at the Westminster Hospital, and which was described by Mr. White as simulating the outcries of maniacs rather than of sane persons, Mr. THOS. WM. WALSH says, that many of the Governors whom the students "*knew* to be unfavourable to the cause of Sir A. Carlisle, entered unmolested," and as regards the Governor who *was* molested, no attempt was, to "his certain knowledge," made, or even thought of, to throw him *over "the bannisters."* Respecting the attendance of the molested Governor at the Board-room to vote for mercy towards the youths, Mr. Thos. Wm. Walsh remarks that the gentleman in question had not been sufficiently long a Governor "to possess a vote." The word *vote*, therefore, in THE LANCET should have been written *plead*. He also considers that the subsequent speech of the Governor did not indicate "leniency" to the molesters. Mr. Thos. Wm. Walsh also favours us with a copy of the "apology, or rather explanation" which he, as one of "the two most active" of the molesters, forwarded to the Board, when the punishment of expulsion was threatened, lest the wrong should be thought to have been too amply amended. In this letter he expresses his "extreme regret" that he should have received a notice signifying the chairman's "condemnation of his conduct;" assures the chairman that "nothing was further from his intention than offering any insult to the Governors," and "acknowledges that it was most indiscreet to demonstrate any public mark of disapprobation within the walls of the hospital." Mr. Thos. Wm. Walsh distinctly denies that any "meeting was held" at which it was agreed to assault one of the Governors; but he does not explain by what other species of preliminary connivance it was arranged to molest one particular Governor, and allow the others to pass "unmolested." On the subject of the police-officer, Mr. Thos. Wm. Walsh mends the statement in the report, by saying that "the fact is that after the Committee had dissolved, the *assaulted Governor*, on appearing outside the hospital, "being greeted with marks of disapprobation similar to those which he had previously received, called to a policeman, who "declined interfering in the matter, but "suffered the students *to continue their expressions of indignation.*"

After this confession of Mr. WALSH that he was one of the party who so grossly mis-

conducted themselves,—and for an additional confirmation of whose proceedings, as reported in THE LANCET, we may refer to the statement of Mr. HARRISON at page 773 of this week's Number, we must beg Mr. WALSH not to put himself to the trouble of any further correspondence on the subject.

MEDICAL REFORM.—SPECIMEN PETITION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—As on all hands it is admitted, that the time has arrived when Petitions should be poured in from all quarters to Parliament, in favour of Medical Reform, I beg to suggest the following as a specimen of the kind of Petition that would be most useful to the cause, and most satisfactory to the Member who may be requested to present it. It may be as well to state, that thousands of Petitions may be presented to the House of Commons, all expressed in the same words, each drawn out on foolscap paper. I am, Sir, your most obliged,

WM. SIMPSON.

110, Guildford-street, Feb. 6, 1840.

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled;

The Petition of, &c.

HUMBLY SHEWETH,—That your Petitioner* is a legally qualified medical practitioner, residing in

That your Petitioner deploras that many anomalies exist in the medical institutions of the United Kingdom, and daily observes Her Majesty's subjects injured by defects in the present constitution of the licensing bodies, particularly as regards the prevention of ignorant and uneducated persons from practising medicine, surgery, midwifery, and pharmacy:

That it is the opinion of your Petitioner, that a SINGLE REPRESENTATIVE CORPORATION, or FACULTY OF MEDICINE, ought to be established in each capital of England, Scotland, and Ireland, in the controul of which all individuals licensed to practise the various branches of the medical profession should possess equal rights:

Your Petitioner, therefore, entreats your Honourable House to take the subject of medical reform into its earnest consideration, give its assent to a Bill for the consolidation of the Medical Profession into One Faculty of Medicine, having full power to regulate the government of the whole body,

* The form, by altering the numbers and tenses, will suit more than one petitioner.

being enabled to form regulations for the admission of members to practise medicine, conferring equal rights and privileges upon all its members, and encouraging the attainment of professional eminence only through the possession of medical knowledge, and the personal qualities of talent, industry, and perseverance:

And your Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

ARSENIC IN CHOREA.

Dr. REESE recommends, in the following terms, the employment of arsenic, as a remedy in cases of chorea:—

These results of experience have led me successively to test the comparative merits of various other remedies which have been reported as successful, as the rubigo ferri, cuprum ammoniacum, sulphate and flowers of zinc, oxide of bismuth, camphor, electricity, nitrate of silver, &c.; and, after very considerable opportunities, I have learned to rely upon the tonic powers of arsenic in preference to any and all other medicines of this class, and have never known it to fail in effecting a radical and permanent cure. I feel great confidence in recommending it to the profession in all those cases in which the tonic plan is decided upon, either with or without preliminary medication. The arseniate of potash, as existing in the formula of Fowler's solution, is the preferable mode of exhibition, and its dose should be graduated according to the ability of the stomach to receive it without nausea. In the most numerous subjects, varying from seven to sixteen years of age, six or eight drops should be given night and morning, gradually increasing its dose and frequency. Adults may take ten drops, increasing to fifteen, and even twenty, three times a day, and in all cases it should be persevered in for a week or more after all the spasmodic symptoms have disappeared. The only unpleasant effects are nausea or vomiting, if the dose be too large, and occasionally a tumefaction of the head and face if too long persisted in. On either of these effects being produced the medicine should be discontinued for a few days, and then resumed in a diminished dose.

With these precautions I have, for a number of years, employed this remedy in over two hundred cases of chorea, without ever having witnessed any of the untoward results upon the constitution, said to follow the exhibition of arsenical preparations. So far from any of the sequelæ occurring which are apprehended by the alarmists, my patients have, under its use, not only recovered from chorea, but many of them seem to have since acquired vigorous constitutions and improved health. I have used it in infancy,

in delicate females during pregnancy, and under circumstances supposed to forbid its employment by many, and I have never once seen cause to regret its exhibition.—*New York Quarterly Journ. of Med.* No. 2.

IMPERFECT EXTRACT OF HEMLOCK.

THE uncertainty of the extract of hemlock may be shown by an easy experiment. The conine, which in the process of decomposition is partly resolved into ammonia, is in this preparation always, according to Professor Geiger, more or less deficient, and often entirely absent; and to prove that this decomposition has taken place, it is only necessary to add some water of caustic potash, when the ammonia may be distinguished by the odour, and by holding over it a rod dipped in muriatic acid, whereupon the fumes formed by the muriate of ammonia are rendered visible. This experiment has shown ammonia in every specimen of the extract in which I tried it.—*Dr. Osborne. Dublin Journ.* Jan. 1840.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The following communications, amongst others, have reached us:—

R. on Parochial Medical Attendance.

A Physician, (Birmingham), on Vaccination.

The "Fifth Sheet of Additional Testimonials" in favour of Dr. Evory Kennedy.

Observations on "The Present System of Education."

Mr. Torbock's letter on the Speech of Dr. Brown, at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The 25th and 26th "Reports of the Glasgow Royal Asylum for Lunatics."

A Pupil of St. Thomas's on the Sedative Treatment after the Operation for Hernia.

The letters dated from the library of the London College of Surgeons.

Medicus, on the Grievance of Naval Surgeons.

The letter of *Dr. Healey* on the Ennis Medical Reform Petition.

Nemo.—It is impossible to say what is likely; but although the feelings of the Commissioners may be opposed to a liberal arrangement, it is probable that some more reasonable plan will be adopted than is at present in operation, when the matter is re-discussed.

The cases of *Dr. Lanyon* and *Mr. H. Smith*, next week.

We have found even an abstract of the letter of *Sir Charles Scudamore*, forwarded to us last week, on Inhalation in Pulmonary Disease, too long for insertion in the present number of *THE LANCET*; but room for it may offer in the next.