how can it be expected that they will either improve or even retain the knowledge which they have previously acquired? If it be important to have men of talent in the naval medical service (and that it is so, no one will, I presume, be bold enough to deny), surely a state of things, having so contrary a tendency, will not be allowed to continue? I must apologise, Mr. Editor, for dwelling so long on this point. I have done so, because I am well convinced (and this conviction I know to be general amongst my professional brethren) that the placing assistant-surgeons in the ward-room, and allowing them a cabin, would be the means of bringing the medical department to perfection, *which it will never otherwise obtain*. Much has already been done by Sir Wm. Burnett, but there is still a wide field for reform. The assistant-surgeons of his Majesty's navy, contemplating his past conduct, look forward with confidence to the future. They know him to be the warm, although, as yet, unsuccessful advocate of their cause, and they therefore feel sanguine that, ere long, all their grievances will be redressed.

I cannot permit myself to conclude this letter without thanking you, sincerely thanking you, and those gentlemen with whom you were associated, for your spirited exertions in our behalf on a late occasion. There was but one feeling in the navy (which it would be superfluous to name) when that order was issued, and you may be assured that there will be but one sentiment of admiration and gratitude to those who so quickly and honourably obtained its repeal.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
AN ASSISTANT-SURGEON, R.N.
London, Jan. 7, 1832.

LONDON HOSPITAL.

REPLY TO THE ALLEGED BREACH OF PROMISE
ON THE PART OF THE LECTURERS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I shall feel obliged by your insertion of this reply to a letter signed *Victima*, which appeared in the last number of *THE LANCET*. He must be conscious that he has made a very unfair and illiberal statement of a fact. As a pupil of the medical class of the London Hospital, I beg to state, that no breach of contract has been made by Dr. Davies. The change in the hour of lecturing was advertised several weeks ago; it was generally understood during the last course, and Dr. Billing gave notice of it before he concluded that course. If *Victima* is a pupil of that class, and *has attended* the lectures delivered by Dr. Billing, he ~~must have known~~ must have known of the intended alteration,

and I think you, Sir, will agree with me, that that was the time at which he ought to have stated his objection. He asserts that it is "a time excessively inconvenient to some, and utterly preventing others from attending." This however is mere assertion, of which he offers no proof. I have made extensive inquiry, and am convinced that it is the opinion of the class, that the change is not only convenient, but advantageous, as it allows more time during the day to those who are desirous of availing themselves of the many peculiar advantages which the practice in this hospital affords. He concludes with a most unjust application of an extract, "that the interests of the many are constantly sacrificed to the convenience of the few." It is undeniable, and I believe *Victima* stands alone in stating the contrary, that it would be impossible for gentlemen to exert themselves more in the promotion of the interests and welfare of students than do those who are connected with the medical and surgical school of this Institution. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN HODGSON RAMSBOTHAM.
London Hospital, Jan. 23, 1832.

CORRESPONDENTS, &c.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from Mr. Burrows—Mr. W. Willecocks—D. Burnes, M.D.—Medicus—Mr. W. P. Bain—Ignoramus—P. R. S.—An Enemy to Humbug—Mr. A. Smith—C. N.—Mr. H. E. Partridge—Mr. Murdock—Medicus.

P. S.—M. D. We regret to state that the learned recorder of Dublin was correct in his definition of the law. As the medical charters and acts of Parliament now stand, neither physicians nor surgeons, strictly *as such*, can legally recover for attendance or medicines afforded in medical cases.

A Student of the London Hospital will see that the publication of Mr. Ramsbotham's reply to '*Victima*,' precludes any necessity for the insertion of his own.

A Medical Practitioner of Huddersfield. The obnoxious "chemist" is acting in open defiance of the law, and must be prepared to encounter the consequences of his temerity.

Observer. The proposed remedy has been already tried and failed. The results of the analytical examinations of the blood show but too clearly that electricity cannot be employed with success.

All communications not inserted shall be returned, if the papers were preserved at the especial request of their respective authors. We regret that want of space alone compels us to reject, weekly, many valuable communications; and we regard it as a misfortune that our correspondents do not authorise us to make such extracts as we may deem to be the most important parts of their essays.

ERRATA in the conclusion of Dr. Elliotson's paper on Bishop and Williams, in our last No., p. 604, for "naturally" read *maturely*; and for "Christians" read *characters*.