behalf publicly denied them, and loaded their author with every epithet of vituperation and obloquy.

Our treatment at this moment is consistent with the above. But now to my case.

1st.—Our chemical lecturer at the present time is a Mr. Stenhouse, a gentleman of great constitutional nervousness, but of good repute, I believe, as an authority on organic analysis. He is a "canny Scot" of the "veriest brogue," and quite incapable and inexperienced in the art of giving lectures. I have again and again listened to this gentleman, and assure you, that besides being utterly unable to clothe his thoughts in even clear language, his experiments frequently if not always fail, although conducted by himself; while, whenever he attempts to make a calculation, or work out a chemical scheme, his confusion is so great and his powers of arithmetic so deplorably incorrect, that it almost always terminates in utter failure, the consequence being personal discomfort and the derision of the class. The simplest statement this gentleman can hardly make without contradiction, so that the merest tyro "laughs him to scorn." This has gone on for a long time, and I must own the class has treated him with scant courtesy and personal disrespect, and thus his habitual nervousness is so much increased, that now his lectures in every respect are so extremely badly, if not unintelligibly, delivered, so carelessly arranged, and so utterly unsuited to his class, that our dissatisfaction is general and just. The attention of all Mr. Stenhouse's colleagues has been drawn to this matter, but the result is, as expressed this morning by the ablest of them all, extremely unsatisfactory; the substance of that gentleman's defence of his colleague being, that he can quite excuse Mr. Stenhouse's calculations being incorrect, as he never could himself make even the simplest calculation without a blunder! Sir, I am sure you will acknowledge that such a deplorable state of things on so important a matter, cannot, ought not to be suffered to continue. And are we, the students of St. Bartholomew's, factious or unfair, if we publicly ask that the governors of this hospital will appoint us a lecturer who can clearly and distinctly articulate his words; who can conduct his experiments without confusion or failure; or who possesses powers of arithmetic sufficient to enable him to make a calculation or expound a scheme?

2nd.—But I come now to a grievance that is, if possible, more pressing and more pernicious than even the one I have just related. In an admirable article in a recent number of *THE LANCET*, while deprecating all intention of specially criticizing our noble hospital, you call attention to the great preponderance of surgical over medical beds; the former being 420, the latter only 180. These 180 beds are divided amongst the three physicians, and each physician is supposed to have clinical clerks; and as between eighty and ninety students enter annually to medical practice, great difficulty is experienced in obtaining clerkships; for, reckoning that each student clerks for three months, only about one-half could, in probability, ever enjoy this advantage. The senior physician, however, does not choose to have clerks, and so unjustly deprives one-third of the small number of students who could have this advantage, of great opportunities of gaining practical knowledge. Sir, I will state this gentleman's position candidly and fairly, and confidently leave it to the unbiassed and unprejudiced judgment of the profession. Dr. Hue is a person who has had lavished upon him—not idle prejudice, not vulgar abuse—but every sentiment of warning and advice, through every possible channel, urging, nay, entreating him to resign the appointment he holds at this hospital. This gentleman finished his education long, long ago, before the stethoscope was in general use for the diagnosis of disease; and has held the post of physician to St. Bartholomew's for a vast number of years. At this time he is old and infirm; his post is a sinecure; a student never enters his wards! Why? For two reasons:—Dr. Hue dislikes his doing so; while the grounds of the Doctor's diagnosis—the reasons for his treatment—nay, even the nature of his cases—he never explains. He rarely uses, never understands, auscultation. Reflect, Sir, for a moment, the injury he is doing us. At the very time that he is enjoying several hundreds a year from the students' fees to medical practice, he is actually depriving them of one-third of the limited number of medical cases, as well as sixteen students yearly of the benefits of clinical clerkships! And Dr. Hue is permitted to do this because—neglecting the excellent example set him by his late colleague, Mr. Vincent—that ablest of practical surgeons!—who, when infirmity and age were increasing upon him, considered himself no longer able to discharge his arduous duties with satisfaction, and so resigned his appointment;—Dr. Hue, I say, is permitted to do this because he believes, by retaining an appointment he is quite incapable of satisfactorily, nay, efficiently performing, with whatever injustice to junior colleagues and students—he shall thus gradually ensure an opening into the

hospital for a member of his own family. Sir, I appeal to you—to the profession—to every candid and impartial individual—and I ask, is this not a scandalous and crying injustice? Ought men of such eminent abilities and extensive learning as a Jeaffreson, a Baly, or a Kirkes, be doomed to fritter away their best days in unimportant positions, when so important, so responsible a post as senior physician to this noble hospital is being thus prostituted to the ends of private intrigue?

3rdly.—Sir, although you have ever advocated the advantages and necessity of clinical medicine, our instruction is even now scanty and deficient; and certainly Dr. Burrows, that beautiful proficient in the art of auscultation, does not give us as much assistance as he might in this respect. I am in the daily habit of attending his wards, and his mode of proceeding is the following:—The Doctor quietly listens to the copious notes the clinical clerk reads; performs a careful auscultation of each case, and mentions aloud whatever abnormal condition he detects; but he rarely, if ever, explains the nature of the case, or what is more important still, the indications which guide him in his treatment as fresh symptoms arise. I have several times known, in the course of last year, cases have been treated and cured, and yet their names have never been written on the patients' board, and only those who attended the wards with the strictest regularity have been acquainted of what nature the cases really were. If Dr. Burrows would sometimes explain the grounds of his diagnosis and treatment, and inform us of the import to be attached to the peculiar symptoms which often arise in the progress of a case—a course he might easily pursue without alarming the patient—he would greatly help those who rely so much upon him for their treatment of disease, and integrity of practice.

Lastly, Sir, I would remark, our instruction in auscultation is extremely deficient. Dr. Burrows is the only physician who practises or relies upon it. Dr. Roupell, indeed, uses it, but more, I believe, *pro forma*, than from any confidence himself puts in it. While to Dr. Hue the stethoscope has ever been a hidden mystery, which at his advanced age he is not likely to fathom.

Sir, I have done; and though I may have seemed discursive, I have endeavoured to be as concise as possible; for I have thought it better to write freely, and once for all, a statement of the whole of our grievances, than have again to intrude upon your sense of justice. My sole desire is to call your attention to the circumstances I have related, in the hope they may find redress; for while the present pernicious evils continue to exist, our noble hospital is unworthy of remembrance as the place where Abernethy has flourished, and Owen has learnt.

I am Sir,

Your obliged, humble servant,
A THIRD YEAR'S STUDENT.

ANIMALCULÆ IN BLACK VOMIT.

To the Editor of *THE LANCET*.

SIR,—May I beg to call the attention of those who may have the opportunity of observing, to the fact of the presence of animalculæ in the ejecta of patients suffering from black vomit? My attention was first called to it by a paragraph in "*Wood's Practice of Physic*," an American publication; and during the prevalence of the yellow fever in Pernambuco, in the beginning of 1852, I verified the fact in several instances, the animalculæ being acari, (species unknown.)

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN MANLEY,

Late House Surgeon and Resident
Medical Officer at the British Hospital and Lazaretto, Pernambuco.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Dec. 1852.

UNQUALIFIED ASSISTANTS AND THE NEW MEDICAL BILL.

To the Editor of *THE LANCET*.

SIR,—I am obliged for your omission of one word from my original communication, which upon your part was wisely and well done, and convinces me that your object was good to the public in general, and to the profession in particular. Your admission of the letter of your correspondent "*Mat*," entitles me to reply. The first part of his letter consists of some dark insinuation of walking the plank; and having thus excited his imagination, he proceeds racily with his "*Now for Mr. Edmonds*," conjures up bugbears, takes a discursive glance at the woes of assistants, and is finally brought on his haunches by the curry-comb. "*Mat*" has a standard for qualification, but it is a negative standard: for professional men and ship-owners may require anything or nothing provided the curry-comb is not introduced.