with this recommendation, which delays in the publication of many recent works that have been issued in parts renders as rare as it is desirable, that "the plates being all ready engraved, the greatest regularity can be ensured in the appearance of the work, monthly, until completed." When the work was first issued we were enabled to say, that the plates were "the best of the kind that we had ever seen," and they still preserve their claims, if not now unrivalled, on the attention of students of anatomy.

PROCEEDINGS AT THE SHREWSBURY INFIRMARY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—A Shrewsbury journal which I have seen this week, and forward to you, contains a Report of some very serious Medical Broils at the Salop Infirmary. I agree with the Directors and the talented editor of the "Shrewsbury News" that the disputes in question are neither creditable to the temper nor discretion of the parties; and that they *must* be suppressed, as they are highly injurious to the interests of the institution; but I cannot admit that the unintelligible Mr. DICKIN was entirely free from blame, or that the harsh, extreme measure, of dismissing Dr. JOHNSON, is justified by the evidence. I shall be much mistaken if the Trustees at the general meeting suffer themselves to be misled by Sir BALDWIN LEIGHTON, who appears, like many men of little mind, to have availed himself of the occasion to wreak a personal vengeance upon Dr. JOHNSON, under a public colour. Dr. JOHNSON has obstructed the Baronet in his projects of starvation. Several of the experiments at the Aitcham workhouse have, in consequence, failed; and a greater number of the aged, sickly, and infirm poor have survived than was anticipated. The Union and the credit of the Board of Guardians have suffered some one or two per cent.

The proposition for excluding all except the medical officers from the wards of the infirmary, is monstrous. Do not the Trustees desire that an institution, supported by the principal people of the county, should be as useful as possible,—that it should be useful in extending medical science, and that their medical attendants, who do not happen to be officers, should profit by the experience of the infirmary, and thus be able to treat the higher classes, as well as the poor, more skilfully? Why should the practice of a public institution be carried on privately? Should not the Directors rather desire the presence of skilful judges? Would not the criticism and supervision of

rivals be advantageous to the patients? The medical officers will probably move an amendment to this narrow resolution; for I feel well assured that so judicious a practitioner as Mr. BURD would rather challenge than shun publicity. All the medical men of the county have a right to be present at operations; they may enforce this right in the name of the public and of the sick.

If free admission be conceded to all, the medical officers have a right to expect to be treated with courtesy, and a due consideration for the difficulties which inevitably occur in every surgeon's practice. Ill-natured criticisms should not be indulged; and no unfair advantage should be taken of accidental, but rare, errors. A surgeon of Mr. CLEMENT's celebrity may assuredly rest satisfied with the legitimate game that falls in his way, without prowling the wards of the Salop Infirmary, marking the victims of his knife, and kidnapping patients, in the name of humanity and surgery. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

August 28, 1839.

MISSTATEMENTS RESPECTING DR. MANTELL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—A very erroneous account of Dr. Mantell's professional career having appeared in the anonymous work called "Physic and Physicians," you would greatly oblige me, and many of Dr. M.'s friends, if you will allow me to state, that the notice of Dr. M.'s researches which appeared in your Journal of June last is in every respect correct. The statements of the author of "Physic and Physicians," that Dr. M. was apprenticed to, and patronised by, a chemist; that he formed his museum at Brighton under the auspices of Lord Egremont; that he left Lewes in consequence of domestic trials, and that he never enjoyed "a decent share of practice" in consequence of the prejudice entertained against him from his scientific reputation, are all false, as any one at all acquainted with Dr. Mantell's career could testify. I would refer the anonymous author to the Doctor's own allusion to his professional success ("Wonders of Geology," vol. ii., p. 794), in proof of the serious error into which he has fallen, and which, as it affects Dr. Mantell's professional character, ought to be immediately contradicted.

I am willing to acquit the author of any intentional error, but surely it is most unjustifiable thus to trifle with the character of a medical man. I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

G. F. RICHARDSON.

British Museum, Aug. 20, 1839.