memorial to the President and Council of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society.

As I have not the honour of being a Fellow of that Society, I could not sign the memorial, however anxious I might be to enrol myself among those who have had the privilege of thus recording their protest against an act of intolerance that could hardly have been looked for in the middle of the nineteenth century.

I have the honour to be, Sir, yours &c.,
Devonshire-square, March, 1854. ROBERT BARNES.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

ON THE USE OF OXIDE OF ZINC AND HYOSCYAMUS, AS GIVEN BY DR. THEOPHILUS THOMPSON FOR THE REMOVAL OF COLLIQUATIVE SWEATING IN PHTHISIS.

[NOTES OF CASES BY DR. MILLER, NORTH DISPENSARY, LIVERPOOL.]

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having had, during the past severe winter, a considerable number of cases of phthisis under my care, in which colliquative sweating was a well-marked and most distressing symptom, I was induced (all the usual remedies having failed) to prescribe pills of oxide of zinc and hyoscyamus, according to the form recommended by Dr. Theophilus Thompson, in his lectures, published in your valuable paper—viz., oxide of zinc and extract of hyoscyamus of each four grains, to be made into two pills, and taken at bed-time. To my great delight I found the night perspirations altogether cease in a few nights after the patients began to take these pills. The following are notes of a few cases:—

Sophia —, aged twenty-seven, married, ill about eight months; has all the symptoms of phthisis well-marked, particularly the night perspirations. I directed the above pills, and on the third day the perspirations had entirely ceased, and have not since returned.

Catherine —, aged thirty-three, married, ill a long time; complains of profuse night perspirations, which entirely ceased in a few days after commencing the pills, and have not returned.

Fanny —, aged twenty, unmarried; first seen March 18, 1854; has all the usual symptoms of phthisis. Profuse night perspirations. I prescribed cod-liver oil, half an ounce, three times a day, and zinc and hyoscyamus pills at bed-time.

March 21st.—Is much more comfortable; had very little perspiration last night.

I have given these pills in several other cases; and I think they have the great advantage over other remedies of allaying the night perspirations, and, at the same time, not giving rise to the violent attacks of diarrhoea, which so often come on when the perspirations are subdued.

I should feel obliged by the insertion of these few observations should you deem them of sufficient interest.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
W. MILLER, M.B. Trin. Coll. Dub., L.R.C.S.I.,
Assistant House-Surgeon, North Dispensary,
Liverpool.

March, 1854.

THE CASE OF MR. HOUSLEY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg to hand you a copy of the resolution passed at a meeting of medical men, held at the Wakefield Dispensary, on Monday last.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
W. R. MILNER,
Secretary to the Wakefield Medical Society.

Wakefield, March 27, 1854.

1. That Mr. Housley, having passed his youth and the earlier part of his professional career in Wakefield, is well known to many of us, and we bear willing testimony to the kindness of his disposition, to his honourable feeling and conduct, to his ability, industry, and professional attainments.

2. That from the evidence produced in the case of *Seward v. Housley*, it appears to us that Mr. Housley exercised great care

in the treatment of the fracture, and that the unfortunate result was in some measure owing to circumstances over which the defendant had no control, and for which, therefore, he ought not, in strict justice, to be held responsible.

3. That in any view of the case the damages were excessive, and we cannot but feel, that in awarding such heavy damages, the jury must have been, to some extent, influenced by the marked prejudice which seems to operate against the members of our profession whenever they have to appear in a court of Justice, whatever may be the capacity in which they appear there.

4. That we cannot but regard, with apprehension, the results which may ensue if such verdicts should become common—results fatal or injurious not only to the medical profession, but also, in some cases, to their patients. For as there have been found some wretches so vile as to have committed murder, and that even on their own offspring, for the sake of the allowance made by the burial clubs, it is surely not too much to expect that the greater temptation held out by the hope of recovering large damages from the medical man may induce others to interfere with the progress of the cure of injuries, that they might be able to found a charge of malpractice on the result.

5. That steps be taken to raise a subscription in the neighbourhood, the amount collected to be placed in the hands of Mr. Propert.

6. That a statement of the proceedings of this meeting be forwarded to THE LANCET, the *Medical Gazette*, and the *Association Journal*.

7. That the Chairman transmit a copy of these resolutions to Mr. Housley, and express to him the sympathy we feel for his misfortunes, and our earnest wishes for his future success.

THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL AND MR. TUSON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having read with great interest the various remarks in THE LANCET, on the proceedings which deprived that excellent practitioner, E. W. Tuson, of Harley-street, of his appointment of surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital, I, having been one of his house-pupils for many years when a student, can vouch for his unwearied attention night and day to the interests of that institution, as I am sure could the rest of the eleven pupils his house contained at that time. The Windmill-street school which flourished under the combined tuition of our honoured Guthrie, and Mr. Tuson, soon fell to the ground when they retired from it. The Middlesex Hospital School was formed almost wholly by the latter. I have frequently heard him state, that he stipulated his house-pupils should be admitted to the lectures free, which as he had but one or two then, was agreed to by the other professors. Latterly, however, when new lecturers were elected, this arrangement was not admitted, and on Mr. Tuson's neglecting to transmit these fees, which from the verbal arrangement he did not think himself liable for, this attack was made upon him. There have been great and good changes in the Middlesex Hospital within these ten years, the good are the correction of its abuses, and its enlargement. The great consist in the changes of staff, as Mayo, Watson, Arnott, and Tuson do not now fill offices in it. I do sincerely hope, as a well-wisher of this practical surgeon, that the profession will recognise his claims to fill, ere long, a chair in the Council of the College; and that some day he will be installed as an examiner, a post which all will admit he is so competent for, and, but for a series of cruel proceedings, he would ere now have held.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

March, 1854.

JUSTUS.

UNQUALIFIED PRACTITIONERS AND QUACKS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Now that there appears so many differences of opinion concerning Mr. Brady's Registration Bill, I would suggest that an Act of Parliament be passed, giving the medical man who holds any legal diploma, English, Irish, or Scotch, the full power to summon any unqualified practitioner before any magistrate, and to inflict a penalty of £20, or six months' imprisonment, with or without hard labour. This, I feel sure, would give us the protection we so much stand in need of, and be attended with far less expense than the Registration Bill.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Gainsborough, March, 1854.

M.R.C.S.