that another attempt is being made to misapply the funds of that institution, which were undoubtedly collected for its *charitable purposes*.

As one of the local secretaries of that most excellent institution, I earnestly protest against the misapplication of the funds, collected by the "local secretaries" and others, for any other purpose whatever than that of *pure charity for the aged and the orphans* of our noble profession. Is it reasonable or just to suppose that the few hundred pounds that I have collected in this district were asked for, or given to my custody as your "local secretary and treasurer," for any other purpose than *charity*? Or does the said sub-committee suppose that I, amongst many others, subscribed our annual guinea to the Royal Medical Benevolent College with one hand, to *withdraw ten times that amount annually, on the education of our sons, with the other*? Perish such selfishness! say I. If the scheme of the sub-committee be carried out, it cannot have any other tendency than that of swamping the funds of your excellent College. When your Council applies the funds entrusted to their charge for any other than its charitable purposes, I must cease to have the honour of being one of your local secretaries; and unless you continue to make the school, *as at present, self-supporting*, I am bound, as a conscientious man, to withdraw my son.

I went to London expressly for the purpose of attending a meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern on this momentous question, affecting, in my opinion, the vitality of the College; and I was delighted that the Council, in their resolution to make the annual payment for exhibitors £40 per annum, was so supported by an overwhelming majority. I firmly believe the sentiments herein expressed upon that question will be supported by a very large majority of the subscribers to the Royal Medical College.

I am, my dear Sir, faithfully yours,

John Propert, Esq.

WM. DALTON, F.R.C.S.

P.S.—If the question of payment for exhibitors is to be again brought forward, pray allow the subscribers to vote by proxy, and let your local secretaries collect the proxies, and we will show the short-sighted and selfish sub-committee that our money is not to be trifled away as they would like it to be.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—On looking over the balance-sheet prepared by the sub-committee of the Royal Medical Benevolent College, I was surprised to find how large a sum had been expended on building, &c., compared with the original estimate. The annual expenditure for the education and maintenance of pupils, also, seems to be conducted on a more extravagant scale than in other establishments of a similar character. There surely must be mismanagement somewhere. Would it not be better for the council to economise the expenditure, instead of raising the charge for exhibitors £10 a year? By so doing they depart from the original plan of the College, break faith with the subscribers, and disappoint many of the poorer members of the profession who have contributed beyond their means, with the hope of obtaining a cheap and good education for their children. I hope charitably-disposed ladies will discontinue their efforts to collect money merely to be wasted on decorations and other unnecessary matters, instead of being applied to educational purposes. I think many ladies have not given the subject due consideration; if they had, they would discontinue their subscriptions until there was a chance of the money being devoted to the benefit of those for whom it was intended. My husband has been a subscriber from the commencement, and I have lately become one; yet I have not written from interested motives (for we have no children to educate), but because I feel indignant at the manner in which the council have acted, and wish those who have influence would exert themselves to check the evil ere it increases, and the institution falls to the ground.

I remain, Sir, yours obediently,

Nov. 9th, 1857.

AN ANNUAL SUBSCRIBER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Some short time since I received a pamphlet containing a "Report of a Sub-Committee of Governors of the Royal Medical Benevolent College" upon the subject of the increased charge for exhibitors, and also a statement signed by W. A. N. Cattlin, Esq. I have read the whole very carefully, and must confess, unhesitatingly, that it carries conviction to my mind that the council of the college have acted with bad faith in raising this annual sum from £30 to £40, and also in appropriating certain portions of their funds, raised for a definite

and specific purpose, to a purpose contrary to the intentions of the subscribers. Has this charge been refuted, or this pamphlet answered? If so, pray tell me how I can get it. I have subscribed every year, and at one time was a local secretary, and did my utmost to aid the College, believing it to be just what medical men required; but if the council pursue such a course as the above statement contends has been practised, I, for one, shall not subscribe again. In this dilemma I appeal to you. What is to be done—who is right—in this matter?

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

Nov. 9th, 1857.

J. G. S.

ORTHOPÆDIC ELECTIONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I should agree with your article on this subject in your number of the 7th instant, if it were based strictly on facts.

I do not complain of Mr. Adams's majority, but that votes were received for him from persons who were not governors of the hospital, and who never had subscribed, to entitle them to vote. A scrutiny will show how many illegal votes were thus received. I believe them to be many more than the majority which was declared for my opponent.

I complain, also, of the manner in which the election was conducted; but especially of anonymous letters containing statements to which the writer dare not append his name—statements of the grossest character. Such a course of action can never be justified by honourable men. I will not say more about this matter at present. It is probable that you may hear more about the orthopædic elections.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

BERNARD BRODHURST, M.R.C.S.

Grosvenor-street, Nov. 7th, 1857.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

THE GOLD MEDAL IN MIDWIFERY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Last spring your journal contained some judicious remarks on the extremely high standard demanded by the pass-examinations for the M.B. degree of the University of London.

I will not now discuss whether it would be wise or not to lower that standard. I wish to call your attention at present to the apparently impossible standard created by Dr. Rigby for the midwifery examination in honours.

A gold medal is awarded by the University for proficiency in that subject after the pass at the second M.B. examination; but since the year 1848, that medal has never been bestowed. The candidates for honours are arrayed in the order of merit, as in the other subjects, but the highest candidate is invariably mulcted of his prize.

Now, I wish to know whether it is not possible for there to be an exaggerated and impracticable standard even in honours? It is very unlikely that eight years should elapse without a sufficiently meritorious candidate offering himself for the distinction in question; and, therefore, it is clear that the liberality of the Senate for the encouragement of the study of midwifery is practically thwarted by the freak of the examiner.

The examination for the M.B. degree is proceeding at this moment, and the fact that this note is dated from a provincial city, is a proof that I am not a candidate, nor is it likely that I ever shall be one.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Bath, November, 1857.

MEDICUS.

SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF ORPHANS AND WIDOWS OF MEDICAL MEN IN LONDON AND ITS VICINITY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Your remarks in THE LANCET of October 24th, respecting the paucity of members of the profession—viz., about 300, although nearly 2500 are eligible to become members of the above Society, ought not to be overlooked. Your next sentence—viz., that one in five of the deceased leaves a widow or a whole family dependant upon the Society—must indeed cause those many eligible practitioners, who will not join the Society, if they will but read your words, much remorse. To think that they cannot or will not spare 10s. quarterly for so great a boon is indeed sad. How many were there, whose widows