impure exhalations given off from the excretions of these joint inmates of the cabin. These primitive dwellings are warmed by a peat fire kept constantly burning in the centre of the floor, and are the homes of the hardy Crofters to whose grievances public attention has of late been so strongly directed. Many of them live under the same roof as their cattle, and in numerous instances the air of the dwelling reeks with the pungent that considerable irritation of the eyes and nostrils is frequently experienced by those exposed to the fumes. Generally speaking, these Highlanders are remarkably vigorous and long-lived, and singularly exempt from the ravages of tuberculous phthisis. Indeed, so rare is consumption in these hovels that I was led to investigate the causes of this immunity upwards of twenty-five years ago, and published the results of my inquiries in an article on “The Non-prevalence of Consumption in the North-Western Coast of Scotland,” which appeared in the *British and Foreign Medical-Chirurgical Review* for October, 1860. At that time I visited most of the districts to which my investigations extended, and from what I saw and heard I came to the conclusion that the comparative immunity from phthisis which these persons enjoy is to be ascribed, chiefly at all events, to the inhalation of the peat smoke and the antiseptic ingredients contained therein, the tar, the creosote, and the camphor, together with various volatile oils and tannin. Black unctuous peat is rich in these substances. At that time, I need hardly say, nothing was known of the bacillus of Koch. It further appeared that any exemption from attacks of consumption which these Highlanders enjoy was only extended to them so long as they resided in their smoky huts. When they migrated to other parts of the country, or took up their abode in chimneyed dwellings, they often suffered like their neighbours; nor after the lungs once became infected was a return to the plains of the North or the Western Highlands of Scotland followed by favourable results; the fumes of the smoky cabin then exercised no curative influence. The inference to be drawn from these remarks is sufficiently obvious: when the bacillus has once established itself in the lungs the time for antiseptic remedies has gone by. On the other hand, where there is merely a predisposition to phthisis, whether hereditary or acquired, where also the climatic or social conditions for its diffusion are favourable, and where healthy persons are brought into close contact with those who are suffering from the disease, there it is reasonable to assume that disinfectants may prove of great value as prophylactics. Hence we may anticipate that in the course of time an efficient system of aerial fumigation will not alone assist the physician in warding off disease, but may enable the surgeon also to dispense with the cumbersome appliances associated with antiseptic dressings and the steam-diffusing urn.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

Manchester, April 1865.

JOHN ED. MORGAN, M.D. OXON.

THE VICTORIA UNIVERSITY, MANCHESTER.

To the Editor of The Lancet.

Sir,—In reference to the paragraph in your issue of April 25th relating to the facilities for graduation offered by this University to qualified practitioners, I wish to be allowed to state that attendance upon lectures in a college of the University for at least two years is indispensable in all cases before graduation. This is a provision of the Charter empowering the University to grant medical degrees, and is one which the authorities have no power to dispense with. I should be much obliged if you would publish this information, as I have received more than one impression that the degree of M.B. is now offered to qualified practitioners on condition only of their passing the Intermediate and Final Examinations for that degree. The new regulations should be passed to the world whose qualification is ante-dated to 1888 the Preliminary Examination in Science and the attendance thereat. —Yours faithfully,

ALFRED T. BENTLEY, Registrar.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

To the Editor of The Lancet.

Sir,—It would appear that the Council of the College, in their proposed new Charter, desires to perpetuate a grievance, and to still render meetings of Fellows and Members inoperative, by providing that only business shall be entertained which has the consent of the Council.