his special acquaintance with mental philosophy and medical psychology; his practical training in the treatment of mental disease, during five years as resident physician in an extensive public lunatic asylum; from five years' employment as a lecturer on mental disease in the University of Aberdeen—King's College; and, lastly, after carefully perusing his admirable lectures on the medical jurisprudence of insanity, published in the London Medical Gazette for 1830. Influenced by these testimonial inducements, my judgment is, that the scientific attainments, age, and general experience, I therefore voted for him, as he appeared, according to my judgment, in every way able to superintend such an institution as Bethlem Hospital, and also to augment its usefulness as a school for the instruction of students anxious to obtain practical information regarding the nature, treatment, and pathology of mental diseases, in which important subjects, other governors, like myself, have, during late years, taken much interest.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

John Webster.

TO THE GOVERNORS OF THE ROYAL HOSPITAL OF BETHLEM.

My Lords and Gentlemen,—The appointment made yesterday, of the Resident Physician to this Hospital, leaves me no alternative but respectfully to tender my resignation of the office I have held for some years. For more than seven of the best years of my life, which have been passed in this hospital, in the anxious endeavour to perform, as far as was practicable, the onerous duties which devolved upon me, I have been the superior resident officer; and, practically, although not nominally, I have been the superior physician. I have had to contend with difficulties which have never been appreciated; I have been oppressed with an amount of labour, of ceaseless anxiety, and overwhelming responsibility, which has been carried to the very verge of human endurance, and which, I believe, is without parallel in any other official position in the kingdom. With very limited authority and no assistance, I have struggled to promote the welfare and happiness of those committed to my charge; and a deep satisfaction to me to know that my labours have not been in vain, and that they have been recognised in such flattering terms by those who have had constant opportunities of observing the manner in which I have performed the arduous duties of my responsible office. The testimonials which were submitted to your committee, and publicly acknowledged in the court to be superior to those of any other candidate, are sufficient proof of the reputation I have earned in my profession. This reputation I cannot now afford to sacrifice by holding office under a gentleman so many years my junior, of whom, personally, I desire to speak only in the kindest terms, but of whom it cannot be contended that he has any one professional claim to be considered my superior.

In yielding to the powerful influence of my successful competitor, I am unwilling that the institution should suffer from this innovation. I shall feel it impossible that my wish that such further use may be made of my services as may be considered advantageous to the patients, to the hospital, and to my successor.

I have the honour to be, my Lords and Gentlemen,

Your very faithful Servant,

Bethlem Hospital, 13th July, 1857.

W. Wood, M. D.
Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians.

ON THE TRANSMISSION OF LIQUID VACCINE LYMPH.

To the Editor of The Lancet.

SIR,—May I beg the favour of informing Mr. Chatterley and the public that I am now in a position to state, that secondary small-pox has never been produced in any instance in which the vaccine lymph had been thus protected for three years. In no case has this form of vaccination occurred, although the vaccine lymph had been protected for two years. In one case, which was just as successful as the ordinary method of vaccination, the vaccine lymph had been preserved for two years; and, in one case, which was just as successful as the rest, the vaccine lymph had been thus protected for three years.

I have for many years been in the habit of using these tubes for myself; but formerly Pastorelli, of Cross-street, Hatton Garden, used to make them for me, at 2s. 6d. per dozen.

Should you feel this communication of sufficient interest, would you be pleased to insert it in your valuable work?

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Vigo-street, July 14, 1857.

S. D. Faxon.

ALLEGED QUACKERY IN WINDSOR CASTLE.

To the Editor of The Lancet.

SIR,—It has always been part of the tactics of the homeopathic practitioners to assume to themselves the countenance and support of the aristocracy, and at their meetings to assert, boldly, that 'Her R.H. This and His Grace the Duke of Thun, and many other high-bred individuals of their blood, are convinced that vaccination is a monstrous principle that Holloway and Co. parade their wonderful cures to catch the unwary, knowing well how seldom such assertions will be contradicted; but I have not seen the Queen and her household dragged into their advertisements of this kind until to-day.

The Halifax Guardian, in reporting a homoeopathic dinner, held at Huddersfield, the stronghold of globulism in the West Riding, states:—The Chairman, (J. Stansfeld, Esq., of Halifax,) spoke in elegant terms, and took occasion to allude to the fact, that the royal children are always treated homoeopathically, as well as most of the members of her Majesty's household.

Now, Sir, will you be kind enough to tell the profession if such an assertion has any foundation, and, if so, ask Sir James Clark, Mr. Brown, of Windsor, and the other medical attendants of the royal household, if such treatment is sanctioned by them?

I am, Sir, your old correspondent,

July, 1857.

Anti-Humbug.

** We publish this note from a practitioner of great respectability, and we feel confident that Sir J. Clark or Mr. Brown would feel it necessary to deny the slander uttered by the impertinent homoeopathic spouter at Huddersfield.—Ed. Lancet.

DR. GREGORY AND THE PROMOTERS OF SMALL-POX.

To the Editor of The Lancet.

SIR,—I cannot express too strongly my feelings against the assertion put forth by Dr. Gregory, that inoculation by small-pox, when not by an introduction of a special law, is an assertion on which he builds his theory, and on which he would found his practice. I can tell him that his house is built upon a sand rock. I have seen secondary small-pox, which no one ever had nor ever will have, and I have heard of those who have the disease, and badly too. I may appear to be arguing against the efficacy of vaccination; but it is not so. I have for ten years vaccinated most extensively, both in London and the country, and my experience has shown me the perfect harmlessness of the remedy, and its great power of protection in preserving whole districts from the disorder. No