trust. I have only roughly hinted at some of the disadvantages of the army, as they have been brought to my notice, and I can only say that I think they are well worthy of the earnest consideration of all medical men who have any regard for the dignity of the profession.

It is often asserted that the medical officers who talk of *rank* and position are seeking for *military command*, but this is altogether untrue; they only desire *rank* and position to be *substantially* recognised in all *mess* affairs as in general society, the company at the mess-table being frequently *mixed*.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
A SURGEON.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION. SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have again to claim the favour of a space in your journal, for the purpose of repudiating two assertions against the surgical instrument-makers, which appeared in it last week.

In the first instance, Mr. Traer says "that, as an elaborate and exhaustive list of surgical instruments had been issued by the Society of Arts, it was of great importance that the contents of each case should be classified as uniformly as possible in accordance with it." Now, although we had all heard of this list (the Committee of Surgeons for compiling it having been appointed in May, 1858), yet only two of us had seen it, and that only in an imperfect state. If you will take the trouble of inquiring at the Society of Arts, you will find that it has never been published, and is still in a state of proof. One member of the trade made three applications for a copy, but without success, no answer having been deigned to his letters.

Again, with reference to the charge of withholding information from the jurors, you state "that fourteen letters had been sent to as many exhibitors, to furnish a list of the surgeons whose inventions were to be found in their respective cases." For my own part, I can say that our house never received one, and as I had not the names of those that had been written to, I applied to *eighteen* of the exhibitors in the trade, and, with three exceptions, they state that no such letter had been received by them. Of those who had received them, two of them answered at once.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Strand, Nov. 1862. R. WILLIAMS.

* * There is no more room for excuse in this matter. The Trades' Committee by a resolution formally rejected the list prepared for them. They now complain that the list was not published: even this, which is a mere quibble, is incorrect. The list in question was published (in the Jury Directory). As to the letters, we can only say that the post must have been very remiss to deliver only three out of fourteen letters; and that it is remarkable, under the circumstances, that the fortunate three reached their destination, although only two were answered.—ED. L.

SARRACENIA PURPUREA IN SMALL-POX.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you allow me space in your columns to say, that I have tried the *Sarracenia purpurea* in a number of carefully-selected cases of small pox, and have arrived at the conclusion that it has no effect whatever on the course of the disease. The general condition of the patient is not changed, no diuresis occurs, and the pustules pursue the tenor of their way utterly uninfluenced by the wondrous remedy which costs the enormous price of 2s. an ounce.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
York, Nov. 1862. F. NORTON MANNING, M.D.

FELLOWSHIP EXAMINATIONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Can you, or any of your readers, inform me whether the Council of the College of Surgeons are likely to adopt any measures in reference to extending the privileges of the Fellowship? Under the present regulations, all extra-metropolitan students, even though members of the College, are excluded from competing for that honour by examination. I ask, Sir, in what respects surgery taught in Edinburgh, Dublin, Glasgow,

or any of our large provincial cities, is inferior to, or differs from, that taught in London? The examiners consider it sufficient for the Membership, and I cannot see any valid reason why they should not recognise it for the Fellowship. The present is an important crisis in the annals of the College. The College in Pall mall appears already to be taking steps with regard to instituting examinations in Surgery, and if the College in Lincoln's-inn does not look sharply after its interests, I fear it will soon be numbered among the things that were.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Nov. 1862. M.R.C.S.

A SINGULAR CASE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I was recently called in to attend a young woman who was suffering from a partial dislocation of the lower jaw, caused by vomiting. The infrequency of that accident from such a cause is my only reason for reporting it.

It may be worth noticing (although, perhaps, merely a coincidence), that the patient had complained for some days previously of a severe headache, and that for about half an hour immediately after the accident she suffered from complete paralysis of the left arm, which had entirely recovered its power before the reduction of the luxation.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Cleveland-square, Nov. 1862. WM. B. OWEN, L.R.C.S. Edin.

MEDICAL TRIALS.

COURT OF EXCHEQUER.

TUESDAY, NOV. 18TH.

Sittings in Banco before the LORD CHIEF BARON, Mr. BARON MARTIN, and Mr. BARON CHANNELL.

WALTERS v. LUSH.

THE particulars of this case appeared in THE LANCET of the 8th inst.

Sir FREDERICK SLADE, for the defendant, moved for and obtained a rule to set aside the verdict and enter it for the defendant, or for a nonsuit, on the ground that no sufficient information had ever been given to Dr. Young by the plaintiff of the defendant's practice; that no evidence was given of any information whatever having been given to Dr. Young of the practice of the defendant; that the plaintiff was not authorized to impose a condition upon Dr. Young which was not included in the printed terms of agency, and had by so imposing such conditions disentitled himself to any commission.

Mr. EDWIN JAMES, Q.C., and Mr. JOYCE, in showing cause against the rule, now contended that Mrs. Young, the admitted agent of Dr. Young, the purchaser, having received particulars of the practice from the plaintiff was information and a communication within the meaning of the terms, so as to entitle the plaintiff to recover his commission. It was also objected that the condition contained in the letter to Mrs. Young was a mere test of the *bona fides*, and also that the contract was a binding one.

Sir FREDERICK SLADE and Mr. PRIDEAUX, in support of the rule, urged that the contract was not binding, that the information given to Mrs. Young was insufficient, and that the condition imposed by the plaintiff in his letter to Mrs. Young put an end to the contract.

Their Lordships were of opinion that the rule ought to be discharged. The jury had properly found that the contract between the parties was that contained in the private paper, and that Mrs. Young was the agent of her husband for the purposes of this inquiry. The verdict would not be disturbed.

* * The issue of this case is most important to members of the medical profession. There can be no doubt that the contract in a legal sense was perfectly substantiated. It is impossible to object to the ruling of the judges, but the decision at which they arrived demonstrates the importance of the sellers and purchasers of medical practices carefully scanning the terms upon which the contract is made.—ED. L.

THE HEALTH OF BOMBAY.—The health of the town and island of Bombay has improved during the last fortnight (Oct. 27th), and is at present good. The attacks of cholera, which we have lately reported, have entirely ceased.