becomes more and more conspicuous, until in some cases of old standing, although perhaps not advanced beyond the first stage, the whole action of the chest is changed."

This change is then explained, and the subject is thus concluded:—"Between these extremes (of alteration) we meet with every possible shade of variety."

It is therefore self-evident that I hold altogether a different opinion to that attributed to me by the reviewer, who states that in the early stages of phthisis, I "presume to say"—no information can be gained by watching the movements of the chest.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

Bolton-street, Piccadilly,
May 6, 1851.

RICHARD PAYNE COTTON,
Assistant-Physician to the Hospital for
Consumption and Diseases of the Chest.

** We are glad to afford Dr. Cotton an opportunity of explaining his views, which are not very clearly expressed in the original. We do not, however, see that he removes our objection to his idea, of the non-relation existing between the movements of the walls of the chest and the condition of the lungs.—ED. L.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON COMMITTEE OF GRADUATES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I regret to observe that attacks on the Committee of Graduates of the University of London, wholly undeserved, and in some instances ungentlemanly in character, should have found their way into the columns of THE LANCET, and that for once that influential journal should to some extent have identified itself with a bad cause.

A correspondent whose letter appears in THE LANCET of the 3rd inst., in calling attention to a proposed general meeting of the graduates, remarks,—“On a late similar occasion, the meeting more resembled a bear-garden, with cat-calls, in imitation of the Coal-hole and Jessop’s, than an assemblage of gentlemen.”

As a graduate present on the occasion referred to, I deny the accuracy of this representation, or that the graduates as a body conducted themselves in any way unbecoming their position as gentlemen and men of education.

The Graduates’ Committee, which, as you will perceive, includes the name of nearly every graduate of standing and reputation in the University, seeks the attainment of the following objects: a share in the government of the University and the possession of a suitable public building. That these objects are desirable and reasonable, I conceive but few persons will deny.

Your correspondent, in giving publicity to a slander, should not have withheld his name, and sheltered himself under the very inappropriate signature of “Senex.” Should he trouble you with a further communication in reply to this, I trust that he will authenticate it, or I must be held excused from noticing it.

I remain, your obedient servant,

Park-street, Grosvenor-square.

ARTHUR HASSALL.

A FACULTY OF MEDICINE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Did I stand alone in my opinions on the subject of medical reform, any letter addressed to THE LANCET would be of as little importance as the individual who penned it; but my opinions are based on the principles of the thousands of members of the College of Surgeons, who, like myself, are deeply interested in the maintenance of the institution, to which, from education, they are attached; and yet, I most conscientiously believe, are still more deeply interested in seeing the noble profession of medicine made second to none in honourable position and in public estimation.

As a step towards this, greater inducements should be offered to enter the profession: some *éclat* should be given to it. The member should have a social position equal in every respect, and by no means inferior, to the member of the sister profession. If the privilege of social rank be accorded to the one, the same privilege ought to be required by the other, as a like mark of honourable social position, and the member of the medical profession, on receiving his diploma, ought to be legally entitled to a similar social rank,—that of Esquire.

After a fixed term of membership, and under certain restrictions as to moral and professional rectitude of conduct,

the title of Fellow might be conferred, as a mark of professional standing, this rank to be strictly collegiate, and to be intended to give the member a voice in the management of the general affairs of the profession, to which his more mature judgment entitles him. Professional distinction will fall to the lot of the few, but to every member (however humble his first post of duty) there should be the stimulus of honourable ambition, the anticipation of future eminence, the vision of earthly renown; and, therefore, the highest collegiate and public offices should be open to all.

It would seem that the profession of medicine is about to run a new career. The race should be a fair one; the start should be on equal terms, though the entry be high in proportion to the intellectual advancement of the age.

I would that we could combine to establish a system of unity; it is the natural system of medicine, and I certainly anticipate the day when medicine, and surgery, and obstetrics, will be regarded as the embodiment of the sciences—distinct in name only for the purposes of science—and a more particular devotion to a particular study.

I cannot conceive any plan that could so well promote this object as a “Faculty of Medicine.” The members of the Faculty to be Doctors of Medicine and Surgery* (with a degree in arts). Surely the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons could combine for no nobler purpose than to unite the dissevered members into one great body, and to banish for ever all chartered and pecuniary interests which could possibly interfere with the high and mighty object of elevating the profession to which they belong, and placing it foremost in honour, as it is already first in usefulness.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

ST. JOHN W. LUCAS.

Alford, May 5, 1851.

NEWSON'S PATENT WIRE-TRUSS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—THE LANCET of the 20th of July, 1850, contained a notice of Newson's Patent Wire-Truss, characterized by that caution which best becomes an editor when giving an opinion upon anything new and comparatively untried. The following cases are selected from at least 100 which have come under my personal observation during the last two years. If thought worthy a place in your columns, they may have the effect of making generally known to the profession an instrument which is certainly well worth the attention of every one interested in the treatment of rupture.

Henry L—, aged seventy-three, became the subject of a left inguinal hernia thirty-five years ago, neglected it, and it soon descended into the scrotum: he has had trusses from every society in London, some of them very powerful, and with every variety of straps and fastenings. They had scarcely any effect in retaining the hernia, and for nearly thirty years it has been constantly in the scrotum, except at night. When he first applied to me, the left half of the scrotum was much distended by it, and had become to all intents and purposes direct; the points of two fingers could be passed through the external ring straight into the abdominal cavity. There was also a small oblique inguinal hernia on the other side. He has now worn one of Newson's double trusses for nearly two years, during the whole of which time his rupture has been constantly retained in the abdomen; nothing but lifting a very heavy weight ever displaces it. He can cough violently without producing any effect, and the parts have contracted so much that the hernia cannot now be made to descend to anything like the same extent as before, even when the truss is removed.

Anne S—, aged forty-five. Right femoral hernia of eight years standing. Had two trusses from the society in Hatton-garden, which were quite useless. Four years ago it became strangulated, and she was operated upon by Mr. Bransby Cooper. The rupture then increased to the size of a small apple. After unsuccessful attempts to obtain an efficient truss from two well-known instrument-makers at the West-end, she applied to me. One of Newson's trusses secured it so completely, that I believe it has never been down since she has worn it. The crural aperture in this case admitted the thumb for at least an inch.

John G—, aged forty-six, admitted into University College Hospital for hydrocele. “Scrotum as large as a full-sized hat, and at its upper part the hydrocele is covered largely with bowel in a hernial sac.” He was

* Regarding obstetrics as only an important branch of general medicine.

tapped three times: at the first operation, seven pints; at the second, four; and at the third, one pint, were drawn off. The following was the last report:—"The bowel, which had been almost constantly during several years in the scrotum, is now retained in the abdomen by one of Newson's wire spring trusses." When I first saw this patient, the difficulty of adjusting the truss was extreme, owing, not merely to the great size of the ring, but the extreme distortion of the parts, which had not then nearly subsided. It was found, however, that the instrument kept its place, without a thigh strap or any other fastening.

The distinguishing features of Newson's truss are briefly these:—The spring is a round or wire spring, instead of a flat one; it passes round the hip *opposite* to the hernia, crossing the middle line of the body both before and behind, but making no *pressure* either upon the abdomen or the spine, (it never quite touches the latter;) the pads are fixed; there is no strap, joint, or in fact any other complication; and it passes round one hip only, even when there is a rupture on both sides.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Clapham, April 24, 1851.

F. H. HEWITT.

House of Commons.

TUESDAY, MAY 6.

NAVAL ASSISTANT-SURGEONS.

THE following discussion took place in the debate on official salaries on Tuesday evening last:—

Captain BOLDERO rose to call attention to the accommodation provided for assistant-surgeons on board her Majesty's ships of war. In consequence of a resolution passed by that House on the 8th of April last year, the Government issued orders to the commanders of vessels of war cruising on the various naval stations, directing them to afford additional accommodation to the assistant-surgeons serving in their respective ships. To show what attention had been paid to that order, he might state that he had a return from the Mediterranean fleet, which comprised twelve vessels, including six line-of-battle ships and five war-steamer. The full complement of assistant-surgeons for those vessels was twenty-four; but of that number only five had received the boon which it was the object of the House to obtain for them—namely, separate cabins. They all knew that, in order that their naval power might be efficient, it was necessary, as far as possible, to secure the health of the men; and the best way of doing that was to make the position of the assistant-surgeons such that the most intelligent and best-informed young men at Glasgow and Edinburgh might be induced to enter the service. He wished to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty if he would give an assurance that he would take measures to carry the resolution of the House into effect; and if the answer of the right hon. baronet was not satisfactory, he (Captain Boldero) reserved to himself the power of re-introducing the subject on a future occasion, and taking the sense of the House upon the question.

Sir F. BARING said, that as soon as the resolution to which the hon. and gallant member referred was passed last year, he took measures for carrying out that resolution so far as could be done consistently with the necessary arrangements of ships of war, and the Government were extremely anxious to carry out the resolution fairly and fully. The hon. member had said that the regulations had not been carried out in the Mediterranean squadron. He (Sir F. Baring) could only say that before twenty-four hours elapsed, orders should be sent out to ascertain whether the regulations had been carried out in that squadron or not; although, from the well-known character of Sir W. Parker, he had very little doubt that they had been adopted. He certainly had received no complaints on the subject.

Mr. WAKLEY observed that many complaints had reached him from assistant-surgeons in the navy, but it was not very likely, from the position of the parties who were aggrieved, that they would complain to the right hon. baronet, because, in the event of their doing so, they might fear a black mark would be set against their names, and that they would lose their chance of promotion.

THE ANALYTICAL SANITARY COMMISSION.

NOTICES OF THE PRESS.

From Punch, May 3.

"THE SALE OF POISON.—We hope the 'Analytical Medical Commission' will, after it has finished with the rascally London

tradesmen who are making their fortunes out of adulteration, carry its inquiries into the mysteries of the wine trade. It has now become such a matter of difficulty to get a glass of good wine, that we think the poisonous tricks practised by wine-merchants should be exposed. We trust THE LANCET will not be deterred from undertaking this most difficult inquiry. Not only does health demand it, but conviviality claims it. Nothing is so destructive of good feeling as bad wine. It gives one the heartburn in more senses than one. The merriest party cannot stand up against a succession of Cape sherries and agricultural ports. The cruelty of the deception is such—for one is made miserable under the false pretence of being made happy—that we would have every wine-merchant, who was convicted of selling wine that was everything but wine, punished in the most terrible manner. We would have him condemned, for every bottle of bad wine that was found in his cellar, to drink out of it not less than two glasses for the first offence; three for the second; and an additional glass for every fresh offence; until these poisoners of the nineteenth century were thoroughly sickened of their fraudulent practices.

"If THE LANCET will only publish a list of these poisoners—with particulars of their crimes and offences, we may, in time, be rewarded with the discovery of an honest wine-merchant, who will sell wine free from all adulteration!"

The Expositor, April 12, 1851.

"A NICE show it would make in a glass case at the Crystal Palace to have all the mixtures discovered by the searching analysis of THE LANCET in our several articles of food set forth, on separate plates—the dirt in water, chalk and brains in milk, chicory in coffee, sloe-leaves in tea, turmeric in mustard, lard in butter, madder and salt in cayenne pepper, potato-starch in arrow-root; sand, lead, and other impurities, accidental or wilfully added, in sugar; alum, and sometimes worse, in bread; cabbage and dock-leaves in tobacco. A public society, in connexion with the "Analytic Sanitary Commission" of THE LANCET, and which, taking shop after shop, throughout them all, should not only analyze so as to detect adulteration, but publish the names of the detected parties, and which would be known to have the means of defending all actions, would soon drive the rogues from business, and prove practically that honesty is the best policy."

MEETINGS OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETIES IN LONDON DURING THE ENSUING WEEK.

NOTE.—When the day of the month is not specified, no meetings take place.

Societies.	—	Days of Meeting.
Epidemiological	Mon. 8½ P.M.	May 13
Chemical, 142, Strand.....	Mon. 8 P.M.	
Medico-Botanical, 32, Sackville-st.	Tuesday.	
Medico-Chirurgical, 53, Berners-st.	Tues. 8½ P.M.	
Pathological, 32A, George-street,	Tues. 8 P.M.	,, 15
Hanover-square.....		
Hunterian, 4, Bloomfield-street,	Wed. 8 P.M.	
Finsbury.....	Wed. 9 P.M.	
Pharmaceutical, 17, Bloomsbury-sq.	Thurs. 8 P.M.	,, 17
Harveian, 21, Edwards-street,	Fri. 8 P.M.	
Portman-square	Sat. 8 P.M.	
South London Medical, Borough ...		
Western Medical and Surgical.....		
Medical Society of London, 32A, } George-street, Hanover-square }		

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted members of the college, at the meeting of the Court of Examiners, on the 2nd inst.:—

ALLDAY, FRANCIS, Merthyr Tydvil, Glamorganshire.

BLACKETT, JOSEPH BYRON, Green-street, Park-lane.

CARTER, RICHARD, Toronto.

COCKBURN, JAMES BALFOUR, Guernsey.

DARLINGTON, JOHN GEORGE, Prees, Salop.

JACKSON, WILLIAM, Bolton-le-Sands, Lancashire.

SKINNER, JOHN, Exeter.

STEPHENS, WILLIAM BRAY, Plymouth.

WHATMOUGH, CHARLES, Whitchurch, Salop.