the habit of improving myself along with others, it had become in a manner natural to me. When I mentioned what the medical gentlemen of other hospitals did, and what I thought we should do, one gentleman said, 'he did not choose to lose any reputation he might have in surgery by showing that art could be improved;' but the answer then made was, 'to see where anything could be improved might be considered as going almost half way towards the improvement itself; and that Lord Bacon was the cause of all the additions since business was correct, pointing out where and how they might be made.' In this [a recent election of a surgeon to the hospital], as in most other public contests, the mind, inflamed by opposition, lost sight of the great object, by which means private friendships and connections had more weight than public utility, to which object the governors will not on the present occasion confine themselves. My motive was in the first place to serve the hospital, and in the second to diffuse the knowledge of the art, that all might be partakers of it; this, indeed, is the highest office in which a surgeon can be employed, for when considered as a man qualified only to dress a sore or perform a common operation, and perhaps not all of those that may be considered common, he does not esteem his business, or consider his profession. They [the governors] will consider how far a numerous class of pupils increases the reputation of the hospital; they will consider whether those numbers do not detract from the object of this charity, which, for instance, is to diffuse the experience, to which object the governors in which a surgeon can be employed, for when considered as a man qualified only to dress a sore or perform a common operation, and perhaps not all of those that may be considered common, he does not esteem his business, or consider his profession. They [the governors] will consider how far a numerous class of pupils increases the reputation of the hospital; they will consider whether those numbers do not detract from the object of this charity, which, for instance, is to diffuse the experience, to which object the governors in which a surgeon can be employed, for when considered as a man qualified only to dress a sore or perform a common operation, and perhaps not all of those that may be considered common, he does not esteem his business, or consider his profession; he would move an addition to the resolution asking for a uniform dietary scale in all metropolitan Poor-law institutions.

DURATION OF LIFE OF THE RED BLOOD-CORPUSCLES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

Sir,—In referring to a paper on "The Duration of Life of the Red Blood-corpuscles, as ascertainable by Transfusion," recently read by me before the Royal Society of Edinburgh, your correspondent in your last issue ascribed to me a method of investigation which would entirely deprive the results of any value which might attach to them. So far from transfusing the blood of one animal into the circulation of another of different species, whose blood-corpuscles were of different size and shape, I was at pains to show that such a method of investigation, implying as it did the use of "dissimilar" blood, was absolutely worthless for the attainment of the object in view, since the blood-corpuscles of such blood always break down within the body of their host within a day or two of injection, and hence their duration of life could offer no criterion of that of the normal red blood-corpuscles. In all my experiments, therefore, the blood used was that obtained from an animal of the same species—so-called "similar" blood—the fate of which after transfusion differs essentially from that of dissimilar blood, but resembles in all respects that of the normal blood.

I should feel greatly obliged if you could kindly give the same prominence to the above correction as was given to the original reference, as the ignorance on my part implied in the use of the kind of blood described by your correspondent for arriving at any conclusions regarding the life duration of normal blood-corpuscles is so great as would serve to completely condemn the accuracy of my results in the estimation of all who are already acquainted with the subject of transfusion. I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

WILLIAM HUNTER.

34, Seymour-street, Portman-square, W.

BRITISH MEDICAL BENEVOLENT FUND JUBILEE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

Sir,—In addition to the sums already mentioned, the following donations have been received:—

- $ 2 10 0
- W. Cudge, Bqg. (Norwich) 5 10 0
- W. Morrant Baker, Req. 10 10 0
- M. & P. Pollock, Req. (George) 10 0
- Sir William Max Cormac 5 5 5
- Sir Joseph Lockhead 20 0
- W. Berkeley Hill, Esq., 10 10 0
- Dr. Ord 20 0
- Mrs. Montetick 21 0 0
- C. E. Aikin, Esq. 5 5 6
- Dr. Brodie Sewell 10 10 0
- I, Parsons (Dover) 5 0
- Dr. Brodie Sewell 10 10 0
- Mrs. Franz (through Dr. E. Parker Young, Esq.) 21 0
- Dr. Withers Moore 5 5 5

Mr. Veasey's donation is $25, instead of $20, as previously stated.

The list of guests at the banquet must be closed almost at once, and I have to request that all who have not replied will do so without delay.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

W. H. BROADBENT.