venesection, cupping-glasses, opium, warm drinks, opium and camphor, but their number diminishes every day.

For some days past, there has been a violent dispute between Messrs. Searle and Mikulniski, respecting the virtues of their respective nostrums. The two combatants speak bad French, seldom understand each other, and always get into a passion. It is said that they intend to decide the controversy by an appeal from the lancet to the sword!—*Letter in the Lancette Française.*

LETTER FROM M. LONDE, PRESIDENT OF
THE FRENCH MEDICAL COMMISSION AT
WARSAW.

M. LONDE announces the arrival of the commission in Warsaw on the 30th of June. He states that the cholera, which appeared to have ceased, has recommenced its ravages since the commencement of July. Melancholy to relate, M. Londe adds, that the young and gay, but learned Legallois, whose spirited sketch of Dieffenbach we some time since inserted in THE LANCET, lay at the point of death when his dispatch left Warsaw.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

THE commissioners of the French Academy have at length reported on this singular subject through M. Husson, one of its members. The commission have spent several months in personally witnessing the magnetic experiments, and they have confined their report to the circumstances they have themselves examined. On the whole, we may observe, that many of the supposed magnetic effects bear strong evidence of legerdemain and chicanery in their performance. Others, again, are of so strange and perfectly unintelligible a character, that they have completely staggered the scepticism of the French commission; and we find M. Husson admitting, that under the magnetic influence the subjects read and played cards with closed eyelids, that they distinctly described the diagnosis of their maladies, and predicted future events. We cannot be expected to form a judgment on such distant and equivocal testimony but the con-

cluding passage of M. Husson's report seems to call the further attention of the medical profession to the subject, by his admitting animal magnetism to be "entitled to a place as a therapeutic agent." M. Husson, it may be right to add, is a most distinguished physician, and his brilliant report was received with loud acclamations by the learned assembly to which it was addressed.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

DISMISSAL OF PROFESSOR PATTISON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You will oblige me by publishing in your Journal the following minute of the Council of the University of London, received by me last night:—

"Session of Council, July 23, 1831.

"The Council, in concurrence with the suggestion contained in the report of the Select Committee of this Council of the 18th of June, 1831, 'That the popularity and efficiency of the medical school have received a shock by the disturbances which have prevailed in it, and which can only be obviated by the retirement of Professor Pattison from the chairs of anatomy and surgery;' and deeming it, therefore, essential to the well-being of the University, and the success of the medical school, that Professor Pattison should not any longer continue to occupy those chairs.

"Resolved,—That Professor Pattison be, and he is hereby, removed from his situations of professor of anatomy and surgery in this University.

"Resolved,—That in taking this step the Council feel it due to Professor Pattison to state, that nothing which has come to their knowledge, with respect to his conduct, has in any way tended to impeach either his general character, or professional skill and knowledge.

(Signed) "THOMAS COATES."

As it is my intention to publish immediately a history of my connexion with that institution, and an account of the causes which gave rise to the disturbances referred to, I will only now observe, that by the admission of the Council *themselves*, "*nothing has come to their knowledge with respect to my conduct, which has, in any way, tended to impeach either my general character, or my professional skill and knowledge.*" This being admitted, it is difficult to understand on what principle of justice a gentleman, who has been induced on the representations of the Council to resign a professorship in America, which was worth above 2,000*l.* per annum, to engage in their service, can by an arbitrary act be deprived of an office, to obtain which he made so great a sacrifice. I remain, Sir, your humble servant,

GRANVILLE S. PATTISON.

129, Regent-st., July 24, 1831.

* * With the above letter we also received another from Mr. W. Gowan, of

6, Cleveland Row, a member of the Select Committee, in which Mr. Gowan expresses his decided disapprobation of the recommendation for Professor Pattison's dismissal, contained in the report of the Select Committee, on the following grounds:—1st. That Professor Pattison's scientific testimonials are of the highest character. 2nd. That he expressed his willingness, when appointed to the University, to undergo any examination. 3rd. That he was not permitted to appoint his own demonstrator, which was an error that gave rise to great dissensions. 4th and 5th. That when the students began to question the competency of the Professor, the Council dealt irresolutely with them, and that they were permitted to meet in the demonstrator's room. 6th and 7th. That the warmest testimony had been borne to the Professor's excellence and qualifications by other professors now, or late, in the University; and that many of them had expressed their firm conviction to the Council, that the dissensions in the medical school did not arise out of any defect or misconduct of Professor Pattison. And 8th. That a committee had themselves found the charges against him to be groundless. Mr. Gowan accordingly protested against the proposed dismissal, until the Professor was heard in his own vindication, which the Committee refused, on the ground of their incompetency to hear and decide on his reply.—Ed. L.

LONDON VACCINE INSTITUTIONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In reference to the discussion respecting the regulation of the London Vaccine Institution, I have only to add, that the last communication of "*Medicus*" is so well written, so carefully and fairly made, as to have afforded me much pleasure in the perusal; and although, considering that, from all the circumstances of the case, the governors are justified in maintaining such a resolution as the one referred to, I am obliged to differ from "*Medicus*," I feel constrained to acknowledge that the tenor of his communications has excited my esteem.

In conclusion I beg to state that it is a part of the original resolution that any one obtaining an order from a governor will be supplied with vaccine matter. Believe me, Sir, yours in well-wishing,

JOHN EPPS, M.D.,
Director of the Royal Jennerian and
London Vaccine Institutions.

11, Berners Street, July 25.

DUTY ON FOREIGN BOOKS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have read with much pleasure in a late number of the *Westminster Review*, that the French government has proposed to that of England, a mutual exchange of all literary works of merit which may appear in each country. It must be admitted that this is a liberal proposal; but it would be a much more generous policy to remove *in toto* the tax on foreign books. The medical profession is not the only one that would derive considerable advantage from such a measure; and if our government would abandon this onerous duty, it would facilitate very much the opportunities of procuring the best continental authors, and thereby contribute to what has been sneeringly but not inaptly called "the march of intellect." This tax upon knowledge affords but a paltry addition to the revenue, but it is yet extremely exorbitant when levied upon private individuals. A few weeks ago I returned from the continent, and brought with me several foreign books, a certain duty upon which I was of course prepared to expect; but when passing them through the Custom House, I was obliged to pay the extravagant tax of a shilling *per pound*. It is true that I had but seven shillings to pay, although I had several pounds weight more of foreign books, but I owed my escape either to the indifference or to the indulgence of the man who searched my trunks. He took out a French work on Hygiène, and an Italian one on medical jurisprudence, with two or three other small ones, and these altogether weighing seven pounds, I was called on to pay seven shillings, which enhanced the original price of those books very much.

The plan of weighing is certainly a very ludicrous and barbarous mode of estimating the value of literature; for the more ponderous a book is, the more valuable and productive it is in the eyes of the Board of Customs. These censors never look at the *esprit* which a work contains, but at the quantity of paper or material in it; and the weight, but not the wit, of a book, is thus made the criterion of its utility.

This is something like a Dey of Algiers who made the length of an ambassador's beard the standard of his wisdom and intelligence.

By publishing the above you will afford a useful piece of information to those English students who are now on the continent, and who think, as I did, that they will have but threepence per pound to pay on the importation of foreign publications.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

VIATOR.

July, 21, 1831.