place, the puncture of the membranes, evacuation of the liquor amnii, and uterine action following, proves always the best safety both to parent and child.

As I promulgate this theory for opinion, I shall not feel pained or pleased either at censure or praise.—I am, Sir, yours obediently,

JAMES BULLIN.

Farringdon-street, Dec. 1846.

LONDON HOSPITAL.

ADMISSION OF SYPHILIS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As a brief answer to your correspondent's communication respecting the non-admission of venereal patients to the London Hospital, I beg to say, that during the last thirty years, I have not, upon any occasion, known a patient to be refused admission because his case was venereal. It is true that the worst cases only are admitted as in-patients, all the less severe cases being treated as out-patients.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully.

CHIRURGUS.

Dec. 1846.

* * The above letter is authenticated by the name of the writer.—Ed. L.

LONDON HOSPITAL.

ADMISSION OF SYPHILIS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In proof of what I asserted in my last letter to THE LANCET, I enclose you an in-patient's letter, on which is printed in italics the following passage :—"No children under seven years of age, (except cases of compound fractures, amputations, or stone, and other cases of equal or greater urgency;) no pregnant woman, nor person under mental derangement; no person having measles, scarlet fever, small pox, itch, or other infectious disease, or the *venereal distemper*, or in a state of confirmed consumption, or deemed by the physicians or surgeons incurable, or more capable of relief as out-patients, are admissible into the hospital." The motto of the institution is, "Blessed are the merciful;" yet no mercy is extended to unfortunates labouring under those diseases.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient, humble servant,

Jan. 1847.

SCRUTATOR.

LIBRARY FEES AT KING'S COLLEGE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Permit me, through the medium of THE LANCET, to inquire why a library fee is exacted from each matriculated student at a medical school, and how such fees are annually expended at a medical school which holds out so many advantages to its pupils; but at the library and reading-room of which (unlike the other leading metropolitan schools) neither THE LANCET nor any other weekly or quarterly periodical is taken in for the perusal of those who subscribe to it? An early insertion of these queries will much oblige, your obedient servant,

A KING'S-COLLEGE STUDENT.

Dec. 1846.

MEDICAL REGISTRATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have just read the very able letter of your correspondent "Spes." I also am of opinion that the profession "should be up and doing," and I feel assured, that without some agitation your "Registration Bill" will not be enacted into law: that Bill, with its few clauses, in my humble opinion, contains nearly all we want. It does not interfere with the regulations of the different Colleges; they may educate and examine their members as before, their ALPHABETICAL registration, when they become members, being all it requires. Surely this is no very grave request; but this, and this only, is the cause of the great opposition, by the heads of the different Colleges, it being the destruction of this class-distinction that rankles so deeply in their bosom.

Another source of opposition (fortunately by a less powerful body) is, that it is Mr. Wakley's Bill: this selfish and disgraceful clique will move heaven and earth to oppose it, solely because Mr. Wakley is its author, forgetting how much they are indebted to that gentleman for all the benefits the profession is now enjoying.

An unknown individual like myself can do little but urge upon his brethren in general practice not to allow the approaching parliamentary season to pass without each putting his shoulder to the wheel, so that you, Sir, to whom we all

owe so much, should say with confidence, in your place in Parliament, that you had the voice of the whole profession with you. We all know, and indeed acknowledge to each other, that your Bill is nearly all we want; we then leave to some more ardent individual the unthankful duty of carrying it, forgetting that we have no right to throw all the work upon the too-willing horse. Let us then, one and all, arouse ourselves, and success is certain.

I would suggest that an association should be at once formed with the sole object of carrying the "Registration Bill;" it might be called the "Registration Association;" and if you, Sir, should deem it an advantage to join it, as its head and director, the weight of your name alone would rally to your standard the supine and the wavering; and a few notes of preparation in the pages of THE LANCET would, I hope, arouse my slumbering brethren. When once awake, we know, from experience, with what energy they pursue their onward way. I say, "Agitate, agitate, agitate." No great measure has yet been carried without it, whether medical or political; therefore, I say again, "Agitate, agitate, agitate."

With greatest respect for your unwearied energy in our cause, believe me to remain, your obedient servant,

London, 14th Dec. 1846.

CYMRO.

I enclose you my name and address.

TREATMENT OF ULCERS BY FIRING.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In consequence of having lately observed in your journal several communications relating to the use of the method called "firing," by Dr. Corrigan, I am induced to call the attention of your readers to another method of applying dry heat, which I have repeatedly witnessed in the practice of M. Malgaigne at the Hôpital de Clinique.

This method is chiefly useful in procuring cicatrization of unhealthy ulcers of the skin, such as are left after the evacuation of the pus of buboes. The heat is applied by heating to redness one of the numerous irons used for actual cautery in the Paris hospitals, and holding it over the sore at such a distance as to produce an agreeable sensation of warmth to the part. In proportion as the iron cools, it is carried nearer and nearer, until, at last, it may be entrusted to the patient himself to hold, with instructions to continue approaching the iron to the ulcer as the iron cools.

I have not seen this method of treating obstinate ulcers employed anywhere else but in the wards of M. Malgaigne, although, from the excellent effects I witnessed from its use, I think it is deserving of being more generally tried. The first visible effect of the application is the assumption of a cleaner appearance by the sore, then a shining white pellicle of lymph spreads over the surface, and frequently, within twelve hours of the first application, cicatrization has made some progress around the edges of the sore. In two cases I noted the complete cicatrization of unhealthy-looking ulcerations, resulting from large buboes in the groin, in eighteen hours.

ROBERT BARNES, M.B.

Notting Hill, Jan. 1847.

DR. TODD'S CYCLOPÆDIA OF ANATOMY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The extraordinary delays in the publication of Dr. Todd's "Cyclopædia of Anatomy" requires some definite explanation from that gentleman. There are many reasons why this should be given, independent of the propriety of satisfying the natural impatience of those who have hitherto subscribed to the work. It may be that the sale does not remunerate the proprietor, and that he is therefore taking this method of quietly dropping the speculation. If this be the case, it is fitting that he say so, inasmuch as some other person, equally competent, might be found, who would undertake to complete the work, and who would, I conceive, be generally supported by those who have taken the numbers already published.

It can scarcely be supposed that this "course of development" has been caused by the dilatoriness of any individual contributor, since, were such the case, Dr. Todd was bound, in duty to his subscribers, to have taken the wanting article out of such lazy writer's hands, and transferred it, as he would have had no difficulty in doing, to some other competent author. If, however, this be the excuse, I have no hesitation in saying, it will be insufficient to satisfy the reading public. The delay that has already occurred has been in-