one with the student youth of Denmark, for although students live under very little control, even in the free students' homes, and the whole English system of tutors, &c., is totally unknown here, still there are comparatively few for whom the pleasures of the city have so much attraction that they fail in at least completing their university career. A Danish student lives very differently from his English brother. He knows very little of sport; one of his greatest recreations is to go in the evening to the great students' club, where he spends his time in discussing everything between heaven and earth with his fellows, enjoying the while his long pipe and his beer or punch. Like the generality of his countrymen, he is ardently devoted to the Muses. The students' singing club is renowned for its concerts, which are as popular as successful. Amongst the members of these clubs may often be seen men of advanced age, who still retain a warm affection for the haunts of their youth. The material difference between English and Danish students seems to lie in the fact that while the Englishman's amusements consist of out-door sports, the Dane's are of a more sedentary and in-door nature.

The female students in Denmark are as yet but few. They attend exactly the same lectures as the male students, and nothing is especially arranged for them. This system up to the present has answered very well.

In Denmark nobody is allowed to practise as a medical man unless he has passed a certain examination at the university. There are not in Denmark, as in England, different medical schools, institutions, and examinations for surgeons and physicians; all who wish to practise as medical men must pass the same examination and prove proficiency both in medicine and surgery. The medical education is very thorough, and extends generally over six or eight years. The theoretical part is given at the university, the practical at the different hospitals, of which one, Fredrichs Hospital, is connected with the university, so that its physicians and surgeons are always professors at the university; the greater part of these gentlemen give only clinical lectures and hold examinations. The medical student who enters the university attends lectures on philosophy the first year, and then passes an examination on this subject. Besides preparing himself for this examination, he also studies chemistry, botany, zoology, and natural philosophy, which are the subjects for the next examination, generally passed half a year or one year later. From this time begins the medical education proper, the students being in the hospitals as clerks and dressers during the morning, and attending lectures during the afternoon. The greater part of the lectures are held in a building lying separate from the university, close to Fredrichs Hospital; it is called the Surgical Academy, and contains a large anatomical theatre. The collections &c. connected with the Surgical Academy are but small compared with those in London, and will hardly afford any interest for English medical men. Five to seven years after having entered the university the medical students pass an examination in anatomy, with dissection, physiology, and pharmacology; and one year later the final examination in medicine and surgery, both theoretical and practical, in morbid anatomy, with necropsies, in midwifery, and medical jurisprudence, in which latter the candidate has to write a paper on a given subject. Ultimately the candidate must write a paper on some given medical, and another on some surgical, topic. He is allowed four hours for each. Much attention is paid to the practical education, the candidates being obliged to produce certificates of attendance at a certain number of hospital clinics, and never receiving a first-class character unless he has passed the examinations in clinics of medicine and surgery well, even if he has obtained the highest marks in all other branches.

It will thus be seen that both the theoretical and the practical medical courses in Denmark are very thorough. But, in addition, the majority of medical men, before commencing their practice, take situations at the hospitals for a year or two as house-physicians and house-surgeons, these posts being numerous in Copenhagen. It is only after this experience that a Danish medical man considers his education complete. Further, a small number take their degree, which differs a great deal from that in England. Nobody can go in for this without having finished his university education with first-class character. Everyone who aspires to the rank of M.D. must prove his scientific knowledge by a work on some medical subject, the choice of which is in his own hands, which work must be submitted to the Faculty of Medicine for approval. If accepted the

book is then printed, in this form often exceeding 200 pages, and numerous copies are distributed amongst the author's colleagues. On a fixed day the aspirant to honours is obliged to publicly defend his opinions, first against two opponents, professors chosen especially by the university, and afterwards against anyone who may wish to break a lance with him. Several essays are refused in the first instance, but when once accepted few fail to gain their title through a bad defence. Having then become M.D., the Danish doctor contents himself with his general practice, or, if of more ambitious mould, aspires to higher rank—namely, to that of professor, physician, or surgeon at one of the large hospitals.

"AGARICINE."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—With reference to your recent annotation on Agaricine, may I venture to point out that the use of agaric and its active principle in the treatment of the night-sweating of phthisis is by no means new. By agaric I mean, of course, the agaric of the larch, white agaric, or purging agaric, the "agaric blanc" or "agaric purgatif" of French writers, and the "Lärchenschwamm" of the Germans. It was introduced as a remedy for sweating by Dahen, and its action is fully described in his "Ratio Medendi," published about 1760. Barbut's cases, observed in 1776, attracted considerable attention, and established the reputation of the drug. Murray, in his "Apparatus Medicaminum" (1790), speaks of it as a generally recognised mode of treatment. Burdouch, writing in 1830, states that it is of much value in many cases of consumption. The best known work on the subject is Bisson's monograph, published in Paris in 1832, giving an account of fourteen cases, all of which are reported with the greatest care. It was largely used by Andral at the Hôpital de la Pitié, his results being recorded by Max Simon. Trousseau employed it extensively, and a good account of its therapeutic action will be found in the various editions of his well-known work on *Materia Medica*. In the French Pharmacopœia it is described under the name of "agaric blanc officinalis" or "polypore de Méléze," two preparations being made official, the powder and the liquid extract. In America it seems to be well known, a description of its action and uses being found in the National Dispensatory of Stillé and Maisch. Among more recent writers on the subject may be mentioned Peter of Paris, Wolfenden of the Charing-cross Hospital, and Young of Glasgow. Dr. Gairdner uses the active principle agaricine, and finds that it not only checks sweating, but allays cough and promotes sleep. During the last four years I have given agaric in nearly 200 cases of phthisis, and am well satisfied with the results.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM MURRELL, M.D.

Weymouth-street, W., March 3rd, 1884.

THE MEETING OF FELLOWS AND MEMBERS AT THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Last week you stated that in all probability the President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England would summon a meeting of the Fellows and Members, to be held at the College on Monday, March 24th. My object in writing to you is to state that not only in my opinion, but in that of many others, Monday is a most inconvenient day for the great body of provincial medical men to travel to London; in fact, if the day is not altered it will be almost prohibitory to many who are anxious to be present. I would, then, in your columns, respectfully ask Mr. Marshall, the President, if he will kindly consider the convenience of a large body of medical men by selecting another day later on in the week for holding what I believe will be a great and important gathering.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Wolverhampton, March 4th, 1884.

VINCENT JACKSON.

* * The inconvenience alluded to may obviously be great in the case of many provincial practitioners, and doubtless the President and Vice-Presidents will give the matter consideration.—ED. L.