To the Editor of The Lancet.

Sir,—Knowing your willingness to give publicity, in your widely-circulated Journal, to whatever may tend to the relief of human affliction, I have taken the liberty of sending you an account of a case of gonorrhœa, in which I found the hydrocyanic acid, used in the form of an injection, a very valuable remedy. If you consider it worthy a place in your excellent periodical, you will oblige me by inserting it in an early Number, as I am anxious that it should have an early and extensive trial, that it may be proved whether it is entitled to hold a place in your excellent periodical, which I conceive it highly deserves.

Case.—Mr. H. came to me, suffering from a recent slap, labouring under the usual symptoms, profuse yellow discharge from urethra, excessive scalding in making water, chordee, pain in perineum, frequent desire to micturate, &c. He had been previously under my care for a severe gonorrhœa in conjunction with swollen testicle, when, on that occasion, I made use of very active means to subdue the complaint, without any decided benefit, until months had elapsed. Fearing he might, on this second occasion, have another attack of hernia hydroceles, as the inflammation was very acute, and considering the powerful sedative property of prussic acid, I was induced to make trial of this medicine in the form of injection; this I made in the proportion of one drachm of the acid to two ounces of water, with directions, that one syringe-full should be used five or six times a-day. At the same time I ordered small doses of sulphate of magnesia three times a-day. In the course of two days, the symptoms were considerably less severe, and I then also administered small doses of copaiba balsam during the day; in six days more, all the symptoms were so completely subdued, that he considered himself quite well. No inflammation occurred in the testicles, although he perceived, previous to the use of the injection and the balsam, frequent shooting pains in that part.

I do not attribute the cure altogether to the injection, as a more perceptible abatement took place in the symptoms after commencing with the copaiba; but I truly believe that the injection preserved the testicles from inflammation, and, in a great measure, performed the cure. I am not sure, that a much less proportion of the acid might not have answered the same purpose; but, fearing the testicles would be attacked with inflammation, I resolved to use it of the above strength. I did not allow the patient to have more of the injection at a time than was sufficient for two days' use, that its quality might not be deteriorated. The acid was of Scheele's strength.

Would it not prove a valuable application in cases of gonorrhœal ophthalmia? I intend giving it an extensive trial in the active stage of gonorrhœa, as the usual practice seems very ineffectual; the result I will take the liberty of making you acquainted with.

I am, Sir,
Your very obedient servant,
R. H. Haynes.
Canterbury, April 19th, 1829.

To a Committee Man of a Public Charity.

My dear Sir,—As I am convinced you take a deep interest in the welfare of the institution to which you belong, I address a few observations to you on the management of public charities, referring more especially to the practice which is termed "making governors" at the elections of medical officers.

The answer of Sir Roger de Coverly, when pressed to give his opinion on a subject of dispute, that there was "much to be said on both sides," is very general in its application, and particularly so to the question, "Is the above practice a proper one?" Much has been said in favour of, and against it; but, in considering this point, as well as many others, we are too apt to generalise. In writing a poem, as Pope very justly observes, it is necessary to generalise, in order to effect its intended application; but, in considering a question like the present, this course will not do. To generalise here is useless; it would be viewing the matter much too superficially; for when each side appears to have its arguments, it requires the scrutiny of a jealous eye to particularise between them; to pick out both good and bad, to balance them against each other with minute fidelity and impartiality, that a just conclusion on their comparative merits may be obtained. This, you must confess, is the only mode of arriving at the truth. Let us apply, then, what I have said, to the case in point. The phrase, "making governors," requires this analysis. It may be interpreted into two heads, and may be subdivided afterwards; 1st, Where a candidate for an office in a public charity pays the subscription money himself, which constitutes a governor, and collects a number of names,