Boards of Guardians had undertaken to provide some accommodation for cases belonging to the pauper class, and four-takings with regard to cases belonging to the non-pauper class. He could not say the extent which that accommodation would reach, but looking to the extent of the epidemic he feared it would be inadequate. The beds in the hospitals under the Asylums Board, numbering 968, were at present full.

Colonel Makins gave notice that to-morrow he would ask whether the authorities have cut off and annexed a portion of the public road leading from the Fulham-road to the River Thames, and are erecting upon it, a temporary building for the reception of pauper patients, and announce the intention to remove pauper patients to that building within the next twenty-four hours.

Sir,—Your leading article of this day on the medical degrees of the old universities and Dr. Morgan's pamphlet respecting them render it desirable that the case of the old universities in relation to their medical degrees should be clearly stated. You rightly say that a doctorate in medicine "ought to mean something more than a common minimum qualification," and that "nobody who has the reputation of easy." By this you doubtless mean that a higher standard required for a degree than for a minimum qualification, and of education, general, scientific, and professional, should be that if it were not so the degree would be no more worth having, no more an object of ambition, than the minimum qualification. In short, it will be admitted, I suppose, that medical degrees, like most other things, bear a value some.

The real difficulty lies in this matter of general education; necessitates longer time, and therefore proportionately more expense, and that every father who wishes to give his son the advantage of a university education and a university qualification, "Acad aliterum partem.," and professional, political, and other life.

To maintain the character and high estimation of the profession, to their graduates, and to themselves. They have done it hitherto, they do it now; and you and others will desire that they should continue to do it by the modern methods of medical education, that is, "Higher Local Examinations," or the Examinations in his first term of residence, or, which is said, the first three may be spent in Cambridge. Some spend more, and some, not a few, spend less. The non-collegiate students, who can regulate their mode of life as they please, spend, in many instances, not more, in some less, than £50 or £60 a year. At Caven-dish College, which has been instituted for the purpose of enabling students to come to the university at an earlier age than they could otherwise do, and at less cost, which is under excellent management, and which already contains several medical students, the fees of tuition, lecture, and other fees, is £60 a year. Selwyn College is growing up for a similar purpose, and, by a simple mode of living, expects to limit the whole charge for tuition, room, board, and attendance, to about £80 per annum.

Now, bearing in mind the fact that higher education necessitates longer time, and therefore proportionately more expense, and that every father who wishes to give his son the advantage of a university education and a university degree must be prepared to incur somewhat greater expense than if he were content with a minimum qualification, the questions we have to answer are these. Do the old universities offer reasonable facilities for obtaining their degrees by intelligent and industrious men—the men, that is, who seek the medical degrees? or do they hold out a welcoming and assisting hand to them?

At Cambridge, and I speak of this university only, the case is as follows: The student must undergo a test of his and considerable experience, as teacher, examiner, and examiner, and make up the range, and therefore need somewhat longer time for preparation, than do the corresponding examinations for the ordinary qualification. The standard of the examinations ought to be lower than it is, and the time spent in preparation for them ought not to be less. But the facilities for the study of these subjects are as great and as good in Cambridge as they are elsewhere; and a youth who is ready to come to Cambridge, as evidenced by the fact that his general education will meet the requirements I have mentioned, will find that three well spent years in Cambridge will carry him to the point in his professional course which I have denoted. Naturally, if he has not been able to give the same amount of general education before he comes, or in his first term, his university period will be partly occupied in work which ought to have been done at school, and a longer time will be required before he can pass the medical examinations. The proper proceeding, with regard to the examinations, is to satisfy the requirements in school education through the "local" or "higher local" or the "Oxford and Cambridge Schools Board" Examinations before coming to Cambridge, so as to be able at once, on coming here, to continue his medical study and continue it steadily through the whole period of residence.

With regard to expense, £150 a year is a fair average estimate for those who belong to a college, and who have the advantages, of college life, superintendence, and associations. Some spend more, and some, not a few, spend less. The non-collegiate students, who can regulate their mode of life as they please, spend, in many instances, not more, in some less, than £50 or £60 a year. At Caven-dish College, which has been instituted for the purpose of enabling students to come to the university at an earlier age than they could otherwise do, and at less cost, which is under excellent management, and which already contains several medical students, the fees of tuition, lecture, and other fees, is £60 a year. Selwyn College is growing up for a similar purpose, and, by a simple mode of living, expects to limit the whole charge for tuition, room, board, and attendance, to about £80 per annum.

It is not to be expected that the medical and surgical degrees, with qualification to practise, can be obtained in the university to the scientific and practical study of medicine, may obtain the B.A. degree through the Natural Sciences Tripos, and have completed his botanical, physical, chemical, anatomical, and physiological studies, and as having passed a preliminary examination at the hospital, before the expiration of these three years. That is to say, he will have advanced himself in his medical course during the three years at Cambridge as much as he would have done during the same period at any other place, or nearly so. I say or nearly so because the examinations in these subjects are as great and as good in Cambridge as they are elsewhere; and a youth who is ready to come to Cambridge, as evidenced by the fact that his general education will meet the requirements I have mentioned, will find that three well spent years in Cambridge will carry him to the point in his professional course which I have denoted. Naturally, if he has not been able to give the same amount of general education before he comes, or in his first term, his university period will be partly occupied in work which ought to have been done at school, and a longer time will be required before he can pass the medical examinations. The proper proceeding, with regard to the examinations, is to satisfy the requirements in school education through the "local" or "higher local" or the "Oxford and Cambridge Schools Board" Examinations before coming to Cambridge, so as to be able at once, on coming here, to continue his medical study and continue it steadily through the whole period of residence.

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schools it is advisable that the latter part of the period should be spent in the wider field of observation which a of the wants of the profession and of medical students, and that the medical degrees are obtainable as easily with as little expense and in as short a period of time, as ought to be the case with the medical degrees of a university, certainly of a university which holds the high rank of one of the old universities of England. I may add that the profession shows its consciousness of this by the annually in-
creasing number of those who come into residence with the view of pursuing their medical studies, and obtaining the medical degrees.

I am, Sir, yours, etc.,

Cambridge, April 29th, 1881.

G. M. HUMPHREY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

Sin,—In order to remove any misconception of the position of the Durham University in regard to medical graduation may I be permitted to direct your attention to the steps lately taken by the Senate to remove the restrictions by which candidates for its medical degrees have until recently been hampered.

Firstly, as regards preliminary education. Instead of granting confession examination, or passing an Examination equivalent to that for graduation, candidates are now required to pass in four arts subjects only in addition to the ordinary registration examination. Of these subjects two are compulsory,—viz., Greek (Steele) and English, (Bodleian). Books iii. and iv.; the other two being selected at the option of the candidate from the following list—viz., Latin (Cicero, "De Amicitia"); French (Sainte Beuvas's "M. Dartu"); German (Freytag's "Der Staat Friedrich's der Grossen"); mathematics, with which it has been accorded to candidates on five occasions only, and that the only ground upon which it was conferred was eminent service in the science of surgery, or in any of the branches of knowledge auxiliary therein.

Professor Helmholtz, the inventor of the ophthalmoscope, wonderfully increased the knowledge not alone of diseases peculiar to the eye, though there its utility was most marked, but in the recognition and differential diagnosis of many other diseases, especially those of the nervous system. Thanks to the most cordially and respectfully tendered to him this tribute of their admiration, and begged his acceptance of the honour he so well deserved, the only regret being that it was not more proportionate to the magnitude of his services to science, and his life-long devotion to its successful cultivation.

At a special meeting of the Guardians of Newry Union, held last Saturday, the salary of Dr. Mills, Medical Officer of Donaghmore Dispensary District, was, on the recom-
mendation of the Dispensary Board, increased by £25 per annum, the same amount as the other medical officers of the union receive.

At Ruthmine, near Dublin, a gentleman named O'Har died recently at the alleged age of 103 years and three months.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

The following gentlemen, having passed the required examination for the diploma, were duly admitted Members of the College at a meeting of the Court of Examiners on the 21st inst.:

Bontelin, Court House, Limpsfield, near Tunbridge.

Burroughs, Leopold, Lee, Kent.

Collings, Charles d'Avouge, Guernsey.

Copper, Arthur Lewis, Bethesda.

Kilpin, Ernest Edward, L.S.A., Liverpool.


Lennard, Warren Gay, Devonport.

Morgan, William Pierce, L.S.A., Dowpurs.


Rooke, Charles, Manchester.


Trevor, Henry Octavius, L.S.A., Nether Stowey.


White, Edwin Francis, L.S.A., Putney.

Yeatsman, John Walker, Kilburn.

Of the 77 candidates examined on the 19th, 29th, and 1st inst., 51 passed to the satisfaction of the Court and obtained their diplomas; 5 passed in Surgery, and were qualified in Medicine will be admitted Members; the remaining 21, having failed to reach the required standard, were passed for six months' further professional study. Seven candidates who had passed in Surgery at previous examinations, having subsequently obtained a medical qualification recognised by the College, were also admitted Members.

The following gentlemen passed the Primary Examination in Anatomy and Physiology at meetings of the Board of Examiners on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday last:—

Ernest B. New, F. Ashwell, Francis W. W. Whitt,


During the present session there have been between fifty and six candidates, many of them already qualified as practitioners, examined at the First M.B. examination. It is probable, then, that the great field for practice here alluded to in your article of April 9th will soon be fully utilised, and that it will no longer be thought that Durham has failed in its duty to the profession.

I trust you will be able to find room for this explanation, though somewhat lengthy, since, I fear, some misconception may have arisen from the present position of the University from a perusal of the article in question.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

LUKE ARMSTRONG, M.D., Registrar of the University of Durham.

College of Medicine.

April 13th, 1881.

IRELAND.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

A grand fancy dress ball was held in Cork last week in aid of the funds of the North and South Charitable In-

The usual annual election of examiners for the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland will take place on Tues-

day next, May 3rd, when the Council will proceed, according to the provisions of the Supplemental Charter, to elect from among the Fellows eight examiners to examine candidates for fellowship and letters testimonial; three examiners for the diploma in midwifery, and a similar number to examine students of the course leading to the medical degree.

The President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, in recently conferring the Honorary Fellowship of the College on Professor Helmholtz of Berlin, stated that the distinction was unique and unprecedented; and that the presence of the great scientist was an evidence of his continued interest in the advancement of medical science.

The President added that the College has always endeavoured to maintain the highest standards of education and to keep abreast of the latest developments in the field of medicine.

The College has also been instrumental in promoting the study of medicine in Ireland, particularly through the establishment of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, which has played a significant role in the training of medical students.

The College has recently launched a new programme to provide additional support for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, with a focus on improving access to medical education and ensuring that all students have the opportunity to pursue their dreams.

The College is committed to continuing its efforts to improve the quality of medical education in Ireland and to ensure that all students have the opportunity to pursue their dreams.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

G. H. HATHAWAY, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Arthur H. W. Clen, Registrar of the University of Durham.