

Hingeston should have visited Guy's Museum. He would have been shown by its curator, Dr. Birkett, the following illustrations, modelled by Mr. Towne, a most accurate imitator of nature, viz.:—

Prep. 2727 ³⁰ ,	arm of child showing vaccinia	3rd and 4th days.
" 2727 ³¹ ,	" "	5th and 6th days.
" 2727 ³² ,	" "	7th and 8th days.
" 2727 ³³ ,	" "	9th day.
" 2727 ³⁴ ,	" "	10th day.
" 2727 ³⁵ ,	" "	15th and 18th days.
" 2727 ⁵⁰ ,	{ arm of adult showing se-	6th and 7th days.
" 2727 ⁵¹ ,	condary vaccinia }	
" 2727 ⁵² ,	" "	8th day.
" 2727 ⁵² ,	" "	9th day.

I append the numbers that any of your numerous readers may test the truth of my assertions without trouble.

But is there no lecturer on vaccination at Guy's? Why, Sir, for years has my able and eloquent teacher and friend, Dr. Addison, given demonstrations on cutaneous diseases to a crowded theatre, consisting not only of pupils but of many medical practitioners. These demonstrations he has illustrated by plates and by the models in the museum, and the subject of vaccinia has not been neglected. Of late he has, in addition to his demonstrations, produced before his audience patients, described the peculiarity of the disease, its diagnosis, &c., and prescribed for it, and this has been continued week after week.

The subject of vaccination need not be, nor is it, alluded to by the lecturers on midwifery, except in giving certain directions for the choice of a wet-nurse.

Trusting you will permit these remarks to appear in an early number of your journal, allow me to subscribe myself,

Yours respectfully,

JOHN C. W. LEVER, M.D.

Physician-Accoucheur to, and Lecturer on Midwifery at, Guy's Hospital.

EDUCATION OF NAVAL ASSISTANT-SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I had hoped, in the new regulations respecting assistant-surgeons issued by the Admiralty, to see an alteration in the syllabus of lectures required to be attended by candidates for the appointment of assistant-surgeons, in accordance with those required by the College of Surgeons and Apothecaries' Hall; for the Naval Examining Board should recollect that it is seldom a student begins his hospital studies with the view of entering the navy, but only when he has obtained the diplomas of the College and Hall, that he looks about to see which is the best opening for him to get on in the world, and become independent of his friends; and then if he selects the navy, he finds that he is debarred from entering that service, because he had not attended the lectures on surgery and medicine during his first session, and has not tickets for three courses on each. It would save the students a great deal of unnecessary trouble, and answer quite as well if twelve months of surgery and the same of medicine was only required, and especially since that is the time required by the Army, Ordnance, and East India Boards, the College of Surgeons, and Apothecaries' Hall. I trust that as the Naval Board are now so hard up for candidates, they will consider these observations in a favourable light, and at the same time state to the Admiralty that unless the assistant-surgeons are admitted to the ward-room and the possession of a cabin, they cannot be answerable for obtaining sufficient medical men for her Majesty's service.

I remain, Sir, yours most obediently,

May, 1853.

RODERICK RANDOM.

THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.—UNQUALIFIED PRACTITIONERS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As you were so obliging as to insert a letter of mine in your journal a few weeks ago, I think it only right to inform you that our friend, styled by the "London and Provincial Medical Directory," "Charles Fischer, Esq., M.D., homœopath," has, to use a vulgar but very expressive term, "bolted," some say to the "diggins;" at all events he is *non est inventus*.

I retain my opinion that the College of Physicians is useless unless it protects its licentiates, and has the power and the will to prosecute such pretenders as Fischer, and their name is legion.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

Buckleuch-terrace, Upper Clapton, May, 1853.

J. JONES.

THE MEDICAL REFORM QUESTION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In one of your leaders of last week you observe, (speaking of the profession,) "If true to ourselves we should be irresistible." Under present circumstances, Sir, it would be almost as easy to catch the falling waters of the Niagara in a sieve as to band together for any united purpose the whole body of medical men. If we look to the metropolis or the suburban practitioners surrounding it—if we glance towards the provinces—we shall find it is, "Every one for himself, and God for us all." We have no power—we talk of the "Vis unita fortior," but we know it not. The bundle of sticks is prostrate and fragmentary, and we are therefore unable to make a combined onslaught for any real good. There is no Freemasonry in the profession—no friendship—no orthodox feeling. The one tries to run down the practice of his brother, and the intelligent but modest surgeon often fails under the more powerful influence of his less scrupulous and do-anything-for-half-a-crown neighbour.

" 'Tis true, 'tis pity, and pity 'tis 'tis true."

For my own part,

"The May of life is fallen into the sear, the yellow leaf;"

but I still feel desirous for the welfare of the noblest profession adorning the human race. Anxious, indeed, it is, often trying the most stoical, and rendering many an hour bitter, from the sufferings we are daily called upon to witness. It is, however, often deprived of its sting in the ability science yields to aid our more afflicted fellow-men. This knowledge smooths the path somewhat—it deprives the task of its irksomeness—it makes us feel that our zeal for knowledge has not been a vain one; and the spirit, broken as it often is with the "bread-and-cheese" struggle for existence, rises like a phoenix, and becomes more contented and expansive.

It is now many years since I addressed my first letter to THE LANCET. It spoke of a professor of humbug being necessary in all our universities. Time sometimes softens asperities, and makes the mind more liberal. In this case, however, mine remains *in statu quo*. Such a professor is still wanting, though I feel bound to say that his tenets, though not precisely taught, are more useful, and are made more available, than scientific skill. The public is pleased with "oily gammon," and a large body of the profession prodigiously disposed to pander to its miserable taste. However, *tant pis*. Let us close with a short extract from a rule of our early Eton—"Tempus edax rerum."

Yours faithfully,

Twickenham, May 21, 1853.

ADELPHOS.

THE PROPOSED COLLEGE OF MEDICAL ASSISTANTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having seen the judicious remarks of your correspondent, signed "A Medical Assistant," respecting the poor remuneration of medical assistants, and the proposal of a college for their relief when in need; to show you, Sir, how much such an institution is required, I will state my own case. I dispense for two medical gentlemen in partnership, and receive the miserable pittance of *thirty pounds a year*, out of which I have to keep myself in clothes, and pay for my washing, and am expected to sustain the character of a gentleman; my board and lodging are put down at twenty pounds a year, making my cost to these two worthies (I blush to mention the sum) *FIFTY POUNDS A YEAR*. Thus, after considerable expense in learning to mix up physic, I can scarcely make a living out of it. My hours are from eight in the morning until eleven at night; an hour taken from these for meals and another for a walk, leaves thirteen hours a day, the whole of which I am busily engaged, besides eight hours on Sundays—all this for fifty pounds a year; while a common mechanic, take for instance a house-carpenter, working ten hours a day, can earn thirty shillings a week, or seventy-eight pounds a year. It is true he has to exert more physical power; but look at the care and responsibility that hangs upon the dispenser. The medical assistant is supposed to be respectable by his outward appearance; but it is only by spending all he earns that he can sustain such a position, while the mechanic is better off by half in a monetary point of view.

It only requires a simultaneous movement on the part of the assistants to stand boldly out for better remuneration. The profession are greatly dependent upon them, and their services could not possibly be dispensed with for any length of time, nay not for a few days. Were the movement to become general, the "strike" would be a short and an effective one; but unless it is so, nothing can be done. There is no doubt the profession would