adhesive plaster and bandage, and the wound on the throat brought together by the same means. The parents were directed to keep the child in a recumbent posture, and to feed her sparingly on pap. The wound was looked at on the third day; on the fifth the dressings were changed, when adhesion had taken place on one side very completely, and, on the other, although the ligatures had cut through, there was no opening of the wound; there existed no symptoms of excessive inflammation of the parts, or of irritation of the system. In fifteen days the cicatrices were perfectly formed, and the wound on the throat almost closed. On closing the mouth the artificial lip seemed very well adapted to the other, and even when partially open retained the saliva, and very materially diminished the unseemliness of features. It cannot be yet determined whether or not the second set of teeth, with their alveoli, have been so much destroyed as to prevent the great held derivable from their growth, by supporting the flaccid flap. On the whole, the result of the operation was very satisfactory, especially at Constantinople, by exalting the practice and utility of surgery amongst the Turks, and encouraging them to submit to operations beyond the barber's province of bleeding and tooth-drawing.

Glasgow, 12th April, 1831.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOL

OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON,

*On the occasion of the distribution of the
Medals and Certificates of Honours to
the Students on the 21st of May, 1831.*

By PROFESSOR DAVIS.

Sir THOMAS DENMAN in the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN,—In compliance with the wishes of the Council, and in conformity with the practice of preceding years, the Professors of the School of Medicine in this University have the honour, at the conclusion of their third annual session, to submit to the proprietors and other gentlemen present, a short account of the progress and prospects of the department of the institution which is more immediately under their charge.

It is, Sir, a matter of extreme regret to

your professors of this school, that in one of its most important classes, certain irregularities and disturbances have occurred during the session now closing, which have not a little contributed to impair its utility, and to injure its reputation. But, Sir, it is not within the province of the individual who has now the honour of addressing you, even to give an opinion on any of the matters in dispute, much less to enter into any details on questions which are at this moment in the course of being discussed, and, also, he earnestly hopes, of being speedily, happily, and satisfactorily, adjusted.

In all the other classes of the medical school of the University, your professors have much pleasure in reporting that there has been the most perfect order throughout the session. The business of the present meeting will, indeed, soon prove to you, that many of our students, during their late sessional attendance in the schools, have honourably distinguished themselves by an assiduous and most successful prosecution of their professional studies; whilst of the great majority,—as well of those who have not contended for the honours of this day, as of those who have contended for them unsuccessfully,—it is a fact well known to their respective professors, that many—so many, indeed, as to constitute by far the greater number of the entire school,—have made highly-important accessions to their previous knowledge.

In favour of those few who, whilst possessing sufficient share, both of industry and natural ability, have nevertheless failed to acquit themselves fully to the satisfaction of their teachers, there are two or three circumstances which deserve to be particularly noticed, and which cannot be too frequently repeated on occasions like the present.

Of these, the one probably of greatest influence is, that too many of our youths, by reason of want of knowledge, or at least of sound discretion on the part of their friends, are introduced into the *business* department of our profession, without a sufficient previous education to enable them to prosecute with advantage the studies which await them on their future medical schools.

The result of this ill-advised procedure is, that the subjects of it are brought suddenly to encounter the greatest difficulties incident to the prosecution of abstruse professional

studies, while yet unpossessed of any of the important habits of mind upon which their satisfactory progress must essentially depend;—without taste for their new pursuits;—often without pleasure in study of any kind;—without any acquired power of application; and not unfrequently without the capacity of acquiring such power;—without the ability, from practice, to apprehend ideas attempted to be conveyed to them in connected discourses;—without even a sufficient acquaintance with the use and power of their own language; and, sometimes, without any knowledge whatever of that most beautiful, and useful, ancient tongue, from which so much of the technical language of their profession is derived.

Another disqualifying circumstance, which operates as a great impediment to a successful prosecution of the studies usually pursued in medical schools, is imputable to the operation of certain wretched statutes, by which young gentlemen intended for the general business of the profession, as practised in this country, are compelled to devote four or five of the best years of their lives to the menial drudgeries of an absurd apprenticeship, of which, in point of substantial professional instruction, all the benefit may be obtained by more judicious means in a fourth part of the time.

This is an evil, Sir, which can only be remedied by the interposition of the legislature; and it is one of so great a magnitude, and one now so well understood, and so seriously deplored by the more intelligent part of the profession, as to give us good ground to hope that it cannot much longer remain unredressed.

Nearly allied to this latter evil, Sir, are still some others, which contribute in no trivial degree to aggravate the early disadvantages of the class of medical students to whom these remarks are intended principally to apply—viz. the occasional incompetency, and the more frequent disinclination of their first professional preceptors, their legal masters, to teach them the simplest elements of medical education.

But to return to the more immediate objects of the present report, your medical professors, Sir, have to request your kind attention (which however they do with much diffidence) to a brief enumeration of the services which this infant institution is

already rendering to the cause of a sound professional education. They have the satisfaction of informing the Council, that many of their students of the preceding years have already entered upon the active duties of the profession in different parts of the United Kingdom, and have there reported great and good things of the advantages of education to be obtained in the medical school of this University. Others, through the influence of the honourable distinctions conferred upon them in this place, on former public occasions like the present, have secured for themselves important professional appointments in some of our principal provincial cities and towns.

And here it becomes the gratifying duty of your professors to acknowledge their special obligation to yourself, Sir, for your kind introduction of one of their most distinguished pupils to an appointment of the description alluded to in your own favourite town of Nottingham. An appointment, however, which it is more than probable he could not have obtained even with the assistance of your powerful influence, had he not also been competent to produce before his electors, the splendid tokens, the golden representatives, of his labours and his triumphs, whilst a student in this University.

Your professors of the medical school have further to report that several of their departed pupils have entered into his Majesty's public services in the capacity of assistant surgeons. Others have gone into divers foreign countries in pursuit of such appointments, and such services, as might be there presented to their acceptance.

There is yet a remaining class who are still amongst us, but who are ready and eager to quit their native shores, and so to follow the example of their enterprising predecessors.

In this part of their report, Sir, your medical professors have to acknowledge with many thanks the presentation to an assistant-surgeoncy in the service of the Hon. the East India Company, placed at the disposal of the Council by the Rt. Hon. Charles Wynne, subject however to the obligation of conferring it upon the most talented and most successful student of his year, who might choose to become a candidate for the nomination.

This appointment, Sir, has been award-

ed to Mr. John Evans, one of the present senior students of the University, without competition ;—not without competition, it should be observed, because the prize was deemed of little value (for it would have been joyfully accepted by many of our students), but because, among these no other gentleman could muster sufficient courage to come to the arena of a severe public examination before the whole body of their professors in competition with Mr. Evans.

But, for this reason, was Mr. Evans excused the required test of qualification? No, Sir, on the contrary, he was examined by all and every one of his professors with as much conscientious fidelity to the conditions imposed upon them by the liberal donor, as if there had been any greater number whatever of rival candidates. There never probably was a *viva voce* examination of greater severity, nor did ever a candidate acquit himself with more perfect satisfaction to his examiners, or more distinguished honour to himself.

Mr. Chairman ;—In the order of subjects upon which it is the duty of your medical professors further to inform you, are certain changes which, by death and resignations, have taken place in their own body since the commencement of the present year's labours.

Mr. Bell's retirement from the chair of physiology, the duties of which he had performed highly to the satisfaction of his numerous auditory, occurred at an early period of the session, and was the cause at the time of much embarrassment and interruption to the business of that class. Its duties, however, after a short interval, were confided by the Council to the temporary charge of Dr. Southwood Smith—a gentleman (and this is all that can be stated of him in his presence) who has devoted some years of close and unremitting attention to the study of physiology. The chair of surgery, which also had been occupied by Mr. Bell, was given, in addition to his previous trust, to Mr. Pattison, the professor of descriptive anatomy.

At a more advanced period of the session, your professors of the medical school were informed of another important resignation—that of their amiable and accomplished colleague Dr. Conolly, the professor of the theory and practice of medicine. This re-

signation, it should be observed, was dictated solely by considerations of a private nature, Dr. Conolly having retired from his public duties at this place amid the sincerest regrets of his numerous friends, and the strongest expressions of approbation and admiration on the part of his pupils.

This chair has been already filled by the appointment of Dr. Elliotson, and your medical professors beg to avail themselves of this occasion to express, in unison with the universal public voice, their unqualified and unanimous approbation of the appointment of a gentleman so well qualified to sustain the duties of that important chair—a gentleman who has not exhausted the energies of a comparatively youthful period of his natural life, and is yet possessed of very extensive experience in the business of teaching. Moreover, Dr. Elliotson is well known to the profession as one of the most distinguished practical physicians of the present day in this metropolis.

There still remains to report to you, Sir, another lamented instance of diminution in the number of your medical professors, by the premature death of Mr. Bennett, your late respected and popular professor of general anatomy. While, however, deploring the loss of this talented teacher, now no more, your professors have to perform an act of justice to another talented teacher still living, and now present, by stating, that the duties attached to the chair of general anatomy, were performed during the latter part of the session by Mr. Richard Quain, with a zeal and success which have secured to him the respect of the pupils, and deserved the sincerest thanks of your professors.

What changes or new arrangements, or even new appointments, may become expedient in consequence of the death of Mr. Bennett, you are aware, Sir, that, by the constitution of the University, it is not left to your medical professors to indicate ; and they therefore most cheerfully content themselves with expressing their fullest confidence, that the Council will take the same wise precautions, and show the same impartial and unbiassable judgment, in their future arrangements, as have distinguished their late proceedings in the election of Dr. Elliotson.

In conclusion of an address, Sir, which

has already occupied too much of your time, your professors have the honour of submitting to the most liberal and earliest possible consideration of the Council, two important measures to be yet undertaken in favour of this infant institution, in order to enable it to extend, and eventually to consummate, its claims upon public approbation and support, viz., the erection of a general hospital in the neighbourhood of its locality, and the completion of its own moral architecture, by obtaining for its professors their undeniably rightful privileges of conferring on their most competent and deserving students, the academical distinctions usually conferred in similar places of education.

In regard, Sir, to the former object, there is little doubt that the wants of a rapidly-increasing population in this district will become a means of speedily effecting it; and as to the latter, your professors feel themselves entitled to hope, especially when addressing a most influential officer of the government, that they will not much longer have to regret the absence of so important a sanction to their labours.

THE LANCET.

London, Saturday, May 23, 1831.

THE readers of this Journal will remember that Sir JAMES SCARLETT, in the course of last term, moved for a rule in the Court of King's Bench, calling upon THOMAS WAKLEY, THOMAS KING, GEORGE DARBY DERMOTT, and GEORGE WALKER, to show cause why a criminal information should not be filed against them for certain misdemeanors alleged to have been committed by them in the theatre of the Royal College of Surgeons, on the 14th of February, and the 8th of March, last. In consequence of an application made to the court on behalf of the defendant Mr. WAKLEY, the rule was enlarged to the present term, and it came on for argument on Tuesday last, when the defendants appeared by the following counsel: Mr. CAMPBELL and Mr. KELLY for Mr.

WAKLEY, Mr. AUSTEN for Mr. KING, Mr. PLATT for Mr. DERMOTT, and Mr. BODKIN and Mr. SAUNDERS for Mr. WALKER. There appeared for the College, in support of the rule, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, Sir JAMES SCARLETT, Mr. F. POLLOCK, and Mr. FOLLETT, making altogether ten counsel employed in the cause, who, with the special pleaders and attorneys, constituted a most formidable legal phalanx. In justice we are bound to declare, that the question was most ably discussed on both sides, the counsel having exerted themselves with very great ability. Two circumstances, however, were remarkable; Sir THOMAS DENMAN was fretful and snappish, and Sir JAMES SCARLETT, "*credat Judæus*," uttered not one word against the press! indeed, the learned gentleman conducted himself with extreme propriety, and although debating a question of alleged libel, he neither roared nor foamed in denouncing the press. Nay, more; the learned barrister protested that he would not resort to "*personalities*." After these evidences of extreme moderation displayed by Sir JAMES SCARLETT, it is to be hoped that the cruel practice of depriving hyænas of their sight, in order to tame them, will be henceforth discontinued.

Compelled by the etiquette of the court to appear the advocate of parties whose monopolizing, tyrannical, and narrow-minded principles he must have heartily despised, Sir THOMAS DENMAN showed, by his extreme petulance, that the feelings of the man of honour were not, without a powerful struggle, merged in the professional duties of the advocate. Sir THOMAS DENMAN is a *reformer*, he is the Attorney-General whom the PEOPLE would elect, had they the power to make the appointment; the honourable and learned gentleman is a hater of monopolies and monopolists; and—ye powers!—it is no wonder that he appeared as though almost choked, when he spoke, on one or two occasions, of the "*respecta-*