Manhood; the Causes of its Premature Decay. A medical essay on those diseases of the generative organs emanating from sedentary habits and indiscriminate excesses, addressed to the sufferer in youth, manhood, and old age; with practical remarks on marriage, and the treatment and cure of nervous and mental debility, impotency, and other urino-genital diseases, by which even the most shattered constitution may be restored, and reach the full period of life allotted to man. The whole illustrated with numerous anatomical engravings on steel, in colour, explaining the various functions, secretions, and structures of the reproductive organs, in health and disease; with instructions for private correspondence &c." In the same paper, another advertisement appears of a work, said to be "Illustrated by twenty-six coloured engravings on steel, on Physical Disqualifications and Impediments to Marriage. Just published, price 2s. 6d.; by post, direct from the establishment, 3s. 6d. The Silent Friend; a Medical Work on the Infirmities and Decay of the Generative System. Part I. treats of the anatomy and physiology of the reproductive organs, and is illustrated by six coloured engravings. Part II. treats of the consequences resulting from excessive indulgence, and their lamentable effects on the system, producing mental and bodily weakness, and nervous excitement. It is illustrated by three explanatory engravings. Part III. treats of the diseases resulting from infection, either in the primary or secondary form, and contains explicit directions for their treatment. Part IV. contains a prescription for the prevention of disease by a simple application, by which the danger of infection is obviated. This important part of the work should not escape the reader's notice. Part V. is devoted to the consideration of marriage, and its duties. The causes of unproductive unions are also considered, and the whole subject critically and philosophically inquired into. The cordial balm of Syriacum is exclusively employed in treating nervous and sexual debility, impotence, &c.: 11s. and 33s. per bottle. Consultation fee, if by letter, £1. A minute description of the case is necessary, stating age, habits, and position in society. £5 packets, with advice, to be had at the establishment only, by which the fee, £1, is saved."

Your petitioner also begs to inform your honourable House that he has very carefully examined several of these publications; that in a medical and scientific point of view they are altogether worthless; that they are of the most filthy and abominable description, and are addressed to the fears and passions of the ignorant, with the sole view of enriching their authors, as can be proved before a committee of your honourable House.

Your petitioner further assures your honourable House that his professional experience enables him to state, that he has known several instances in which he has most clearly traced the commencement of those vices and practices, of which those advertisements speak, to the perusal of them in the pages of the journals of the day.

That, fully satisfied that advertisements of this kind daily lead to the most injurious consequences, and that they are exerting a most pernicious influence on the health and morals of the inhabitants of this kingdom, your petitioner therefore most humbly prays your honourable House to immediately institute such inquiries, and take such steps as may seem best, to put, as speedily as possible, an end to so great and dangerous an evil—an evil by which the temporal and eternal happiness of thousands is endangered.

And your petitioner will ever pray.

East Retford, Feb. 1, 1849.

JOHN CHARLES HALL, M.D.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS MEDICAL REFORM FUND.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I feel that I should be guilty of a dereliction in duty, and aiding in the system of spoliation attempted by the projectors of the proposed Medical Bill, were I silently to submit to be deprived of my diploma of M.D., without entering my protest against the dishonest attempt to rob those who have worked hard to obtain it.

If one of the results of the efforts of the committee of the National Institute be to deprive those general practitioners who are also graduates of a British university of their degree, because they choose to continue to practise as general prac-

tioners, the sooner the latter separate themselves from the National Institute the better.

I cannot understand how any respectable body of medical men (and I believe there are many connected with the National Institute) can for a moment think of depriving their brethren of a degree which they have obtained by their own mental exertions, and paid for besides.

I must also acknowledge my surprise at Dr. Christison's consenting that such a privation clause should be introduced into the proposed Bill, to please the London College, when the members of his own college should naturally look to him for protection.

As it appears, however, that the graduates of the British colleges must look after themselves, I shall be glad to lend a helping hand towards the "Medical Reform Fund," by guaranteeing a subscription of ten shillings, which I will double if required.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

EDMUND GEORGE, M.D. Edin., M.R.C.S.E. & L.S.A.

Sandgate, Kent, March, 1849.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I most willingly wish to contribute my mite of ten shillings and sixpence towards the "Medical Reform Fund," with best wishes to the cause.—I remain, Sir, yours truly,

JOHN SOMMERS.

Coventry, April, 1849.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—From your statement in your journal of this day, I feel satisfied it behoves every duly qualified medical man to subscribe to the "Medical Reform Fund."

Some exertion must be made on the part of some influential individuals to carry out any measure that will ultimately place the profession on its proper basis. My ten shillings, when required, shall be at the service of the "Reform Fund."—I remain, dear Sir, your obedient servant,

Liverpool, March, 1849.

HENRY EMETT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I shall have great pleasure in subscribing a guinea towards the "Medical Reform Fund," which I promise to remit to the proper authorities when required, and remain,

Sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS BLASSON, M.R.C.S. & L.S.A.

Billingham, Lincolnshire, March, 1849.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

Mr. Loney will thank the Editor of "THE LANCET" to add his name as a subscriber of ten shillings to the proposed "Medical Reform Fund."

Hartington, Derbyshire, April, 1849.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you oblige me by appending my name as a subscriber of ten shillings to the list of contributors to the proposed "Medical Reform Fund."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Bradford, Wilts, April, 1849.

W. JARVIS HIGHMORE.

THE ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I trust that your observations on the 10th inst., and those of Dr. Webster, referring to some abuses in the Medical and Chirurgical Society, may be the means of procuring their abolition, though the circumstance that several of the council are junior fellows, elected since 1840, while members who have belonged to the Society for twenty or twenty-five years, have never been on any council, and also that referees to decide upon the merits of papers presented should be arbitrarily elected by, and at the same time members of, the council, never having themselves contributed to the *Transactions*, is just of a piece with the rest of our system of medical organization, and it must be confessed that "they manage these things better in France."

Dr. Webster justly observed, that it was from the value and importance of the published *Transactions* that the Society would be estimated by the rest of Europe; and these, I think, (in common with many others,) have not been of late years, as an *ensemble*, calculated to raise the Society very highly in estimation, as compared with the chief medical societies in other capitals. The humble attempt which I made to induce

discussions upon general principles and questions of practical importance, rather than upon isolated cases, having no interest beyond the moment, proved abortive by the rejection of my communication; and having attended but few of the meetings since I joined the Society, I withdrew my name about a twelvemonth ago, the circumstances connected with my withdrawal being stated in the preface to the paper, which was printed for distribution among the fellows.* Nevertheless, I do not cease to take an interest in the Society in a national point of view, and in its not being behind-hand as regards analogous institutions elsewhere. How far the president was justified in assuming the authority of putting a stop to any remarks which fellows might be disposed to make at the annual meeting, for the express purpose of considering matters connected with the regulation of the Society, it is for themselves as a body to determine, as also whether they will be satisfied with his statement, that "the council have always endeavoured to do the best for the Society at large," and it is to be hoped that at the next meeting, on the 1st of May, full right of discussion will be claimed by those who may wish to make any observations, or to suggest alterations which may conduce to the advantage and efficiency of the Society.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

London, March, 1849.

EDWIN LEE.

ST. MARYLEBONE INFIRMARY.—THE HONORARIES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I am one of those poor general practitioners who have reason to be grateful for the way in which you have fought for the rights of our poor oppressed profession. But what permanent good can be done for us while we are traitors to ourselves?

In the *Times* newspaper I, not long ago, read an advertisement from the guardians of the poor of St. Marylebone, calling upon physicians to send their diplomas and testimonials, and so forth, and to attend the board personally, in order to get a chance of being appointed "honorary physicians" to the said poor.

Will you be so kind as to inform us whether this does not mean that the candidate is to do the work of that rich parish of dukes and lords, and richer commoners, for nothing?

Surely, Sir, if this be the case, and if it be really intended to get such "honoraries," there must be something in it more than any plain man can understand. I suppose that no member of any other profession could allow himself thus to be made use of, without being at once cut by his followers.

But there may be the profit, of great value to many pures, of practising on the poor, and of advertising connected therewith. Then, in that case, these pures ought to be made to pay for the situation, and the sum to be publicly fixed.

Finally, what is the use of these honoraries? The public has a right to know that clearly, and the guardians of the poor to see that they are not made use of for any purpose. To whom is an unpaid officer responsible? Are the poor to be turned over to the tender mercies of these unpaid?

Oh, Sir, if you had the misfortune to live by the practice of our wretched profession, you would feel acutely for us, and do something at once effectually to protect us from the competition of those who ought rather to hold out the hand of friendship to us. And in doing this your own knowledge must tell you that you would at the same time be doing an essential service to the poor.

For my part, if I ever meet any pure who may hereafter consent to become a party to the advertisement alluded to, I should scarcely refrain from telling him that the force of humbug could no farther go.

They will no doubt refer to hospital doctors. But I insist that even these ought to reside and do their duty, and be paid well for doing the same; but I fear the latter only is now done.

I am, Sir, your humble servant,

PHILIATRUS.

COUNTER-PRACTICE.—WHAT IS AN APOTHECARY?

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Through your columns I call the attention of the profession to a case in one of the county courts, reported in *The Times* and *THE LANCET*, in which the Apothecaries' Company

were the plaintiffs. The counsel for the Company, quoting the opinion, or I should rather say the decision, of the superior courts, gave the following as Lord Denman's definition of those coming under the Act. Lord Denman said, that a person compounding medicines and selling them, though he did not make out prescriptions like a physician, nor keep a shop, acted, nevertheless, as an apothecary in the ordinary sense of the word, and that it made no difference if he prescribed as well as prepared his medicines. Now as, I presume, no person will question the decision of certainly one of the most able and upright of the judges in England, have we not, at length, discovered a remedy for one of the greatest anomalies and one of the greatest hardships that ever beset a learned or unlearned profession? I allude to the making up or preparing of medicines by ignorant men calling themselves chemists and druggists, as well as the constant habit of counter-prescribing, (which has been lately designated, by an elegant evasior, "suggesting.") Now is the time for the profession to come forward and by a small subscription of say five shillings, sweep from society prescribing chemists, preparers of patent medicines, and those men who fill the Sunday papers with disgusting and immoral advertisements, and thus protect society and themselves from ignorant and presumptuous tamperers with human life. Is it rational to suppose that those constant accidents that are occurring in chemists' shops by inaccuracy in making up medicines, would occur if properly educated persons only were to be found behind the counter? But the great argument to be addressed to the profession is—Will they, after this opinion, allow those men to snatch the hardly-earned crumb from their mouths, and after spending their time and money in acquiring a profession, see the emoluments of it snatched away by those who have lost nothing except the cost of the bottles necessary to fit up the shop?

The custom of counter-practice is rapidly increasing, and if something be not done, and done quickly, by the profession, the bills and reports of parliament will be useless; and soon in self-defence every young general practitioner will be forced to open shop.—I am, Sir, with every feeling of respect,

March, 1849.

R. S.

HALIFAX UNION:

MEDICAL RELIEF TO THE POOR.

A Summary of Orders, Visits, and Medicines supplied to Poor Law Patients, in the Halifax District. Area, 990 acres; Population, 19,881.

	For the Quarter ending Dec. 25, 1848.	For the Quarter ending March 24, 1849.
Number of Orders for Medical Attendance, from the Relieving Officer	194	225
Visits to the Residences of Patients...	541	510
Mixtures dispensed	1029	1052
Pills.....	3157	3606
Powders	663	572
Lotions	36	46
Liniments	45	32
Boxes of Ointment	36	47
Plasters	79	132

Remuneration for the duties specified in the first column, and the supplies above recorded, £20, or, 2s. per case.

Remuneration for the duties specified in the second column, and the supplies above recorded, £20, or, 1s. 9½d. per case.

This table is correct.

FREDERICK S. GARLICK,
Medical Officer for the Halifax District.

THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND UNIVERSITY GRADUATES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In connexion with many acts of injustice, the perpetration of which is contemplated by the celebrated "Principles," I would beg to allude to the effects of one of the measures in the proposed Charter of the College of Physicians. In that Charter, provision is made for the admission into the college *without examination*, of all British graduates, provided they be not engaged in the practice of pharmacy; but it appears to be the intention of the college to deny this privilege to graduates of British universities who may hereafter relinquish general practice, and who may wish to assume the rank and exclusive duties of a physician. I am much at a loss to conceive upon what principles of common sense or consistency the college has arrived at the conclusion, that a graduate who has been for several years actively engaged in cultivating the field of medical science, which an extensive general practice

* The Brain the Sole Centre of the Human Nervous System. Any provincial fellow, or other member of the profession, interested in the subject, may obtain a copy on application to Mr. Churchill.