the success of the cramming process, a staff assistant-surgeon lately arrived from Netley mentioned to me recently the case of a gentleman who went up for the army medical profession at the same time that he did, and was rejected by the civil examiners at Chelsea. He went up a second time (at the expiry of six months) with no better success, so he paid his £15 and placed himself in the hands of a 'crammer,' who in three months not only enabled him to pass, but brought him out seventh from the top of the roll of about thirty; and he is now in the Indian Medical Department, having thought it expedient to place his name on the list for that branch of the public service on making his third attempt, his name having twice figured amongst the candidates for the British army."

The following appears in a footnote on the same page as the above:—

"In stating that the competitive system is chiefly one of memory, I am aware that each candidate after passing the examination at Chelsea is taken to University College Hospital, and required to write out an account of one of the cases of disease at the time under treatment in the wards. From what I have heard, however, of the manner in which this practical test is conducted, I have not been impressed with the belief that it is any reliable mode of estimating the practical attainments, inasmuch as, receiving as they do information from the patients respecting what their medical attendants consider their ailments to be, the writing out of a description of any particular disease, and the routine mode in which it should be treated, is to candidates—crowded as they at the time are with theoretical knowledge—a mere effort of memory and exercise in English composition. As regards the surgical test, every successful Chelsea candidate is called upon to perform one or two operations upon the dead body. The most recent arrival from England with whom I have conversed was made to amputate the little toe and excise an eyeball; the latter being about the most unlikely operation that a military surgeon has the prospect of ever being called on to perform."

THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON AND MR. I. B. BROWN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—We are directed by the Council of the Medical Society of London to state that, at a meeting of the Council held on the 24th instant, the resignation of Mr. I. B. Brown of the Fellowship of the Society, laid before the Council on April 5th, was unanimously accepted.

We are further directed to state, in order to remove certain misrepresentations, that the deferring of the acceptance of this resignation from the previous Council arose from the facts,—that some of the councillors felt they had not at the moment a sufficient knowledge of the reasons and circumstances which had led to the resignation, and that on a question of such importance it was essential to have a unanimous expression of opinion on the part of the Council.

We are, Sir, your obedient servants,

ABBOTTS SMITH,
WALTER J. COULSON, } *Hon. Secs.*

April, 1867.

THE SILICATED CARBON FILTER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—We have to thank you for your courtesy in inserting our letter of the 28th ult. respecting the Silicated Carbon Filter, and will only trouble you with one or two observations in reply to your remarks upon it. There is evidently no real discrepancy between the report of your Commissioners and that of the chemist employed by us, as to the efficacy of this filter in removing organic matter; and the circumstance that water mixed with a large proportion of milk was delivered clear and bright, proves that in this respect the filter is as nearly perfect as possible.

The fact of some dissolved chalk being still found in the water, after standing for some time in the filter, may, as suggested by your Commissioners, be due to the cement used in fastening the filtering-slab; and with a view to remedying this we shall in future make use of a cement for this purpose which will be perfectly free from lime.

In saying that "rapidity of filtration must depend to a great extent on the length of time during which a filter has been in operation," we simply meant to imply that after a lengthened

period of filtration a large deposit of impurity must necessarily collect on the surface of the filtering medium, and that until that is cleared away (which can easily be done by brushing and washing) the action of the filter must be impeded. The fact of this impurity collecting shows that the filter has done the work required of it—viz., the purification of the water, and we do not believe that any filter exists which will produce that result without requiring periodical cleansings.

We are, Sir, your obedient servants,

THE SILICATED CARBON FILTER COMPANY.

Battersea, April 20th, 1867.

A CASE OF DISTRESS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—We beg leave to recommend the distressing case of a surgeon to your notice, as being one especially deserving the sympathy and support of the profession. By his appeal (which we enclose) you will see that, independent of pecuniary losses (over which he had no control) he has also lost the sight of one eye, and partially that of the other. Having a young family to support, his position is rendered most painful.

The Medical Benevolent Fund Committee, having investigated his case, have made him a grant, which we trust may be augmented by the profession generally.

We remain, Sir, yours truly,

C. J. B. WILLIAMS, M.D.

CHARLES J. HARE, M.D.

S. O. HABERSHON, M.D.

ADAM BEALEY, M.D.

April, 1867.

Subscriptions will be received by the Rev. W. B. Mackenzie, M.A., incumbent of St. James, Holloway, 19, Canonbury-park North, Islington; and Dr. Charles J. Hare, 41, Brook-street, W.

VIVISECTION.

THE following protest against vivisection has been issued by the Edinburgh veterinarians:—

"We, the Court of Examiners for Scotland of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, desire to express our opinion that the performance of operations on living animals is altogether unnecessary and useless for the purpose of causation:—

"JAMES SYME, Chairman.

"JAMES DUNSMURE, M.D., P.R.C.S.E.

"J. WARBURTON BEGBIE, M.D.

"JOHN LAWSON, President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

"R. CARTLEDGE, M.R.C.V.S., Consulting Member of Council.

"WILLIAM COCKBURN, M.R.C.V.S.

"WILLIAM ROBERTSON, M.R.C.V.S.

"CHARLES SECKER, M.R.C.V.S.

"JAMES COWIE, M.R.C.V.S."

"I fully concur in the above.

"WILLIAM WILKINSON, Principal Veterinary Surgeon to the Forces."

P A R I S.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

AMONG the hospitals of Paris there are two which are especially worthy of the notice of medical strangers on a visit to this city. I mean the Hôpital St. Louis and the Hôpital des Enfants Malades. Of course there is much to be seen and learned in other hospitals; and it is almost superfluous to say that the medical stranger cannot think of going through Paris without becoming acquainted with the Hôtel Dieu—that venerable edifice which, from its antiquity and almost legendary history, has acquired a world-wide reputation,—the Charité, the Pitié, Lariboisière, &c. &c. They must be visited, and frequently too, not only on account of the medical celebrities who are attached to these places, and whose practice can there only be witnessed and studied, but because of the interest which the buildings present in themselves, either in a sanitary point of view, or as linked with the memories of the past and the history of medical literature. But acquaintance with the two which I first mentioned should, I think, be sedulously cultivated, because they combine advantages which are not to be easily found elsewhere; and I should advise