older heads might study with advantage, more particularly as regard the theca, the medulla spinalis, the muscular tissues of the back, and the nervous organization of mankind. One or two not very "learned Thebans" have twitted me with extracts from the greatest poet the world has seen. Need I name "William Shakspeare?" Where can we find all subjects treated in so masterly a manner as by the pen of that honoured man,—where is the knowledge so profound as in his works? Echo may indeed answer, "Where?"

I shall conclude this letter with an extract from him, garbled, to answer the purpose intended, but the sense not altered. "If I be not ashamed of my antagonists, (in a literary sense,) I am a soused gurnet." Further this deponent sayeth not.—Yours faithfully,

Twickenham, March, 1849.

THOS. LITCHFIELD.

DR. E. CRISP AND THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I make no apology for asking you to insert the present communication, as the subject is one that must interest many members of the profession. My only object is to elicit the truth, and I trust, if any unfounded suspicions have arisen respecting those connected with my examination at the College of Physicians, that I shall, by the course I am pursuing, allow the party or parties to set themselves right with the profession. I have delayed this communication, as I heard indirectly that the College intended in some manner to answer my pamphlet. I pass unnoticed all the idle and unfounded reports that I have heard, and proceed at once to that which is tangible and positive.

A gentleman whom I believed to be a friend of mine, but with whom I had had no private conversation of any kind respecting my examination, a few days after my rejection, sent a message to Dr. Todd, which was not very complimentary to the president and the rest of the examiners. Dr. Todd begged this gentleman to suspend his judgment until the pamphlet appeared. At Dr. Todd's request two interviews took place, and the gentleman (perhaps naturally enough, after Dr. Todd's statements) came to the conclusion that Dr. Todd was right. This gentleman, however, forgot to communicate with me, although his opinions were freely and extensively circulated in other quarters. A friend to whom the statements were named, at once made them known to me. These gentlemen again met. Dr. Todd's statements were repeated, and I immediately wrote the following letter. I would gladly publish the whole correspondence, but as some of it is of a personal nature, it would not be interesting to your readers.

19, Norfolk-street, Strand, January 24, 1849.

MY DEAR —, You have read my pamphlet, and I learn that you have had two interviews with Dr. Todd, at his request; that Dr. Todd has gone over the history of the examination with you, and that he made the following statements:—

1. That he had always shown kindness towards me, as evinced by his first letter, &c.
2. That through my application to him, and through his interest or intercession with Sir James M'Grigor, he procured my brother Henry his appointment in the army.
3. That the questions respecting insanity were put to me because I was about to take, or thought of taking, a lunatic asylum in Suffolk.
4. That Dr. Todd prolonged the examination to assist me.
5. That I floundered (or something to this effect) in the practical examination.
6. That my account of the case, in the Appendix, is a "garbled" one.
7. That through Dr. Todd's intercession I was saved from rejection in the Latin examination.
8. That Dr. Todd had forgotten the case of rheumatism altogether.
9. That the four questions mentioned in the pamphlet (page 50) were not put by Dr. Todd, but by the late Dr. Clendinning, and that Dr. Todd had nothing to do with these questions, directly or indirectly.
10. That Dr. Todd had read over the verbal examination to you, and that some, or several, of the answers were wrong. Please to point to them, page and line.
11. That the papers were burnt quite accidentally.

I know you too well, I hope, to believe, that you would encourage the system of stabbing in the dark, and I am sure you are anxious to do what is right towards both parties. All I have done is fair and above board. I have not accused Dr. Todd of being instrumental to my rejection, (see page 23,) although I confess that I thought the circumstantial evidence much against him. Those who were examined with me, and

some of my friends, know that I said "I was afraid of one of the examiners." I am sure, as an old friend, you will not hesitate to answer these questions at once, and in writing, without consulting again with Dr. Todd. My object is, to elicit the truth, and if I have wronged Dr. Todd, or any of the examiners, I hope I shall have the manliness and honesty to avow it publicly.

Believe me, my dear —, yours very truly,
EDWARDS CRISP.

P.S.—To save trouble, perhaps you will return this with such remarks against the questions as you may think proper. If I have omitted anything, pray state it.

Before I answer these statements, I must tell the reader that there is substantially no difference in the reply I received from this gentleman, but that the following statements were confidential.

4. That lenity was shown by a lengthened examination through Dr. Todd's intercession.
5. That I failed in several practical points, which were pointed out to this gentleman in the pamphlet.
7. That I might have been rejected upon my Latin.
9. That the questions on the paper for June were placed by one since dead.

11. That the burning of the papers was unfortunately accidental. But he adds, "I did not press for further explanation."

These five statements, as I have already said, were confidential, but I do not hesitate for a moment to publish them, as I think (even if true) they should not have been made, and the reader must recollect that they had been told to two gentlemen, and that the opinion of the examination, which was so extensively circulated, was chiefly formed from these confidential statements.

Answer 1. I knew but very little of Dr. Todd; I never entered his house; I never had any private conversation with him; and on the three occasions only on which we met, we were at variance—the case already published, and at two meetings of the South London Medical Society. At these meetings I advocated the use of the lancet in the first stage of pneumonia and pleuritis. Dr. Todd did not approve of general bleeding, and contended that pleuritis could not occur without pneumonia. I maintained that in many instances the pleura only was inflamed. What proof can Dr. Todd give of having shown kindness to me?

2. I have not the slightest recollection of applying to Dr. Todd to get my brother, Dr. H. Crisp, the appointment in the army. My brother was a very industrious pupil of Dr. Todd, and I presume that Dr. Todd, by writing to Sir James Macgrigor, did for my brother what he or any hospital physician would have done for any industrious pupil. My brother had to thank other of his teachers for the same kindness, but he had especially to thank the Duke of Richmond, General Wemyss, Lord Rendlesham, Sir Horace Seymour, the Duke of Manchester, Dr. Clutterbuck, Mr. Rusbridger, Mr. Garrett, Mr. Chesterton, and others, for his appointment.

3. I should sooner think of following the plough, or of taking the office of secretary to the College of Physicians, than of becoming the proprietor of a lunatic asylum. Such a notion never occurred to me, and therefore I could not have mentioned it to any one. Mr. — thinks that Dr. Todd said that he had heard it from myself; but this affair, I suppose, had been talked over by the examiners, and hence the impertinent questions put to me by the president. Can you believe, Sir, that the censors of the College of Physicians would pass as a licentiate the proprietor of a country lunatic asylum?

4. Dr. Todd did not intercede for me; not a word was spoken by him nor by any of the examiners; and were Dr. Todd's questions, let me ask, the kind of questions to save a friend, and would a friend have prolonged the examination as Dr. Todd did?

5. There was no floundering or hesitation during any part of the examination; some of the questions, perhaps, were too quickly answered.

6. The account of the case in the Appendix is a true and faithful one. Dr. Todd adds, the difference of opinion was not upon the heart, but brain. Let me beg of the reader to peruse this case again; and let me especially ask Dr. Todd why he, when lecturing to the gentlemen of his class, and when he knew that the doctrines he inculcated might affect the lives of thousands, entirely misrepresented the case in question, as well as the statements of Bouillaud? and was not this very lecture corrected by Dr. Todd before publication?

7. "That I might have been rejected upon my Latin." Of course I might; but I believe not fairly. Before I presented myself, I could read any Latin medical author without diffi-

culty: occasionally cramped passages would require investigation. Do my written translations show ignorance of the language? My Greek I could easily have prepared; but before leaving England, I was expressly told by the secretary of the College that I should only be required to translate verbally some Latin medical author; and what other interpretation could I put upon the following:—

"If he declines this, he is, at any rate, expected to construe into English a portion of the works of Celsus, or Sydenham, or some other Latin medical author."

This was sent to the *London Medical Directory* by the College, although when I quoted it, Dr. Paris said in an angry tone, "We have nothing, Sir, to do with the *Directory*." I had told Dr. Alderson before the written examination, that I did not suppose that I should have been called upon to answer questions in Latin, or even to give a written translation of the Latin. Dr. Todd knew (see his letter) that I was admitted under the by-law affecting those beyond forty years of age; but when questions were put to me in Latin, his friendship did not allow him to interpose, although, when I asked the president a question, respecting the unanimity of the examiners, he rudely interfered.

8. I call upon Dr. Todd to state publicly that he had forgotten the case in question?

9. I said I knew not by whom these four questions were put; the coincidence, I thought, was a curious one.*

10. The gentleman in question refused to allow the practical errors to be put down in writing; but Dr. Todd, I am sure, will do this.

11. The accidental burning of the papers must be explained. Who burnt them? and by whose orders were they burnt? And perhaps Dr. Todd will state whether a ballot took place? whether the lunatic asylum was talked of before my final condemnation? and whether he had reason to believe that some of the examiners intended to reject me from the beginning? Likewise, what the nature of the communication was that Mr. Sedgwick was ordered to read to me?

I think, Sir, you and your readers will agree with me, that although Dr. Todd has hitherto been advised by all his aristocratic friends not to notice my pamphlet, he cannot now, as a gentleman and a man of honour, refrain from giving a full and explicit reply; and that I am acting the part of a friend in affording him an opportunity of doing so.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Norfolk-street, Strand, March, 1849.

EDWARDS CRISP.

NON-DETECTION OF NITRIC ACID IN THE URINE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—A letter appeared in your journal of last Saturday, which refers to a paper by me, read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society, on the Employment of the Nitrate of Potass in Acute Rheumatism; and the writer inquires by what means nitrate of potass was detected in the urine; stating, that he had endeavoured to ascertain the presence of nitric acid by the most delicate tests, and had been unsuccessful in discovering the smallest trace. I employ the following method:—A portion of the urine to be examined for the nitrate is evaporated in a water bath, to the consistence of syrup. It is then well washed with a mixture of alcohol (specific gravity 840) and ether. The ethereal spirit is decanted off, and the residue dissolved in a small quantity of distilled water, filtered, and if the amount of distilled water renders it necessary, concentrated by evaporation. The solution is then introduced into a tube, into which a small and pure crystal of the proto-sulphate of iron has been dropped; concentrated sulphuric acid is then added by means of a pipetto, and the whole heated in a spirit lamp. If nitrate of potass be present, the solution requires an orange brown tint from the conversion of the proto-salt of iron into a persalt. This should be proved by the reaction of a few drops of a solution

* As the late Dr. Clendinning's name has been alluded to, I may mention a circumstance, which should teach all Insurance Offices that it is to their interest to pay their medical referees. A young gentleman, of a consumptive family, whom I had attended for some years, was anxious to insure his life. I refused to answer the questions, as no fee was sent. Dr. Clendinning, who was the medical referee, passed him; but the gentleman died of pneumonia and tubercle a short time afterwards. The directors complained that Dr. Clendinning had not detected the tubercular deposit. Dr. Clendinning, who was a stranger to me, wrote for my account of the inspection. I sent it; and stated, at the same time, that if the most experienced stethoscopist had seen the patient when Dr. Clendinning did, he would probably not have detected the presence of tubercle. This part of my letter was read to the directors. I had the advantage of knowing this gentleman's constitution; and on this account, should not have considered his life eligible for insurance.—E. C.

of the ferricyanide of potassium (K_3Cf_3). By this process, very moderate quantities of the nitrate may be detected in the urine; and with some trifling modifications of this process, the salt has been detected in the blood of those who have been taking nitrate of potass in acute rheumatism. In the examination of the urine for the presence of agents that have been employed internally, the rapidity with which these salts are carried off by the kidneys must not be overlooked, and all the urine excreted during the administration, and for some hours after the discontinuance of the remedy, should be carefully collected for examination.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Chester-street, Grosvenor-place, March, 1849.

W. H. BASHAM.

THE FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS MEDICAL REFORM FUND.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I am desirous that my name should be added to the list of subscribers to the "Five Hundred Pounds Medical Reform Fund," and I hereby promise to pay a sovereign towards it when called upon to do so.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Colne, March, 1849.

J. J. AYRE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg to say I shall be happy to contribute my 10s. to the "Five Hundred Pounds Medical Reform Fund" whenever called upon, should the promises amount to that sum.

I do so with a firm reliance, however, that the committee, when formed, will resist to the uttermost the contemplated robbery on surgeons and general practitioners, by depriving them of their M.D. degrees, or any other previously acquired honours or qualifications, duly recognised and legally obtained.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Kidderminster, March, 1849.

WILLIAM RODEN, M.D.
Mayor of the Borough.

MR. LEWIS's compliments to the Editor of THE LANCET, and begs to inform him that he is prepared to subscribe the sum of 10s. to the "Five Hundred Pounds Medical Reform Fund."

New Kent-road, March, 1849.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I shall feel obliged if you will add my name for the sum of one guinea to the "Five Hundred Pounds Medical Reform Fund," to oppose the medical bill of the National Institute, &c.

I may now, in reply to your "M.D." correspondent of last week, inform him that I never condescend to notice anonymous scribblers, who have not the good sense or courage to sign their names, or I could readily show him my assertion as to the cost of the M.D. degree was perfectly correct.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Cheltenham, March, 1849.

W. PHILPOT BROOKES, M.D.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I shall feel much obliged by your adding my name to the contributors of the "Medical Reform Fund" for the sum of 10s., which I will forward when called upon.

Sir, yours respectfully,

JOHN T. WALLER, M.R.C.S.L.

Flegg Burgh, Norfolk, March, 1849.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg you will add my name, for half-a-guinea, to the list of subscribers to the medical protection fund. Hoping sincerely that this grand object may be affected,

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Judd-street, March, 1849.

W. HOME POPHAM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Please to put my name, and that of Mr. Paul Jackson, 18, Thayer-street, Manchester-square, as subscribers to the Five Hundred Pounds Fund.—Your obedient servant,

Wimpole-street, March, 1849.

EDWIN MOSS.

THE NECESSITY FOR MEDICAL REFORM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As a subscriber to your talented and widely circulating journal, I cannot but admire your powerful advocacy for medical reform; your often repeated and time-telling onslaughts on quacks and quackery, in and out of the profession.