those who are most likely to be ornaments of their profession—those, namely, whose natural aidour in scientific pursuits is further heightened by *necessity for exertion*. It has been said of political reformers, that they raise their clamour only in times of national distress. “True,” cries Mr. Cobbett, “but in distress only will the people be awakened to the cause of their misfortunes.” This I must use as an argument against those who may say, that the fees are obnoxious merely to a *faction*. Granting this, let me ask, is it probable that the *rich* ones would be the first to exclaim against (to them) a trifling tax, whilst it operates as one mode of excluding the fagging and often talented *poor*? No one can object to the payment of men for their well-earned public services; you have yourself remarked, that they are not sufficiently recompensed; but let not a *SEEMING* generosity to one class, be paid for from the purses of another.

Fearing I have taken up too much of your well filled pages, I beg to subscribe myself, Mr. Editor, your obedient servant, and one of a fraternity whose cause you have made your own.

A POOR STUDENT.

Aug. 19, 1829.

MR. ABERNETHY.

“My heart laments that virtue cannot live
Out of the teeth of emulation.”

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Considering that the humble efforts of my pen have more than once gained access, and have never been denied admission to the notice of your LANCET, I cannot doubt the impartiality of the able hand which directs it, nor can I, for a moment, question the grand objects at which it is aimed, or the steady and undeviating track which it pursues, accustomed as I have ever been (since first the shining weapon was unsheathed) to admire the fair and open principles, the just encomiums of merit, and the due chastisement of quackery or presumption, by which you have upheld the importance of the medical profession.

Conscious of the truth of these observations, I lament the more that its pages should be rendered subservient to the purposes of detraction; for, surely, no one (whether friend or foe) can have read without indignation, the contemptible endeavours of your Allsop Terrace correspondent, to expose to ridicule a man who (notwithstanding all his peculiarities) is justly entitled to the esteem of every philanthropist and lover

of science, and whom nuth will ever regard as the brightest ornament to his profession, of the age in which he lived. Indeed, Sir, I am at a loss to discover the pretensions of the *soi disant* champion for the cure of spinal deformity, to enter the arena in deterioration of Mr. Abernethy's merits: I know not upon what relative conditions he presumes to single out Goliath from the ranks, unless that he imagines himself a David; neither do I know much of the difference of the ancient “mode of teaching from that which is practised in these more enlightened times;” but this much I do know—

“Magna fuit quondam capitis reverentia
cani.”

Now, with regard to Mr. Abernethy as a lecturer, certainly that man is the best calculated to instruct youth, who can render the most abstruse sciences intelligible by familiar illustrations; and this the worthy teacher has done, to the entire satisfaction of one of the most numerous and popular classes of students in Europe, for a period of more than thirty years. As a student, having listened to the instructions of Mr. Abernethy, and, as a practitioner, having proved (if, indeed, proof were wanting) the validity of his counsels, I have taken upon myself to make these cursory remarks. And I am, Sir, with great respect yours, &c.

J. H. HEATON.

Tickhill, Aug. 19, 1829.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE communication of Dr. Mc Fadzen did reach our office.

“Cases” from the Royal Infirmary next week.

Many letters reached us too late for the present Number.

ERRATA.

To make Mr. Churchill's paper on the *chenopodium olidum* complete, page 646 of our last Number, it should have been stated that it is a native plant, generally found in moist situations under old walls. It is to be found under the walls of the cottages about Lisson Grove, and before the first large house on the right-hand side of Kingston Bottom, at the foot of the hill leading from Putney.

In p. 617, col. 1, line 40, for *hydrargyre* substitute *hydragogue*; and, in the next line but one, for *communicated* read *communicate*.