this corridor, thereby maintaining a kind of hospital atmosphere in the latter place, but there will also be an interchange of atmosphere through ten wards; and thus a comparatively sweet ward may be readily polluted by an adjoining foul room; so that if pyæmia or hospital gangrene should prevail in one ward, there are no means, as at Bordeaux, of localizing the mischief, and preventing its spread to the whole number of one thousand inmates.

But as I have pointed out some of the glaring defects of this national undertaking in a letter addressed to the editor of the *Salisbury Journal* (published Feb. 21st, 1857), I will not trespass any longer on your valuable pages, but would again urge you and your readers, as patriots, to enter their protest against the clumsy, unscientific, unhealthy arrangement of the wards, &c., of the Royal Hospital at Netley.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
Berners-street, March, 1857. GEORGE CORFE, M.D.

NAVAL ASSISTANT SURGEONS.

THE PROPOSED TESTIMONIAL TO DR. M'WILLIAM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Assuming that your pages are not exclusively devoted to questions of a scientific character, I ask the indulgence of a small space, to refer to an instance in which I believe the intention of granting a testimonial is as misdirected as it is injudicious. It is now publicly known that Dr. M'William is to be the recipient of a testimonial for the services which he is stated to have rendered in the memorable cause of the naval assistant-surgeons. All who are acquainted with Dr. M'William concur in the opinion that his zeal in that struggle was unabating, and that his aid proportionably contributed to the successful result; but I maintain that the selection of that gentleman for special distinction reflects on the discrimination and good sense of the naval medical officers.

The time, I fear, has passed for a graceful recognition of the pre-eminent services of their persevering advocate, Colonel Boldero, to whom the profession is deeply indebted, not only for the triumph which crowned his appeals, but for the remarkable disinterestedness of his devotion. The position of Colonel Boldero perhaps precluded his acceptance of a substantial testimonial, but up to this period he has not received the thanks which are usually accorded for services such as he has rendered; nevertheless his name must for ever be associated, and rank high in the annals of our profession, with those who have assisted to elevate its dignity and remedy its wrongs.

Taking it for granted, then, that the acknowledgment of Colonel Boldero's successful advocacy should have borne some form of appreciation from civil as well as naval medical men, I regret that the latter section should equally have disacknowledged the labours of their brethren throughout the kingdom. The exertions of individuals, and the general interest manifested by the members and students, as well as the medical profession at large, aided by the powerful assistance of THE LANCET, merit the attention of those who are about to elevate Dr. M'William to the position of a champion.

It seems to me that where there are so many to whom honour is justly, and perhaps equally, due, it would be more becoming to perpetuate the sense of the assistant-surgeons' gratitude by the donation of the sum subscribed to the school of the Medical Benevolent College, where the interest of the money, if it should be sufficient, might be applied to the establishment of a scholarship, or in any other way, by which it shall be recorded that the assistant-surgeons of the navy were released from the influence of prejudice and oppression by the co-operation and determination displayed by members of their profession.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
March, 1857. M.D.

THE TAMPING-BAR.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My attention has been called to a letter in your number for March 21st, signed "Vox," (it would be unpolite to say *et præterea nihil*;) in which the writer takes me to task about the use of the tamping-bar. I stand corrected accordingly; but I beg to assure him I am old enough to have seen the needle used in quarry work, though not in mines. Moreover, my description of the needle, &c., was taken from Dr. Paris's own paper in the "Transactions of the Geological

Society of Cornwall;" but my object was not to cavil about methods, but to recommend the tamping-bar to be made of different materials from iron, as Dr. Paris and Mr. Williams had suggested; for even the "patent safety" is liable to accidents by the fuse being cut in tamping, of which we have constant proofs in the numerous accidents which occur, and which lead to weekly applications at our Eye Infirmary. There is a poor fellow at present in the house, who was blown up about nine months since at the Parr Consols Mine, who has lost one arm and both eyes, leaving about a quarter of the cornea clear in the right eye, where we hope to derive benefit from an artificial pupil. His companion was killed. I shall be only too rejoiced if "Vox's" criticism should lead to greater attention being paid to the subject.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
Plymouth, March, 1857. EDW. MOORE, M.D.

LIQUOR PEPTICUS AND PEPSINE (SO CALLED).

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Several fellow-readers of THE LANCET and others have written to me, asking if the *liquor pepticus preparatus*, or *liquor pepsinæ preparatus*, as so named indifferently by me, is made from artificial pepsine. I beg to say to the profession, as a body, that it is not so made; but consists, as I suggested, of a durable antiseptic fluid, wherein are preserved all the essential ingredients of the gastric juice—the mere ordinary animal matters, common to all tissues, being alone excluded as much as possible. I prefer the first name of *liquor pepticus* as being least theoretical.

I am, Sir, yours very faithfully,
Birmingham, March, 1857. DAVID NELSON, M.D. Edin.

Medical News.

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 27th ult.:—

BEER, JAMES JOHN, Deal.
BLACKALL, JOHN GEORGE, Exeter.
CROOME, WILLIAM, Army.
GOODALL, RALPH, Leabridge, Newcastle, Staffordshire.
JONES, THOMAS, Pencoyd, Herefordshire.
KNAGGS, HENRY, Huddersfield.
REES, HUGH, Carnarvon.
SPRAKELING, ROBERT JOHN, Canterbury.
TATHAM, JOHN, Burton-in-Lonsdale, Yorkshire.
WALLIS, GEORGE, Cambridge.
WHITEFIELD, ARTHUR, Barnstaple, Devon.

The following gentlemen were admitted members on the 30th ult.:—

ARDAGH, ARTHUR, Barrie, Canada West.
BAKER, WILLIAM LANGWORTHY, Newton Abbot, Devon.
BARNES, JAMES HINDMARSH, Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital.
BLUCKE, ROBERT DANIEL, Brighton.
BULLMORE, WILLIAM KING, Falmouth.
HETHERINGTON, JOSEPH, Lamplough Hall, Cumberland.
LITTLEWOOD, JOSEPH, Hampole, Doncaster.
WARD, ISAAC DUNLIN, Clifton, near York.

[In the Pass-list of the 25th ultimo, published in last week's number, for Ward, William, Liddington, Gloucestershire, read Wood, William, Siddington, Gloucestershire.]

THE COLLEGE LECTURES.—Professor Busk brings his interesting course of lectures to a close this day (Saturday), and will be succeeded on Tuesday, the 7th inst., by Professor Quekett, who will deliver twelve lectures on "The Structure of the Skeleton of Plants and Invertebrate Animals."

PARLIAMENTARY NEWS.—Several correspondents have expressed their gratification that the great opponent of naval medical reform, Admiral Berkeley, the senior Lord of the Admiralty, has been signally defeated in his attempt again to occupy a seat in the House of Commons.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—This evening (Saturday) a paper will be read by Dr. Willshire, on "Some Points connected with the Propagation and Treatment of Tania."