I have hitherto advocated the sending a fee to the medical man without effect, but hope that next month, at the quarterly meeting, some more able member will move and carry a resolution to erase this blot from the fair fame of this respectable society.—Sir, yours faithfully,

May, 1847.

L. L.—, M.D., & F.R.C.S.

CASE OF MR. W. H. OSBORNE.

THE following important letter has been addressed to Mr. FOSBROOKE. It puts one part of the schedule of Osborne in a more prominent light than before, and increases the necessity for interference on the part of the Council of the College of Surgeons:—

South Shields, June, 1847.

SIR,—I make no apology for thus intruding on your attention, as I am certain you will excuse me. On perusal of Saturday's *LANCET*, I observe that John Henry Osborne has been a member of the College of Surgeons nearly as long as myself. Now this surprises me greatly, as I knew him to be a first year's student immediately before I went up for examination, (June, 1845.) In his schedule are two false certificates, and two others exceedingly suspicious looking. The false ones are Dr. Lawrie's and Dr. Hannay's for hospital practice, and Mr. Lyon's for surgical lectures. In the spring of 1842, I commenced attendance in Dr. Moses' and Buchanan's dissecting-room. I found that the doctor would take charge of half the surgical wards in the infirmary, 1st May, 1842—Mr. Lyon to be his colleague until May, 1843, when, by the rules of the hospital, he retired. Dr. Pagan now became Dr. Buchanan's colleague for the remainder of Dr. Buchanan's term of office—viz., till May, 1844. At this date, Dr. Pagan becomes senior surgeon; Dr. Hannay succeeds Dr. Buchanan. On 1st May, 1845, Dr. Pagan retires, and is succeeded by Dr. Lawrie. Osborne's certificates, to be correct, ought to be attested by the signatures of Drs. Buchanan and Pagan, from November, 1843, to May, 1844; by Drs. Pagan and Hannay, from May, 1844, to May, 1845; and by Drs. Hannay and Lawrie, from May to August, 1845. I do not wish to doubt Dr. Lawrie's honesty; I believe him to be unknowingly the instrument of a falsehood. He certifies to an attendance of twenty-one months, which is eighteen months antecedent to his becoming surgeon to the hospital. In like manner Dr. Hannay bears testimony to an antecedent period of six months. I do not believe Dr. Pagan's signature has been asked. Why, is obvious. The date of Osborne's entrance to the practice of the infirmary can be ascertained from the superintendent's register. Also from the names of the students in the album, which we were in the habit of signing every two months. That Osborne was not attending the infirmary during the session 1843-44, I am well aware, as are others. He never was seen in the hospital that winter. Had he been in attendance I should certainly have seen him.

In the summer of 1842, Mr. Lyon lectured on surgery; but owing to the small attendance on his winter course, he did not do so any more in summer. In the spring of 1845, I was repeatedly urged by a Mr. King, of Bradford, to be one of a party who were anxious to get Mr. Lyon to give a course of lectures on surgery between April and August. Their object was to get the College schedule filled up. I expressed my doubts as to the sufficiency of a summer course of lectures on surgery for recognition at the London College. An advertisement of the Portland-street School of Medicine appeared in April or May, 1845, in which Mr. Lyon expressed his willingness to lecture if a sufficient number came forward. Whether the lectures were delivered or not I cannot tell; but assuming that they were, how is it that Osborne's certificate is dated 1844, instead of 1845? I doubt not there is deliberate fraud here, at whose hands ought to be shown. Either Osborne has altered the date, or Mr. Lyon has knowingly certified to a falsehood.

If Mr. Belfour would allow you to look at the schedules deposited by John Maund, of Bromsgrove, Benjamin Sykes, of Clickheaton, William S. King, of Bradford, or any others from Glasgow, in the beginning of August, 1845, you can draw an inference as to the culpability of the parties. I will only add that Osborne told me, in Dr. Buchanan's class-room, that his father predated his indentures to enable him to obtain his examination at Apothecaries' Hall in accordance with the curriculum prior to 1835.

You are at liberty to make any use of this you think proper.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

To J. E. Fosbrooke, Esq.

J. S. DUNHAM, M.R.C.S.E.

The following letter, addressed to Dr. WATTS, shows either that the medical authorities of Glasgow have grossly deceived the College, or else that the Council are fully aware of the frauds contained in the schedule of Osborne. We shall take occasion to comment further upon the matter. It is most extraordinary, that a number of persons should be openly charged with participation in what cannot be considered as otherwise than careless or wilful fraud, and yet up to this time not a single answer or explanation has been made:—

29, St. Vincent-place, Glasgow, July 30th, 1847.

SIR,—Reverting to your communication of the 25th current, regarding Mr. John Henry Osborne, I am directed by the Weekly Committee of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary to intimate in answer, that they received various applications from Mr. Belfour, of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, regarding Mr. Osborne, and that they have furnished him with the facts of the case, and I beg, therefore, to refer you to that gentleman for the information you desire.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ROB. LAMOND.

To Wm. Watts, Esq., M.D., Exchange, Nottingham.

QUACKS AND QUACKERY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Like yourself I have a great antipathy to quackery within or without the profession; that without now assumes a bolder front than ever, and calls for our reproof and reform, since, to our honour as a body, we are willing to submit ourselves to a reform in qualification and morals for any new legislation affecting us. The notorious Morrison, with his advertisement puffs, pervaded the civilized world, gathering its gold, but his successor, Holloway, leaves him far in the shade. When Morrison, fifteen years ago, added the Asiatic cholera to his puff cure-list, I cautioned the people in my neighbourhood, through our provincial paper, against him, and received from him an especial notice in all his advertisements of that time; but that I cared not for, being desirous of doing good. It appears to me at this time, if practitioners, in their several localities, would occasionally address similar cautions to the readers of local newspapers, they would enlighten them against the chicaneries of the quacks, and in part do what it is to be hoped the Government will be brought to do, clip the wings of this carrion crow, quackery, whose scream of delusion and affright is so resonant in our land. When I hear the dons of the profession laugh at any legal interference with this fraud, I am not surprised at its triumph; but true it is, reforms in divinity, law, or physic, do not essentially originate with the rich and distinguished of those bodies, and therefore the general practitioners must take the subject the more thoroughly in hand. If the public reflected on the matter—inasmuch as one nostrum succeeds another so constantly,—they would conclude that all are bubbles which burst alike; but we know the hope and the gullibility of the sick do not often allow of any reasoning upon the subject, and especially when a few high-coloured cases of cures are before them. There was a man, called the Prophet, last year at Stroud, who cured complaints by a special gift of God, as he said. Many believed it, and many said they were cured; and this man could have obtained signatures in abundance for remarkable cures under credulity and excitement; but he had not been gone a week before the maladies kept creeping back, and it was found the Prophet had not effected the cures. He was to return, but has not, of course. In this way many quack cures are effected by nostrums, and after the cases have been published, the individuals have found their complaints again. In answer to these remarks, it may be said, that some, from perseverance in merely a course of purgation with Morrison's pills have been cured of complaints which have defied all science; but if the failures and the mischiefs proceeding from one curative nostrum were placed against the credit side, there can be no question the remedy would be easily proved bankrupt. If Holloway's pills and ointment were adopted by any medical man to cure all that Holloway vouches for, that medical man would soon find his practice leave him. This would open the eyes of a legislator, could he see with the eyes of an enlightened observer. Holloway and Co. succeed because they have not a small community to sell physic to, but a kingdom, or many kingdoms, where their failures are not compared by one with another from distance, and every chance or temporary success is alone exaggerated and puffed to the advertisement and case reader. If you look at Holloway's envelop for the ointment you will see the

names of most of the leading physicians and surgeons in London as either using it or recommending it. Now, this array of names, honestly or fraudulently made, is well calculated to sell Holloway's nostrums, but it shows that these gentlemen have been easily entrapped, or are guilty of most reprehensible neglect to themselves and profession, in allowing their names to be stamped on coin which they know to be counterfeit.—I am, Mr. Editor, very respectfully yours,
Nailsworth, June, 1847. THOMAS STOKES.

P.S.—It is quite the artifice of a modern quack to affix some scientific research on physiology &c. to his advertisement, and this tells for his nostrum with the ignorant; but which has no more to do with it than Professor Holloway has with the title of a Professor, as it is usually understood, or to be next in succession to Queen Victoria, or any other absurd incongruity.

* * The envelop shows the number of professional men who suffer the advertising "Professor" to use their names on behalf of his nostrums. Who the Kennys, Niochets, Binnses, Konarskis, Lamberts, and Mac Donnells may be, the profession does not care to know. But it might have been expected that in a list containing the names of Brodie, Dobson, Bright, Travers, White, Andrews, Callaway, Partridge, (King's College,) Dendy, Stafford, Busk, Taunton, Pilcher, Bishop, &c., some one would have had sufficient spirit to prosecute the impostor who thus uses their names to obtain money under false pretences.—ED. L.

"A CURE FOR ALL BY PROFESSOR HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT!"

'The physiology of the prospectus of Holloway's Pills and Ointment is, I must say, unexceptionable, and tallies with the received opinions of the first medical practitioners—not only in Great Britain, but also in France, Italy, and Germany. I say this, not from *hearsay*, but from *personal experience*, as I have practised in those countries.

S. KENNY, M.D. & M.R.C.S., Medical Lecturer.

5, Charles-street, Euston-square, London.'

PROPOSED MOTTO FOR "THE LANCET."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You have no motto for your useful work. Perhaps you do not want one. But if you do, allow me to suggest one from your own pages (603) of last week:—"THE MEDICAL PROFESSION DOES MUCH FOR THE PUBLIC, RICH AND POOR; BUT MANKIND CARE VERY LITTLE ABOUT THE PROFESSION, AFTER THE IMMEDIATE RELIEF OF THEIR OWN AILMENTS. IT BEHOVES US, THEREFORE, TO HELP OURSELVES AND EACH OTHER."—*Sir C. M. Clark, Bart., at the Meeting of the Society for Widows and Orphans.*

I never see letters in THE LANCET printed in gold, though many which occupy its pages would deserve that distinction; the motto which I now suggest for its future numbers, most certainly does so.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

London, June, 1847.

MEDICUS.

MEDICAL REGISTRATION AND MEDICAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

Petitions in favour of the Bill, received for Presentation by Mr. Wakley, M.P.:

Andrew Ross, M.D., Boulogne-sur-Mer; C. E. Joseph, Tip-ton, Staffordshire; Practitioners of Abingdon, (four signatures;) David Paterson, Grove-street, Liverpool; Medical Practitioners of Bath, (forty-one signatures: this petition has been principally due to the zeal and activity of Dr. P. Ballantine Ferguson in the cause of medical registration;) George Croudace, West Rainton, Durham; Medical Practitioners of Clapham and Wandsworth, (four signatures;) Henry Myers, Milton-street, Dorset-square; Rev. E. Arundel Verity, Habergham, Lancashire; William Robins, Paddington; William Furnivall, Hutton, Somerset; Donald Clarke, Ferryhill, Durham; Richard Alford, Tewkesbury; W. J. Mackarsie, Clay Cross, Derbyshire; William Clowes, Stalham, Norfolk; N. J. Haydon, Bovey-Tracey, Devon; Henry William Sandell Potton, Beds; B. McLaren, Bedlington, Northumberland; J. Rose Cormack, Putney; J. T. Waller, Hemesby, Norfolk; Medical Practitioners of Seacombe, &c., Cumberland, (four signatures;) Thomas Macartney, Liverpool; Medical Students of Liverpool, (six signatures;) William Cooper, Roch Ferry, Cheshire; Hilary Hill, Worcester; J. P. McDonald, Bristol; John Wightman Cawood; John Gray, Upper George-street,

Bryanston-square; Thomas Moore, Brown-street, Bryanston-square; Thomas W. Grant, Nutford-place, Bryanston-square; E. W. Howitt, Walworth; H. Humphreys, Whitcombe-street; R. Rowlands, Langaeth, South Wales; A. F. Price, Deptford; Orlando G. Bell, Walworth; Alfred Collinson, New Cross; F. B. Fulcher, Deptford; Francis Jackson, New Kent-road; C. L. Alexander, Brunswick-street, Dover-road; James Hales Shirreff, Blackheath; John Drury, Bushey, Herts; Hugh Spencer Hughes, Greenwich; George Lockyer, Deptford; P. A. La Farque, Old Kent-road; David Davies, Bazier's Buildings; Michael Drury, Deptford; W. O. Leigh, Deptford; A. Wright, Old Kent-road; H. Hardinge, Silver-street, Golden-square; J. Airey, Poland-street; Miller Hamilton, Leicester-square; Thomas Wood, Panton-street; Francis Smith, Medical Student, Blackfriars-road; Thos. Longmore, Borough-road; Thomas Bromley, Lambeth; W. Seagrave, Newington, Surrey; J. B. Burridge, Walworth; B. Brooking, Bow-street, Covent-garden; J. Taylor, Old Kent-road; F. H. Johnson, Bishop's Wearmouth, Durham;—Chas. Bayfield Miller, B. Phillips, H. W. Dixon, Herbert Brecon, Francis Goduck, E. Neville, and G. M. Frost, Medical Students of St. George's Hospital; C. W. Goodall, Medical Student of Middlesex Hospital; W. Price Evans, Mile-end, near Swansea; Charles Long Allwork, Maidstone, Kent; Thomas Cattell, Braunston, Northamptonshire; Thomas Abraham, Old Broad-street, City.

Petitions presented by other Members of Parliament.

May 31.—Medical Officers of the Liverpool North Dispensary; Medical Officers of the Liverpool Fever Hospital and Workhouse; Medical Officers of the Southern and Toxteth Hospital, Liverpool; Medical Officers of the Liverpool Lying-in Hospital; Medical Officers of the Liverpool South Dispensary; Honorary Medical Officers of the Liverpool Eye and Ear Infirmary; Honorary Medical Officers of the Liverpool Ladies' Charity; Medical Practitioners of Liverpool, (seventy-two signatures;) John Maxwell and others, Medical Practitioners in London; James Edward Matthew, Kingsland; G. West, Hackney-road Crescent; John Chambers, Hackney-road; F. Seeton Gavin, M.D., Edinburgh; President and Council of the Shropshire and North Wales Branch of the Provincial Medical Association, and of the Resident Medical and Surgical Practitioners of Shropshire, in public meeting assembled, (fifty signatures;) Medical Men of Whitchurch; Medical Practitioners of Ellesmere; Medical Men of Wellington, (eleven signatures;) Medical Men of Oswestry, (nine signatures;) Robert Falder, Alnwick, Northumberland; John Davison, Alnwick; Mungo Park and others, Medical Practitioners in London; William Tayler, Tywardreath, Cornwall; Caleb Crowther, M.D., Wakefield; Samuel Secker, Wakefield; Richard Oke Millett, M.D., Penpol, Hayle, Cornwall; Charles Alexander Parson, Richard Balchin, and Alfred Thomas Chandler, Godalming, Surrey; Benjamin Thomas, Llanelly, Carmarthenshire.

June 3rd.—David Taylor and J. E. Pattison.

June 9th.—John Thurnham and Thomas Laycock; Alex. Henry; Leyland; Surrey; John McDonogh; Chichester; Staffordshire Potteries; Beaumaris; and, members of the Plymouth, Devonport, and Stonehouse Medical Society, (Honorary Secretary.)

Petitions against the Bill.

From Ulverston and Lonsdale; and George Ford Copeland; (referred to the Select Committee on Medical Registration, &c.)

Medical News.

MEDICAL REGISTRATION COMMITTEE.—A full meeting of the Committee was held last Tuesday evening, at the Freemasons' Tavern. Edwin Lankester, M.D., F.R.S., in the Chair. The objections published by the different Corporations, against the Registration Bill, were discussed, and it was unanimously resolved, to issue another Address, in answer to them. The Sub-Committee reported that they had received authority to add several other names to the Protest against the proceedings of the Council of the National Institute, and from their personal experience, they entertained no doubt that the Protest was universally approved of, and would be as universally signed. The Chairman observed, that very nearly five hundred petitions, in favour of the Bill, had been presented to the House, from London alone, through the individual efforts of the members of the Committee; and with this highly-gratifying fact before them, it was resolved to continue their exertions as long as the Bill should be before Parliament. Additional handsome subscriptions were an-