be not supported by substantial *reasons*, and these reasons can only be deduced from a correct and ample compilation of *facts*, which, unfortunately, exist in such profusion where the new law has been carried into effect.

These considerations will, we trust, induce our professional brethren, residing in those parts of the kingdom already under the operation of the Poor-law Amendment Act, to supply us largely with answers to the subjoined queries. By so doing, the labours of this committee will be rendered more efficient, and it is hoped that, in consequence, a more suitable, a more just, and a more humane system of parochial medical relief will be adopted. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. W. RUMSEY,
Secretary to the Committee.
Chesham, Bucks, Oct. 26, 1835.

The subjoined questions are addressed to individual country practitioners.

1. What has been the mode of appointing and paying medical officers of parishes in your neighbourhood for the last few years?

2. Has any alteration in the above mode taken place since the introduction of the Poor-law Amendment Act?

3. Is an *equal number* of medical men provided for the poor as formerly?

4. What is the *population* or *extent* of the district or districts entrusted to the care of one medical officer?

5. What is the *greatest distance* of patients from the medical officer, and is that distance greater or less than it was under the old system?

6. How are *orders* for medical relief obtained in ordinary cases? and how in urgent?

7. Have "tenders" been required? and have they been furnished? and to what extent?

8. What are the amounts of the stipends? Are they fixed annual sums? or are they payments *per case*? If the latter, is any gradation, according to the *numbers* or *distance* of the patients, allowed? and is any limitation to the sum total exacted?

9. Are the forms of the *contracts* in any of their clauses degrading to the respectability of the profession?

10. Have there been any *instances* of distress and danger to the sick paupers, and to what *direct* causes are they attributable?

11. Are there any other particulars, bearing on any of the above questions, that occur to you as being worthy of remark?

As the prosecution of this inquiry is likely to be attended with considerable expense, it is suggested that, *on public grounds*, communications addressed to the Secretary should be post-paid.

EXCLUSION FROM THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you have the goodness to grant insertion of the accompanying letter in your Journal of next Saturday, and oblige, Sir, your very obedient servant,

W. KINGDON.
2, New Bank-buildings,
Oct. 26, 1835.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

GENTLEMEN,—Having of late been treated with injustice by the *majority* of the Council of the College of Surgeons, and having learnt that he who tacitly submits to injustice becomes an instrument to his own degradation, I take this, I believe the most proper, method to protest against the measure of exclusion which has been practised towards me. Thinking that such a body would not willingly treat any one with injustice, I suspected there must have been, unknown to me, some disparaging report abroad, and therefore addressed the President and Council to inquire if, to the belief of any of them, such report existed. After some time I received an answer avoiding the question, and thus in effect admitting that if they allowed me an unsullied reputation, they damnified their own conduct. On the same showing, however, their conduct was calculated to damnify my fair fame,—more valued and estimated by me, as more essential than life itself to the well-doing both present and future of myself and family. Without power to question this conduct, shielded as it is by charter, granted we may presume by a gracious sovereign, for the benefit and not the oppression of his subjects, I still have the power possessed by every English gentleman to see that my reputation do not suffer by the partial or selfish conduct of others, and it is for this reason that I now address my professional brethren. After more than twenty years of public and private practice as a surgeon in London, I must be known to some of you; and I address you to intreat that if any of you know, or think you know, anything disparaging to my character, you will have the goodness to inform me, and thus confer the greatest favour that man can confer on man; for I am conscious that any such disparagement need only to be made known, to be proved as resting on misapprehension or founded on falsehood. Having avoided all legal ineligibility to a seat at the Council of my College, the exclusion would seem to imply that I have by some act, either professional or otherwise, rendered myself unfit

for election. Unless erroneous information respecting me, given to the Parliamentary Committee by the then President of the College (which he afterwards made all endeavours to correct that gentlemanly feelings could prompt), has been deemed a sufficient cause to throw me out of my fair professional course; or unless my not having an interest in common with surgeons of hospitals, or a mind easily led to surrender its own views and see things as others wish, be deemed a sufficient cause, and neither of these can be supposed to influence the minds of honourable men, I must remain under the stigma of exclusion for my own demerit, did I not make this appeal to my professional brethren, so as to make known to them that on the *majority* of the Council rests the responsibility of having used their power unjustly. Such conduct needs only to be canvassed, for the reprobation of the right-thinking to fall on those who practise it; and I have felt it my duty to offer my character for the strictest investigation, in order that the *majority* of the Council may have the benefit, if anything can be found against it, as an excuse for their unprofessional and unjust conduct. It is the conduct of such men that drives the quiet and the peace-lovers to seek and enforce change. It is the conduct of such men that renders futile the best efforts of the honourable and the able to place the affairs of our country on a footing of fairness and stability. I am, gentlemen, very faithfully yours,

W. KINGDON.

2, New Bank-buildings, London,
Oct. 27, 1835.

ENGLISH EDITION OF LEBAUDY'S PLATES.

To the Editor.—Sir,—I was happy to find in the notice which appeared in the last number of THE LANCET, on the Anatomico-Chirurgical Plates of M. Lebaudy, that the only objection against the work related to the price at which it is published. By correct information as to the number of plates contained in the fasciculus sold in Paris, and considerations of the expenses necessarily attending publication in England, I feel assured that the writer of that article will soon be convinced of his mistake in estimating my profits on so exorbitant a scale, and I shall trust to the known character of your contributors in general, for a contradiction of this imputation against my character as a man of fair and honourable dealings. The fasciculus of plates published in Paris consists of *twelve* plates (not eighteen, which the English copy contains), and comes out in a paper wrapper, without any explanatory text. To the first expense of the purchase of the plates and the duty

upon them, let the writer add that of translating, printing, and putting into boards, and he will find, after defraying these expenses, that my profits are by no means exorbitant. In case, however, the writer of the notice in question have not the data for making the estimate I mention, I do not hesitate to tell him that the amount of advantage I derive from the sale of each copy of the Atlas, to the trade, is precisely three shillings. Trusting that you will do me the justice of inserting this in your next number, I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. B. BAILLIÈRE.

219, Regent-street, 27th Oct., 1835.

WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL.

THE officials of this establishment have abandoned their old and ruinous abode in the smoky region of Petty France, and have domiciliated themselves in a spacious edifice in the broad sanctuary on the north side of Westminster Abbey. Of the architecture of this building the critics say that it is of the "Tudor collegiate style." The plan of the architects may have been laid to complete the building in that fashion, but the funds of the building committee have not been extended far enough to perfect it. The pile, as it stands, is typical of the Hot-tent Venus, having an apron of ornament in front, with the back and sides in *puris naturalibus*. 250*l.* would have sufficed to cover the nakedness.

REMOVAL OF A LARGE MALIGNANT TUMOUR OF THE CHEEK WITH A PORTION OF THE BONES OF THE FACE.

SATURDAY last was regarded as a regular "field-day" at this institution, in consequence of the performance of the above operation. In perambulating the wards, we observed a case of scrofulous disease of the ankle-joint, one of necrosis of the tibia in a child, in which, considering the small portion of bone removed, the wound appeared to be outrageously large; there was also a case in preparation for lithotrity, and one of severe burn and scald of the left lower extremity, which was covered with large vesications, and small collections of matter were forming and burrowing under the muscles. One of these was, in the language of the surgeon, ordered to be "scratched." "Now, sir," said Mr. GUTHRIE to a pupil of St. George's Hospital who was present, "show the young gentlemen into the operating theatre; let them get on the upper seats, and leave the lower one for the old men, the white-wigs." In a few minutes the operator entered, followed by the rest of the hospital staff, amongst whom were Messrs. STANLEY and KEATE.