

until lately, was eight years of active service, whilst it exceeded ten in the army; and many medical men joined that service in which advancement was most speedy. Eight years now form the usual period of promotion in the army, and naval assistant-surgeons are sent abroad as supernumeraries, without the hope of promotion, after nine and ten years' servitude.

Thus the navy is deprived of one advantage it possessed over the sister service, and rendered utterly unfit for respectable medical men.

In the position occupied by assistant-surgeons of the navy, promotion is of the greatest consequence, for in this is admission to the respectful consideration and accommodation accorded to gentlemen in civil life. It is different in the army, where the assistant-surgeon is treated as a man and a gentleman on first joining his regiment; with him there is duration of service, with, perhaps, weariness; but with his naval brother officer there is a degrading apprenticeship, or probationary cadetship (as it might be entitled), with dejection of spirits, inaptitude for study, and loss of zeal in his profession, to which is sometimes added a heart broken by a sense of the indignities of his position.

Several suicides of late have sealed the truth of this statement with their blood, and this kind of witness, it is to be feared, may rapidly increase under the system employed at the present time.

Numerous are the resignations from the service, but England knows not of them—*resignations are not published.*

It was stated by a correspondent in a late number of your journal, that "of those who enter the navy as assistant-surgeons, thirty per cent. leave it within a period of two years, whilst only two per cent. leave the army in the same space of time." Comment on these statistics is almost unnecessary.

M. D.

THE "BURY POST" AND THE EXCLUSION OF QUACK ADVERTISEMENTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your last week's number is the following extract from the work entitled "Confessions of a Hypochondriac":—

"When will the provincials follow the glorious example of the metropolitans, and, preferring principle to pelf, cease to defile their columns with advertisements teeming with obscenity, delusion, and falsehood?"

Now, Sir, I will not deny that some of the metropolitan journals have excluded from their columns the description of advertisements here referred to, but this I know, that they are not excluded from several papers making the highest pretensions to respect for decency and morality. And, on the other hand, I know that many of the provincial journals have long ago excluded such advertisements, (as I myself have done,) and that without waiting for the "glorious example of the metropolitans." It is, however, true, lamentably true, that some of the country papers (and some that could best afford to make the first sacrifice) have continued to admit these disgusting announcements, or announcements of publications more disgusting still, into their pages; and I can inform my brother proprietors, that had they the moral courage at once to reject them, they would find their reward, not only in the approval of their own consciences, but also in the increased favour which it would give them amongst the most valuable class of readers and supporters. I could appeal to the experience of several who have made the trial, in support of this position.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Bury St. Edmund's, Sept. 22, 1849.

A PROVINCIAL.

TREATMENT OF MEDICAL STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Another medical session is now close at hand, and if University College began the *annus medicus* last year under a black and murky cloud, the treatment of the medical students during the past, and their prospects for the approaching session, will not lessen the cloud. The council of the college, or perhaps Messrs. Atkinson and Goodiff, have decided that the medical library is sufficient for the wants of the medical students, and for another session they are to be deprived of the valuable library which was left them by Dr. Holme. It was proposed that the new library which has swallowed up the funds of the college should be made a joint library for the medical and arts students, and next October it is to be occupied by the arts men, but the medicals are to re-

main where they are. Is it because the new library, which has the appearance of a royal stable, is not large enough? or was the proposal for turning the two libraries into one merely a blind, to enable the council to appropriate the fees of medical students, and bequests which have been made to the medical department, for the benefit of the faculty of arts? If we are not to have any share of the new library, what do we gain by the new building? We have a lecture-room given us, and for fear we should have too much we have one taken from us, Dr. Grant being turned out of his room, (to give it to the faculty of arts,) and put in the room in which the late Dr. Thomson lectured, so there is only an exchange. It is now more than one year since it was announced that the medical department had a legacy of £20,000 left it; and what have they gained by it? Not even a book. Pereira's new edition has been out some time, and it will be out some time longer before a medical student of University College will see it, unless he buys it himself; but that is only mentioning a single case; it would make a long list to mention all the works which are not to be found in the library of University College; and those that are there are generally presented by the author or the publisher, and come with "the author's compliments." Upon whom does the duty devolve to see that the medical library is well filled—upon the dean, or on Mr. Goodiff? neither of whom enters the library more often than he ought.

University College, London, Sept. 1849.

A VICTIM.

INTRAMURAL INTERMENTS.—PETITION OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg to enclose a copy of the petition to the Board of Health, drawn up and signed by the medical practitioners in St. John's district, Paddington. The graveyard in question has been established rather more than eighty years; the average number of burials is 1200 annually, though during the last ten weeks, 358 corpses have been interred. The ground extends over rather more than five acres; of this, one acre, being set apart for the opulent, appears to be but little used. No plan is kept of the relative position of the graves, thus compelling the sexton to resort to the process of boring, to find a resting-place for the next comer.

Trusting our medical brethren in other districts will unite in a similar manner to prevent intramural burials,

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

Albion-street, Sept. 1849.

J. S. DRURY, M.B., Hon. Sec.

To the General Board of Health.

GENTLEMEN,—We, the undersigned medical practitioners in Paddington and its vicinity, respectfully call upon the Board of Health to exercise the power with which they are invested for the purpose of closing the burial-ground of St. George's, Hanover-square, situated in the very heart of this populous neighbourhood.

Firmly convinced that intramural burial grounds are at all times most prejudicial to the public health, we feel that they are more especially so at a time when the metropolis is afflicted by an unexampled visitation of epidemic cholera.

We moreover respectfully urge our petition, on account of the notoriously over-crowded state of this particular burial-ground, and indulge the confident hope that your honourable board will at once terminate a nuisance, which evidently tends to poison the atmosphere, and to produce the most baneful consequences in this otherwise healthy locality.

W. D. Chowne, 8, Connaught-place West; R. H. Goolden, M.D., 41, Sussex-gardens; Henry Bennet, M.D., 9, Cambridge-square; Thos. Grant, 9, Connaught-terrace; Robert Stephenson, 10, Oxford-terrace; Geo. Gaskoigne, 34, Cambridge-terrace; John Pyle, 56, Oxford-terrace; Henry Howlett, 18, Cambridge-terrace; F. W. Mackenzie, M.D., Chester-place; Robert Woollaston, 13, Conduit-street West; Thomas Hill, 1A, Sussex-terrace; Thomas A. Adey, M.D., 49, Connaught-square; Thos. G. Phillips, 44, Albion-street; Geo. Reece, 45, Sussex-gardens; Wm. Robins, 16, Upper Southwick-street; Edward Hart Vines, 6, Chepstow-villas; John Enscoe, 79, Oxford-terrace; Thos. Ballard, 10, Southwick-place; Walter Thompson Boddy, 31, Albion-street; William Richardson, 17, Radnor-place; Chas. S. Webber, 23A, Connaught-square; Edgar Barker, 40, Edgware-road; David Dickman, 14, Porchester-place; James Newton Heale, 11, Westbourne-crescent; John Morgan, 5, Albion-street; M. Teevan, 44, Gloucester-road; W. C.

Evans, 28, Upper Berkeley-street West; James H. Alleyne, 27, Gloucester-road; Robt. W. Powell, 24, Upper Berkeley-street; Edwd. J. Tilt, M.D., 40, Gloucester-road; R. W. Lawrence, 21, Connaught-square; Thomas Moore, 23, Cambridge-street; Octavius A. Field, 4, Stanhope-terrace; Henry Ancell, 3, Norfolk-crescent; Douglas Dutton, 73, Connaught-terrace; J. Godfrey Phipps, 39, Connaught-terrace; C. Paget Blake, M.D., 43, Connaught-square; Erskine Goodman, 6, Radnor-place; C. Arthur Aikin, 1, Albion-street; J. S. Drury, M.B., 44, Albion-street; Geo. Webster, 78, Connaught-terrace.

The following signatures were added on the 19th ultimo:—

I. B. Brown, 27, Oxford-square; John Gregory Forbes, 14, Devonport-street; Robert Barnes, M.D., 126, Gloucester-terrace.

THE SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES, AND PRACTISING SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—“W. S.” writes in your last number under the above head; his wish is to wage war against pure surgeons who practise under the poor-law in England and Wales. His letter appears as if he would like to have such an appointment, and to reward him for his liberality, I wish he may get it. Perhaps he would prefer an army berth; if so, all he has to do is to induce the worshipful company to wage war at the War Office, as all army surgeons, when practising in England and Wales, practise illegally, if not L.A.C., which one out of fifty may be. I fear “W. S.” will not be able to induce the worshipful company to be consistently honest, according to this fact. For humanity's sake, do, kind Mr. Editor, help “W. S.” to a poor-law union or a cocked hat, which will require to be an extra size, in consequence of his hydrocephalus.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Sept. 22, 1849.

S. W.

THE QUEEN'S COLLEGES IN IRELAND.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg leave to enclose a prospectus of the Queen's Colleges in Ireland, which are to open for general education next month. In the present unsettled state of the medical profession, the formation of a new university, with the power of conferring degrees, is an important proceeding, and establishes a precedent well worth the consideration of the medical reformers in England. It would appear as if the metropolitan colleges of medicine and surgery were resolved neither to advance themselves nor to allow the profession to share in the forward movement which pervades every great interest in society.

In most of the great cities of England provincial schools have been formed, which are every day assuming a magnitude and character which must place them high amongst the educational institutions of the country. Let the medical reformers of England, instead of wasting their energies in seeking to improve one college, adopt the organization which the Crown has conferred upon the Queen's College in Ireland. Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool, Leeds, possess foundations for noble colleges, not only for medical but general education. Government cannot refuse to England what has been granted to Ireland, and a charter similar to what is now in preparation for the Queen's University of Ireland would confer upon the several provincial schools the rank of royal colleges, and incorporate them for general purposes into one university. The senate of the University should be elected by the several colleges, and in the senate should be vested the power of conferring degrees and selecting the professors.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Cork, Sept. 16, 1849.

HIBERNUS.

Since the above was in type, we have received the following from the same correspondent.—ED. L.]

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I perceive, by last week's LANCET, that you are about to notice the Queen's Colleges in an early number. The charter has been prepared for incorporating the three colleges into the Queen's University. It is understood that Prince Albert will accept the chancellorship of the University. The senate will be composed of twenty persons, who shall conduct the final examinations for degrees, and determine the qualifications and fitness of future candidates for professorships, either by “concours,” or by such public exhibition as may

hereafter be arranged. Ten members of the senate will be chosen by the professors of the Queen's Colleges, and ten will be named by the Crown. The degrees of the Queen's University will enjoy all the privileges with regard to the bar, and wherever an university status is required, as the degrees of Oxford, Cambridge, and the Dublin Universities. The senate will make such alterations and extensions in the curricula of the several faculties, as may hereafter be considered conducive to the advancement of science, and to the improvement of the respective professions.

The effect of this measure will be, to elevate provincial medical education, and to oblige all persons entering the profession to obtain a good preliminary general education. The medical body throughout England ought to take up the question of general education, and require for their profession that standing and influence in the great educational institutions of England to which they are entitled, as the persons, of all others, who have done more to advance general science than any other class of men in the country.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Cork, Sept. 30, 1849.

HIBERNUS.

MR. BERINGTON'S EQUIPMENT FOR INFANTRY SOLDIERS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have received the following from my medical relative, whose former letter you kindly inserted in THE LANCET of the 15th of September, and I feel a pleasure in forwarding it for your disposal:—

“I duly received THE LANCET of the 12th and 19th of May last, and the perusal has gratified me much. I perfectly accord with the statements of Dr. Ramadge and Dr. Lebeau. The remarks of the latter, resulting from his post-mortem examination, have been strongly in accord with what I have observed from my own experience, and I am much struck by Dr. Foster's remarks, in his letter to Colonel Love, of the 73rd regiment, as follows:—‘I beg to recall to your mind the number of men we lost at Montreal from chest affections, when the excitement was passed, and the men got quietly settled in quarters.’ True; how much we had of this in the Peninsula, when we gave perhaps too much credit to drinking and lying about idly in the sun as the cause, and did not look to the effect of misplaced weight; although, indeed, we could not help ourselves had we all seen this great exciting cause, for we knew then no better mode of placing the weight.

“It is true we were all aware of the constitutional distress produced by the weight of knapsack and cross-belts; so much so, that I have heard old experienced officers, both commissioned and non-commissioned, and the men, express their conviction that the equipment deprived the army of the services of more men than our battles.

“The manner in which Mr. Berington places the weight of the knapsack and pouch is truly ingenious, and speaking as a medical man, the great relief given by it cannot admit of a doubt. When we take note that man stands erect, and that position must be preserved in the soldier, he must have had an arduous undertaking; and I cannot refrain from saying that the treatment he has met with is disgraceful. I think the secretary at war, who has evidently acted like a gentleman and with humanity towards the soldier, and justice to Mr. Berington, was anxious to arrive at the truth, has also been served with the same sauce. I do not feel I am using too strong an assertion, to say it savours of contempt for his expressed desires, opinion, and authority.

“All this confirms me in a long-cherished opinion, that the whole of the soldier's equipment and clothing should be placed under the direction of the medical staff, and in this I am borne out by Sir George Ballingall.

“If the officers were ill, they would call for medical advice, and if their medical advisers directed them to change the whole usual mode of dress they would do so; but these same officers will dress the men as they please.

“Now such persons are totally disqualified, by their studies and pursuits, to form an opinion on the subject of dressing the working man. What is the value of the opinion of the adjutant-general, his deputy, and confidential board? Why it is not worth a rush;—the whole is a medical question.

“If Lord John Russell, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Secretary at War, are really desirous of reducing the expenses of the country, why not send the medical staff into Whitehall-yard—workmen of the right class for the duties, and save the expense of things worse than useless?”

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

A FRIEND TO THE SERVICE.