mucous membrane in the mouth. On the other hand, leeching and those remedies that are directed to the glands themselves, have always appeared to me productive of very little benefit.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
GUILDFORD, October, 9th, 1848. HENRY TAYLOR.

THE CONCOURS AND MEDICAL REFORM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the review of M. Libri's answer to the charges against him, the subject of the concours is introduced, and referring to the case of Mr. King, cited in my "Remarks on Medical Organization and Reform," (which, as well as my other pamphlet, is gratuitously distributed to the profession,) who obtained by these means various appointments in Paris, the reviewer observes—"But Mr. Lee omitted to tell us, when he mentioned that gentleman's failure at St. George's, whether his friend would have been admitted to try for a surgeoncy at the French hospitals." I have no doubt, that had Mr. King remained in France, he would have been admitted to compete for a surgeoncy or professorship; inasmuch as when the question was mooted as to whether a foreigner was admissible to the concours, the reporter on the occasion observed, that "the council being influenced by motives of a high national order, had in their wisdom declared that France was the country of all the talents that would honour and serve her." In the event of a foreigner obtaining one of the higher and permanent appointments, he would doubtless have to become naturalized, as, if I mistake not, is the case with some (Poles and others) now in France; and one of the most distinguished of the Parisian surgeons, M. Ricord, is not by birth a Frenchman. I was not personally acquainted with Mr. King, (though I would gladly have been so,) but merely adduced his case as an instance among many others of the treatment often to be expected, so long as the present system of intrigue and favouritism prevail in deciding medical appointments, by those who assiduously devote themselves to the profession, and honourably endeavour to advance its interests, at the same time, as their own. When I yesterday heard, in an excellent introductory lecture, the usual exhortations to students to diligence and assiduity, I could not but feel regret that those qualities should so frequently be rendered nugatory, and sometimes even be a preventive to advancement in the present state of our medical organization, inasmuch as the diligent and honourable student would be little likely to have recourse to those indirect means which so frequently conduce to success. Many thus find themselves swamped by the numbers with which the profession is inundated, owing to the circumstance which, in my examination before the parliamentary committee, I endeavoured to bring prominently under the notice of the honourable members composing it—viz., of the examiners in the corporate bodies having a direct interest in the members who pass. These two points, in my opinion, require most essentially to be rectified in any measure of medical reform which may be submitted to the legislature, being the foundation of other abuses. If there were a becoming and dignified mode of electing to the medical appointments in hospitals, by which *bonâ fide* claims would be duly appreciated, the higher positions in the profession would be entirely occupied by individuals from whom a due attention to its interests, and the advance of medical science, might reasonably be expected; and this might be done without interfering with the privilege of subscribers to these institutions—as, for instance, if a house-committee were appointed to ascertain the validity of the claims of candidates, and votes obtained by means of balloting papers, instead of by the degrading mode of personal solicitation now in use, which I may venture to affirm very few of those whose names stand highest in the medical and scientific world abroad would condescend to adopt. While these fundamental abuses are suffered to remain, the endeavouring to effect reforms in the profession, such as registration, the improving education, the repeal of the charter, &c., which have been advocated, appears to me like the patching up of the superstructure of an edifice, the basis of which is in an unsound condition; hence the measures emanating from the corporate bodies and the National Institute are not likely to be permanently beneficial, these bodies not representing the profession, and their acts having been on several occasions opposed to its welfare. In the report lately published by the council of the National Institute, it is intimated that if what they are desirous of obtaining be granted, it would not interfere with subsequent reforms; but I apprehend that when once any measure passes into law, the legislature will have had quite enough of medical reform for a long time to come; and as the subject has been long under consideration,

there is quite sufficient body of evidence for the establishment of a system of medical organization upon a permanent and satisfactory basis, and in accordance with that of other countries.

Your obedient servant,
LONDON, October 3rd, 1848. EDWIN LEE.

ETYMOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THE NAME "ÆSCULAPIUS."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In THE LANCET of Sept. 23rd, p. 356, an etymological analysis of the name "Æsculapius" is attempted from Greek and Latin radicles, but much reliance is not to be placed in derivations unaccompanied by collateral evidence. I would call your attention to the following passage from "Bell's Pantheon," p. 27—"Being honoured as a god in Phœnicia and Egypt, his (Æsculapius') worship passed into Greece, and was established first at Epidaurus, a city of Peloponnesus, bordering on the sea, where probably some colonies first settled, a circumstance sufficient to induce the Greeks to give out that this god was a native of Greece."

If this be the case, ought not the derivation to be sought in more ancient languages?

The Rev. R. Taylor, in his first volume of "Astronomico-Theological Lectures," No. 10, has the following:—"The Greeks, who never adopted the Janus of the Romans, had a Janus of their own—i. e., the same allegorical personage under the name of Æsculapius, who, like the Janus of the Romans, the Jonas of the Old Testament, and the Simon—bar Jonas or Simon Peter of the gospel—was none other than one of the ten thousand personifications of the Sun, as is discovered to us in the etymology of the name Æsculapius, which is compounded of the three Ammonian radicles, *ash*-fire, *kul*-all, *ab*-father, with the mere grammatical termination, making *ash-kul-ab-ius*, that is, the fire, the universal father, that is, the Sun.

Then, with regard to the serpent, the same author says, in vol. ii., No. 27—"The serpent was the universal type and emblem of the supreme God." "By putting his tail in his mouth, the serpent is the well-expressed emblem of eternity." "But, above all, its sanative or healing powers rendered the serpent the universal emblem of health and salvation, and the invariably attendant symbol of the gods called saviours—Hercules, Apollo, Æsculapius, Bacchus, Mercury, Adonis, all are characterized and known as saviours by the accompanying symbolic serpent."

As to the serpent being brazen, if Numbers xxi., verses 8 and 9, are correctly translated, they lead to the supposition that brass was the metal commonly chosen to represent the fiery nature of the celestial deities; but Taylor says "that these same fiery serpents are in the original text, *he nacheism*, *he seraphim*, and the serpent made of brass."

Of all the metals, brass and gold best represent the colour of fire; perhaps this might explain why the serpent was brazen, the calf golden, &c.

Our old patron Æsculapius, like the Peter of the gospel, performed miracles of healing; both are symbolized with a cock, and both are stated to be the same as the Aquarius or water-bearer of the zodiac, and the January (Janus) of the almanac.

I remain, yours obediently,
Sept. 25th, 1848.

CO-RESEARCH.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—The Court of Examiners of this institution resumed their sittings on the 6th instant, when the following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted members of the college—viz.,

BARNWELL, RICHARD, Norwich.

COX, WILLIAM, Bridgend, Glamorganshire.

DANSON, CHARLES EDWARD BOWMAN, Pocklington, Yorkshire.

FLETCHER, JAMES OGDEN, Manchester.

LAITY, JOHN, Falmouth, Cornwall.

PATTESON, WILLIAM, Bedford-square.

SYMES, JOSEPH GUSTAVUS, Crewkerne, Somersetshire.

TAPSON, JOSEPH ALFRED, St. German's, Cornwall.

WHITEHEAD, THOMAS, Manchester.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Names of gentlemen who have passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, in conformity with the provisions of the 55th Geo. III.:—

Thursday, Sept. 21, 1848.

HEBERS, EDWIN JAMES, London.

MUDD, FRANCIS DAVID.