white after the eye trouble had set in. These cases are certainly rare and it has been stated that the whiteness of the eyelashes is a mere coincidence. This I do not believe and I think that the neurotic origin of the blanching in these cases is supported by evidence derived from comparative pathology. Mr. Beddard in his book on "Animal Coloration" writes (pp. 19-20): "There is certainly evidence that coloration has some relation to the distribution of the underlying nerves. Mr. Allen has stated that the white marks on the head of the tiger correspond to the area of distribution of the infra-orbital nerves. The nerves terminate in or near the skin, and it is clear that there must be some connexion between nerve-supply and coloration from the fact that in a hedgehog whose spines were white the nerves in connexion with the muscles for contraction of the skin were greatly diseased. There are plenty of other pathological facts of a like nature."

Another question follows—What nerves are implicated when blanching of the hair occurs? Do they belong to the sympathetic or to the cerebro-spinal system? In favour of the former we have Pouchet's experiments quoted by Professor Semper in his book "Animal Life," p. 96. These experiments proved that the changes already observed by Lord Lister (then Mr. Lister), and alluded to by Dr. Jones, were brought about through the agencies of the optic and the sympathetic nerves. I fully agree with Dr. Jones that "the influence of nervous changes upon the hair has not been fully worked out."

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Londonderry, March 3rd, 1902. E. DONALDSON.

THE UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM AND THE MEDICAL CURRICULUM.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In your account of the proceedings of the recent special session of the General Medical Council you quote from the Confidential Report of the Special Committee on the Curriculum (February, 1902). I beg to inform you that Paragraph VI. of the Recommendations of the Committee, viz.: "That the University of Durham, by recognising all the courses of study which are recognised by all the licensing bodies in Schedule A of the Medical Act, 1858, accepts many courses of study in the subjects of physics, chemistry, and biology which have been recognised by the Con-joint Board of England, but have not been approved by the Medical Council," &c., was drawn up on imperfect information, and that for the last five years the University of Durham has only accepted instruction in chemistry, physics, and biology received at the following institutions:—(a) The recognised medical schools in Great Britain and Ireland; (b) the Durham College of Science, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and the other university colleges in the kingdom. The report of the committee was therefore amended, before being presented to and adopted by the Council, by Paragraph VI. of the Recommendations of the Committee being completely withdrawn and the University of Durham placed on the list of the examining bodies which conformed to the General Medical Council's requirements.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
GEORGE HARE PHILIPSON,
Representative of the University of Durham on the
March 3rd, 1902. General Medical Council.

* * Sir George Philipson will see that although we published the Recommendations of the Special Committee as they were originally drawn up we also stated that the reference to the University of Durham was deleted.—ED. L.

"WHAT'S WHAT?"

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I regret to trouble you again concerning "What's What" and the references to London medical men in its Appendix, but your article on "Publicity for Medical Men in the Lay Press" in THE LANCET of March 1st, p. 604, and the correspondence which you publish between Sir Anderson Critchett and myself at p. 618 in the same number leave me no alternative.

First, I beg to inform you that the letter which I wrote to Sir Anderson Critchett was intended to be private, that I gave him no authority to publish it, and that I consider his doing

so (without any permission from or notice to myself) to be simply unjustifiable.

Next, Sirs, I beg to inform you that whatever paragraphs may or may not be withdrawn from the future editions of "What's What" you are mistaken in saying that I have already withdrawn those which have been lately in question. What alteration I may make in the future remains to be seen. At present my action is purely confined to the expression of regret that any words of mine should have caused personal annoyance to those members of the medical profession to whom they refer and a specific promise to certain gentlemen that I will omit their names from any future edition. I do not in the least admit or consider that I have written anything to which exception could reasonably be taken or that there is a single word in the paragraphs in question for which any apology is necessary. The whole point of the matter lies in the fact that advertisement is so common nowadays that professional men are morbidly sensitive to even the breath of a suspicion that they can be guilty thereof, and that, as I have realised, from the letters written to me by them, the extent of this morbid sensitiveness, I have thought it courteous and desirable to inform them that I am sorry that it should have been aroused by my action.

To return, Sirs, to your article. I hope that you will allow me to deny, in the strongest manner, that I desired "to do some persons a good turn by lauding them at large." I desired nothing of the kind. I had not the remotest idea of doing these persons—these surgeons and doctors—a good turn by lauding them. Not one of them is a personal friend, several of them I have never seen, and my only connexion with them has been that which I stated, when I said that I had had actual experience (either in my own person or in those of relations and intimate friends) of their capacity and skill.

I should have wished, Sirs, to answer the subsequent arguments in your article, which deal with the main point at issue—the only one with which the public has any real concern; but to do so would be to occupy your space to a greater extent than you would probably desire or permit; and I will therefore publish my reply in another medium. I think that there will be no difficulty in showing that the balance of advantage to the public lies in publicity and not in secrecy; that the only persons who have anything to fear from the former are the incompetent and fraudulent; and that both the medical man and his clients have everything to gain by being brought into direct communication with one another. At present you will observe that, by your own admission, the medical and *quasi*-medical men who are recommended to the public are the less desirable members of the profession, a fact which in itself goes far to prove the desirability of some alteration.

With apologies for the length of this letter, the last with which I propose to trouble you,

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Manchester-square, W., March 4th, 1902. HARRY QUILTER.

* * We do not see how Sir Anderson Critchett could guess that Mr. Quilter meant his letter to be private, nor can we understand why Mr. Quilter should resent its publication, especially in view of the publication by other medical men of his correspondence with them.—ED. L.

THE MIDWIVES BILL.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Referring to your leading article on "The Midwives Bill" in THE LANCET of March 1st, p. 606, there was only one way to avoid the errors which you deplore and that was by introducing a "nursing Bill" at the commencement of the session, and I need not remind your readers that the whole of the candidates for Direct Representation on the General Medical Council last autumn pledged themselves to do so, and I need hardly say that they have failed to do so. The material for such a Bill was in their hands and Parliament must have given it their attention, but there being nothing before the House but the Registration Bill it was naturally taken for granted that the Bill in question had the general approval of the profession. Nor need the General Medical Council complain. The Council was warned both before and at the date of the election that "the Privy Council would make short work of their recommendations," and so it has happened, and in the new Midwives Board the Council will have a powerful rival. That is why I did my best to impress this fact on the candidates.