ject advocated by you, Sir,—I mean the public trial, or concours; for this may be advocated on grounds distinct from those of the imputed dishonesty of any party. I would gladly make a few remarks on this important measure, not for the purpose of opposing its adoption in any case, but in order to point out a few difficulties to be met, and to discuss the mechanism by which it is to be worked. I find, however, that this letter has grown already to a considerable length, and that I must defer all reference to the subject to another communication.

I have now, Sir, only to say, in conclusion, that with a view to assist you and others in arriving at truth, I have detailed some facts, and alluded to some persons. I am prepared to maintain and to prove all that I have advanced,—and more, should more be necessary. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

AN OLD UNIVERSITY-MAN.

September 6, 1836.

DR. SIGMOND AND DR. GOLDING.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—On my return to town I had an opportunity of perusing the last number of your periodical, which contains an outline of an address circulated amongst the Governors of the Charing-cross Hospital, by Mr. Pettigrew, in consequence of the extraordinary proceedings of a Committee appointed to enquire into the state of the hospital. That Committee, usurping the power of the Governors, has thought fit to dispense with my services as physician to the hospital, and as Mr. Pettigrew has more than once mentioned my name in the course of his observations, I have to request that you will in a future number do me the kindness to insert an address, which I will take the earliest moment to forward to you.

That I have supported Mr. Pettigrew throughout a most arduous and difficult task, is a subject of self-congratulation, nor do I in the slightest degree regret that I am no longer to associate with individuals whose conduct I have had occasion most severely to censure before that Committee, and with whom I declared I could hold no communication whatever.

Mr. Pettigrew has explained to you the nature of a transaction between himself and Mr. Howship, of which I had, two years before, accidentally heard, but which was then positively denied. It appears that this transaction was thoroughly known to Dr. Golding, to Dr. Shearman, and to Mr. Robertson, in the month of November, but it was not communicated to me, their colleague, until the month of May, and then in consequence only of some dissensions that had arisen; even then no open, straight-forward

course was pursued, but I saw Mr. Pettigrew assailed with provocations and unmanly persecution, which excited in my mind a more anxious desire to defend a colleague whom I had always found zealous, active, and honourable.

I can only now state that I give my most willing testimony to his observations on the mismanagement of the hospital, and that I purpose laying before you the details of my own statement, made to the Committee, on various points connected with the Institution. I have only now time to request that you will allow me; thus to return my thanks to the different members of the profession, who, in consequence of that which has appeared in your pages, have done me the honour to express, in various forms, their kind feeling towards me; many individuals, to whom I did not know that my name had reached, have in the warmest manner exhibited to me the demonstration of their sense of the annoyance to which I have been subjected, and have volunteered to assist my endeavours to root out the miserable system pursued at the Charing-cross Hospital.

I feel convinced that the medical profession will acknowledge, when all the facts are laid before them, that I have never acted inconsistently with the dignity and honour of a science which I have cultivated with ardour and with pleasure, because it has introduced me to a number of intellectual individuals, in whose society my happiest hours are past. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

G. G. SIGMOND, M.D.

24, Dover-street, Sep. 6, 1836.

DEFENCE OF DR. GOLDING.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—There is no part of your public life that has gained you greater credit than the vehement and constant warfare you have waged against those who employ appeals to the benevolence of our countrymen as mere stepping-stones to their own fortune and aggrandisement; nor does any one dispute with you that, in numerous instances, Medical Societies are so managed, as to conduce to little else than the selfish ends of their promoters.

But all rules have exceptions, and it is not fair to designate the *Charing-Cross Hospital* as a “place of traffic in human misery, in disease and death,” unless you had evidence before you, touching the particular case—unless you had been yourself, or sent some credible persons, to examine the place, and the mode in which it is conducted. The terms of your censure are so metaphorical, that I cannot precisely determine what you mean to imply; but taking the most gentle interpretation, it may be presumed you assert, that the *hospital does not afford*