this influence of light on vegetables, the lecturer stated that Dr. Draper had found that it was not in the heating nor in the chemical rays of the spectrum, but in those of the greatest illuminating power, that vegetable life was found to be the most actively developed. How closely does physiology connect itself with the highest branches of natural philosophy! leading us to contemplate the actual blending of all the imponderable agencies together. How beautiful is the view that the same agent which brings all objects to our sight should be also the great promoter of all life under the Divine will! Withdraw its bright and benignant influence, and the earth would be again "without form and void," and would float through space a lifeless corpse.

MEDICAL PROTECTION ASSEMBLY.
EXETER HALL, AUG. 19, 1844.

THERE was a very numerous meeting of the committee this evening. After the usual business had been transacted the question of appointing a paid secretary was taken into consideration, and, finally, the choice of the committee fell upon Mr. Dimsdale, who was a candidate for the office. The thanks of the committee were then unanimously voted to Mr. Rugg, on the motion of Mr. D. O. Edwards, seconded by Mr. Hunter, for the ability and zeal he had displayed whilst discharging the duties in the character of temporary honorary secretary. A sub-committee was appointed to draw up a report, and aid the arrangements preparatory to the general meeting of the Assembly, on Monday next, August 26th, at three o'clock, at Exeter Hall.

MEDICAL FEES AND INSURANCE COMPANIES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—A few days since I received, as a referee, two letters, from two different life assurance-offices, one from Glasgow, enclosing a sovereign, the other from the English and Scottish Law Assurance, London,—merely a printed copy of its usual queries,—and without any remitted fee. To the first I immediately, by return of post, gave to the best of my knowledge every desired information, and to the second made the reply, which I transcribe for you below, and which you are at liberty to publish if you think its subject one not already worn out. Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN COOPER, F.R.C.S.E.

Liverpool, July 25, 1844.

"To the Actuary of the English and Scottish Assurance-office, 147, Strand, London.

"Sir,—It may be necessary, perhaps, to explain to you, as well as to Mr. —, why I must withhold from any assurance-office information which I consider so essential, in all cases, to the *assurers*, until I receive from *them* a proper remuneration for the services they, in truth, require. Who can speak so decidedly of the state of health, of the habits, of the constitutional peculiarities, and of the probabilities of a long or of a short life, in any individual, as his ordinary medical attendant? And is this medical attendant, generally the intimate friend of the party, to disclose, in '*strict confidence*,' that is, *privately*, to the actuary of an assurance company, circumstances that may cause the proposed assurance to be declined, and possibly thereby the cutting off of all hopes of security from future poverty to a family that might otherwise be totally unprovided for?

"How any *set* of men, professing, as such companies usually do, '*liberal principles*,'—how any body of rich and educated men, such as I believe, without exception, form the *directories* of such companies, can object to so plain a proposition,—that they ought to pay for their own accommodation and advantage,—that is, for the means of rendering *their policies more safe speculations*, I cannot well conceive! True, they pay their own appointed medical referee. What then? This is merely as a *counter-check* to render the '*assurance doubly sure*' to *themselves*. And, as an additional guarantee of their own nicely-calculated per-centage profits!

"I do not argue upon mercenary views, but upon the principles of truth and justice, and with a determination of supporting as far and as long as I can the rights of an ill-used profession. I am, Sir, respectfully yours,

"JOHN COOPER, Surgeon, F.R.C.S.E.

"Liverpool, July 25, 1844."

"P.S. It is Mr. Cooper's wish and request that Mr. Williams will lay this appeal before the directors of the company for which he acts, and that he may represent to them that other assurance companies have already yielded to, and acknowledged the just claims of, those whom, for their own interests, they may choose to consult."

THE APOTHECARIES' COMPANY AND THE
NEW BILL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—There is a portion of Sir J. Graham's Medical Bill so palpably false and unjust that it may be justly considered an unanswerable *proof* of the Right Honourable Baronet's sheer ignorance of the way in which proceedings have been carried on by a body of men to whom we are all indebted; I allude to the Apothecaries' Company. He says, "that entrance might be obtained into it by apprenticeship, BIRTH, or by almost any mode except by examination as to qualification!" What *tyro* in the profession does not know that for many years the examination at the Hall was incomparably more *searching* than that of any other medical body in England?

August 18th, 1844.

A. B.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS.—GRADUATION OF DOCTORS
IN MEDICINE.

On Tuesday, the 6th of August instant, the Senatus Academicus of this university, conducted by the professors of anatomy, chemistry, and humanity, Dr. Robertson, Professor of Surgery, Edinburgh, and Dr. Hannay, Professor of Medicine, Glasgow, in the presence of the senate, conferred the degree of Doctor in Medicine upon twenty-two gentlemen. The examiners were occupied from nine in the morning until nine in the evening, and the degree was afterwards conferred, in public, on the successful candidates, by the Rev. Robert Haldane, D.D., Principal, in the large hall of the university library. Twenty-eight candidates presented themselves for the degree, which, with twenty-five who offered themselves at last graduation-day, make fifty-three who have submitted to examination in this university during the present year, of which number forty-five obtained the degree and eight were remitted to their studies.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Gentlemen admitted members on Friday, August 16, 1844:—W. Carey, F. H. Duffort, F. C. G. Ellerton, G. Walker, W. Box, J. Bourne, E. Lawless, J. Terry, W. W. Kemp, W. Bencraft, H. B. Pickess.

APOTHECARIES' HALL, LONDON.

NAMES of gentlemen who obtained certificates of qualification to practise as apothecaries on Thursday, August 15, 1844:—Richard Hodges, London; Henry James Shirley, London.

CORRESPONDENTS.

On consulting the Medical Bill, which we published last week, *A Surgeon in Prospective* will find (clause 14) that the diploma of the Irish Apothecaries' Company is not therein recognised for the purposes of registration. The Bill does not interfere with the existing regulations of the various colleges which are recognised, although the Council of Health might do so hereafter. The registration of a licentiate in medicine and surgery may take place at the age of twenty-one.

Inquirer will find that we have noticed this week all, or nearly all, the points alluded to in his list of questions.

If our Aldborough correspondent were to write to the Registrar of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of