the left. You perceive that these resolutions are identically and almost verbatim the same, the only difference being that the College care nothing for the baneful effects of illegal practice upon public and professional interests, as long as their own are left untouched, while Drs. Hastings and Streeten at last seek for some protection from illegal practitioners, well knowing that if they did not, their Association would fall to pieces—a fate which I fear will now befall it, as far as general practitioners are concerned. The sixth of the Derby resolutions faintly asks for a “fuller recognition of the representative principle in the formation of the governing body.” I presume this means the Council of Health; and that this is done with the view of introducing two of the provincial pures. The College having their representative in the Council, and their own interests taken care of, are silent on the subject. Here it is just worthy of remark, that the resolutions of another Edinburgh monopolizing body, the College of Surgeons, are in strict keeping with those of their neighbours, the physicians and their allies of the Provincial Association. They are to have their representative in the supreme Council—their share of the honours and the jobbing—they are in raptures with the Bill, and conclude by instructing their reform committee “to give every possible assistance, by petition or otherwise, to the passing of the Bill of Sir James Graham”!!

With the above key, Sir, we can now understand what have been called the *reform* proceedings of some of the meetings in the provinces. Wherever the Provincial Association have branches, or have been able to command influence, there you will find there has been shewn more or less of the poisonous leaven of their own resolutions, or rather, those of the Edinburgh College of Physicians—the beau ideal of venality—viz., thanks to Sir James Graham, and satisfaction with his Bill!!

The general practitioners of Great Britain have just escaped a great danger—a gunpowder plot—and are still beset with foes on every hand. The Government measure—the Colleges with their new charters—the Poor-Law Commissioners—open quacks—practising chemists—and pretended friends, must all be combatted with. By union, by energy, by exertion the most zealous, by the hatred of oppression, by the fear of impending ruin, and, above all, by incorporation into one organized representative body, I believe that the 25,000 educated and enlightened general practitioners of this country will be more than a match for all their enemies, and will overcome all their present difficulties. The power of such a body, if concentrated and directed to any legitimate and just object, would be irresistible. Let all, then, unite in petitioning the Crown for a royal charter, and doubtless it will be granted. Our gracious Queen owes too much to the skill and watchful care of her own medical attendants, to refuse so reasonable a request to those who are entrusted with the health of the women of England. I am, Sir, yours &c.,

CHIRON.

London, Nov. 19, 1844.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Allow me, through the medium of your excellent publication, to make a few remarks relative to the letters of Messrs. Wood and Teague, students of this College, with respect to the competition for prizes. It is well known that qualified, and fourth and fifth years men, are in the habit of competing with one and two years, which can only be obviated by the council framing a law—that no qualified practitioner, or student who has completed his third session, shall be eligible to compete for a prize. Mr. Wood says that one of the rules to be observed by gentlemen going in for honours is, that they shall have attended regularly the weekly examinations. Surely this regulation ought to be dispensed with; many of the students may not intend offering themselves for examination at the Apothecaries' Hall, which Company *only* renders it compulsory, and their time may be more profitably employed in the dissecting-room or the library; at least, such may be their own views; and as all students are of an age capable of judging for themselves, I think that such a rule, if enforced, would be an act of discourtesy on the part of the council. There are many disagreeables connected with these examinations that I have heard students frequently complain of. Perhaps the professor asks a question, which the student is not able to answer; instead of his being assisted, a dead silence ensues, and he either renders himself ridiculous to the rest of the class, by making some guess at a reply, or is so confused that he becomes disgusted, and never answers to his name again. These are evils of frequent occurrence.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

FAIR PLAY.

University College, Nov. 18.

SIR BENJAMIN BRODIE, BART.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I shall be much obliged to you if you will insert the following letter, addressed to the editor of another journal, in the next number of THE LANCET; and

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

B. C. BRODIE.

14, Saville Row, Nov. 18, 1844.

(COPY.)

To the Editor of THE MEDICAL GAZETTE.

SIR,—In the leading article of the *Medical Gazette* of Friday last, I find a scheme propounded for the incorporation of the great body of general medical practitioners with the London College of Physicians, and followed by these observations:—

“The plan suggested would have this further advantage: it would not be opposed by those who have been prime movers in the construction of the medical bill. We threw it out to the distinguished individual who has the credit, or the discredit, according to different men's views, of the projected bill, and his reply was, ‘Let the College of Physicians take them, and welcome;’ meaning the general practitioners.”

It is evident that this refers to a conversation which I had with you on Thursday, the 7th of this month; and I have no doubt that there are few among your readers who do not understand that I am the individual here alluded to.

The expression attributed to me, standing, as it does, alone, cannot but be considered as offensive to two classes of persons whom I equally esteem, and among whom I have met with some of my kindest friends, namely, the College of Physicians and the general practitioners. But you must be aware that it was not so intended, and that it would not be so considered by others, if the rest of our conversation had been recorded. I am willing to believe that it was only through inadvertence that you quoted any part of a conversation which was purely confidential. Having done so, however, I have a right to expect that you will go still further; and I beg to remind you of what really happened, as far as it concerns the remark in question.

On the day which I have mentioned, I had an interview with you, on a subject which concerned yourself. I was influenced by no other motive than a feeling of kindness towards you, and a desire to prevent your being placed in what would have been, at any rate, a disagreeable situation.

In the course of our communication you observed, speaking of the general medical practitioners, “They are more of physicians than of surgeons;” and you then suggested that the College of Physicians might make them an appendage of their body. I scarcely knew whether this was to be taken seriously or not, it being indeed plain that it would not suit the views either of one party or of the other; and I answered, carelessly enough, that “They were welcome to do so, if they pleased.” I said this, not having the smallest notion that it was to be put forth to the world as my grave opinion, and without any kind of disrespectful feeling towards either the physicians or the general practitioners,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

B. C. BRODIE.

AN INQUEST IN WILTSHIRE!

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As an act of justice to myself and the profession, I beg to send you the particulars of an inquest held here on Saturday last, Oct. 5th, before Mr. Whitmarsh, coroner of this district, and a respectable jury of the town, on the body of Georgiana Tidcomb, who died suddenly on the Thursday previous. It is necessary for me, in order to make my case appear clear before you, to furnish you with a short history of my professional attendance on the deceased. I was first called in to see her about four months ago, soon after her confinement; she was suffering from no particular complaint, and soon got better. The last time I saw her was about ten days prior to her death; she was then attacked with severe pain in her stomach; from this she soon recovered, from the use of anti-spasmodics. I heard no further of her till Thursday morning last, (the day of her death,) when she had more medicine. I had occasion to leave home immediately, and did not return till the evening, when I heard she was dead. It was said she had taken two doses of the medicine I had sent her, and within two hours after taking the last dose, she fell down in the house, and expired almost immediately. In my absence, Mr. Parker, a practitioner of the town, was called in, but by the time he came, the woman had been dead at least ten minutes; still he made an attempt to bleed from the arm. It was natural to suppose, having been, as I have shewn you, the regular medical attendant in this case, that I should be summoned to attend the inquest. After waiting some time, I went to the house where the inquest was being held, and, to my great