to engross too much of your valuable columns. You shall, however, hear from me again shortly.

A STUDENT OF ST. GEORGE'S.

** We fear that the disappointment which our poetical young friend is suffering at St. George's is localised by no especial patent to the hospital of the West, but is made equally sensible to every sanguine aspirant for professional information in all our London hospitals. The balance between the comfort and ease of the teacher and the interest of the pupil is sadly unequal; and nothing but the establishment of a medical faculty, elected by and responsible to the profession at large, can remove the imperfections under which medical education at present groans.

PHYSICIAN-REFORMERS!

THE TITLES AND DIGNITIES OF THE PROFESSION!

Necessity for an Uniform Standard of Education.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—The Quarterly reviewer on Medical Reform asserts, that there are many universities where a medical degree can be had for a few pounds. Now, as I am rather incredulous, will you have the kindness to inform me if such be the fact, and their designations, for I think that if such places do exist, the public may be benefited by such knowledge, in taking care not to employ persons holding such doubtful testimonials. I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

C. A. T.

February 23, 1841.

** While the College of Physicians is disgusting the medical public with its twaddlings on "titles and dignities" (see our last Number), they might as well be reminded that *Dr. Pitcairn's horse* was dubbed an M.D. Is it a distinction such as this that the aspirant in medicine is to look for? Are these the honours of a learned profession? Nay, most potent physicians, you are too facetious—you wound our sides with laughter. And the physicians shall be more worthy than the surgeons, and the surgeons more worthy than the apothecaries, and the apothecaries more worthy than those *impertinent* general practitioners. Is this your concordance, most worthy physician-reformers?

PRURITUS ANI.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—Amidst the many annoyances to which our profession is subject, it is refreshing to meet with that liberality in our own body, which distinguishes it in an especial manner from all others, namely, the readiness to communicate the result of our experience to each other, without any hope of reward, but that which results from the consciousness of doing good to our fellow-creatures.

As you were kind enough to insert a short letter of mine on the subject of pruritus ani, requesting the opinion of any professional brother who had been successful in its treatment, I trust you will allow me, through the same medium, to express my acknowledgments to your correspondents for their ready compliance.

In the letter of "X. Y. Z.," he mentions the application of Gowland's lotion, which is thus ordered in "Gray's Supplement:"—Bitter almonds, 1 oz.; sugar, 2 oz.; distilled water, 2 lbs.: grind together and strain, and add corrosive sublimate, ʒij., previously ground, with spirit of wine, 3ij.

If it will not be troubling "X. Y. Z." too much, I should feel much obliged by his saying if the above formula is such as he alludes to. I suppose there is no misprint in substituting Gowland's lotion for Goulard's lotion; the latter of which, we are all aware, is a preparation of lead. I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

February 22, 1841. A SUBSCRIBER.

SIR ASTLEY COOPER, BART., F.R.S.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—Many inquiries having been made as to the appearance of a "Life of Sir Astley Cooper," I beg to inform you, for the information of the profession, that this distinguished surgeon has left ample materials for a most interesting biography, now in the hands of his nephew, Bransby Cooper, Esq., by whom the whole will be arranged, and prepared for speedy publication.

A new edition of his beautifully-illustrated work on the "Testis," which received the author's final additions, has passed through the press; the plates are now in process of colouring, and the volume will be issued during the present month.

His work on "Dislocations," I am now preparing to publish in an 8vo size, with the plates redrawn, engraved on wood in the best style, and printed with the text, carefully edited, with additions, by B. Cooper, Esq. This practical work will be offered at a price to make it available to every student of surgery. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN CHURCHILL.

Princes-street, Soho, March 1, 1841.