that of an out-patient at *Guy's Hospital*. Dr. Hodgkin ordered *dec. sarsæ c. c. extract*. Of course this article, prepared according to the *Pharmacopœia Guyensis*, which I presume, in this Institution, physicians, surgeons, and pupils, expect the apothecary to be guided by, is a thick dark-coloured liquid, nearly black. But the trash given to the patient was a straw-coloured, sweetish, liquor, seemingly a decoction of *guaiacum* and *liquorice root*, and, I am quite positive, did not contain a particle either of sarsaparilla or the extract. From what I have seen during my stay in town, I do not believe that one half of the prescriptions written at this hospital are properly prepared. Certainly the physicians and surgeons, for their own characters' sake, for the benefit of the pupils, and particularly for the welfare of the patients, ought occasionally to inspect the medicines they order. They could not knowingly allow themselves to be thus made fools of. If the apothecary be allowed to wink at the prescriptions, and, without knowing anything of the disease, to substitute what he pleases, we may dispense with the physicians altogether. The attendance, too, of the pupils is all a farce, leaving the situation of the poor patients out of the question. I am fully persuaded that you will not allow an abuse so pregnant with evil to us, and to the public at large, to go unexposed, and am, Sir, yours, &c.,

N,—A PUPIL AT GUY'S.

March 14, 1833.

MR. GRAINGER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

At a very numerous meeting of the members of Mr. Grainger's Surgical Class, held on the 27th inst., after the *surgical lecture*, it was resolved *unanimously*, that an address, of which the following is a copy, should be immediately presented to Mr. Grainger, and that the proceeding should be made public through the medium of THE LANCET.

DANIEL NOBLE,
Chairman of the Meeting.

"To R. D. GRAINGER, Esq.—Sir, We, the undersigned pupils of the Surgical Class, indignant at the appearance in THE LANCET of the 23rd inst. of an anonymous and unjust attack upon your character, professedly originating with one of your pupils, are anxious to disclaim participation in any such act, and do hereby beg to inform you, that we consider the accusation of neglect of duty as totally false and untenable. Whilst, however, we regret

the illness which deprived us for a time of your valuable instructions, we are desirous of expressing to you our perfect satisfaction with the lectures of your indefatigable and talented colleague Mr. Pilcher; and, so far from concurring in the sentiments expressed in the attack which appeared in THE LANCET, we unanimously deprecate the conduct of the individual with whom it originated. In conclusion, we beg to assure you of our complete satisfaction with your constant and unwearied exertions, in forwarding the interests of the school at large, and subscribe ourselves;

"Your grateful and admiring pupils,

"Webb-street, March 27, 1833."

"(Here follow the signatures.)"

INTERESTING PATHOLOGICAL FACTS.

THE following is a fuller account, furnished by a correspondent, of the case of œdema confined to the upper half of the body, related by Mr. Beevor, of Berners Street, at the *Middlesex Medical Society*, on the 12th of March, and mentioned in THE LANCET, No. 491*:

"The diagnosis was most faithfully delivered before the fatal termination of the case, to the following effect:—'Aneurism of the aorta, great disease of its membrane, and partial obstruction through the superior vena cava.' It should be stated, that the latter part of the diagnosis was founded on the enormous turgidity and varicose condition of the veins over the chest, which inoculated freely with the epigastric veins, &c., and thus Mr. Beevor conceived the abdomen was kept free from fluid, and the vessels relieved themselves by giving rise to œdema in the head and upper extremities, &c., consequent on the impeded venous circulation near the aneurism. The man very rapidly sank, and, latterly, had very terrific notions about his situation, thinking he was among men of blood, murderers, thieves, &c. This symptom was satisfactorily accounted for by the Chairman, from the mixture of arterial and venous blood in the following manner:—The aneurism had produced interstitial absorption of the sternum, and was capable of holding a pint of fluid; about an inch above the right auricle, the vena cava was quite impervious, to the extent of half an inch; and just above the obliteration was a rent of the coats, which led directly into the enlarged aorta beneath. The azygos on the one side, and the left subclavian, and a large peri-

* The Chairman on this occasion was Dr. F. Hawkins, and the gentleman who alluded to the cases of fever was Mr. Corfe.