SCOTCH DUBS NOT ALL SCOTCH MEN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Though far from wishing to throw a veil over the vices of my countrymen, I am still anxious the public should be aware, that James Johnstone, editor of the *late* Quarterly Journal, although an “Aberdeen dub,” is not a Scotchman, but a child of the Emerald isle.

However infamous in many respects the dub system may be, and however fortunate it be that THE LANCET is employed for its amendment, it is but fair, Mr. Editor, that you give a true account of the extraction and education of the worthy members of this *Dub Association*. Now James Johnson is a native of Carrickfergus; he has all the characteristic features of the Hibernian race. Any of your readers who may wish to examine his phrenological development, may find an opportunity any evening in the shop of Burgess and Hill, where they will find him encircled by innumerable unsold copies of the “bundles of trash,” and of his *dispeptic* volumes.

SAWNEY.

March 6th, 1829.

DELINQUENCIES OF PUPILS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As I look upon you to be censor-general to the profession, and as you have particularly exerted yourself for the welfare of medical students, I do not think it necessary to make any apology for introducing the following subject to your notice. Your strictures on public characters, and, amongst the rest, on public teachers, have been by no means deficient, either in frequency or severity; and, I trust, that you will not hesitate to exercise the same authority and salutary castigation, towards *pupils*, when you are made acquainted with their delinquencies. Not a few evils have sprung up, and are fostered with wanton inconsiderateness among them; but the one which it is now my object to place before your judicial attention, is the practice of *interrupting our lecturers* in the midst of their duties. This they regularly do without any regard to good feeling, decorum, or self-interest. They inflict by it a direct injury on the lecturer, their fellow-students, and themselves. There needs no argument to prove this. Even those who, with childish mischief, indulge in the habit to which I allude, must, if they do not find it too much trouble to reflect at all, immediately be convinced of its truth. It would, perhaps, evince too much credulity to suppose they would acknowledge their conviction. Those

gentlemen would do well to remember, that they have ceased to be boys; and, further, that they have entered a profession which boasts of its good discipline, honourable behaviour, and liberal manners. Their present conduct intimates that they have forgotten these things, and they seem blindly unaware, that the part they are now daily acting is arbitrary, ungentlemanly, and altogether unwarrantable.

I make this protest for myself and fellow-pupils, and it may not be amiss to assert, that no lecturer has the slightest knowledge of what I now do.

A BARTHOLOMEW PUPIL.

Feb. 25th, 1829.

BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.—THE CERTIFICATE TRADE.

For a considerable time past the demonstrator, and the pupils who are regular in their attendance, have been very much disturbed and annoyed, by *stragglers* entering the theatre of this hospital, during the demonstrations, at intervals of every few minutes, and sometimes until within even *five minutes* of the hour of breaking up.

Mr. Skey, on Wednesday morning, felt it his duty publicly to notice this nuisance. “He believed, that at most, if not at all, the schools throughout London, as well as this, there were such things as certificates, and that those *things* were considered by a great many, as merely *things of form*,—*matters of course*. He was sorry to add, that hitherto the *form* had proved victorious. Many gentlemen had come to him for certificates who he knew perfectly well had very rarely, if ever, heard a demonstration. By the *irregular* attendance too of those who were a little more in the habit of making their appearance, not only was he very inconveniently interrupted, so as, at one time, not to have had the opportunity of demonstrating for a full hour, but such gentlemen as were anxious to acquire a knowledge of their profession, and were punctual to the hour, were insufferably annoyed. Under these circumstances, however painful it was to him to complain, he begged the class to take notice that certificates of attendance should not, as far as regarded himself *in future*, be matters of ‘*form and of course*,’ and that the late system of irregularity should not be permitted to proceed, if even, to put a stop to it, recourse were to be had of shutting the doors at a given period every morning.”

These observations might fall very seasonably from the lips of the anatomical lecturer as well as from Mr. Skey; and as far as punctuality to the hour is concerned, why not adopt the college rule of shutting the doors at the moment the clock strikes?