235 cubic inches, whilst that of ten men, of the same height, whose chests measured 38 inches, was only 226 cubic inches. Fifteen men of 5 feet 9 inches had a capacity of 233 cubic inches; while the capacity of eleven men of the same height, but whose chests measured 3 inches *larger*, was only 232 cubic inches, and the mean of the men of 30½ inches chest, 204 cubic inches. The capacity of a man of 40½ (10 inches larger!) was only 147 cubic inches (a capacity of 57 inches less); hence breadth of the chest is no guide to the capacity of the lungs.

Mr. Hutchinson stated that he felt himself quite at a loss to account for this apparent anomaly. He found most generally that the narrow, thin, and tall men have the greatest capacity; this staggering fact first led him to combine height with his observation; then, and not until then, all that had appeared chaos and confusion became order and regularity, and hence resulted the beautiful law already given. No other physical sign could be so steady a guide as that of height. This never varies in disease, nor at any time but in the extremity of age; but weight and breadth vary at all periods of life, therefore no guide can here be looked for in them. Mr. Hutchinson stated that this omission of height being connected with the experiments on respiration, was the sole cause of the great apparent discrepancy between different observers upon the physical experiments in respiration.

(To be continued.)

MR. PROTHEROE SMITH'S SPECULUM UTERI.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In reply to an anonymous letter which appeared in THE LANCET of last week, I beg to remark, that whilst I am desirous not to detract from the merits of Mr. Coxeter's instrument, which I had never seen or heard of until my attention was called to it by your correspondent, I am fully confirmed in my statement by the best authorities in London, Edinburgh, Paris, &c., that the speculum uteri I had the honour to exhibit at the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, is both novel in design, as also in accomplishing the desideratum, which had never heretofore been attained, of investigating uterine disease *simultaneously*, both by touch and sight, and for which purpose Mr. Coxeter's instrument is neither adapted or intended. As the original paper, from which brief abstracts were published by THE LANCET and "Medical Gazette," together with drawings of my speculum, is now in the possession of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, I do not feel myself at liberty, at this time, to enter into a more particular account of its construction and use until I know the decision of the council of that society as to its publication in the next volume of their "Transactions." I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

PROTHEROE SMITH.

John-street, Bedford-row, July 22, 1844.

MEDICAL PROTECTION ASSEMBLY.

EXETER-HALL, JULY 22, 1844.

At a numerous and extraordinary meeting of the committee, Mr. CARPUE in the chair, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

That this committee has viewed with horror and indignation the foul insinuations which have been levelled against Mr. WAKLEY in the Commons House of Parliament.

That this committee has seen with delight and admiration the bold, open, and dignified manner in which the insinuation was met and answered by Mr. WAKLEY, and the committee considers that the thanks of the whole medical profession are due to Sir R. PEEL, and the members of the House of Commons, for the noble and generous protection which they afforded to Mr. WAKLEY on that occasion.

That this committee acknowledges, with feelings of cordial satisfaction, the high-minded conduct of the

whole of the political press towards Mr. WAKLEY on this occasion, writers of every party having nobly stepped forward to the rescue of a man whose public services and private worth might justly have shielded him from the calumnies of even interested slanderers.

That after what has transpired, no attempt to revive the calumny against Mr. WAKLEY can ever be made except by persons whose conduct and unworthy motives must subject them to the severest condemnation of all honourable minds.

That the committee gladly avail themselves of this opportunity to acknowledge, with gratitude, the many obligations which Mr. WAKLEY has conferred upon the members of the medical profession since the establishment of THE LANCET, the first periodical of the kind that appeared in this country, and which he has conducted with ability, independence, and an enduring devotion to the cause of medical reform, for nearly a quarter of a century. We beg also to refer, with pleasure, to the many abuses which that publication has been instrumental in removing from the endowed and chartered medical institutions of this country; to the great good that has resulted to the public, and more especially to the poorer classes of society, by the salutary changes he has caused to be introduced into the public hospitals of the empire; and to the great advancement in the interests and prospects of the profession generally, due to the conduct and indefatigable exertions of that gentleman.

J. CONSTANTINE CARPUE, Chairman.

H. HODSON RUGG, Hon. Sec.

Before the meeting separated, a resolution was unanimously adopted, thanking Mr. H. H. RUGG for the handsome manner in which he had accepted the office of honorary secretary to the committee.

CHARTER OF THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

THE following petition has been sent to the House of Commons by Mr. GEORGE JAMES GUTHRIE:—

The petition of George James Guthrie, of Berkeley-street, Berkeley-square, a Councillor, and late President of the Royal College of Surgeons of London,

Humbly sheweth,

That although your petitioner in his collective capacity, has been compelled to accept the grant of a new charter to the said college, a copy of which was lately laid on the table of your honourable house, he considers several of the provisions of the said charter to be illiberal, exclusive, and unjust.

That, independently of its placing a bar on the poor man, preventing, in many cases, his obtaining by his own exertions such places of honour as there may be in the profession of surgery, it offers unnecessary advantages to the richer student in the attainment of these offices, who may not possess half his ability, his perseverance, or his knowledge, it presses with peculiar severity on the officers of the public service, nearly the whole of whom are deprived by it of those privileges they hitherto enjoyed in common with their surgical brethren of equal standing in civil life; whilst they will also be deprived in future of the hope of succeeding to these offices of honour or profit, whatever may be their ability, or the pre-eminence they may have acquired in the service of their country, from their talents or their labours.

Your petitioner has hitherto believed that a gentleman employed in the service of his Sovereign did not forfeit those rights which he had previously acquired as a citizen and a subject; in virtue of which right your petitioner has twice held the office of president of the college, but which he could not have done if this charter had been formerly in existence; that, as the friend of many of the seniors, the teacher of many of the junior officers of the medical departments of the navy, the army, and the East India company, they have called upon him to use his best endeavours to preserve to them the rights and privileges they have hitherto enjoyed.

Your petitioner humbly approaches your honourable house, in compliance with such call, on behalf of the whole of these officers.

Your petitioner believes there are few members of your honourable house who, in the persons of their fathers, their

brothers, their children, or their relations, have not had reason to be thankful for the professional services of the men it is now intended to deprive of their ancient rights and future prospects; he has seen many of the officers of these services lay down their lives in the service of their country, suffering solely from their devotion to their duties and the privations they necessarily underwent. He is aware that many others performed very arduous duties with a coolness and precision, under circumstances of difficulty and danger, deserving of the greatest praise, and for which they, as well as their more martial comrades of all arms, have on many occasions received the thanks of Parliament; that several of these officers who shared in those thanks, said to be the greatest honour a grateful country can give, now find themselves altogether omitted from the privileges proposed to be granted by this charter, or placed below gentlemen who were not even born when these thanks were bestowed, and whose principal merit is, that they are living and can live in London with a reputation which, however great and well deserved it may hereafter become, has yet to be acquired.

Your petitioner believes that the evil which has been thus committed has been unintentional, and that it can be remedied by a supplement to the said charter.

Your petitioner, therefore, humbly prays, that your honourable house will not confirm the said charter by any act or acts whatever relating to medical or surgical arrangements for the United Kingdoms until your honourable house shall have granted your petitioner an opportunity of being heard, by himself or counsel, against them, or the particular parts to which this charter must necessarily relate, either at the bar of your honourable house, or in such other way as your honourable house may be pleased to direct.

And your petitioner shall ever pray.

GEO. JAS. GUTHRIE.

July 18, 1844.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

MARYLEBONE AND PADDINGTON HOSPITAL. — On Thursday, the 18th of July, a public meeting was called by the managing committee of the above establishment, at the rooms of the Marylebone Literary and Scientific Association, for the purpose, amongst other things, of completing the fund considered necessary to be secured before entering upon the building of the hospital. The Earl MANVERS took the chair, supported by the Earl of Beverley, Sir Thomas Phillips, B. B. Cabbell, Esq., Rev. Mr. Boone, Rev. Mr. Campbell, Rev. Mr. Moore, Rev. Mr. Scobell, and several others, friends and patrons of the hospital. The honorary Secretary (Mr. Tatham) then read the report, which exhibited the prospects of the institution as in an encouraging state. In money and other property, the committee had already in their hands upwards of 13,000*l.*, and the sum of 1224*l.* only was required to make up the necessary sum of 15,000*l.* As soon as the last-mentioned sum was obtained, and also the proposed site for the institution, the necessary buildings for the hospital would be commenced. The site proposed was in the vicinity of the buildings of the West Middlesex Water-works, and was the munificent gift of the Bishop of London, Thomas Thistlethwaite, Esq., and the masters of the Paddington estate, and comprised upwards of three-quarters of an acre of ground.

The principal resolution, moved by Mr. ROSE, a county magistrate, and seconded by the Rev. Mr. BOONE, was to the following effect:—"That the buildings be commenced as soon as practicable after the sum constituting the deficiency should be subscribed, and the possession of the site obtained." This resolution was carried unanimously.

The Rev. A. M. CAMPBELL moved,—"That the thanks of the subscribers and of the public were further due to Thomas Thistlethwaite, Esq., for his munificent donation of 1000*l.* to the funds of the institution, in addition to his former subscription of 100*l.*"—Mr. KEMPSHEAD seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, JULY 19.—Mr. P. HOWARD wished to know if the right hon. baronet intended to bring forward any measure for the regulation of the

medical profession.—Sir J. GRAHAM said he had stated some time ago that he wished, with the permission of the house, to bring in a Bill for the regulation of the medical profession in the United Kingdom. If the house would give him leave he would shortly lay the Bill on the table, but he did not wish that it should go further than a second reading.

A NOTICE has appeared in the "London Gazette," to the effect that a meeting of the fellows of the College of Surgeons will be held in the hall of the college on Wednesday, the 31st instant, at three o'clock in the afternoon, to elect three additional members of the council, in pursuance of the provisions of the new charter.

AMONG the recent deaths in the profession is announced that of Dr. William Elliott, of Carlisle, at the early age of thirty-four years. The "Provincial Journal" speaks of his professional attainments as having been of a high order, and that to these he added unwearied zeal in the pursuit of science. He was an able, judicious, and humane practitioner. His private character stood most deservedly high.

THE newspapers announce the decease of Dr. John Haslam, at his house in Lamb's Conduit-place, at the advanced age of 81. This well-known physician had retired from active practice for several years previous to his death. His labours in the cause of science exist in the form of a monograph on "Sound Mind," published in 1819, and a course of Lectures on the Intellectual Composition of Man, delivered before the Medical Society of London, in the session, 1827-28, and published at that time in THE LANCET. Dr. Haslam was an amusing companion, and his conversation abounded in anecdote, chiefly having reference to John Hunter, of whom he was an intimate friend, and for whom he had a very high respect. Dr. Haslam's writings can scarcely be called those of a man of genius; they exhibit, however, a profound knowledge of his subject, and a deep train of philosophic thought.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Gentlemen admitted members on Friday, July 19, 1844:—W. H. Snape, W. Browne, J. S. Green, J. Lowry, H. S. Palmer, E. W. Woodcock, F. Berrington, E. B. Bowman, P. Pemell, F. J. Morgan, J. Postgate, C. M. Aldridge.

APOTHECARIES' HALL, LONDON.

NAMES of gentlemen who obtained certificates of qualification to practise as apothecaries on Thursday, July 18, 1844:—Thomas Mallorie Leak, Follifoot, Yorkshire; Christian Henry Taylor, Bradford, Yorkshire; Benjamin Cawthorne, Wakefield; Thomas Ballard, Connaught-terrace; Charles Manners Smith, Kempsey, Worcestershire; Thomas Feat, Versailles; William Coles Hunt, Torrington, Devon.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Vital Statistics of Glasgow. Glasgow: David Robertson. 1844. 1 vol. 8vo. Pp. 105.

The Actual Process of Nutrition in the Living Structure Demonstrated by the Microscope. By W. Addison. London: Churchill. 1843. 8vo. Pp. 76.

Pathological and Histological Researches on Inflammation of the Nervous Centres. By John Hughes Bennett, M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh. Edinburgh: Maclachlan, Stewart, and Co. 1844. 8vo. Pp. 83.

CORRESPONDENTS.

To the Editor.—Sir: If you will be kind enough to direct, in your notices to correspondents, the attention of authors to such facts as the following, you will render considerable service to many of your readers. In the bibliographical record of the "Medical Chirurgical Review" for this month are notices of the following works amongst many others, viz.:—"A Report of the Progress of Practical Medicine in the department of Midwifery, &c., by Dr. West," and "An Address delivered before the Dublin Obstetrical Society, by Dr. Montgomery." These works I ordered my bookseller to procure, and the answer from his agent in town was, "not in town." If the works are for sale, copies should be sent to some London