"disinterested" conduct, the learned advocate ought, perhaps, to show that he will not accept his fees at all. In our review of the case, ample justice will be done to the evidence of those gentlemen who affirmed the insanity of Mrs. Cumming, and our readers have this week an opportunity of judging for themselves how far the jury were justified in deducing insanity from their own intercourse with the alleged lunatic.—ED. L.

PROPOSED "GRADUATED REGISTRY" OF PRIVATE LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Permit me to occupy a small space in your columns to express a hope that the important subject of private asylums lately discussed in THE LANCET by Dr. Monro, may not be lost sight of.

Steps should be taken, forthwith, to establish "Graduated Registries" of these institutions, and thus meet the necessities of a great public desideratum—viz., the means of ascertaining, through some official yet *disinterested* channel, the relative good qualities of this or that asylum.

It is a fact well known to those conversant with the subject, that but few asylums exist possessing the requisites necessary to meet all cases of insanity; and, therefore, as each among the defective presents its own peculiar advantages, the means of ready and authentic answers should be afforded to such questions as the following:—To what asylum can I send this patient for his personal security? another, for his cure? a third, for careful nursing? a fourth, for temporary rest, amid peaceful rural pursuits, from certain fatal excitement? a fifth, for his moral reformation? and so forth. And where, too, can I be assured that the elegancies of life suitable to one case, the friendly social intercourse required for another, or the less refined, but still wholesome system adapted to a third, will be faithfully carried out? To all such and similar inquiries, there should be one common, accessible reference for information.

If not incompatible with its position, there can be no board so competent, from its practical knowledge of the subject, to grant this great social boon, as that which constitutes the present "Commissioners in Lunacy;" for their Reports would not only afford the most appropriate medium through which the respective merits of such asylums as had earned the approbation of the Commissioners could be particularized, but would tend, by infusing an honourable emulation, to improve all asylums (even the best), and to circulate more widely the enlightened policy and humane principles which animate the commission, and thus subserve another, and no less important desideratum—the best kind of treatment for the insane.

It is impossible for us to regard the well-earned praise of some as an implied censure on others, without first reducing our just estimate of merit to the level of a standard even worse than valueless, and then impugning all past public precedents, and the familiar customs of private life.

Every proprietor, therefore, with a well-regulated mind, could not but regard such public documents as free from invidious distinctions, and recognise in them only an instrument of approval to the deserving, and of impulse to all: while to the public at large they would become records of incalculable value, as proceeding from an authority both experienced and impartial.

I take the liberty, then, of suggesting to Dr. Monro that proper means be used to ascertain the feelings of proprietors on the subject; and that, should a wish prevail among them to carry out his design, to submit the proposal forthwith to the Commissioners in Lunacy for their consideration.

I am, Sir, obedient servant,

Ilfracombe, North Devon, Feb. 1852.

W. M. BUSH, M.D.

Late Superintendent of Sandywell Park, near Cheltenham.

BATHS AND WASHHOUSES FOR ST. GILES'S.—On the 7th inst., the commissioners appointed under the 9th and 10th of Victoria commenced the erection of Public Baths and Washhouses for St. Giles-in-the-Fields, in Endell-street. The spot selected is the vacant ground, formerly the site of Lascelles-court, and the Bowl-yard, extending from Christchurch to Broad-street, contiguous to the notorious Rookery, Short's-gardens, Monmouth-street, and other thickly-inhabited streets. The proposed building will occupy an area of 5000 square feet, and it will contain 100 separate bath-rooms, a plunging-bath, and laundries for 100 women to wash and iron at the same time. The cost of the erection will be £14,000.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted Members of the College, at the meeting of the Court of Examiners, on the 6th inst.:—

ARMSTRONG, WYNDHAM FITZGERALD, Adare, Co. Limerick.

ELLIOTT, ROBERT, Tyrone.

ELLIS, HENRY, Bangor, Carnarvonshire.

FRENCH, JOHN GABRIEL, Jewin-street, Aldersgate-street.

GRAMSHAW, HENRY, Gravesend.

HEWER, JOHN HENRY, Chobham, Surrey.

JACKSON, PETER NEVILL, Beverley, Yorkshire.

PERY, RICHARD, Dublin.

PORTER, RIDLEY, Bishopsgate-street.

SCONCE, CLEMENT, Bath.

SWINING, DAVID, Winslow, Bucks.

At the same meeting of the Court, Mr. DANIEL WILLS STEPHENS passed his examination for naval surgeon. This gentleman had previously been admitted a member of the college, his diploma bearing date May 29, 1846. Mr. WILLIAM HENRY BAXTER also passed his examination for naval assistant.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on

Thursday, Feb. 5th, 1852.

BALL, ALFRED, Brighton.

CHIBNALL, CHARLES, London.

KEBBELL, MARK, Brighton.

LACEY, JOHN, Brighton.

LUXTON, WILLIAM TIDBOALD, Winkligh, Devon.

MOUNTFORD, JOHN BIDLAKE, Exeter.

NEW MEDICAL COLLEGE.—At the Annual General Meeting of the Governors of the Farringdon General Dispensary, held at the end of last month, Mr. Chippendale, the senior medical officer, directed attention to the new Medical College, and brought forward a plan by which institutions giving assistance to the poor might be made to contribute towards the funds of the College. He observed that the poor were debtors to an enormous extent to the medical profession, for services rendered them without fee or reward; that he, himself, had now attended at the dispensary for upwards of fifteen years, during which long period he had neither directly nor indirectly reaped any advantage, either pecuniary or otherwise; that he could not, himself, accept the small contributions which might be offered by the poor, and he would say the same for his colleagues, but that we had the necessitous, the widow, and the orphan, in our own ranks, and that it seemed but just that those who were enjoying the benefit of our labours, (for time was money,) should offer some little token of their gratitude to those of our profession who were desolate and distressed. He therefore suggested that each patient, on first coming to the dispensary, should, if a physician's or surgeon's case, give one penny, and if requiring the aid of the accoucheur, two-pence; and that the sums so collected should be annually presented to the College. It might at first sight appear that such trifling amounts would not be worth the acceptance of the College; but, from calculations he had made, it would be found, that if all the hospitals and dispensaries in the kingdom would adopt the plan, enough would be raised to form a handsome endowment for the College. In such a movement it was necessary that some one institution should take the first step, and, as he was the originator of the scheme, he was anxious that the dispensary to which he was attached should have the honour of setting the example. The matter having been duly discussed, was adopted, and ordered to be forthwith carried into effect.

The Hunterian Oration will be delivered this day, (the 14th,) at three o'clock, by Mr. Luke, in the theatre of the Royal College of Surgeons. We shall give a report of it next week.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Mr. G. Hamilton has presented a petition from the President and Fellows of King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland, praying the House to re-consider the case of the Dublin hospitals.

BENEVOLENCE.—William Russell, Esq., of Leamington, has bequeathed £50, and John Rayment, Esq., £10, to the Worcester Infirmary.