feet by six feet, and eight feet six inches in height. The ventilation is by a small circular dead light. Considering the large supply of air required for the treatment of fever cases, it is surprising that the mortality was not greater. A similar amount of ventilation would be reckoned anything but sufficient in the hospitals of this climate, and it is probable that even our own indigenous epidemics of typhus or scarlet fever would have been more than usually fatal under similar conditions. The engine-room and stoke-hole were quite clean, and there appeared to be no deposit below the machinery. There is an excellent arrangement of bilge pumps, by which the bilge is constantly washed out and the air kept in a pure state. The most obvious defect in this vessel is, as has been stated, the ventilation, which could be easily rendered sufficient for a hot climate by adopting means for obtaining a current of air in the fore-castle and sleeping apartments on the plan proposed by Dr. Arnott, and recommended by the General Board of Health in its first report on quarantine. Were this done the *Plata* would be second to no vessel that ever was built, either in speed, healthiness, or magnificence."

The particulars of Mr. Napier's case were derived from Mr. Ware, the medical attendant of the patient:—

"The *Plata* arrived at Southampton on the 18th of November, and amongst her officers was Mr. Napier, who was engaged in the engineers' department. He took a lodging in the town, in a tolerably open but undrained street, and slept in an upper, low-roofed, back room, not well aired: while he was engaged on board during the day he was occupied on some work in the engine-room, quite in the lowest part of the vessel, and, as I was informed, attributed his illness to his having worked there. He was first seen by Mr. Ware's assistant, on Sunday, the 28th of November, and he then had pain in the back and head, with shivering. He was seen on the 29th by Mr. Ware, who found him with symptoms of fever and pain in the head, some prostration of strength, vomiting of glairy matter, and foetid stools; he had heat of skin and thirst: these symptoms continued, but with increasing weakness, through the 30th of November and the 1st and 2nd of December; after the 1st of December the motions were pale and thin like gruel. On the evening of the 3rd he vomited black matter. In reference to the matter vomited, Mr. Cooper, the officer of health, states that he had been informed that Mr. Napier had hæmorrhage from the lips, mouth, and lungs; and that he had personally examined the matter vomited, and found it to present all the character of blood drawn direct from the arm by way of experiment, except that it was not so corpuscular. Mr. Ware stated that there was no yellowness of the skin till the 4th of December; it was very slight and confined to the eyes and face, but did not spread over the surface. The patient was in a half-dozing, stupid state, but became conscious when roused. He died on the morning of Sunday, the 5th of December. Mr. Ware states that he had never seen a case exactly similar to Mr. Napier's in Southampton, but that had it not been for the suppression of the biliary secretion he would have considered the case one of ordinary typhoid fever, and that at first he did not suppose that Mr. Napier had been on board the *Plata*. Mr. Ware stated that the febrile cases usually prevalent in Southampton have a strong resemblance to Mr. Napier's case for the first day or two. As usually occurs when deaths arise from fevers reputed to be contagious, a report had spread that the woman who nursed Mr. Napier had been seized with yellow fever. The facts as stated to me by Mr. Ware were the following:—A woman was engaged to attend Mr. Napier, but left the house, and the woman to whom the house belonged had to supply her place. Mr. Ware stated that she had to attend the patient day and night, and moreover that she was not in good health and was much fatigued. She complained of being unwell the day Mr. Napier died, and suffered from headache, especially in the back of the head; she had white tongue and general feverishness; she had also cough, but had neither suppression of bile nor vomiting, and no yellowness of skin. I saw this woman in company with Mr. Cooper; she was sitting up and dressed, and I was told had not been confined to bed. She had cough apparently from some chronic chest affection, white and moist tongue, some headache, and a weak, slow, languid pulse. She was exactly like a person in ill health, who had suffered from fatigue and watching, but she certainly had no symptom of fever when I saw her."

Dr. Sutherland's view as to the policy of the quarantine measures, adopted in the case of the *La Plata* and other West India steamers, will appear from the following passage:—

"In so far as concerns the fears which have arisen in some minds, and which have been fostered by persons who ought to have been better informed, as to possible dangers to the public health, in consequence of the giving up of quarantine restrictions in regard to these vessels and the admission of passengers and crew into the town, I am of opinion that such fears are perfectly

groundless, while I consider the immediate removal of all restrictions as an enlightened and humane proceeding on the part of the authorities by whose directions it was done. A contrary course might have been very disastrous to the persons retained on board the vessels, as has happened in other instances. I consider that in no part of Southampton that I have visited would either passengers or crew be in so much danger of being attacked by fever as on board a vessel where it had already appeared, and hence their removal would lessen the risk of their being attacked. To show how little ground of alarm there is, I may state that it is the constant practice in Jamaica to land even yellow fever cases from ships, and that in a climate to which the disease specially belongs. There is no quarantine enforced, and there is no fear of the importation of the disease, neither has such an event ever happened. In the Appendix to the Report of the Central Board of Health of Jamaica, published this present year at Kingston, Dr. Chamberlaine, who has been health officer of Kingston for twenty-four years, states that quarantine has never in his time been imposed for yellow fever. Such being the practice in Jamaica in regard to this disease, it would certainly be contrary to every principle of science, experience, and humanity, to subject passengers and crews to the probability and perhaps certainty of sickness in order to ward off an entirely imaginary danger from the town of Southampton, especially when it is considered that yellow fever is a disease confined to hot climates, and that it cannot become localized in these latitudes at all."

In reference to this very interesting case, which for various reasons deserves the marked notice of medical men, I would remind the reader of two similar cases which occurred in two men belonging to H.M. steamer *Grouler*, at Woolwich, in 1845. This vessel arrived at Portsmouth from the African coast about the same time with the ill-fated *Eclair*; the two steamers were together for some days at Boa Vista. As there was no reputed infectious fever on board, she was at once admitted to *pratique*, while her unfortunate comrade was cruelly prevented from having any communication with the shore for several days, although death was continuing his ravages among the crew all the while. The *Grouler* was subsequently ordered around to Woolwich, and while lying there two of her men—who it was found had been sleeping close to the hatchway leading to the hold, which was in a foul, offensive condition—were attacked with fever, and immediately taken to the Marine Infirmary on shore. Both cases proved fatal, with all the symptoms of well-marked yellow fever. The disease did not of course, under these circumstances, spread to the attendants or any of the other inmates of the establishment.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Fitzroy-square, April, 1853. G. MILROY, M.D.

THE INCORPORATION OF THE GRADUATES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—May I beg the favour of some additional space in your columns for the insertion of the following letter from the Earl of Burlington, the Chancellor of the University of London, to the Home Secretary? It is rendered necessary in order to make the report of the Graduates' Committee and the resolutions passed by the graduates at their general meeting, which was printed in the last LANCET, intelligible.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,
May 10, 1853. ROBERT BARNES, M.D.

MY LORD,—Letters urging that the fundamental constitution of the University of London should be altered so as to admit the graduates into the corporate body of the University, with such powers as might be deemed fitting, having been addressed in the year 1851 by the Honorary Secretary to the Committee of Graduates to Secretary Sir George Grey, copies of these letters were, on the 2nd of January, 1852, by direction of Sir George Grey, transmitted to the Vice-Chancellor of the University, with a request that he would submit the same to the Senate of the University, and move them to favour Sir George Grey with their opinion on the said application.

Subsequently, on the 9th of March, 1852, in answer to a letter of inquiry on the subject, addressed by me to the Home Office, he was officially informed that Mr. Secretary Walpole would feel much obliged to the Senate if they would favour him with their opinion on the said application, and with any observations which they might think useful in determining the propriety of granting or refusing it.

I have now to inform your lordship of the steps taken by

the Senate in respect of the matter referred to them, and to report to your lordship the result of their deliberations thereon.

The Senate received from a deputation of graduates in the first place a verbal statement, and afterwards a written plan, with remarks annexed, of the changes which in their opinion ought to be made in the constitution of the University. A copy of this document is appended to my present communication.

At subsequent periods the Committee of Graduates of the University, and twenty-one of the collegiate institutions from which the University is empowered to receive certificates for degrees in arts and laws, severally memorialized the Senate, stating their views respecting the measures which they understood the Senate to have under consideration.

In several of these memorials, and in the letter dated 28th June, 1851, of the Honorary Secretary of the Committee of Graduates to Sir George Grey, allusion is made to a correspondence which is considered by the parties making the allusion as strengthening the claim of the graduates to be admitted into the body of the University. A copy of this correspondence, obtained from the authorities of University College, London, is therefore appended to this communication.

The following is the opinion of the Senate on the matter referred to them by the Secretary of State, which I am instructed to report to your lordship:—

The alterations in the constitution of the University, submitted by the deputation of graduates for the consideration of the Senate, are to the following effect:—

1st. That the body corporate shall consist, not as it does now, of the chancellor, vice-chancellor, and fellows, but of the chancellor, vice-chancellor, fellows, and graduates.

2ndly. That graduates of certain standing shall have the right of meeting in convocation; that convocation shall be called together by persons of its own appointment, and shall have power to regulate the place and times of its meeting and its own proceedings; and shall have the right of discussing any subject, and of recording its opinion thereon; but shall not have power to interfere with or annul any act of the Senate, except in the cases of surrendering or accepting a charter.

The standing of the members of the proposed convocation is not absolutely defined; but from the reference made in the "Remarks" to the masters of arts in the older English universities, it may be collected that a standing of three years from the date of the first degree is what is intended.

3rdly. That the graduates shall have the power of submitting to the Crown lists of persons not necessarily graduates, from whom a certain proportion of all the persons to be hereafter appointed fellows by the Crown shall be selected.

The suggestions of the deputation of graduates relate therefore to the following three subjects of importance:—

1. The admission of the graduates into the corporate body of the University;

2. The meeting in convocation of the graduates of certain standing, and the powers of convocation;

3. The selection by the Crown of the persons hereafter to be appointed members of the Senate.

I. The Senate were prepared to recommend "that the graduates be admitted into the corporate body of the University as a titular honour; but that no powers of interfering with the measures of the Senate be granted to the graduates so admitted into the corporate body, except such as are hereafter granted to them when acting in convocation;" and the Senate are prevented from making such recommendation only by the opinion of Mr. Tomlinson, which raises various doubts of a legal character as to the safety of such a course.

The Senate transmit herewith the case referred to Mr. Tomlinson, and his opinion thereon. They trust that the law officers of the Crown may be instructed to consider how far the danger apprehended by Mr. Tomlinson can be guarded against by adequate provisions in a new charter.

II. The following is the opinion of the Senate on the subject of the proposed convocation. They have on the present occasion restricted their observations to what they deem points of primary importance; were these points satisfactorily arranged, there are various matters of secondary importance on which the Senate would desire to be consulted:—

1. The Senate consider it expedient that the graduates of certain standing should be enabled to express formally their collective opinion on matters concerning the University; and that for that purpose they should be empowered to meet and deliberate in convocation; but that the concurrence of convocation should not be requisite to render valid any decision or act of the Senate.

2. That the qualification which should entitle a graduate to sit in convocation should be—

(a) A standing of five years for bachelors of arts, and of

three years for bachelors of medicine; of five years for bachelors of laws who have not graduated as bachelors of arts in this University; or the degree of doctor of laws, doctor of medicine, or master of arts.

(b) His registration as a member of convocation for the current year.

(c) The payment of all fees due from him as a member of convocation at the time of his being registered.

3. That the fee for the current year, payable by each member of convocation, should be one pound; (the first payment to be made within six months after his attaining the requisite standing,) with power of compounding for the same for life; and that the composition for the same should be ten pounds.

4. That at any time after the lapse of one year from the first meeting of convocation, any graduate of the required standing who either shall not have been duly registered, or who after becoming a member of convocation shall have ceased to be a member, should be entitled to be entered on the register on payment either of the composition for life, or of a fee of five pounds in addition to the fee payable for the current year.

5. That convocation should meet at a stated period once in every year, with power to adjourn twice *de die in diem*.

6. That convocation should be enabled to meet for special business, at any time, at twenty-one days' notice, if authorised or required so to meet by the Secretary of State, in pursuance of an application to that effect signed by not less than twenty graduates. That every such application should state the special business of the meeting, and a copy thereof be lodged with the registrar of the University on the day of the date of application. That at any special meeting of convocation no business should be entered upon except that for which the meeting was summoned; and that the adjournment of any such meeting should be subject to the same limitations as the adjournment of an annual meeting.

7. That convocation should be required to receive any communication from the senate or from the Secretary of State, and that it should be empowered to make to the senate or to the Secretary of State any representations concerning the University which it may think advisable.

8. That in case at any time hereafter the Senate should decide that it is expedient to surrender or accept a charter, the Senate be required to notify their decision to convocation, and that convocation should then be authorised and required to hold a special meeting, at a month's notice, for the purpose of considering such decision; and that convocation should be required to communicate its opinion thereon to the Senate.

Had the Senate ventured to recommend admission of the graduates into the corporation, they would also have recommended that the consent of convocation should be necessary to give validity to the surrender or acceptance of a charter; but as, in consequence of Mr. Tomlinson's opinion that such an admission would be fraught with danger, they do not venture to make the former recommendation, they think that the latter would be inoperative, and therefore refrain from making it.

III. The Senate are of opinion that there is no authority to which the selection of the fellows of the University can be so well entrusted as that of the Secretary of State, acting under the annual review of Parliament.

At the same time they hope that the expediency of selecting graduates, in common with other duly qualified persons, to act as members of the Senate, will be favourably considered by the Secretary of State.

The Senate consider it not unfitting that in offering this suggestion to the Secretary of State, they should bring under his attention the principle laid down and acted upon in the year 1836, by the then Government in constituting the senate—viz., that the holder of a lectureship in any one of the institutions, other than universities, from which this University is empowered to receive certificates for degrees, should not, while retaining such office, be deemed eligible to the senate.

In the preceding recommendations the Senate have been guided by the wish to render the constitution of the University of London acceptable at once to the graduates and to the institutions connected with the University—to preserve unimpaired the fundamental principles on which the University was established, and to maintain efficiency in the administration of its affairs.

BURLINGTON.

NAVAL ASSISTANT-SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I am induced, by your kind and prompt insertion of my letter of the 12th ult., on the subject of the grievances of the naval assistant-surgeons, to trespass again upon your