fastidious. With the vast majority of purchasers of pickles, viridity is *the* criterion of merit, and every means, legitimate or otherwise, is employed to secure this object. The question remains, how can this appearance be permanently communicated without an appeal to the mineral kingdom, by the employment of halfpence, bell-metal, or verdigris, or the not less questionable auxiliary, the copper pan? To this subject I shall be glad, with your permission, to return hereafter.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
W. WHITE,
Consulting-Chemist.

Strand, Feb. 1852.

THE CASE OF MRS. CUMMING.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My attention having been drawn to a statement in THE LANCET, published on the 14th inst., in which you, on the authority of Mr. James's speech, describe my proceedings against Mrs. Cumming as a false accusation, will you allow me to state that I had the opinion of an eminent counsel that perjury had been committed by Mrs. Cumming in the denial of my employment as her agent, and also that there had been a subornation of perjury, in the affidavit of such statement. I had no course left open to me but to take proceedings; and although I was desirous that Mr. Haynes should have a fair trial by a jury of his country, yet I discontinued the same at the urgent request and solicitation of Mrs. Cumming's family, whose feelings I did not desire to wound. Mr. Haynes could not be reached without proceeding against Mrs. Cumming for the principal charge, or I should most certainly have gone on with my indictment against him.

May I request of you to give this explanation in your next number, as the statement to which I have referred amounts to an accusation against me of having improperly taken proceedings against Mrs. Cumming.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
EBENEZER JONES, of Abergavenny.

Castle Hotel, Falcon-square, Feb. 1852.

THE HYSTEROTOME.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you do me the favour to insert in the next number of your journal the following letter from Dr. Scott?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ROBERT LEE.

February 10th, 1852.

13, Stratton-street, February 9th, 1852.

DEAR DR. LEE,—I am sure you will be gratified to hear that the twelve *Hysterotomes* which were reported to you to have been sent to India in 1850, are the only set which have been demanded by the medical authorities or sanctioned by me. If any further demand had been forwarded, I should have replied, *not approved*, in consequence of the very kind and friendly manner in which you communicated your abhorrence of the instrument to me.

Yours most sincerely,
JOHN SCOTT.

To Robert Lee, M.D.

BATTLE AT LAGOS.—NOBLE CONDUCT OF ASSISTANT-SURGEONS IN THE NAVY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the following extract from the official dispatch of Commodore Bruce, respecting the late severe affair on the African coast, (in which twenty-five or thirty of our men were killed,) is another testimony, not only to the personal devotion and bravery of our brethren in the service, but also to the duties which that service requires of them, and of the estimation in which they are held by "their brave companions in arms."

"Penelope, off Lagos, Jan. 2nd, 1852.

" * * * * * Nothing could exceed the devotion of the officers of the medical staff to the exigencies of the day: Mr. Richard Carpenter, surgeon, Mr. Walling and Mr. Sproule, assistant-surgeons, of this ship; Dr. Barclay, acting surgeon of the *Sealark*; and Mr. Morgan and Mr. Pendrith, assistant-surgeons of the *Sampson*. Wherever a man was struck in the boats, a medical officer was immediately by his side, setting their own lives at nought when compared with the wants of their brave companions in arms. Mr. Walling and Mr. Sproule landed at the charge with their comrades under Captain Lyster. * * *

"R. W. BRUCE,
"Commodore, and Commander-in-Chief."

And these are the men, and these their functions, so long

deemed unworthy of military rank and honours, and to rescue whom from the insults and degradation they received from the Board of Admiralty, the House of Commons was at length obliged to interfere, but whose order is even now pertinaciously evaded and resisted by that board! Shame! Shame on it!

Yours obediently,
H. I. FOTHERBY, M.B.

Trinity-square, Feb. 17th, 1852.

MEETINGS OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETIES IN LONDON DURING THE ENSUING WEEK.

NOTE.—When the day of the month is not specified, no meetings take place.

Societies.	—	Days of Meeting.
Epidemiological, 53, Berners-street	Mon. 8½ P.M.	Feb. 24
Chemical, 5, Cavendish-square.....	Mon. 8 P.M.	
Medico-Botanical, 32, Sackville-st.	Tuesday.	
Medico-Chirurgical, 53, Berners-st.	Tues. 8½ P.M.	
Pathological, 33, George-street, } Hanover-square.....	Tues. 8 P.M.	
Hunterian, 4, Bloomfield-street, } Finsbury.....	Wed. 8 P.M.	" 28
Pharmaceutical, 17, Bloomsbury-sq.	Wed. 9 P.M.	
Harveian, 64, Edgware-road	Thurs. 8 P.M.	
Western Medical and Surgical, } 44, Sloane-street	Fri. 8 P.M.	
Medical Society of London, 32A, } George-street Hanover-square }	Sat. 8 P.M.	

Medical News.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on

Thursday, Feb. 12th, 1852.

BIGGS, JAMES STRANGE, Devizes, Wilts.
BURMAN, WILLIAM MAXWELL, Wath-upon-Dearne.
SPENDER, JOHN KENT, Bath.

NEW MEDICAL COLLEGE.—It affords us much pleasure to state that the *first* sermon in aid of the funds of the College was preached on Sunday last, at St. Mary's, Brompton, by the Rev. J. Swale, the Incumbent, and that the proceeds resulting therefrom were highly satisfactory. The eloquent manner in which the reverend gentleman spoke of the claim which the profession had upon the public, and the very able way that claim was substantiated, showed him to be well acquainted with the public services of medical men. Other sermons, we are informed, will follow in quick succession; and now that an opportunity is afforded the public to testify their acknowledgments to the profession, it is hoped that medical men will not hesitate to exercise their influence, and induce parties to contribute towards the funds of an institution which is every way deserving of public support.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FEB. 12.—Sir William Jolliffe moved for a select committee to inquire into the contracts for the supply of preserved meats to the Royal Navy in the years from 1847 to 1852; and in doing so, took occasion to recapitulate the facts, which proved a considerable portion of these meats unfit for food, and which, of late, have obtained to much notoriety.—Mr. Jacob Bell obtained leave to bring in a Bill to regulate the qualifications of pharmaceutical chemists.

NAVAL APPOINTMENTS.—Mr. David Lyall, M.D., has been appointed to H.M.S. *Assistance*, and Mr. W. T. Donville, M.D., has been promoted from Greenwich Hospital to the *Resolute*; Frederick M. Rayner (1851), surgeon, to the *Herald*; A. McDonald (1841), assistant-surgeon, to the *Torch*.

FREE CANCER HOSPITAL.—The generous proposition of Mrs. Wolrige, of Reading, to give fifty guineas to the funds of this hospital, on or before the 31st of March next, provided that nineteen others would do the like, has been most kindly and promptly responded to by nine benevolent persons; and thus half of the proposed amount has been realized. We therefore sincerely trust that the sympathizing public will rally round this noble-minded lady, and assist in carrying out her philanthropic intentions. There are upwards of 100 cases in the hospital of the most distressing nature, and more than three-fourths are female sufferers.—*Advertiser*.