ments, managed to make every one of them believe that *he* was the next in rotation to see "Master," so that the *oil* CHARLES received in this manner Sir ASTLEY used to calculate amounted to *several pounds a week!* But by far the most lucrative situation which Sir ASTLEY contrived for CHARLES was, his getting a house in the immediate vicinity of Spring Gardens, which he converted into a kind of *hotel* or *Maison de Sante*, where all Sir ASTLEY's patients were boarded at a good round price,—all those I mean who came from the country, more particularly those on whom the Baronet was to perform some operation. Now CHARLES not only assisted him at the operations, but had the chief care of his patients afterwards, and was, in fact, the regular dresser. This line of business paid well, for, besides the usual charges of board and lodging, Charles got many very handsome presents. Now it is no less a man than CHARLES's second born who acts in Conduit Street as the assistant and deputy of Sir ASTLEY COOPER!

"My own opinion decidedly is, that the Council of your honourable College for the support of all the practices of which I know no more strenuous advocate than yourself, dear Mr. B., should endeavour, before any public inquiry takes place, to contrive the institution of some body of laws for the better regulation of its councillors, as regards their duties towards each other as well as towards the public. If you do not manage this quickly among yourselves, any of your members who is guilty of professional misdemeanour and infringement of our honourable laws, may be summoned before a tribunal of the commonality of the College. It may come to this at last. These medical ministers may so order it, just as military men are judged of in their anti-military conduct by a military tribunal. Such things as these have crossed the minds of our legislators. Thus, for example, it was the intention of my dear friend the Duke of WELLINGTON (than whom no man ever showed more legislative wisdom), had the country continued to be blest with his pre-eminent services as a statesman, to have brought in a Bill to confer on a tribunal of clergymen, power to legislate on the numerous cases of misdemeanour of that sacred body. Lose no time, then, in getting the Council of your College to hold a meeting on the subject of Sir ASTLEY's proceedings, and believe me ever faithfully yours,"

"London, Feb. 9th, 1834."

THE CULPRIT MACLEOD.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Another word on the subject of my communication with Dr. Macleod, and I hope this unpleasant business will have an end.

I parted from that gentleman in the street, and coming fresh from my interview with him, I may have given expression, in words, to what I conceived were his feelings at the moment of our conversation. At the same time I must declare I had no intention wilfully to mislead you, or injure Dr. Macleod. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Feb. 10, 1834.

J. H. TUCKER.

. This is the candid acknowledgment of an honourable man. Our experience of the upright conduct of Mr. TUCKER assured us from the first, that the acts of that gentleman were influenced by the purest motives towards all parties.—ED. L.

DOINGS IN CONDUIT-STREET.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—By inserting the following note you will oblige, yours, &c.

A. BALDERSON.

Although, perhaps, my most prudent plan would be to take no notice of the repeated anonymous attacks made on my character, yet I feel compelled to make the following remarks.

It is true I am the son of Mr. Balder-son, who formerly lived with Sir Astley Cooper, and who now occupies a farm in Hertfordshire. It is equally true that, at the age of sixteen, I was placed as an articled student with Mr. Wray, who is a surgeon in Salisbury-square, Fleet-street, with whom I remained five years. I then attended the Lectures at Guy's Hospital, and became a Licentiate of the Apothecaries Company.

I settled as a medical man in Poland-street, Oxford-street, where I have lived five years, and supported, I hope, a respectable character.

I have occasionally been an assistant to Sir Astley Cooper in his professional practice.

I never intentionally deprived a brother practitioner of a patient, and had Sir A. C.'s strict injunctions never to do so.

I have still to learn the crime of my father having been in a humbler sphere of life than he is at present; and am

yet ignorant that Dr. Hunter, Mr. John Hunter, and many others I could name, were less estimable in their profession because their parents had not been placed in the highest ranks of society.

Feb. 11th, 1834.

* * In giving insertion to the foregoing statement, it is necessary we should remind Mr. BALDERSON that he has not answered, much less refuted, the statements of our correspondents. Mr. BALDERSON alleges that he has "never *intentionally* deprived a brother practitioner of a patient." Does he act then without motives? Does he visit and prescribe for the patients who attend in Conduit-street for the purpose of receiving the gratuitous assistance of the worthy baronet, in his sleep? Is he a somnambulist? The charge against Mr. BALDERSON is this,—That he has attended, at their own houses, patients who have called in Conduit-street to obtain the advice of Sir ASTLEY COOPER. Further; the accusation does not rest on anonymous testimony. Respecting this charge, Mr. A. BALDERSON is silent; and few, we believe, will be disposed to question his discretion. The "injunction" of Sir ASTLEY was what we should have expected from the worthy baronet, and we trust that the "assistant" will, in future, conform, with strict obedience, to the commands of his patron.

Mr. A. BALDERSON is mistaken, if he imagines that it was the intention of any one of our correspondents to throw discredit on him because his father happened to hold an humble situation in the house of Sir ASTLEY COOPER. Had that been their object, the despicable, malevolent, feeling should not have obtained its accomplishment in the pages of this journal. Mr. BALDERSON, sen., although a servant, was respected by all who had an opportunity of witnessing his strict, undeviating, fidelity to the interests of his kind employer. Besides, it is greatly to the credit of Mr. BALDERSON, sen., that he holds his present position in society, and certainly not less honourable to him that he afforded his son such an education as would admit of his becoming a legally-qualified member of the profession. If Mr. A. BALDERSON be desirous of sharing any portion of that respect which is so generally bestowed on

his parent, he must not, either intentionally or unintentionally, interfere, in an *unprofessional* manner, with those patients who may apply to Sir ASTLEY COOPER for the purpose of deriving benefit from the exercise of the skill of that justly renowned surgeon.—Ed. L.

SELF-SUPPORTING INSTITUTION, FOR THE SICK AND HURT POOR AT LYNN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—We need not use any argument to convince you of the necessity of reform in most of our eleemosynary medical establishments; and we doubt not but you will be pleased to learn that we have established a Self-supporting Institution, for the benefit of the Sick and Hurt, among the working-classes of this town.

The Self-supporting Dispensaries now in operation in the west of England appear to have done much good; and we have endeavoured to improve, in some respects, upon the system adopted in that part of the country: but we have *no dispensary*, for every patient takes his card to the surgeon of his choice. This is a most important feature in our plan, the advantage of which must come home to the breast of every one in the day of sickness. And when it is considered that the attendance which, under the old dispensary system, was given to the poor, by *one young man*, may now be divided amongst all the experienced practitioners of a town, the great superiority of this system will be strikingly manifested.

We have no distinction of classes: every individual comes to us as a free member. A few donations have been admitted, to assist in our outfit; but the institution is strictly self-supporting; and no donations can, on any account, be appropriated to the use of the medical gentlemen.

At the end of every year the *subscribed funds* are to be divided amongst the members of the board, in proportion to the number of cards held by each practitioner, without any reference to the length of time that any patient may have been under treatment.

The code of by-laws for the guidance of the members of our board, shall be at the service of any of our professional brethren who may be desirous of establishing an institution upon this plan. If you can find room for this letter, and our Rules and Regulations, in your valuable peri-