THE BAKER BROWN FUND.

DR. FORBES WINSLOW presents his compliments to the Editor of THE LANCET, and would feel obliged by the publication of the subjoined statement:—

The following gentlemen have kindly come forward as contributors to a fund about being raised in behalf of Mr. Isaac Baker Brown, who is at this time suffering from severe bodily illness (paralysis) and great pecuniary distress. The honorary treasurers are Dr. Forbes Winslow and Dr. Charles Cogswell.

Sir Wm. Fergusson	£3	3	0	Dr. Semple	£1	1	0
Sir William Gull ...	2	2	0	Mr. Gascoyen... ..	2	2	0
Sir Ranald Martin...	2	2	0	Mr. Spencer Smith	2	2	0
Sir H. Thompson ...	5	0	0	Dr. Murchison ...	1	1	0
Dr. Quain	2	2	0	Mr. E. B. Hicks ...	0	10	6
Mr. Erasmus Wilson	2	2	0	Dr. Cogswell	5	0	0
Dr. Forbes Winslow	5	5	0	Mr. Critchett...	1	1	0
Mr. Henry Smith...	2	2	0	Sir James Paget ...	2	2	0
Mr. Erichsen... ..	2	2	0	Dr. Tilbury Fox ...	1	1	0
Dr. Sieveking... ..	2	2	0	Mr. Saunders... ..	1	1	0
Dr. Gream	3	3	0	Mr. J. F. Clarke ...	2	2	0
A Friend... ..	2	2	0	Mr. Busk	1	1	0
Dr. Routh	3	3	0	Dr. Waller Lewis ...	1	1	0
Dr. Richardson ...	2	2	0	Anonymous	1	1	0
Mr. Ernest Hart ...	2	2	0	Mr. T. H. Wakley...	5	5	0
Dr. Radcliffe	2	2	0	Dr. Wakley	5	5	0
Mr. William Adams	2	2	0				

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE ROYAL ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Though extremely unwilling to appear in print, I so fully concur in the justice of your remarks on the Royal Orthopædic Hospital as they appeared in your number of the 16th instant, that I cannot refrain from asking you to publish the following observations. I and my family before me have been connected with the Royal Orthopædic Hospital from its earliest foundation, and we have always taken a deep and abiding interest in its welfare.

Into the personal differences which have arisen between the Committee of Management and their two senior surgeons, Messrs. Tamplin and Adams, as they have no reference to their professional ability, I do not at this moment wish to enter.

The broad view of the case is this—48,000 unhappy cripples have passed through the hospital since its foundation. They have been cured by our surgeons and not by the Committee, and it is to their eminent professional skill and ability the hospital now owes its position and the support which is accorded to it by the public.

The two senior surgeons having placed their professional honour in my hands, I am of opinion that it will be impossible for them to withdraw their resignations until the paragraphs reflecting on their conduct have been expunged from the annual report which was adopted at the Annual Court. In order to effect this object, I, in common with many other influential governors and earnest supporters of the institution, have summoned a Special Court, which will be held at the Royal Orthopædic Hospital on Monday, the 8th of April, at 3 P.M. To this Special Court I earnestly invite the attendance of all governors, and they will then be able to judge for themselves as to the merits of the case from the facts which will be laid before the meeting.

Since the holding of the Annual Court I have examined the hospital books, and I find that on the 8th of March eight annual subscribers of £1 1s. were introduced, and that on the 12th of March (the day before the meeting) no less than twenty-two annual subscribers of £1 1s. were introduced, all these members being entitled to vote. I have it under the secretary's own handwriting that the names of thirty of these members were given to him by one of the assistant-surgeons, who gave him his own cheque

for £31 10s., and took thirty separate receipts for the same. I venture to think that the assistant-surgeon in question could hardly have failed to be aware that the adoption of the report would necessitate the resignation of his two superior officers.

At the same time there was a resolution on the notice paper of business to be transacted at the meeting, to the effect that after a certain number of years' service all assistant-surgeons should have the rank of full surgeons. The adoption of the report and the passing of this resolution at once converted the assistant-surgeon in question into senior surgeon of the hospital.

I make no comment on this proceeding of the assistant-surgeon, but I should be glad to hear through the columns of your valuable journal whether it meets with the approval of the medical profession.

The report of the Committee was carried by fifty votes against thirty-three. Deducting the thirty-two votes and those of the Committee and their more immediate friends, how many can remain to have passed the vote of censure on our surgeons?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Cromwell-road, South Kensington,
March 25th, 1872. ABINGER.

PAU FOR THE SPRING.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My chief object in asking you the favour of inserting my views on the Climate of Pau, is to bring to the notice of the profession its special advantages as a residence in the spring time of the year, in all those cases requiring a mild and sedative climate.

In an able article, with some general remarks on the climate of Pau, by Sir A. Taylor, which you published last October, while noting its sedative character, he proved that it is not relaxing, as has been asserted by some. Although my residence here has been limited, I have been very active in obtaining all the information possible with the view of ascertaining the chief and special advantages of its climate, and find it to be eminently sedative, but *not relaxing*, having most marked beneficial results in hæmorrhagic phthisis, congestive states of the laryngeal and bronchial mucous membranes, in gastric dyspepsia, and cerebral congestions occurring in nervo-sanguineous temperaments.

The characteristic quality of the climate is its comparative mildness and exemption from cold winds. Invalids who are in the habit of wintering at Nice, Cannes, or Mentone, leave these places about the middle of February for Pau, in order to avoid the dry, exciting, and irritating atmosphere to their mucous membranes. But at Pau, from its topographical position, the east and south-east winds are scarcely felt except in bringing dry and warm weather, enabling the delicate to take daily exercise in the open air, which, with its exhilarating and vivifying qualities of purity and freshness, and the attendant accessories of sunshine and beautiful scenery combined, improve the tone of their constitution; whereas in England during the spring time, when the east wind is so prevalent, we are compelled to confine our patients to the house, or they become the subjects of a troublesome cough or something worse.

As this is the age of preventive medicine, when our aim is to guard against the incursion of inflammatory or congestive conditions of the mucous membranes, I cannot too strongly invite the members of the profession to the sedative and calmative influence of the Pau climate in the early stages of phthisis.

Dr. Francis, in his work on "Change of Climate," says—"There are few places to be found on the continent possessing so calm and soothing a spring climate as Pau. This is, therefore, emphatically the locality which should be chosen as a temporary spring residence, whenever the distance opposes no serious objection, not only to those persons who are subject to nervous or inflammatory dyspepsia, but in every other case where the irritating air of spring, as it occurs in most countries, is found to disagree." He further states that, "although Pau is sheltered from high winds, still the situation is by no means confined, but rather the contrary. Seated on a terrace of deep sand and gravel, which drains away from the surface in a

remarkably short time all the rain that falls, it looks down upon several leagues of open country, which stretches away towards the foot of the Pyrenees, and furnishes an admirable foreground and middle distance to one of the most sublime and comprehensive views of a mountain range that can be found in Europe."

Notwithstanding there has been several degrees of frost during the last two or three weeks of the past year, the place has still been able to maintain its character for its comparative immunity from inflammatory affections of the chest. An interesting fact has been frequently noted—namely, the absence of coughing in the churches, which is so general in the cold winter months in England.

Before concluding this notice, I ought to state, for the sake of those who may accompany their delicate friends, that there is not only much to admire in the surrounding country, but also much to amuse. For the ladies the driving is easy and pleasant; the roads are good and diversified; the visiting is kept up with spirit, *soirées* and balls during the season being well arranged amongst the families in residence here. We have three English churches adapted to the different grades of religious views. And for the gentlemen the sports are varied, hunting being very popular; there is also the English club-house, a handsome edifice, with spacious rooms, containing an excellent library, reading- and smoking-rooms, as also billiard-tables.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Pau, March, 1872.

E. MAY, M.D., M.R.C.P.

DOES THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS ENJOY THE CONFIDENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT?

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—At the annual meeting of the College of Physicians held on the 25th inst. for the election of president, Dr. Burrows (who was re-elected) read the annual address, detailing the results of the year's work, and, in well-turned phrase, congratulated the College on enjoying the confidence of the Government, which, he said, sought its counsel on all important occasions.

As Dr. Burrows's address was accepted without discussion by the College, I venture to ask you to allow me one line in THE LANCET to inquire from Dr. Burrows what influence or advice has the Council of the College used with the Government to stay their cowardly purpose of repealing, at the bidding of a party of fanatics and indelicate females, the Contagious Diseases Act; an Act regarding which they have surely consulted the corporation which enjoys their confidence.

Again, has the voice of the College been heard on the many professional bearings of the Public Health Act now before Parliament?

You will see, Sir, by my questions, that I do not share the spirit of senile self-satisfaction which, I fear, broods over the counsels of the rulers of the College of Physicians.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

London, March 26th, 1872.

A FELLOW.

Obituary.

JOHN B. BLYTH, M.D., L.R.C.S. EDIN.

DR. BLYTH, Professor of Chemistry at the Queen's College, Cork, was born in Jamaica in the year 1814. He studied first at Glasgow, under the late Professor Graham, who was afterwards Master of the Mint; he then went to France, and attended the lectures at the Sorbonne, the Collège de France, and the Ecole de Médecine. From France Dr. Blyth went to Germany, and spent two years working in the laboratory of Baron Liebig of Giessen, and six months in the laboratory of Heinrich Rose of Berlin. Dr. Blyth returned to this country in 1845, and in 1847 accepted the Professorship of Chemistry in the newly erected Royal College of Cirencester, upon leaving which he was presented with a testimonial by the students. Dr. Blyth held the chair of Chemistry in the Queen's College since the opening of that institution, where his great reputation

frequently caused him to be employed in criminal jurisprudence. The cause of his death was paralysis.

WILLIAM MACTURK, M.D.

It is with regret that we record the death of Dr. Wm. Macturk, of Bradford. He was born at South Cave, Yorkshire, in 1795, and studied at Edinburgh and Glasgow. After practising for four years at Scarborough he settled in Bradford in 1824, and soon won the respect and confidence of the inhabitants. He took an active and prominent part in the establishment of the Bradford Infirmary and Dispensary, to which he was physician. He also took a warm interest in the local Fever Hospital, one of his last acts being to send a donation for its use. Some few years back he was presented by his patients with an epergne which cost 200 guineas. For some time he had suffered from a painful affection of the great toe, which, terminating in mortification, caused his death. His many excellent qualities will be long remembered in Bradford, where his death is felt to be a public loss.

DR. WILLIAM HARTHILL.

HAD the life of this young, able, and hard-working physician been spared, it is probable that he would have left the science and art of medicine under considerable obligations. As it was, his researches in galvanism and electricity were honourable to his professional enthusiasm and proficiency. He graduated at the University of Glasgow in 1862, when he obtained the degrees of Doctor of Medicine and Master in Surgery. He died at his residence in Rutland-square, Edinburgh, on the 24th inst., leaving many friends to lament his loss. He was the youngest son of the late Mr. William Harthill, the well-known publisher in Edinburgh.

JOHN LEIGH, M.R.C.S.

On the 9th ultimo died John Leigh, of Holywell, North Wales, aged thirty-six. The deceased gentleman was a student of King's College, one of the Warneford scholars, and a Leathes prizeman. Mr. John Leigh was a man of proved worth; unostentatious almost to a fault, but most true of heart; a good Christian, and conscientious student, an able surgeon, a trustworthy friend, and, in the highest sense of the word, an English gentleman. The day of his funeral was in his native town a day of unaffected mourning and regret.

Medical News.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise, on March 21st:—

Bowkett, William David, East India-road.
Clouting, John Revett, Shipdham, Norfolk.
Evans, John, Canton, Cardiff.
Utting, James, Hockering, Norfolk.
Welch, Samuel, Hackney-road.

As Assistant in Compounding and Dispensing Medicines:—
Dear, James Edward, Huntingdon.

On the same day the following gentlemen passed their First Professional Examination:—

Greet, William Ambrose, University College.
Roberts, William, St. Bartholomew's.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—Professor Flower, F.R.S., concluded his course of eighteen lectures "On the Modifications of the Organs of Digestion in the Vertebrata" on Wednesday last. The lectures by Professors Holmes and Humphry will not be delivered before June next. The written part of the primary examination for the membership of the College commences this day (Saturday).

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL.—The second ball in aid of the funds of this hospital is announced to take place on the 18th of April, at Willis's Rooms, St. James's, under distinguished patronage. Vouchers for tickets may be obtained from Dr. Davies Thomas, or H. J. Kelly, Esq., R.N., at the hospital.