ever, and that it cannot therefore affect in the smallest degree the legal right which the extra-licentiates possess of practising as physicians in the country. The sole object of the fourth clause is to confer a benefit upon the extra-licentiates (which, however, it will be entirely at their own option to accept or decline) by enabling those of them who desire to avail themselves of its provisions to become members of the College under the new Charter, whereby they will be rendered eligible to the fellowship, and through that to any offices or honours which the College may have to bestow, and moreover will acquire that which they do not now possess—the right of practising in London. This offer is made to them on terms quite as liberal as could be proposed with even the semblance of justice to all the existing members of the College, each of whom has contributed not less than £36 towards its support, whereas the extra-licentiates have contributed to the same object the sum of £10 only.

In Dr. Beamish's letter it is made a subject of complaint that it should be proposed by the College to place the extra-licentiates on the same footing, as to the payment of fees, with graduates of Bristol and foreign universities, who have as yet not paid anything to the College. One reason for this arrangement was that a large portion of the extra-licentiates are not graduates of any university, nor themselves of any College of Physicians in Scotland or Ireland, and have never undergone therefore either the ordeal or expense of graduation or of admission to a College of Physicians before they received their letters testimonial from the president and electors of this College. But the principal reason was that the offer of the College was intended to be compulsory on graduates practising without licence or ex-licence (of whom unfortunately there are many in the country), but as regards the extra-licentiates, it is left entirely to their own option. In one respect the Committee admit that Dr. Beamish has a slight ground for complaint, inasmuch as, being himself a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, he might, under the 5th clause of the proposed Charter, be admitted as a member of the College on payment of fifteen guineas, even if he had not obtained and paid for his letters testimonial. To correct this inequality, though to the Committee it would hardly appear to be a matter of great moment, they would recommend that a proviso should be appended to the fourth clause, directing that those ex-licentiates who have taken degrees or possess diplomas, which would entitle them to be received as members of the College under the fifth clause, shall be received as such, on payment of five instead of fifteen guineas. To other ex-licentiates they do not think that the same remission ought to be extended, for the reasons which have been already stated.

It will not, they suppose, be denied that as the College of Physicians has never received any endowment from the State, its very edifice having been erected by means of the subscriptions of some of the former and of the present fellows, all persons who are admitted members of it ought to contribute towards its support. They think also that those who will be admitted under the new Charter during one year from its being granted, should bear in mind how much smaller will be their contribution than that of any of the former or of the existing members, or probably of any future member who will be admitted after the term assigned in the fifth clause of the proposed Charter shall have expired.

I have the honour to be your obedient servant,
FRANCIS HAWKINS, M.D., Registrar.

The following letter has recently been addressed by Dr. Hawkins, the registrar of the Royal College of Physicians, to the Hon. Henry Fitzroy, M.P., one of the Under Secretaries of State for the Home Department:—

Royal College of Physicians, May 2nd, 1853.

SIR,—I am directed by the President and Charter Committee of the Royal College of Physicians to request you to present their acknowledgments to Viscount Palmerston for his lordship's attention in causing copies to be transmitted to them of—

1. A letter containing the observations of the Senatus of the University and King's College of Aberdeen on the proposed new Charter of the College of Physicians.

2. A letter containing the observations of the same body on an alleged Medical Reform Bill.

On the first of these documents the President and Committee do not think it necessary to address Viscount Palmerston at any length, because the observations which they had recently the honour of submitting to his Lordship, respecting a letter from the Vice-Rector of the University of St. Andrew's, are applicable also to this letter. But they are desirous of adding to the remarks then offered that they are perfectly assured that the clause which has been objected to in the proposed new Charter of the College of Physicians would not have the effect anticipated from

it in this letter—viz., that “it would withdraw one of the strongest inducements which are at present held out to young men to pass a regular ‘university curriculum of medical instruction,’ because it would seriously be contended that *young* men would be materially influenced in their course of education by the distant chance of obtaining admission, after the age of forty, into the order of physicians, without having passed through the studies of a university.” On the contrary, the inducements held out to medical students to resort to universities would be greatly increased by the clause in the new Charter, which forbids that any person should hereafter be admitted into the College without a regular medical degree, except in the case of medical practitioners of advanced years and unusual attainments, for whom it is allowed on all sides that some means of admission into the order of physicians must be provided. The President and Committee are so sincerely desirous that physicians should be educated in the Universities, that they heartily wish the Universities themselves would abstain from granting degrees to those who have not had an academical education. Whereas it is notorious that some of the Universities, especially the Universities of Aberdeen and St. Andrew's, have long been, and still are in the habit, greatly to the detriment of the medical profession, of granting the degree of M.D. to persons who have had no previous connexion with any university, and whose curriculum of medical education has been inferior to that which the College of Physicians deems necessary for physicians. This fact is candidly admitted in the letter from the University of St. Andrew's, as it should have been also in that from Aberdeen; for it is sufficiently clear, from the printed regulations of the latter University.

With respect to the second letter, “On an alleged Medical Reform Bill,” the President and Committee have no observations to offer, the Bill alluded to not being before them.

I have the honour to be your obedient servant,
FRANCIS HAWKINS, Registrar.

Another letter from Dr. Hawkins, Registrar of the Royal College of Physicians, to H. Waddington, Esq., the Under-Secretary of State, has lately been sent to the Home Office.

Correspondence.

“Audi alteram partem.”

THE ANALYTICAL SANITARY COMMISSION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Our attention has been called to some comments you have made in your paper of the 23rd inst., on a letter which we wrote to Messrs. Ancell, Bryant, and Harrison, on the subject of our method of grinding drugs for them. You have extracted from our letter a short sentence containing an allusion to *making up for loss of weight* that occurs in this process, and you ask, what we mean by this? We beg to inform you, that Messrs. Ancell and Co. specially required this to be inserted, for the purpose of refuting any accusation that might be made against them, of having adopted a general custom that used to prevail with druggists, but which has long ago been abolished, being that of requiring their drugs to be ground, subject to an uniform loss of four per cent. in the process, so that whatever greater loss than this proportion was sustained, had to be made up by the grinder. If you will turn to vol. viii. No. 5, of the journal of the *Transactions of the Pharmaceutical Society*, you will find that the subject of drug-grinding was carefully investigated, a few years ago, by Professor Redwood, and that this particular part of the subject was fully inquired into, explained, and treated of by him.

On the occasion of Professor Redwood's requiring of those to whom the business of drug-grinding is entrusted, information as to their method of managing this important business, we complied most willingly, expressing to him our satisfaction that the inquiry had been instituted.

We remain, Sir, your obedient servants,
ATKINSON & BIGGAR.

London, 66, Aldersgate-street, April 30, 1853.

* * We beg to state that we published the *whole* of the communication referred to in the above letter by Messrs. Atkinson and Biggar; that communication contained the following paragraph:—

“Ever since you have been in business, a period of nearly ten years, we have ground drugs for you, and your directions have invariably been that your drugs should be ground in the most genuine manner, and without any making up for the loss of weight which usually occurs in the course of drying and grinding. Your directions have been at all times strictly fulfilled.”

Upon this paragraph we thus commented:—

“What do Messrs. Atkinson and Biggar mean by ‘making up for loss of weight’? Not certainly that they add so much more jalap, but that they make up the loss of weight by the addition of other ingredients. We should feel anything but satisfied with a drug-grinder who should write a letter to us containing any such startling admission.”

Messrs. Atkinson and Biggar’s present communication contains the acknowledgment “that any loss of weight above four per cent., sustained by the grinding of any drug, had to be made up by the grinder.”—“a general custom that used to prevail with druggists, but which has long ago been abolished.”

We cannot accept the statement of Messrs. Atkinson and Biggar that the practice in question has long ago ceased, for we have more than doubts to advance upon this subject. We do not see what purpose is served by the allusion to Professor Redwood. Whatever may have been the results of previous inquiries, it is perfectly evident that fresh investigations into this important matter are required, and the results of these we shall from time to time make known. We shall be glad to find as our disclosures proceed that drug-grinders come well out of the trial.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Confirmatory of your statements and remarks, on the revival of the wholesale adulteration of coffee, under Mr. Chancellor Gladstone’s modified return to Sir Charles Woods’ favourite scheme of licensing fraudulent mixtures, I may mention, that since Mr. Gladstone’s ill-advised measure, the London deliveries of coffee, for home consumption, have fallen off fully 100,000 pounds weekly.

Your’s obediently,
C. W. F. D.

London, April 28, 1853.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following letter was received by a patient of mine about twelve months ago, and he has given me permission to forward it for insertion in your journal, in order that the members of our profession may see how the life office in question values the opinion of the private medical attendant of the insurer. A schedule was sent to me from the office, which I stated I should be happy to fill up with my opinion as to the eligibility of my patient for life assurance provided the usual fee of one guinea was guaranteed me. *No notice* whatever was taken of my letter, and my patient then wrote to the secretary to know whether the office would pay his medical attendant’s fee. The accompanying letter was the reply. My patient consequently declined to insure in the office, and I had great pleasure in advising him to take out a policy in the United Kingdom Life Office for £1000; and I am happy to say that during twenty years’ experience I never reported upon a life more likely to prove a profitable one to the office.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Hounslow, April, 1853. ALFRED HALL, M.D.

Sun Life Assurance Society, Threadneedle-street,
London, May 12, 1852.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 10th inst. I beg to inform you that it is not the custom of this society to pay the medical attendant of the life proposed for insurance. The society pays its own medical officer, and if you will appear before him the certificate of your medical attendant will not be required.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
C. H. LIDDERDALE, Actuary.

Mr. W. G. K. B., Sutton, near Hounslow.

Medical News.

MARGATE ROYAL SEA-BATHING INFIRMARY.—This excellent establishment, founded for the benefit of the working classes, and which contains 220 beds, will be re-opened for the reception of patients on the 18th inst. The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishops of London and Winchester, Earl Shaftesbury, and the Lord Mayor, are exerting all their influence to increase its funds and enlarge its sphere of operations.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted Members of the College at the meeting of the Court of Examiners on the 29th ult.:—

ATKINSON, HUMPHRY JOHN GILLET, Dublin.
COLLINS, EDWARD STEPHENS, Sherborne, Dorset.
HARRISON, WILLIAM, Gargrave, Yorkshire.
HILL, MARCUS GEORGE, Chelsea.
HUMPHRY, FREDERICK ABELL, Balham-hill.
JONES, JOHN, Ruthin, Denbighshire.
KAYE, WILLIAM, Knaresborough, Yorkshire.
LAW, JOHN ROBERT, London-fields, Hackney.
MARLEY, HENRY FREDERICK, Port Isaac, Cornwall.
PROCTOR, HERBERT EADY, Brackley, Northamptonshire.

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

Thursday, April 28th, 1853.

BRADY, GEORGE STEWARDSON, Gateshead.
HALL, FRANCIS RUSSELL, Fulhouse, Cambridgeshire.
IRELAND, JAMES, Provost-street, Hoxton.
LANGHAM, JOHN PHILLIPSON, Forest of Dean.
MOORE, EDWIN.
SEARLE, RICHARD BURFORD, Bridport, Dorset.
SMITH, JOHN, Wheatley, Oxon.
SUMMERS, EUSTACE CAREY, Rothbury, Northumberland.
SWALES, EDWARD, Helmsley, Yorkshire.

UNIVERSITY AND KING’S COLLEGE, ABERDEEN.—At the April graduation at this University, the degree of M.D., was conferred on the following gentlemen, who were examined in the various branches of medicine, and found duly qualified:—

CROOK, JOHN E., (Middlesex,) Northfleet, Kent.
CULBURN, JOHN C., Elgin.
HODGES, RICHARD, Rochford, Essex.
LEAKE, JOHN, (Clare,) London.
MITCHELSON, GEORGE F., (Sussex,) London.
NICHOL, ROBERT, Kent.

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.—DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.—On Wednesday last the annual distribution of prizes to the students in the various departments of this hospital took place in the New Museum. The Bishop of Oxford presided.

Dr. GOODFELLOW presented a report, which stated that upon such occasions it had been the usual practice to make some remarks on the present state of the school and its future prospects. The professors had it in their power to state that the school was never in a more prosperous condition, and the pupils never more distinguished for intelligence, general good conduct, and close attention to their studies. The prizes had never been more severely contested, nor more deservedly won. There had never been exhibited more talent or industry on the part of the professors. The professors were very anxious to see the collegiate system established, and they felt convinced that the governors would adopt their suggestions so soon as circumstances admitted. (Hear, hear.) During the past year Mr. Plowden had placed an assistant-surgeonship, in connexion with the East India Company, at the disposal of the governors, and it had been conferred on Mr. W. H. Rean, who in past years had carried off the highest honours the hospital had it in its power to bestow. (Hear, hear.)

The Bishop of OXFORD then awarded the prizes according to the following order:—*Medicine:* (Dr. Crawford and Dr. Thompson.) Prize, Mr. Joseph Burn, London; Certificate, Mr. Edward Vernon, London; Mr. William Lucy, London.—*Surgery:* (Mr. Shaw.) Prize, Mr. Henry Cooper Rose, Canterbury; Certificate, Mr. Robert Hall Bakewell, Waltham Abbey.—*Physiology:* (Mr. De Morgan.) 1st Prize, Mr. Robert Hall Bakewell, Waltham Abbey; 2nd Prize, Mr. Horatio Edsall, Truro. Certificate, Mr. Joseph Burn, London.—*Anatomy:* (Mr. Moore.) Prize, Mr. Henry Cooper Rose, Canterbury. Certificate, Mr. Edwin Stephens Collins, Sherborne; Mr. Charles Hemming, Kimbolton; Mr. Lewis Stanhope Bruce, Twickenham; Mr. Robert Hall Bakewell, Waltham Abbey; Mr. Lloyd Herbert, St. Mary Bourne.—*Practical Anatomy:* (Mr. Nunn and Dr. Van der Byl.) Prize: Mr. Lewis Stanhope Bruce, Twickenham. Certificate, Mr. Henry Cooper Rose, Canterbury; Mr. Robert Hall Bakewell, Waltham Abbey. *Æq.:* Mr. Lloyd Herbert, St. Mary Bourne; Mr. Charles Hemming, Kimbolton; Mr. Henry Frederick Marley, London; Mr. Joshua Plaskett, Louth.—*Chemistry:* (Mr. Taylor and Mr. Heisch.) Prize, Mr. Francis Winter Clerk, London. Certificate, Mr. Horatio Edsall, Truro.—*Practical Chemistry:* Prize, Mr. Charles Hemming, Kimbolton.—*Midwifery:* (Dr. Frere.) Prize, Mr. Lloyd Herbert, St. Mary