of the meeting into effect would have commanded attention at any other meeting; but here the proprietor of the tavern told them that the character of his house would be destroyed by the uproar which had occurred. He asked the discontents to place themselves in the position of those who convened the meeting, and consider whether they would not be highly indignant if other parties came in hostile array to drown the expression of their opinion, and by brute force drive them from the room. (The clamour now again began.) He made no particular allusions, but it would be want of manliness in him not to affirm, in reply to remarks, that he was justified in his observations, and that the meeting at one portion of the evening surpassed even the scenes of a bear garden. What effect must such outrageous conduct have upon the public mind?

The scene here baffled all description, and we can no longer attempt to delineate it. Dr. Lynch then recommended them to dissolve the meeting, and that the pupils who were aggrieved should attempt to effect their object by signing a petition which they might the next day request to have laid for signature at THE LANCET OFFICE, or some other central place.—(Cheers.)

After many fruitless attempts made by other gentlemen to obtain a hearing, the meeting broke up with a kind of chairing of the leaders of each party around the room. We should observe, that the numbers of the opposition were far greater than those on the other side, and that the "Bartholomew's men" proceeded on the avowed supposition that an "equal distribution" would be a positive loss to them, although the lesser schools might be benefited by a fair division.

BREACH OF PROFESSIONAL ETIQUETTE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—About a month ago I was called to a case of strangulated femoral hernia, which, after a few minutes manipulation, I succeeded in reducing, and having thrown up a copious enema, I gave my patient strict orders not to leave his bed till he had furnished himself with a truss. Mr. Dashwood, "surgeon to the Southwark Truss Society," to whom a letter from a subscriber was sent, refused to give an order to the instrument-maker without first seeing the patient, observing, that if the man could not walk as far as the Borough, his (Mr. Dashwood's) fee would be a guinea for a visit. Messrs. Maudsley and Co., the

well-known engineers, hearing that there was some difficulty in procuring a truss, and not being aware that my patient was out of danger, sent an order to Mr. Dashwood to see him. I met the gentleman, and after some observations on the subject of hernia, I handed to him the measure of my patient's pelvis, and parted on good terms. His subsequent conduct called forth the following notes:—

"To ——— Dashwood, Esq.,
Surgeon to the Truss Society.

"Sir,—As I had by the taxis relieved my patient Hall from strangulated femoral hernia more than forty hours before you made your appearance on Thursday to take his measure for a truss, I am rather anxious to know for what purpose you visited him again yesterday in my absence. He was not in want of your assistance, neither was I. A written answer will oblige your obedient servant,

"J. F. HIGGINS.

"Lambeth, 8th Oct. 1832.

"To Dashwood, Esq.*

"Sir,—Since I wrote to you on the 8th instant, relative to a gross breach of professional etiquette, I have had strong reasons for believing that you have been guilty of a perversion of the truth in your report of my patient's case, and that you have endeavoured to detract from the merits of a brother practitioner.

"After calling on my patient in your capacity of surgeon to a truss society to take his measure, did you not go to his employers, Messrs. Maudsley and Co., uninvited by them, and state that their foreman was in great danger, although you were aware that I had relieved him by the taxis from strangulated femoral hernia, more than forty hours before you saw him, and that he was at the very moment you were making that statement free from any bad symptom?

"Did you not also state in the office of these gentlemen, that it was fortunate for the patient you were called in, remarking that I was unacquainted with the case; and did you not, from your observations, succeed in obtaining a fee, leaving your hearers under the impression, that you had rendered great service to the patient when, in fact, you had done nothing for him?

"If you can enter into a satisfactory explanation, I call upon you to do so, or I will hold up your conduct to the scorn of that profession of which you are, in my opinion, a * * *

"I shall offer no remark at present on the subject of receiving fees from the un-

* Some terms, unusually harsh, in this note, have been omitted.—ED. L.

fortunate applicants to a *charitable* (?) society. I have not yet received an answer to my note of the 8th instant.

"I am, Sir, yours, &c.

"J. F. HIGGINS.*

"Lambeth, October 25th, 1832."

The following is the verbatim et literatim reply which I received.

"To Mr. Higgins.

"Sir,—You are really labouring under some Mistake as regards the statement, and I tell you this your Conduct to me, when you first met me, was Highly unprofessional, you must know I practice as a Consulting Surgeon, and am in the Habit of meeting Persons of High Character and it was a remark of mine at the time that you could not be in the Habit of meeting in Consulting Cases.

"if you want any explanation as to my right in seeing the Patient, you must call upon me, I will then shew you a Letter from the firm.—I cannot Conclude without Bringing to your recollection, your remark about the External Ring and I sh'd like to know what it has to do, with Femoral Hernia.—you insulted me in the First Instance in Saying, "I was sent for to Measure the Patient for a Truss."—I should not have answered your Letter but I thought it wou'd settle the matter and therefore Sir I shall receive no Further Communication on the Subject

(Signed) "JARRETT DASHWOOD
Chir. 85 High-street Southwark
"Oct xxvj, 32"

I need not observe, that Mr. Dashwood's letter is no answer to my last note. The *soi disant* consulting surgeon has not thought proper to take notice of the questions put to him on the 25th ult. * * *

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
J. F. HIGGINS.

Lambeth, Nov. 19th, 1832.

LONDON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you do me the favour to insert the present remarks in THE LANCET? The following passage appeared in the Medical Gazette of last Saturday:—

"London University Medical Society.

"It appears that there is an association of pupils so called, and that they take in certain periodicals for their edification. Now Dr. Elliotson having declared war against the Gazette, it was very naturally thought by some of his pupils that it would be highly gratifying to their professor if they were to discontinue it, and accordingly a motion to that effect was unexpectedly proposed about a fortnight

ago, and carried, notwithstanding the opposition of a considerable number of the members. Before their next meeting our answer to Dr. Elliotson had appeared, *when the former decision was reversed*. But we understand that the question is to be brought forward at the next general meeting."

It is not to be supposed that, in consequence of the "answer" of the editor of the above journal to Dr. Elliotson, the members of the Medical Society were influenced to change sides, and reverse their former decision. It was found that the manner in which the resolution had been carried, was in nonconformity with a rule of the Society, which provides that no private business of the Society shall be entered into, except at general meetings. The next of these takes place at Christmas, and so strongly are the majority of the members in favour of the expulsion of the Medical Gazette from their library, that I will venture to predict, with certainty, such a result of a motion to that effect, whenever it shall be brought forward.

It will be sufficient to say, in order to show that the measure does not proceed from a servile wish to flatter Dr. Elliotson, that the greater number of members do not attend that professor's lectures, but have made themselves acquainted with the merits of the question.

I am, Sir, yours,
A MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY.

MR. COSTELLO'S CURVED PERCUSSOR.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg you will have the goodness to give insertion to a line or two of explanation on the subject of the paper read by me before the Westminster Medical Society on the 23rd ult., and the debate which followed. I cannot at all account for the manner in which the facts contained in that paper were overlooked by some of the gentlemen who took a share in the proceedings of that evening; I acknowledge the spirit of justice with which they were, no doubt, actuated, but they seemed to be ignorant that a controversy had been carried on between M. Heurteloup and myself respecting the *curved percussor*, of which he claimed to be the inventor. I dissented on that occasion from his estimate of the value of the instrument, and gave the reasons for that dissent. I denied his claim to the merit of invention *in toto*. As you are aware, I addressed two letters on this subject to the Academy of Sciences of Paris. I did not take my objections on mere theoretical grounds, I learned its defects by experience. To the Westminster Medical Society, I pointed out those defects, I showed the steps which were successively taken, as in-