by "A Graduate and Diplomat." The first year after registering as a student I was working for the preliminary scientific examination (University of London) and was obliged to neglect all other work, doing practically no dissecting, though I had taken out the ordinary courses. The second year, owing to dearth of subjects, I could get no part till January and went up for my primary M.R.C.S. with much doubt in April. After a three hours' paper in anatomy and physiology and a ten minutes' *viva voce* I passed with ease. This encouraged me to attempt the Intermediate M.B. in July, where I failed in all subjects except chemistry after an examination lasting the chief part of a week and including papers, *viva voce*, and practical tests. The third year I passed the first F.R.C.S. Eng. again with ease in May, the examiner remarking that as I had sent in a remarkably good paper they need not detain me long in *viva voce*. Again, in July I went in for the intermediate M.B., working hard meanwhile, and again failed in anatomy, though I passed in the three other subjects—physiology, materia medica, and organic chemistry. The fourth year I had to prepare the whole four subjects again and succeeded in passing with honours. I may remark that this was a quarter of a century ago and things may be somewhat altered now, but the main facts remain the same.—I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Dec. 5th, 1902. A LONDON GRADUATE AND DIPLOMATE.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I fancy your correspondent, "A Medical Student," is quite needlessly worrying himself, judging from his reply to Mr. Munro Scott's letter in THE LANCET of Nov. 15th, p. 1531. To begin with, he has quite misread Mr. Munro Scott's statement that "there must be the more ordinary class to attend the poorer part of the population." He interprets this remark to mean that unless a man has a degree or the F.R.C.S. he is not competent to attend the upper classes. I do not think that Mr. Munro Scott means to imply anything of the kind. I rather take it that he means that a man who has spent the time, money, and mental effort in obtaining the higher qualifications would not be very willing to give his services exclusively to the poor for a small remuneration, deeming them to be worth more. Mr. Munro Scott intends, I think, to convey the idea that there exists a demand for a purely *qualifying* diploma. "A Medical Student" has set up a grievance for the purpose of knocking it down, for no one, layman or professional, imagines that the poor differ clinically from the rich or that their diseases are more amenable to treatment than those of the well-to-do. No doubt it would be well were there only one qualification for all medical men; thus would be avoided any semblance of an aristocracy in medicine.

Mr. Munro Scott states that often the diplomate is superior to the graduate, which is, of course, true, for it is the man that counts, not the qualification. When "A Medical Student" has been in practice a few years he will realise this, and if he takes his M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. and builds well on the solid foundation of knowledge gained in acquiring these diplomas he will find that neither the public nor his professional brethren with higher qualifications will look down on him or consider him an "inferior practitioner" because he does not hold an M.D. or F.R.C.S.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Dec. 8th, 1902.

M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS.—I am sorry to see that Mr. F. W. Collingwood, in THE LANCET of Dec. 6th, p. 1578, continues to take up the same position in regard to this subject. The quotation from the report of Sir William Jenner's committee in 1885 was perhaps true in the case of "most universities" then, but I think anyone who impartially inquires into the curriculum, the questions and mode of examination, and the percentage of passes now will agree with me that it would not be true, at all events of the older universities, at the present time. Mr. Collingwood quotes the results at the examinations for commissions in the Indian Medical Service, but it is well known that neither this service nor the Army Medical Service has lately proved attractive to English graduates, though under the new regulations there seems some likelihood that they will be more popular in the immediate future.

On the other hand the standard for the Indian Medical

Service has probably been high enough to prevent any but the more brilliant diplomates competing.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Dec. 7th, 1902.

A GRADUATE AND DIPLOMATE.

SUTURE OF THE CRUCIAL LIGAMENTS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In reference to the case of suture of the crucial ligaments by Mr. A. W. Mayo Robson, an abstract of which is published in THE LANCET of Dec. 6th, p. 1542, may I draw Mr. Robson's attention to Vol. xxxiii. of the Transactions of the Clinical Society of London, p. 232, where a case of open section of the knee-joint for irreducible traumatic dislocation is described. The condition of the crucial ligaments was recognised before the operation and their suture was deliberately undertaken as part of the operation. This was done on August 5th, 1898, and when the woman was shown at the meeting of the society on Feb. 23rd, 1900, the result was all that could be desired. Probably the heading of the case caused Mr. Robson to overlook it. The patient was shown because I did not know of any case in which the crucial ligaments had been sutured, yet as other ligaments required suturing, and the case was otherwise complicated, it is described in the Transactions, not under the heading of "Suture of the Crucial Ligaments," but under the more comprehensive title.—I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Harley-street, W., Dec. 8th, 1902.

WILLIAM HY. BATTLE.

FRAUDULENT TESTIMONIAL TO A QUACK NOSTRUM.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—My attention has been called to an advertisement appearing in a Bombay paper for some quack remedy or nostrum entitled "Dr. Carl's Ague Specific." The advertisement publishes a testimonial or recommendation purporting to be written by me. I never heard of this nostrum till now and I consider that the use of my name is absolutely unjustifiable and merits severe condemnation and punishment.

I have expressed a favourable opinion upon the merits of Warburg's tincture, whose formula was published in THE LANCET in 1875, of which I state: "It is undoubtedly of value in malaria and other fevers and in malarial neuralgia. It is very useful in several forms of collapse."

This preparation, under the name of tinctura antiperiodica, is now included in the official B. P. C. Formulary and is well recognised, but it appears nothing short of reprehensible to append to this so-called "ague specific" statements made about the value of a preparation of known composition and value.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

WILLIAM WHITLA, M.D. R.U.I.

Belfast, Dec. 8th, 1902.

TUBERCULOSIS OF THE PERITONEUM.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Mr. Edmund Owen in his instructive address to the Torquay Medical Society on Oct. 10th, on Tuberculosis of the Peritoneum,¹ seems to me to suggest that laparotomy is correct treatment of tuberculous ascites, to adopt Dr. A. Morison's nomenclature; if so I must demur to the doctrine as being quite contrary to my experience and, I am glad to find, to that of Dr. Morison who appears to share this view, as in his letter in THE LANCET of Nov. 8th he says "It is a common experience that minor degrees of tuberculous ascites, especially in children, disappear with mere recumbency and flannel bandaging." With this view I cordially agree, so far as children are concerned, and to prove its correctness I would cite a case that came under my care about a couple of months ago, when I was called to see a little girl, aged seven years, whose abdomen had attained such proportions that she was unable to see her toes. Laparotomy was proposed as holding out the best hopes of her recovery. I advised a flannel bandage and mercurial inunction to the abdomen, iodide of potassium and bark internally, and rest in bed. In one month she was running about quite well except for the enlarged glands and was gaining flesh rapidly, and I could record a good many similar cases. As to nomenclature, I think

¹ THE LANCET, Oct. 25th, 1902, p. 1105.