 10 patients a bit further away. A 'respectable married couple' were recruited to staff it and it 'operated' from June 1871. It was full within a fortnight of its opening and so Edwin acquired a further hospital hut and an additional male nurse funded by the Settle Union. Of the 35 cases admitted in the first month, 19 were 'cured' and discharged. Edwin's management of the

outbreak was the target of much criticism through the newspapers and Edwin felt obliged to provide a robust defence in the letter to the editor, provided at the end of this account [5].

A navvy, **Thomas Burton**, was killed in June 1872 at Helwith Bridge when he was 'Accidentally crushed and mortally injured between two wagons, survived 3 days.' At the inquest the jury had to inspect his body but it was very warm weather. The report concluded, 'The body of Thomas Burton, 26 hours after death being in an advanced state of decomposition, the effluvia offensive and sickening to the jury, cannot but be detrimental to the health of the patients confined in the Hospital, and the master and matron of the establishment, and during the hot weather is likely to be a prolific source of disease in the locality; and the jury therefore urgently recommended the erection of a dead house detached from the hospital as a means of remedying the present unsatisfactory state of things'. Following this, Edwin successfully applied for the dead house and a washhouse. It's incredible to think that dead bodies had been just kept in the same room as ill patients!

Edwin also served as medical officer for the Settle Union Workhouse in Giggleswick, another role with little financial reward compared to his usual private patients. He was a good man with a promising future

Edwin was only 27 when he died under tragic circumstances, being dragged by his horse for nearly a mile [1]. Edwin had gone to see some haymakers at Swarthmoor, just beside Helwith Bridge quarry. He got his legs entangled in a rope attached to his horse when it suddenly started off at a full gallop down towards Knight Stainforth. He was given 'a full choral service in respect to his memory'. Even though he was



SERIOUS ACCIDENT.—An accident of a serious nature happened to Mr. E. S. Green, surgeon, of this town, on Tuesday last. Mr. Green had ridden his horse to Swarthmoor, which is distant a few miles from Settle, and where he had some haymakers at work who were leading hay. The horse Mr. Green had ridden was being fastened to the hay cart, to be used as a trace-horse, when, before it got properly yoked, it suddenly started off at full gallop, Mr. Green having his legs entangled in a rope attached to the horse and was dragged along the road a considerable distance—nearly a mile—towards Little Stainforth, where, fortunately, the runaway was stopped by Mr. E. Johnson, who was coming along the road in his conveyance which he pulled across the road, and succeeded in stopping the horse. Mr. Green was found to be very much bruised and lacerated, his clothes were literally worn through with being dragged and coming in contact with the road, and the flesh was torn from him in a frightful manner. Mr. Green was able to be removed to his residence the same evening, and medical aid was promptly in attendance. At the time of writing (Thursday) we understand Mr. Green to be in a very critical state.

only in Settle for four years before he died, perhaps the manner of his death contributed to the decision to dedicate a beautiful church window to him in Settle Church? The window has the phrase 'He went doing good'.

In loving Remembrance of Edwin Septimus Green, surgeon, born at Houghton-le-spring, Co Durham, Nov 13, 1843, died at Settle Aug 3 1871. Also of Harriet his wife who died June 22nd 1899, and of Harriet Anderson, her mother who died March 22, 1904, age 92, D2

Widow Harriet, her mum and their daughters moved to Portsmouth. When they died the bodies of Harriet and her mum were brought back to Settle for



burial. Harriet's mum died, aged 92, making her one of the oldest people buried in the graveyard.

Unsurprisingly, Edwin and Harriet's three daughters married wealthy professionals. In 1896 daughter **Emily Anderson Green** married **Reverend Thomas Beedham Charlesworth**, a son of the Settle solicitor. Thomas took the Holy Orders after an education in Sedbergh and Cambridge and served in London, Long Eaton in Nottinghamshire, and Wirksworth in Derbyshire. Thomas Charlesworth died suddenly aged 51 and had a glowing obituary in the paper describing him as '*an example of the very best type of English clergyman. Into his upright, sincere and courteous nature*



Mr. Charlesworth will be very deeply regretted and missed the most so by those who know him best. He may be described as an example of the very best type of English clergyman, and perhaps it may be said of north countryman. Into his upright, sincere, and courteous nature entered not an atom of pettiness. He was ever kindly and willing to help, any assistance given by him having been always thoroughly done. He was an excellent musician, and was devoted to outdoor life, deriving considerable enjoyment alike from shooting, fishing, and gardening. When the first shock of Wirksworth's loss has passed there will arise a poignant realisation of the great gap which remains; to-day everyone is stunned by the heavy blow which has fallen.

John's. After the war, he spent some time in the East, and then entered Cambridge to pursue his scientific studies, taking as his special work anthropology, for which he had a particular bent and special knowledge, so much so that in a comparatively short time he was given a Research Scholarship which in the early part of 1930 took him to Tanganyika, in East Africa. Unfortunately he contracted the dread disease known as blackwater fever, and it was on his way home, before reaching Genoa, that he passed away and was buried at sea.

entered not an atom of pettiness' [2]. Thomas and Emily had a son and two daughters. After Thomas died Emily lived with daughter **Mary Charlesworth** who had married a motor mechanic, **Robert Gillies Michell**, and lived in Dorset. Daughter **Ruth Charlesworth** married **Douglas Edwin Elford**, an Army Major. Son **John Beedham Charlesworth** had a good life ahead of him after a Research Scholarship in anthropology from Cambridge University. Tragically, he contracted blackwater fever in Tanganyika which is now part of Tanzania, East Africa. He died on the ship home and was buried at sea [3]. Emily was buried with the Charlesworths, *Old grave E12/13*.

In Loving Memory of Thomas Beedham Charlesworth, priest vicar and rural dean of Wirksworth Derbyshire who entered into the fuller life June 9th 1917 in his 52nd year. "The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God R I P" And of his wife Emily Anderson Charlesworth died 26th April 1948, aged 77. May light perpetual shine upon them. And of the only son John Beedham Charlesworth Died at sea March 11th 1932, aged 34 RIP. With loving kindness have I drawn thee

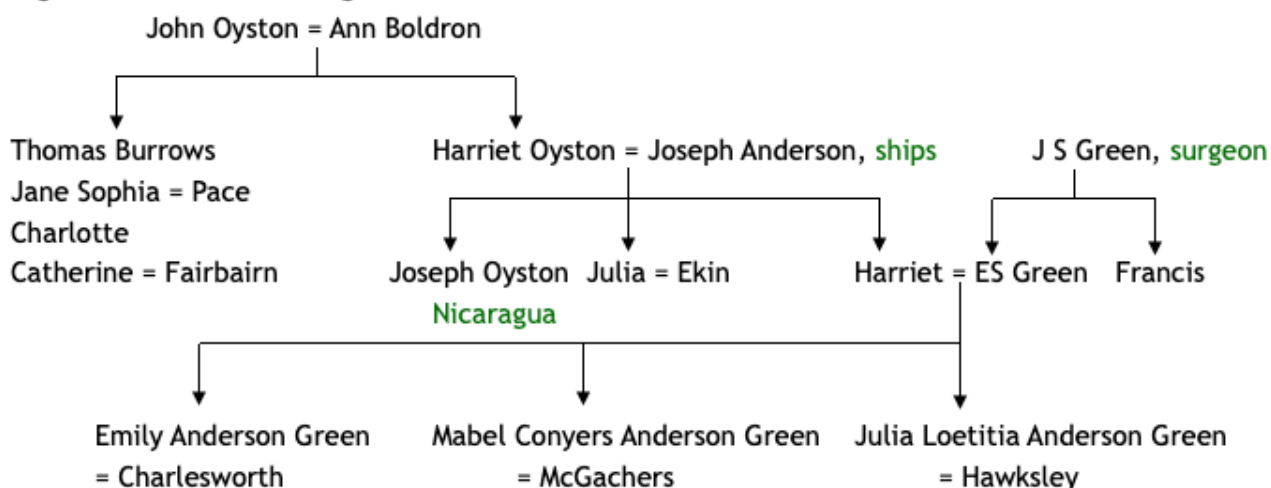


Edwin and Harriet's daughter **Mabel Conyers Anderson Green** married **Frederick William Dobson McGachen**, an interesting chap from Selby. He was 15 years older than Mabel. He qualified as a doctor in Cambridge and London in 1880 but then joined the police force in Melbourne, Australia. He returned to England to marry Mabel in 1895 on the Isle of Wight and worked as a '*Doctor of Medicine*' in London until his death in 1911, aged 54. He left Mabel a substantial estate and she lived with her daughters in Bedfordshire until her death in 1952, aged 80!



Edwin and Harriet's daughter **Julia Loetitia Anderson Green** married an outstanding civil engineer, **Kenneth Phipson Hawksley** [ph1] also on the Isle of Wight. Kenneth followed in his father and grandfather's footsteps earning an excellent reputation as a specialist in water supply and management. With so

Oyston and Green Family Tree



much disease spread through dirty water, lack of hygiene and contamination, improvements to water systems was life changing, despite arguments that it was too costly. Cartoons read, 'The Silent Highway Man — Your Money or Your Life!' [ph3]. Today's proposals to improve ventilation systems in buildings to reduce transmission of Covid face similar opposition. Kenneth's grandfather was the chief consultant during the building of many reservoirs including Fewston Reservoir. Kenneth regularly gave advice to Parliamentary committees on matters related to water usage. During the War he acted as Consulting Engineer for water supply to the Ministry of Munitions so that explosives could be safely manufactured.



Kenneth and Julia had five children. As well as a residence in Bayswater in London they also owned the stunning 13th century Thorpe Hall, Barnard Castle with 85 acres of land [ph2] and Julia stayed there after Kenneth died in 1924, aged 54. When Julia died in 1948, aged 75 the property fell into disrepair — 'an absolute wreck'. Fortunately, it was restored and in 2018 was on the market for a staggering £6 million. Wow!



It transpired that this residence was not just the product of a successful career. The 1857 trade directory lists 'private residents' **Mrs Harriet Anderson** and **Thomas Burrows Oyston** living at Thorpe Hall. This was Edwin's mother, Harriet (Oyston) Anderson and her brother Thomas. The Oyston family came from Durham where they had many links to the shipping industry, several of Harriet's nine siblings being or marrying ship brokers. This was a lucrative profession, negotiating deals between ship buyers and sellers of vessels and between shipowners and charterers, for a slice of commission of course. The Oystons made a fortune at home and abroad and died as millionaires.

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Harriet's father, **John Oyston**, had a London based career, probably related to shipping, but retired to run the *Golden Lion Inn and Post House* in South Shields, the town's premier coaching inn. This is where ship auctions took place, such as that of the *Norfolk* in 1825 [4]. The *Norfolk* had already brought 500 loads of timber from America. John will have earned his slice from these auctions as well.

At the house of Mr. JOHN OYSTON, GOLDEN LION INN, King-street, South Shields.
On THURSDAY, the 24th Instant, at Five,
(Unless previously disposed of by Private Contract, of which notice will be given);
ALL that good and well known E. I. British-built Ship, called the NORFOLK, of the burthen of 335 45-94ths tons, register admeasurement, now lying off the lower part of Cookson's Quay, South Shields; will carry 96 keels of coals, and two keels of glass, at a moderate draught of water, and has brought upwards of 500 loads of timber from America. This vessel has had great repairs in her hull (£1168 having been expended thereon, in Straker and Barran's Dock, in the year 1823); is a remarkably good second class vessel, fit to take on board and convey dry and stowage cargoes to and from any port; sails fast, and is well found in stores.

Harriet married **Joseph Anderson** who was also a master mariner and a ship keeper/broker. Several of Harriet's siblings ended their days in Scarborough and were buried in the delightful Dean Road and Manor Road cemetery. Harriet's sisters **Jane Sophia (Oyston) Pace** and spinster **Charlotte Oyston** were probably buried together in a spectacular tomb. Part of the inscription is lost but it also remembers their nephew Joseph Oyston Anderson, Joseph and Harriet's son who was probably involved in the shipping business when he died in Nicaragua [ph4].



. . . . Also of Joseph Oyston Anderson, nephew of the above who died of fever at Nicaragua, April 4th 1868, aged 27. He is not dead but sleepeth

They were joined in the churchyard by Harriet's sister **Catherine Boldron Oyston** who married **William Harrison Fairbairn**, another ship's broker [ph4]. Most of Harriet's siblings remained childless and so her descendants were often beneficiaries.



In loving memory of William Harrison Fairbairn of Cloughton Hall, died Jan 9th 1880 aged 73. Also of Catherine Boldron Fairbairn, wife of the above, born Jan 15th 1810, died May 18th 1903.

Harriet and Joseph Anderson's other daughter, **Julia Anderson** married **Augustus Goodman Ekin**, a successful brewer. He was so successful that he became a JP, a director of Cambridge Waterworks Company (perhaps acquainted with the Hawksleys?), Chair of the Brewers Society and the local Conservative Club. This was a really successful family.

This was not the end of the Greens' story in Settle. After Edwin's death in August 1871, his brother, **Francis Green**, took over 'medical officer for the district of Settle, Horton in Ribblesdale and Ingleton Fells; also to the smallpox and fever hospital at Betty Green within the above union' having worked in Durham for several years [1]. Francis was involved in the New Year Treat of 1872, distributing 'a bountiful supply of oranges and figs to the inmates, much to their enjoyment, especially the younger children.' In previous years Edwin and Harriet had provided 'a handsome and well furnished Christmas Tree' and so, in his memory 'it was determined not to have a Christmas Tree on the present occasion.' [1] Is that what Edwin would have wanted?

memory of Mr. E. Green, the former surgeon of the Workhouse, who along with Mrs. Green and others exerted themselves no little in providing a handsome and well furnished Christmas Tree, and otherwise took such a prominent part in the proceedings last year, it was determined not to have a Christmas Tree on the present occasion. The large dining-room was taste-

Francis soon established himself in Settle Cricket Club working alongside the secretary **George Marshall Robinson** [1]. Amongst many others, Francis certified the deaths of Settle navy **James**
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Harry Smith who died of tuberculosis and pneumonia in March 1874, aged 40 and **Robert Ralph** who died of tuberculosis in May 1874, aged 40. Up at Ribbleshead, Francis certified the deaths at least two navvies who both died in January 1875. **James Northey** died of tuberculosis, aged 48 and **Joseph Wrench** who died on bronchitis, aged 59.



As was the norm for professional bachelors, Francis resided at the inns. At the time of the 1881 census he was at the Commercial Hotel and died in August 1890 at the White Horse Hotel. He is buried in grave *Old B13*. His obituary describes '*His reputation and skill speedily brought him a large and lucrative practice*' [1].

OBITUARY.
We have to announce the death of Mr. Francis Green, M.D., L.R.C.P., which occurred on Monday, at the White Horse Hotel, Settle. After acquiring considerable experience as a practitioner at Newcastle, Dr. Green went to Settle about 20 years ago, and his reputation and skill speedily brought him a large and lucrative practice. His health had been failing for the last two or three years.

In loving memory of Francis Green, Surgeon of Settle who died Aug 25 1890 aged 53. Jesu. Mercy, OLD B13



This account has been compiled by Sarah Lister as part of the Settle Graveyard Project which has recorded gravestone inscriptions, updated church records and researched the lives of those buried. It has been written in good faith with no offence intended. If I have inadvertently included errors or breached any copyright I apologise and would welcome corrections.

The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project and can be found on [dalescommunityarchives.org.uk/settle graveyard project](http://dalescommunityarchives.org.uk/settle-graveyard-project). The 'Old Settle' family tree on ancestry.co.uk includes the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing and welcomes queries and information on settleresearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.

Illustration kindly provided by Teresa Gordon

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 — Lancaster Gazette, 2 — Derbyshire Advertiser, 3 — Long Easton Advertiser, 4 — Public Ledger and Daily Advertiser, London, 5 — Lancaster Guardian

ph1 — credited to devilsporrridge.org.uk, ph2 — assets.saville.com, ph3 — credited to Stephen Reicher twitter feed, ph4 — findagrave.com

BATTY GREEN.

To the Editor of the Lancaster Guardian.
 Sir,—In continuation of my letter of last Saturday, I add that the ratepayers of the township in which Batty Green is situated should call a vestry meeting, and appoint an "officer for the suppression of nuisances." This person will be invested with authority to examine all children under 14 years of age, and consult the parents of those who are not already vaccinated to have the operation performed upon them. Again, as all the huts or houses almost exclusively belong to the contractor, this gentleman could give all above 14 years the option of being vaccinated, who have not been so already, or leave the place. Were these rules enforced strictly, smallpox would soon disappear at Batty Green.—Your obedient servant,
 MINIMUS.

THE SMALLPOX AND FEVER HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of the Lancaster Guardian.
 Sir,—As the letter of your correspondent "Minimus" in the Guardian for Saturday, July 8th, is calculated to convey to its readers the impression that nothing is being done or has been done at Batty Green for the relief of those amongst the men and their families on the railway works afflicted with smallpox, I think, therefore, it will not be asking too much if I request you to give insertion to this letter in your next week's issue.

As soon as the smallpox showed itself upon the works in a decided form, Mr. Ashwell, the contractor, made an offer to the Board of Guardians of the Settle Union, through me as medical officer to his works, as well as one of the Union officers, to erect at his own expense two detached buildings of the ordinary hut size as a temporary smallpox hospital to accommodate ten patients, on the condition that the Guardians fitted it up (with the exception of bedsteads) and maintained it at their own cost. This offer was, with the consent of the Poor-law Board, accepted by the Guardians—(the same offer having been declined by the sewer authority at Ingleton, to whom it was in the first instance referred by the Guardians),—and the two buildings were at once commenced and were open for the reception of patients in less than a fortnight, and two efficient trained nurses (man and wife) were placed in charge. One of these two buildings is for the exclusive use of the nurses, and the other for the patients, and they are connected by a covered way 20 feet long. Within a fortnight, however, the hospital was full, and I applied to the Guardians to enlarge it, which they at once consented to do, and added another building 48 feet long, capable of accommodating ten more patients, together with an additional male nurse. This building was ready and opened in less than a week after it was ordered, and is now occupied principally by the convalescents, a fresh case only being admitted when there is not accommodation in the original building. A washhouse and dead-house have also been added, also a large oven for baking the patients' clothes before they go out has been put up, so that all the washing and disinfecting is done on the premises. A small library has also been provided for those who feel inclined to avail themselves of it during the somewhat tedious time of convalescence. Such a boon has this hospital been already that there has never been a single case of refusal on the part of the men to go to it, knowing as they do that they are well cared for, and what is most important, well treated.

Your correspondent must, therefore, be in entire ignorance of what has been done to subdue the smallpox at Batty Green and on the railway works in this Union, or he has made a wilful and unpardonable misstatement with regard to the action of the Guardians in the matter. I will now endeavour to reply to his six axioms *seriatim*.

1st.—I have shown that a hospital was erected as soon as circumstances would permit, on the spot—(not an "infernal" as he suggests),—and that a "respectable" medical man was also appointed.

2nd.—Every patient, excepting children, who are equally eligible with the men, but whose parents naturally refuse to part with them, has been removed, as soon as it was ascertained he was the subject of smallpox.

3rd.—Every facility has been afforded the men, their wives and families, both for voluntary and compulsory vaccination, and I am glad to say many have availed themselves of it.

4th.—I regret your correspondent has not shown more wisdom than to suppose for an instant that the men will submit to inspection and examination, and allow themselves to be vaccinated *vi et armis*. There is no law either permissive or compulsory for such an infringement of a man's liberty.

5th.—Much has been done in the way of cleansing the huts with lime wash and other approved means, and the subject of more perfect disinfection is under the consideration of the guardians at present. The drainage and ventilation have also been greatly improved.

6th.—Though a convalescent house is a very desirable addition to a hospital of this kind, I do not consider it a necessity with the ample space there is at present.

With regard to the latter part of "Minimus's" letter, should the guardians doubt the capacity of their own clerk to cope with the work to be done, they will probably avail themselves of your correspondent's "friendly" hint, but knowing as they do that they have a most efficient and energetic gentleman as clerk, who has not only given his time and assistance in facilitating the erection of the hospital, but has framed and issued notices offering vaccination and re-vaccination *gratis* to all over the whole of the works, as well as instructions to direct persons in case of smallpox or any contagious or infectious disease breaking out in their houses, and the penalties for non-compliance with the same. I imagine that while the guardians have this gentleman's services to depend upon, they are not likely to avail themselves of your correspondent's kind and gratuitous offer of Mr. Grant's services; that gentleman no doubt being fully occupied in conducting his own and the Lancaster Union's affairs. I should strongly recommend your correspondent to visit the locality about which he has written so much nonsense, and judge for himself whether anything has been done for the smallpox afflicted, or, at all events, write upon subjects he knows something about. If he has a faculty for writing about Batty Green, perhaps he will in future ascertain the true state of things before he writes. I will only add that since the opening of the hospital, on the 8th of June, up to this date (July 10th), there have been admitted 30 cases, of whom 19 have been discharged cured, 8 have died, and 13 remain in.

Apologising for the length of this letter, and regretting the necessity your correspondent has imposed upon me for refuting his statements, I am, Sir, your obdt. servant,

EDWIN S. GREEN, L.R.C.P., &c.,
 Medical Officer, Temporary Smallpox and Fever Hospital,
 Batty Green, &c., &c.

Settle, July 10th, 1871.