last meeting, take the "bull by the horns" at once, with a bold front, and let the world know at once what we want, that there may be no mistake about the matter any longer. Pray allow the Association to hear my appeal, and believe me to be, Sir, a great admirer of your public character, and

ONE WHO IS NOW VERY IMPATIENT.
London, Dec. 18, 1834.

MEDICAL OPINIONS

TO

ASSURANCE COMPANIES.

To the Editor.—Sir: The custom of life assurance companies to refuse remuneration to medical men for their certificates has been frequently discussed in the pages of your influential Journal, but the boards of directors probably will not admit the justice of our claims in their official capacity, until the whole profession agree to refuse gratuitous advice to the opulent. I will state my plan of answering their applications, as I always wish to be courteous. On one side of their letter there is usually a polite note requesting *confidential* answers to certain questions that are stated on the opposite side, such as,—“How long have you known Mr. A.?”—“When did you attend him last, and for what complaint?”—“Is he subject to gout or rheumatism, or fits of any kind?”—and others of the same nature, which, as they relate only to matter of *fact*, I do not hesitate to reply to; but the questions requiring my professional opinion, such as,—“Is Mr. A. predisposed to any, and to what, complaints?” or “Is there, in *your opinion*, anything in Mr. A.’s general state of health or habits of living which would render an insurance on his life more than usually hazardous?” I refuse to answer, and append a note, giving the reasons of my refusal. Would the directors write to a barrister for *his opinion* without enclosing a *fee*? What right, then, have they to do so to a surgeon? Many of my patients have paid me a guinea for answering their references, but I think, with your correspondent, Mr. Dendy, that perhaps the most just plan would be for each party to pay an equal share. I have endeavoured to condense my remarks as much as possible, because I would not impose a long letter on the valuable pages of THE LANCET, fertile and important as the subject is, my motto being—“not words, but deeds.” I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM HUGHES, Surgeon.

Holborn, Dec. 19th.

SCHLEIDEN considers that in vegetable structures the nucleolus is formed first, then the nucleus or cytoblast, and lastly the cell.

The caustic “Vienna paste” is made with five parts of lime and six of pure potash mixed together with alcohol.

LIFE-ASSURANCE OFFICES.

To the Editor.—Sir: The letter in your Journal (p. 303), so creditable to the writer, relative to the Norwich Insurance Office, has only to be followed up by the members of the medical profession in order to obtain a just acknowledgement of their rights. If a patient, on a surgeon’s refusal to act gratuitously, should threaten to change him, is there, may I ask, no honour, no *esprit de corps*, in the profession, to prevent any other taking advantage of such praiseworthy conduct? If not, then is the profession low indeed. For my part, I should as soon think of going to a surgeon and asking him for a *guinea*, and threatening, in case of his refusal, to get another to attend my family, as I should of *chousing* him out of his opinion under a similar threat, and would consider that I should be no more answerable at my *final account*. The profession might as well keep a high position as a low one; they would be more respected and equally thanked, and those who break through the honest and honourable course should be branded. The public would soon learn to discriminate. After all, the office applies to the surgeon for *its own further safety*, and therefore should pay, as I dare say the person applying to be insured would be satisfied to pass muster before the surgeon to the establishment. However, one or other, on applying, should inclose a fee to the surgeon, and that surgeon who so far compromises his character as a gentleman as to answer without his fee, unless on behalf of a poor person, deserves not to be enrolled as a member of a liberal profession. The “policy” of an insurance office asking a medical opinion without fee, if not bad, is certainly dishonest. Your’s,

CIVIS.

Dec. 9, 1843.

P.S. Do not *some* offices always inclose the fee. One, for instance, to which Mr. Farren is attached?

LETTER FROM MR. GUTHRIE. MEDICAL ATTENDANCE ON SICK PERSONS UNDER THE POOR LAW.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Lord Ashley has written to remind me of his intention to bring the subject of medical relief to the poor before Parliament at the commencement of the ensuing session, and I beg your permission to remind the members of the medical profession, through your Journal, that his success in obtaining a committee must depend upon the number and accuracy of the facts that he may be able to bring forward in proof of

the necessity for a full and free inquiry into the subject.

I am greatly obliged to those gentlemen who have been so good as to communicate with me during the last twelve months, and will beg of them to write between the 10th and 20th of January next, if any change should have taken place in the facts and circumstances with which they have made me acquainted.

I need hardly repeat to the members of the profession that this will be, in all probability, the last opportunity they will have of obtaining redress for their own grievances, and those of the unfortunate poor committed to their charge.

I shall be happy to present any of them who are particularly interested in this subject to Lord Ashley, and to give them every opportunity of explaining to him their own views, for he has no predilections, and is only desirous of doing that which it may be just and right to do for the sick poor and their medical attendants.

It is exceedingly desirous that all who have influence with members of Parliament should lose no time in interesting themselves to the utmost of their ability in supporting and prosecuting Lord Ashley's inquiry. I have the honour to be, Sir, your very obedient humble servant,

G. J. GUTHRIE.

Berkeley-street, Dec. 16, 1843.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

SECOND examination for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine, November 6th, 1843, in GENERAL PATHOLOGY, GENERAL THERAPEUTICS, and HYGIENE; Drs. Billing and Tweedie, examiners.

1. Mention the deviations to which the fibrin of the blood is subject in disease, giving samples, 1, of those diseases in which there is an excess; and, 2, of those in which there is a deficiency of this constituent. What consequences have been occasionally observed to follow a deficiency of fibrin?

2. Give an outline of the treatment of spontaneous hæmorrhage, stating the indications to be kept in view, and the measures best calculated to fulfil them.

3. Describe the effects of insufficient nourishment on the human body, in the respective periods of infancy and manhood.

4. Translate the following passage into English:—

Sanus homo, qui et benè valet, et suæ spontis est, nullis obligare se legibus debet; ac neque medico neque iatraliptâ egere. Hunc oportet varium habere vitæ genus; modò ruri esse, modò in urbe, sæpiùsque in agro; navigare, venari, quiescere interdum, sed frequentius se exercere, siquidem ignavia corpus hebetat, labor firmat: illa maturam senectutem, is longam adolescentiam reddit. Prodest etiam interdum

balneo, interdum aquis frigidis uti; modò ungi, modò id ipsum negligere; nullum cibi genus fugere quo populus utatur; interdum in convictu esse, interdum ab eo se retrahere; modò plus justo, modò non ampliùs assumere; bis die potiùs, quàm semel cibum capere; et semper quàm plurimum, dum modò hunc concoquat. Sed ut hujus generis exercitationes cibique necessarij sunt, sic athletici supervacui: nam et intermissus propter aliquas civiles necessitates ordo exercitationis corpus affligit; et ea corpora quæ more eorum repleta sunt, celerrimè et senescunt et ægrotant. (Celsus, lib. i, cap. i.)

Pass examination, for the same degree, November 8th, in MIDWIFERY; Dr. Rigby, examiner.

1. Enumerate the various conditions, diseases, &c., which are capable of simulating pregnancy, and state how they are to be distinguished from it.

2. Enumerate the unfavourable circumstances which may result from constipation, and otherwise deranged bowels, at the beginning of labour.

3. In a lingering labour, where it is ascertained that the pelvis is well-formed, what are the circumstances which will justify your waiting and trusting to nature, and the contrary?

4. In a lingering labour, as above alluded to, what means should be adopted to hasten its course before using artificial assistance?

5. What are the symptoms, causes, and treatment of encysted placenta?

6. Under what forms does the asphyxia of new-born children appear, and what are the modes of treatment?

MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

To the Editor.—Sir: In THE LANCET, a few weeks since, at page 232, you were kind enough to notice the labours of Mr. Stanley, as speaker of this society, and, we are all happy to say, with good effect; but he still has a mischievous fault. The custom is, that when a paper is read by the secretary (query, though, did Mr. Shaw ever learn to read?) its merits should be discussed at a length proportionate to its value, allowing those members who are interested in the question an opportunity of delivering their opinions, at times in a very profitable manner. But Mr. Speaker evidently thinks this wrong, for, as it seems to suit his caprice or not, he hurries on the reading of each successive paper with such rapidity as to prevent this useful object of the authors. If the rules of the society incline to encourage discussion, the time allotted for it surely should not be left altogether to the mercy of the president. I joined the society, some years since, to participate in its benefits, and hope that as you have already corrected some errors in it, you will not fail to direct