TER is the same as yesterday.' Not having acquainted us how he was yesterday, no one can accuse you of telling a court secret to-day, and when in the next bulletin you state that 'his Royal Highness is going on well,' the public are quite prepared next morning to hear either that he is alive or is dead.

"I have forwarded the excellent admonition to Sir ASTLEY, and I must say that though I think you have handled Sir ASTLEY rather sharply, he well deserves it. If he has a particle of sensibility, MACNISH's maxim must throw him into convulsions, and I do hope that when he is next called upon to write a *certificate*, MACNISH will appear like a phantom before his eyes.

"The work at *St. George's* is finished! and people have done talking about it; but it has left a painful impression on Sir BENJAMIN. He was so annoyed at the exposure that he even went the length of offering half his share of the receipts from the students of the hospital to Mr. WALKER to keep him quiet, but this *douceur* was cavalierly refused.

"At the *Middlesex* the students have no right to complain of a dearth of post-mortem examinations, as there were no less than ten dissections there on Monday the twenty-fourth instant; so at least I have been informed by your nephew. I understand that several of the medical officers are enabled to turn a good deal of money, not by body-snatching, for they are *above* that, but by making and selling preparations, which the practice of that hospital must enable them to do on a large scale.

"The *London University Hospital* has at last opened under the most imposing auspices, and has already more than enough patients for all the purposes of clinical instruction. The Council of Lincoln's-inn fields are justly alarmed, as they cannot avoid 'recognising' it. In order to watch the movements of the University, BRODIE informed me that they are endeavouring to persuade one of the Lincoln's-inn-fields gentlemen to become a *proprietor*, but that several of the most respectable of the Council to whom they have applied have refused. GUTHRIE is supposed to be a likely man, for it will require no usual degree of boldness to oppose the great body of the proprietors. Send over to me, and let me know whenever you arrive from Bagshot, as I have some *Kensington* news which will amuse you. Be not alarmed!

"Your dutiful friend,
"T.

"Curzon Street, November 30th."

LETTER FROM MR. GRAINGER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the leading article of your last Number, it is stated that during the opposition which my lamented brother, Edward Grainger, experienced in the establishment of his school, he was supplied with subjects *gratuitously* by the resurrection men. If this statement were allowed to remain uncontradicted, the only inference that could be drawn from it is, that my brother was guilty of a fraudulent action, by allowing his pupils to pay the usual sum for bodies which he obtained for nothing. The respect that is due to his memory, entitles me to request that you will insert in your next Number my unequivocal denial of his having ever received a single body for the purposes of dissection which was not paid for in the customary manner.

So far is it from the truth that he experienced the kind of aid which you infer, that to my certain knowledge he incurred annually very heavy expenses in providing a sufficient supply of subjects for the numerous students composing his class. That these expenses were principally caused by the unworthy conduct of some of the established lecturers is most true; for, in order to crush the school to which he had secured by his great talents and exertions a reputation almost unexampled in the annals of medicine, his competitors did not hesitate to stoop to the employment of all those petty means of annoyance, which the possessors of wealth and influence, when unaccompanied by integrity, can always command.

That these attempts to destroy the fair prospects of a man, who was too talented to be despised, and too independent to be subservient, met with the signal defeat they so well merited, is notorious; but this is no reason why they should not be held up to the reproof of all honourable minds. I remain, your obedient servant,

R. D. GRAINGER.

Theatre of Anatomy and Medicine,
Webb Street, Southwark, Dec. 3, 1834.

** In our remarks, we intended to refer to that period of the opposition which Mr. GRAINGER encountered just after his school had been removed from St. Saviour's Church Yard to Webb-street. With reference to our statement, we can assure Mr. GRAINGER that the circumstances were openly spoken of at that period by the students in both of the Borough Hospitals. They were also alleged to be true by MIL-LARD, who had the care of the dissecting-

room at *St. Thomas's Hospital*, whose statements were afterwards confirmed, if such a confirmation can be admitted, by the testimony of the resurrectionists; and, still further, when not a body could be procured, at any price, in the dissecting-room of *St. Thomas's Hospital*, it was over and over again triumphantly declared by the students of Mr. GRAINGER's school, "that," to use their own words, "they had as many bodies to dissect as they could desire, for nothing." So that it is more than probable, and is in perfect consistency with the known honourable character of Mr. EDWARD GRAINGER, that if bodies were supplied to him for a short time gratuitously, he, for that reason, as gratuitously furnished them to the students. It is well known that the resurrectionists played a most cunning game at that period, and made the "recognised" gentry pay heavily for the base intrigue which they had planned for the destruction of the Webb-street school.

MILITIA MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I wish to call the attention of yourself, of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of Edinburgh and Dublin, and of Mr. Warburton, to the clauses in the Militia Acts of the United Kingdom relative to the appointment of surgeon and assistant-surgeons.

The now honorary and gratuitous appointment of surgeon to a militia regiment being lately placed at my disposal by the kindness of a noble friend, I was led to investigate these Acts. The last General Militia Act for England is the Act of the 42nd Geo. III. c. 90, June 26, 1802, entitled "For raising and training the Militia in England." The provision of this Act (clause lxxviii) to "appoint one fit and proper person, who shall have passed an examination at *Surgeons' Hall* (!), and received his certificate accordingly, to be surgeon of such regiment, battalion, or corps," is curious if compared with the following Act in the statute-book, c. 91; also of the 42nd Geo. III. 1802, "For the raising and training of the Militia in Scotland," which provides that the surgeon should have passed "*Surgeons' Hall* in *London* (!), or before the College of Surgeons in *Edinburgh*;" or again, if compared with the Militia Act for Ireland,

passed 19th June, 1809, c. 120, 49th Geo. III., which recites, "That the surgeon or assistant shall not be capable of serving in the militia, unless he shall have been certified by the Royal College of Surgeons in *Dublin, London* (!), or *Edinburgh*, after due examination, to be properly qualified in like manner as surgeons in the army are required to be certified."

The term "*Surgeons' Hall*" in the English Act of 1802, not being followed by the words "in *London*," would appear vague and accidental, if it were not strengthened by the words "in *England*" upon the heading of this Act, and the repetition of the same term in the Scotch Act, and by its not occurring at all in any *previous* General Militia Act. It is singular that it should, be used in this other respect, that "*Surgeons' Hall*" was given up as alimony in 1745 to the Barbers, to compensate these Knights of the Razor for their divorce at that time from the Knights of the Scalpel, who were then formed into a separate corporation. The corporation of surgeons petitioned in 1780 to be formed into a *College*, and after spoutings and speeches, in both houses, from judges, bishops, and legislators, remarkable for stubborn folly and ignorance, and unequivocal approbation of quackery, the collective wisdom at last listened to reason, and the corporation was formed into a College in 1800, upon the most detestable and injurious of all principles, that of a close and self-elected body. I should presume, the building used by the London College, must have taken the name of *College* and not *Hall*, from the incorporation, which was two years before the passing of the English Militia Act. The Scotch Corporation of Surgeons was formed into a college in 1778, the Irish in 1784, and they are denominated accordingly in the Scotch and Irish Militia Acts.

Notwithstanding the word "*Hall*," if we take all the above points into consideration, I do not think a doubt can be entertained that the exclusion of members of the Scotch and Irish Colleges of Surgeons from the English militia, whilst, at the same time, good care was taken to render the members of the London College admissible both into the Scotch and Irish militias, was the deliberate and premeditated design of a selfish, exclusive, and monopolizing spirit, which deserves to be exposed and amended. What sort of justice can there be in suffering such a provision to disgrace the statute-book, when an hospital-assistant, assistant-surgeon, and a surgeon in the army, an assistant-surgeon and a surgeon in the navy, the same in the East India Company's service, are rendered equally eligible by possessing