PROFESSOR MACARTNEY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The advertisement inserted in the newspapers, and which was copied into the *London Medical and Surgical Journal* of the 12th inst., does not state correctly the law regarding the professorships in the school of physic in Ireland. It would appear by the advertisement, that the Board of Trinity College might, if they had thought fit, have continued the present professor of anatomy and surgery for another period of seven years, without the form of an election; whereas the School of Physic Act directs, that no professor can hold his office beyond fourteen years, without being again elected to it. It was therefore in conformity with this law, and not by any act of the Board, that the professorship became vacant, to which I was re-elected on the 29th inst., although the utmost pains had been taken to create a prejudice against me, by grossly false and absurd representations of the evidence I gave before the Parliamentary Committee on medical education. Your obedient servant,

JAMES MACARTNEY,
Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in
Trinity College, Dublin.

Dublin, July 31, 1834.

EXPENSE OF OPPOSING THE PROPOSED
LONDON UNIVERSITY CHARTER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg to inclose you a circular, which has been sent round to all the lecturers who signed the memorial presented to the Privy Council, against the prayer of the London University for a charter. I will put you in possession of the facts relative to the manner in which the memorial was got up, and leave you to make your own remarks on the present demand made upon those who signed that memorial.

You are, perhaps, aware, that though summonses were issued to almost all the lecturers in town, to attend the meeting mentioned in the circular, as having been held at Dr. HUE's on the 28th February last, not more did actually attend than about twenty, all of them (with, I believe, two exceptions) Fellows of the College of Physicians and Surgeons lecturing at the great schools attached to the various hospitals. The reason why the attendance of those who were summoned was not more numerous, is to be sought for in the names of those who convened the meeting,

which made the liberal lecturers distrustful of its ostensible object; they, therefore, stayed away, and heard nothing (at least officially) of what had passed at the meeting, till some months after, when the memorial before alluded to was handed round (principally by Dr. Macleod) to all the lecturers in town, as well to those who had attended as to those who had not attended or sanctioned the meeting just mentioned, and they were all earnestly solicited to add their signatures, which, concurring in the reasons set forth in the memorial, they had no hesitation in doing, not a word being uttered to lead those who signed to believe that they were expected to contribute anything towards the legal expenses, which they imagined would be defrayed by the parties who had got up the memorial, and who were most deeply interested in the question, in a pecuniary point of view.

The memorial was thus signed by above seventy lecturers, who refused to attend the meeting, and who did not sanction it or its acts. From this time to the date of the "circular," no communication of any sort was made to them, and they were even officially ignorant that the prayer of the memorial had been granted; neither was their consent asked or given to the ulterior steps which were taken by the sub-committee, whose appointment they had not sanctioned, and to whom they had delegated no power of any kind. What was their surprise then on perusing the circular which gave them the information that they were *required* to pay *£1. 10s.*,—the circular not even concluding with the form customary among gentlemen, the sub-committee simply signing their names, and thus giving the precious production the character of a royal mandate, and adding insult to its impudent dishonesty. To show the absurdity of the demand thus made, it is only necessary to carry out the principle a little further, and to suppose, that instead of having expended *£440. 15s. 6d.*, they had seen fit to expend *£440,000*!; will any sane man contend that the lecturers who had signed the memorial praying to be heard by counsel, but who were not even informed that their prayer had been granted, would be responsible for the subsequent acts of a sub-committee, whom they had no voice in appointing, and to whom they had neither directly nor indirectly imparted any authority? The thing is too absurd.

Let us now pause for a moment to expose the deep-laid plan of this committee, who knew full well that their memorial, signed only by themselves, would receive no attention from the Privy Council; equally well did they know, too, that if an