August, whereas it is well known that every lecturer in London has finished his course by the middle of July, and that all the students then leave for the country. In consequence, therefore, of this ill-considered regulation of the Court, they are subjected to the trouble and expense of coming to town solely for the purpose of registering. If, moreover, from illness or other cause, a student is prevented from registering, it is not sufficient that, on the next occasion, he appears with a schedule regularly signed and filled up, but he is obliged, in addition, to bring a special certificate, for the purpose, I suppose, of assuring the Honourable Court that the gentlemen whose signatures he has already obtained do not commonly tell lies.

Now at the close of last summer session, being prevented from coming to town myself, I requested a friend to register for me: he did so, but shortly afterwards fell ill and went into the country, so that I was unable to regain my schedule before the next registration. I went, however, to the Hall, and on stating the circumstances, was informed that necessary allowance would be made. In consequence of this assurance I took my schedule a day or two ago, expecting, as it was duly signed, to have no difficulty about registering. The officiating functionary, however, greatly to my surprise, informed me that I must obtain special certificates for the lectures of the past winter, although, on each subject, the signatures of the lecturers were attached, certifying my regular attendance. On my pointing out to this gentleman that a special certificate could do no more than reiterate the statement of the regular one, he petulantly remarked that "it was necessary," and politely told me "I knew nothing about it." Before leaving, I ventured to express my hopes that some method would shortly be employed more accommodating to students, whereupon the gentleman stared at me with astonishment through a pair of spectacles, and observed, with more acerbity than truth, that the present plan was devised *expressly* for the convenience of students. I trust, Mr. Editor, that neither you nor the readers of your journal will coincide in this opinion; and that, ere long, the Court of Apothecaries' Company will be led to pay more attention to the complaints which are vainly poured forth on this subject, year after year, from every school in the metropolis. It is most unjust that students should be subjected to much inconvenience for the sake of a qualification, the majority of whose promises are, after all, but deceitful fables. Why are not separate registration-books kept at the medical schools? Who so well qualified to take charge of them as the lecturers themselves? Does the Court suspect their veracity, or the honour and integrity of their conduct?

I must apologize, Sir, for trespassing so long on your valuable space, and the time of your readers; but I sincerely hope that the vexatious evil of which I complain will soon be abolished.—I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. LUDLOW.

College, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, August 8, 1849.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AND ITS MISMANAGEMENT.

AND so, Mr. Editor, the last act of flagrant injustice has been perpetrated at University College. We learn that the Museum of Materia Medica is to be sold by public auction—*forsooth*, because the council of the college have not the means to purchase it. Thus the museum, which had cost the late Dr. A. T. Thomson so much toil and expense, during twenty-one years, to collect, which for extent and excellence was perhaps unequalled in the United Kingdom, combining the choicest drawings of the medical plants in their recent state, and the most rare specimens of all sorts of drugs,—all is to be sacrificed and lost to the faculty of medicine, because the council have been carrying on a system of such gross and wild extravagance, that they are now unable to meet those demands which the welfare of the school requires.

Have not your two correspondents spoken the truth? Yes; that council, that could, without a moment's consideration, spend £7500, to give a job to Professor Donaldson, to satisfy a caprice of Professor de Morgan,—that council, that could give £6000 for scholarships for the faculty of arts,—that council, that could remunerate Messrs. Atkinson and Goodiff for the system of economy introduced in the college,—that extravagant, self-opinionated council cannot now expend, at the outside, £1000 for the Museum of Materia Medica.

How will the new professor illustrate his lectures? And after all, what is the real value of this absurd and fictitious excuse? But a short time ago, a Dr. Holmes, of Liverpool, left a very extensive library and £20,000 for the medical school exclusively. Is it so impossible to raise upon this munificent

legacy the required means in a commercial city like London? But no; the faculty-of-arts vultures have already opened their jaws, and are waiting to satisfy their voracious appetites with the spoil of the faculty of medicine.

The die is cast. The once great and famous school of University College is fallen—it lives only in the reminiscences of a few of its former now distinguished members in the profession. A few of the professors, such as Graham, and Grant, and Sharpey, will attract a few disinterested students by the lustre of their fame; but its theatres will now be comparatively empty, and its attendants but few and far between. The fellows of the college, whose exertions we might have supposed would have subverted these disgraceful machinations, are either bribed to keep quiet, or too disgusted to interfere.

Ruin yawns wildly on the College, and its fall is certain, unless some new and active spirits arise to take the direction of the helm, and endeavour to steer it through a sea of turmoil, alas! through which so few are saved and so many have foundered.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

University College, Sept. 1849.

VERITAS.

* * Our correspondent is right, excepting in one or two particulars. The Museum of Materia Medica would be sold for little more than a fourth of the sum named—less than a fourth of what it cost the learned physician who collected it. We have not lost sight of the various proceedings, appointments, jobbings, &c., at University College. We shall presently recur to them.—Ed. L.

CASE OF HAEMOPTISIS FROM PHTHISIS CURED BY ARGENT. OXYDI.

Editor of THE LANCET at the Office 423 Strand.

SIR,—I have sent you the inclosed case of Haemoptisis cured by argent oxydi a remedy which is not generally known by the profession to possess such properties as it really do. If you think it worth a place in your valuable Journal for which purpose I have made it as concise as possible

I remain

Sir Yurn Obt. Snt.

25 Euston place New road, August 14th

S M. CURL M.D.

I was sent for one night to attend this case and upon arrival found nearly two pints of Blood discharged there had been occasional spitting of blood for some months but not to so large an extent. The patient an intilegent man had tried various means to stop this violent haemorrhage had kept in the horizontal position. taken cold water &c. I prescribed rather larger doses than usual of the plumbi. Acet. & Opium to be taken every four hours with a mixture to stop the force of the hearts action

He continued this means for a week the plumbi & Opio gradually increased taking no exercise or any stimulating food and on the seventh day the bleeding again returned.

I thought this quite sufficient to prove the opium or Lead would not stop it: having considerable faith in the oxide of silver from what I had seen of it in former cases of haemorrhage. I ordered this in $\frac{1}{4}$ gr doses After this he never had a return of the bleeding although he comenced taking nourishing food. As he was reduced so low I dare not let him get more emaciated then what he already was. I likewise began treating the symptoms of phthisis, which by the stethoscope & voice revealed a cavity. The Hectic Fever was reduced with Tinct. Digitalis. Iodin &. Ol. Jecoris. Asile. cured all the appearances of consumption. Three week after we began with the Argent. Oxyde. he left his bed. very weak at first. A rather violent diarrhae came on for a few days which Ext. Haunatox. stoped after this he began to gain flesh and strength.

The oxide of silver was left off 4 weeks after it had been commenced. the doses of which had been gradually reduced previously. The phthisis was hereditary his mother. two brothers and a sister had all died in consumption and he had felt the symptoms of this disease a considerable time before this attack of Haemoptisis came on.

The phthisis I treated with Iodine and Ol. Jecoris. Asile. under the use of which remedies the symptoms got rapidly Better The stethoscope revealed a large cavity in right Lung and softened Tubercles in Left and I examined the Chest every fourth day with the stethoscope & percussion while he was taking the remedies by which means I could easily hear how the cure progresed and before I gave up my attention to him his lungs were free from disease.

The principle thing worth noticing in this case is the stoppage of the bleeding by the oxide of silver in such an unfavourable case, and after such other means as were tried had failed to stop it. I do not for a moment dislike the Lead in some cases it is an excellent remedy but in such cases as the foregoing the silver is a much more powerful one when properly given. I have seen it proved in many instances. It will stop Haemorrhage were nothing else will.

The cure of the phthisis is worthy of attention in as much as it was so far advanced and also hereditary from the mother (I should have stated I gave him naphtha at the time of giving the Iodin.) It appears to me from what I have seen of this disease that it is sooner cured when the tubercles have softened than when they are hard it appears to me that the absorbents cannot so readily be brought into action to remove them in the latter as in the former state.

The nourishing properties of the Ol. Jec. Aseli were useful to bring up his strength as he had been so reduced as he had been under medical treatment for some months before I saw him and had been put upon an antiphlogistic plan of treatment to prevent the bleeding, as the medical man who had attended before me had told him he was not *certain* whether the blood came from the Stomach or Lungs and he had better go into the country. He is now above a twelve-month after the attack in good health.

S. M. CURL M.D.

“* Doubting, for a moment, the genuineness of the foregoing production, forwarded to us with the name and address thereto attached, pains were taken to ascertain whether the “case” and introductory note were veritable communications; and an inquiry on the subject elicited the following authentication. The case and notes are printed *verbatim, literatim, et punctuatim*. They certainly are very like communications designed for insertion in the *Phonetic News*. (“Fonetic Nuz.”)

“August 16

“SIR,—I have this moment received your letter and hasten to reply

Having taken in *THE LANCET* the last six years I have seen in its pages communications from various correspondents all as it appeared to me intended for the promotion of medical science, with such an Idea I sent you the communication upon Haemoptysis, and my reason for affixing my name to it was *not to give it publicity* as from the manner of doing it perhaps you think I had. I have done the same in communicating to other papers without wishing it to be published, And had you published without my signature my end would have been attained.

With relation to the M.D. my only right to put that to my name is having passed an Examination for the same at three colleges viz Cambridge Edinburgh & Paris I have my other degrees from Cambridge and my right of practice is being Licenced by the college of physicians as however Sir my claim to being legally qualified is brought in requisition. If it is not too much trouble to leave the paper out, I will call in a few days for it as I have not kept any other notes of the case besides that & it can be published in those papers which know me

For thus trespassing upon your time

I have to remain

Your obt. Sert

“CURL.”

To the Editor of the Lancet.

THE NON-MEDICAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

A CORNISH correspondent remarks,—

“At this critical period, when the nation looks to the skill and to the experience of medicine as a means of deliverance from a most fearful malady, and when emolument of special office necessarily arises out of system, again do we find the medical profession superseded, in the last expressed sense, for the aggrandizement of others, who, in spite of their exalted position in society, are, from their education, naturally unfitted to their office, while the mental toil and the moral responsibility of the undertaking are still fastened on the profession. A declaration is practically made, that the province of the physician shall not be headed by the physician. True, Lords Carlisle and Ashley have at their command the services of Dr. Southwood Smith; but if the working of this system has shown to the medical profession its inefficiency upon the great question of public protection—and if, added to all this, it is truly felt that the interests of this body are unduly regarded, then should the members of that profession (in perfect keeping with the principle, that there is a delicacy of sentiment about real merit which had rather fail of success than earn it by presumption) declare that, so long as noblemen are placed

as the paid directors of a noble profession, so long should they never find as their adviser a Dr. Smith.

Does this nation, in our naval operations or experiments, commit their conduct into the hands of men ignorant of navigation; or, with respect to the legal profession, do we find that the perfection of a code is entrusted to a non-professional committee?

“It is not now enough for the medical profession to be told that their enlarged sphere of usefulness—their exercise of a science which only has for its object the alleviation of the sufferings of all mankind—must be a sufficient recompence. With all these proud distinctions, they ‘live with bread, feel want, taste grief, need friends,’ and, ‘subjected thus,’ they have a right to complain of intrusion upon their legitimate interests.

Medical News.

ACTION BY THE APOTHECARIES’ COMPANY AGAINST AN UNQUALIFIED PRACTITIONER.—A case was lately tried at Hungerford, before the County Court of Berkshire, in which a person named Bishop, who resides at Ramsbury, in Wiltshire, was charged by the Apothecaries’ Company with practising as an apothecary, without being legally qualified. Mr. W. H. Rowland, who appeared for the plaintiffs, stated the nature of the case, and explained that the action was brought under the 55th of George III., chap. 194, commonly called the Apothecaries’ Act, by which it is provided that it shall not be lawful for any person or persons (except persons then in practice as such) to practise as an apothecary in any part of England or Wales, unless he has passed his examination, and received a certificate of his being duly qualified. He then adduced evidence to prove that Bishop, who possessed no certificate, had acted as an apothecary, and furnished medicines for the use of a man named Henry Bagman, who subsequently died. Mr. Astley, for the defence, endeavoured to show that the evidence had failed in proving the charge, and raised some technical objections, which were overruled by the court. He denied that there was any proof of his client, who was a very respectable man, practising at Ramsbury as a physician and chemist, having compounded the medicine. The jury, however, brought in a verdict for the plaintiffs for £20, the amount claimed. This is said to be the first case of the kind which has been tried on the merits.

MEDICINE IN ARABIA.—Arabian physicians, it would appear, can make little pretence to knowledge or skill. They arrange the different morbid states under the categories of phlegm, bile, water, blood, and air. Their standard work is the code of Avicenna, and their latest one that of David. Whoever aims at the dignity of a physician makes a copy of these works, and commits their contents to memory. The operations they perform are, bloodletting, scarifications, cupping, and circumcision, and they sometimes venture to amputate. Luxations are mostly left to themselves, when the first attempts at reduction have failed. They are generally also dealers in drugs, are held in little estimation, and rarely acquire any property.

INJECTION OF THE NERVES.—MM. Coze and Michel, of the Faculty of Medicine, of Strasburg, believe they have succeeded in injecting the nerve-tubes. They proceed as follows—viz., they take a small portion of a nerve and extend it on a glass slide, manipulating so that the nerve-tubes appear separate, under a magnifying power of 350 or 400 diameters. Whilst the nerve is being extended it is moistened with a drop of water, and then some drops of chloroform, of ether, or of essence of turpentine, are placed on it, and the whole is covered over with a piece of thin glass, and submitted to microscopic examination. Then, sometimes instantly, or after a longer or shorter interval, (never more than twenty minutes,) the primary nerve-tubes swell up, their contents become fluid, and currents, more or less rapid, take place in the whole length of the tubes, from the cut ends of which a fluid matter, charged with fat globules, may be seen to escape. These currents last a variable time, and, indeed, may be renewed after an arrest. If the experiment be continued, the tubes empty themselves, and their existence is then indicated by the two dark lines of their contour. This observation renders the tubular structure of the nerves, and the non-communication of adjoining tubes, a matter of demonstration.

APPOINTMENT OF SURGEON IN ORDINARY TO PRINCE ALBERT.—The lamented death of Mr. Key has caused a vacancy in this appointment, and already sinister rumours have reached us, to the effect that every exertion is being made to induce a physician, high in court favour, to use his influence in placing an