cies, absurdities, and monopolies, in the whole system of medical government, and why should not we (the Apothecaries Company) be allowed to partake of the sweets of those inconsistencies, absurdities, and monopolies, as well as others? Listen not, my Lord, to the whisperings and memorials of interested monopolists, their colleges and companies must be abolished or entirely remodelled, else they will continue what they ever have been—not a blessing, but a curse to the land; I say a curse, because I believe if none of them had ever existed, the science of medicine would, at the present day, have attained a higher degree of perfection in England than it now boasts. I am, my Lord, &c.

R. COURTNEY, Surg., R.N.

CLASSICS IN LONGMAN'S MEDICAL FLOAT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I know not whether it is worth while occupying a portion of your pages with remarks on the trash contained in the catch-penny called the *Medical Gazette*, yet as there is a note in the last number of that periodical which may possibly gull a few junior students into the belief that the editor possesses at least some classical knowledge (though deficient in all other branches), it may be as well to notice it.

This wonderful scholar does not know that "Valetudinarium" is Latin, and "Nosocomium" latinized Greek (νοσοκομειον). This erudite scholar does not know that the golden and silver preceded the iron age. He talks about the "writers of the iron age," and with all simplicity informs us that his first authority for "Nosocomium" is "Justinian," anno 527. I will give an older authority—viz. St. Jerom. This classical critic's congenial mind is truly adapted to the leaden age, or it belongs to one of clay. However, centuries before his authorities were born, the Romans used "Valetudinarium." Translate Celsus wrong as he likes, I appeal to Seneca,* born six years before Christ, and Columella,† who wrote about the year 45. These are the writers of the "iron age," according to the Gazetteer. He bows with deference to the golden age of "Justinian."

With regard to the miserable essay to which the note alluded to is attached, its malice is too palpable for it to mislead any one. So I leave it to its fate. I am, &c.

M. S. J. WOOLLETT.

64, George St., Euston Sq., May 28.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

THE following has been forwarded to us by a correspondent, as a specimen of the questions which are sometimes put by medical grinders to their pupils, preparatory to examination at Apothecaries Hall:—

"MR. WILLIAMS. Can you give me the physiology of the cock's crowing?"

"PUPIL. (After a Pause.) No, Sir.

"MR. W. Do you know the physiology of the braying of an ass?"

"PUPIL. (In amazement.) No, Sir.

"MR. W. Then, Sir, you must make yourself acquainted with them, and come to me in two days."

These queries may appear extraordinary to some of our uninitiated readers, but we have no reason to doubt them on the score of improbability. They are not unlikely questions to be put by the Old Ladies in Bridge Street, or indeed in Lincoln's Inn Fields. It is not many weeks since a formal inquiry was made of a pupil at the Hall, relative to the "best metal for making tea-pots;" and Sir William Blizard, not long since, put the following question to a student at an examination at the College:—"Which makes the best pie, young man, roasted pheasant, or baked partridge?"

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN AMERICA.

—Some medical gentlemen emigrate from the United States into Canada; but I believe they are never employed where one from Great Britain or Ireland can be procured. American physicians do not commonly place themselves in any situation in which competition with Europeans is hazarded. If any professional man from the States be found in such neighbourhood, he forms an exception from the general rule. There was one such at Thornhill, but his skill was not considered as entitling him to much patronage: his practice was very limited, and confined chiefly to the lower orders. A medical man who cannot ride much on horseback ought not to go into that country. So highly are doctors paid in some places, densely populated, that towns and villages are generally well supplied. Medical men from the States are often found wandering up and down, and, where European physicians or surgeons are not found, take possession of the practice. In more remote places, a doctor has frequently to ride fifteen or twenty miles to many of his patients. The English medical gentleman near us was often sent for to the above distance. His charge for an ordinary journey was a dollar a mile. He was

* Ad Lucilium—also De Ira, et in Questionibus.

† Lib. 2. cap. 1, and lib. 12. cap. 3. The Italians have no word corresponding with "Nosocomium," but they have *Ospizio* and *Valetudinario*.