235 cubic inches, whilst that of ten men, of the same height, whose chests measured 38 inches, was only 226 cubic inches. Fifteen men of 5 feet 9 inches had a capacity of 233 cubic inches; while the capacity of eleven men of the same height, but whose chests measured 3 inches *larger*, was only 232 cubic inches, and the mean of the men of 30½ inches chest, 204 cubic inches. The capacity of a man of 40½ (10 inches larger!) was only 147 cubic inches (a capacity of 57 inches less); hence breadth of the chest is no guide to the capacity of the lungs.

Mr. Hutchinson stated that he felt himself quite at a loss to account for this apparent anomaly. He found most generally that the narrow, thin, and tall men have the greatest capacity; this staggering fact first led him to combine height with his observation; then, and not until then, all that had appeared chaos and confusion became order and regularity, and hence resulted the beautiful law already given. No other physical sign could be so steady a guide as that of height. This never varies in disease, nor at any time but in the extremity of age; but weight and breadth vary at all periods of life, therefore no guide can here be looked for in them. Mr. Hutchinson stated that this omission of height being connected with the experiments on respiration, was the sole cause of the great apparent discrepancy between different observers upon the physical experiments in respiration.

(To be continued.)

MR. PROTHEROE SMITH'S SPECULUM UTERI.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In reply to an anonymous letter which appeared in THE LANCET of last week, I beg to remark, that whilst I am desirous not to detract from the merits of Mr. Coxeter's instrument, which I had never seen or heard of until my attention was called to it by your correspondent, I am fully confirmed in my statement by the best authorities in London, Edinburgh, Paris, &c., that the speculum uteri I had the honour to exhibit at the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, is both novel in design, as also in accomplishing the desideratum, which had never heretofore been attained, of investigating uterine disease *simultaneously*, both by touch and sight, and for which purpose Mr. Coxeter's instrument is neither adapted or intended. As the original paper, from which brief abstracts were published by THE LANCET and "Medical Gazette," together with drawings of my speculum, is now in the possession of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, I do not feel myself at liberty, at this time, to enter into a more particular account of its construction and use until I know the decision of the council of that society as to its publication in the next volume of their "Transactions." I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

PROTHEROE SMITH.

John-street, Bedford-row, July 22, 1844.

MEDICAL PROTECTION ASSEMBLY.

EXETER-HALL, JULY 22, 1844.

At a numerous and extraordinary meeting of the committee, Mr. CARPUE in the chair, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

That this committee has viewed with horror and indignation the foul insinuations which have been levelled against Mr. WAKLEY in the Commons House of Parliament.

That this committee has seen with delight and admiration the bold, open, and dignified manner in which the insinuation was met and answered by Mr. WAKLEY, and the committee considers that the thanks of the whole medical profession are due to Sir R. PEEL, and the members of the House of Commons, for the noble and generous protection which they afforded to Mr. WAKLEY on that occasion.

That this committee acknowledges, with feelings of cordial satisfaction, the high-minded conduct of the

whole of the political press towards Mr. WAKLEY on this occasion, writers of every party having nobly stepped forward to the rescue of a man whose public services and private worth might justly have shielded him from the calumnies of even interested slanderers.

That after what has transpired, no attempt to revive the calumny against Mr. WAKLEY can ever be made except by persons whose conduct and unworthy motives must subject them to the severest condemnation of all honourable minds.

That the committee gladly avail themselves of this opportunity to acknowledge, with gratitude, the many obligations which Mr. WAKLEY has conferred upon the members of the medical profession since the establishment of THE LANCET, the first periodical of the kind that appeared in this country, and which he has conducted with ability, independence, and an enduring devotion to the cause of medical reform, for nearly a quarter of a century. We beg also to refer, with pleasure, to the many abuses which that publication has been instrumental in removing from the endowed and chartered medical institutions of this country; to the great good that has resulted to the public, and more especially to the poorer classes of society, by the salutary changes he has caused to be introduced into the public hospitals of the empire; and to the great advancement in the interests and prospects of the profession generally, due to the conduct and indefatigable exertions of that gentleman.

J. CONSTANTINE CARPUE, Chairman.

H. HODSON RUGG, Hon. Sec.

Before the meeting separated, a resolution was unanimously adopted, thanking Mr. H. H. RUGG for the handsome manner in which he had accepted the office of honorary secretary to the committee.

CHARTER OF THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

THE following petition has been sent to the House of Commons by Mr. GEORGE JAMES GUTHRIE:—

The petition of George James Guthrie, of Berkeley-street, Berkeley-square, a Councillor, and late President of the Royal College of Surgeons of London,

Humbly sheweth,

That although your petitioner in his collective capacity, has been compelled to accept the grant of a new charter to the said college, a copy of which was lately laid on the table of your honourable house, he considers several of the provisions of the said charter to be illiberal, exclusive, and unjust.

That, independently of its placing a bar on the poor man, preventing, in many cases, his obtaining by his own exertions such places of honour as there may be in the profession of surgery, it offers unnecessary advantages to the richer student in the attainment of these offices, who may not possess half his ability, his perseverance, or his knowledge, it presses with peculiar severity on the officers of the public service, nearly the whole of whom are deprived by it of those privileges they hitherto enjoyed in common with their surgical brethren of equal standing in civil life; whilst they will also be deprived in future of the hope of succeeding to these offices of honour or profit, whatever may be their ability, or the pre-eminence they may have acquired in the service of their country, from their talents or their labours.

Your petitioner has hitherto believed that a gentleman employed in the service of his Sovereign did not forfeit those rights which he had previously acquired as a citizen and a subject; in virtue of which right your petitioner has twice held the office of president of the college, but which he could not have done if this charter had been formerly in existence; that, as the friend of many of the seniors, the teacher of many of the junior officers of the medical departments of the navy, the army, and the East India company, they have called upon him to use his best endeavours to preserve to them the rights and privileges they have hitherto enjoyed.

Your petitioner humbly approaches your honourable house, in compliance with such call, on behalf of the whole of these officers.

Your petitioner believes there are few members of your honourable house who, in the persons of their fathers, their