even six years, they then think that they may try with certainty for a dressership or clerkship, and as these offices are awarded to those who have gained the most honours, they obtain their object, to the exclusion of those men who have vainly competed with them. No one can deny the injustice of such a proceeding; but what do these *senior* students do then? many of them merely obtain these offices (especially the dressership) for the sake of the certificate from the surgeon or physician, and with the idea of being one day enrolled amongst the *Fellows* of the Royal College of Surgeons! caring very little for the practical knowledge that must accrue to them from such an office. They, perhaps, at the time, are working for some other medal—for they are insatiable in this respect; they consequently cannot attend to their duties, and therefore employ deputies to do their work, and then have the impudence to ask for a certificate from the surgeon or physician, which, of course, can never be refused to men of such high standing, as they are considered. In this respect they very much resemble the “dog in the manger.”

Now, Sir, I really think that such an abuse ought to be corrected; and one way of effecting this purpose I will humbly suggest. The plan I propose is, to consider a man who has been at the college for three years, as one who ought to have finished his education, and if he competes for a dressership or clerkship in his fourth year, the medals and honours he has obtained during the previous three years ought not to be taken into consideration, and that he ought to be considered as a first-year's man. Then would the hard-working practical man stand some chance against these medal-hunters, as Mr. Teague justly terms them. I remain, yours obediently,
A DRESSER.
University College, London, Nov. 11, 1844.

INCONSISTENCIES IN THE PRIZE SYSTEM AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The letter of Mr. James Teague, inserted in THE LANCET of November 9, has powerfully exposed some of the evils attending the present regulations for prizes at University College. A further exposition of these glaring inconsistencies may not be useless.

1st. There is a rule which states that no students shall be allowed to contend for prizes, except those who have regularly attended the weekly examinations held in the different classes. This rule is never observed.

2nd. There is no rule which disqualifies medical practitioners from contending for these prizes. Hence it is a common thing for members of the College of Surgeons to enter the lists against the young apprentice. Doubts may be expressed as to whether these “members” increase their reputation by this honourable rivalry.

3rd. Students who reside in London, or those who have much time to spare, and who have been attending the classes for five, six, or seven years, are allowed to contend with others, who perhaps can only stay two sessions in London. Is this an equal contest?

4th. Students who have taken degrees, honours, and exhibitions, in the University of London, may return, and do return, to the scene of their studies, and compete with youths just commencing their medical education.

I take the liberty of troubling you with these remarks, and I do this without hesitation, knowing that abuses like these have only to be pointed out to ensure your powerful assistance in their removal. I have not mentioned the remedies for this state of things; they are simple, of easy application, and will probably be noticed hereafter. I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN ELLIOTT WOOD.

University College, Nov. 9, 1844.

THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.

(NOTE FROM MR. ROGERS, OF WARDOUR-STREET.)

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—On Monday last, the 11th inst., being in the neighbourhood of my old hospital, the Middlesex, I thought I would go in and see what was going forward, when I found that Mr. Arnott intended amputating the thigh of a male patient. Having a little spare time, I determined on seeing the operation, and for that purpose adjourned to the theatre, where a number of gentlemen, new-comers, and therefore strangers to me, were assembled. I walked into the front row, where I found two old pupils like myself; and casting my eyes upwards, I found written opposite to me a notice, to the effect that former house-surgeons, old pupils, who came as visitors, and the dressers to the other surgeons, were allowed to stand there. I thought this included

myself, but I was presently undeceived, and that, too in the most uncourteous manner possible; for on Mr. Arnott entering the theatre, he at first gave a short *clinique* on the case, but suddenly pulling up, he turned upon me, saying, in a manner I have above alluded to, “You have no business here—go out.” I immediately withdrew, (observing, as I went, “I am an old pupil,”) and then took up my station at the top of the theatre, amidst the tittering of the students, who doubtless thought me an intruder. After the operation was over, I inquired of Mr. Arnott why I had been so insulted? when he observed he did not know me. I then told him he had signed my certificate; I forget the exact words he then uttered, but it was something to the effect that I was not known to him the more for that. He then inquired whether I practised in London, to which I replied, Yes; when he observed, I was only admitted there by courtesy. I will take care how I again expose myself to his courtesy.

I call attention to this, as I do not think I ought to have been so uncereemoniously treated, even supposing I had been a stranger; and I question whether a like insult would have been offered to any respectable well-conducted person visiting any other hospital in London. I would farther recommend the above-named gentleman to be a little more courteous, if possible, to the students in general, as I remember being insulted by him on two previous occasions during my pupillage.

I do not believe I was wholly unknown at the above hospital during the five years I was there, nor shall I be to my old fellow-students when they see me sign myself yours respectfully,

J. ROGERS, M.R.C.S., &c.

Wardour-street, Scho, Nov. 13, 1844.

THE FUND OF THE ASSOCIATED APOTHECARIES AND SURGEON-APOTHECARIES OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

(NOTE FROM DR. WANSBROUGH.)

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As one of the thirteen hundred and twenty-three members of the “Associated Apothecaries and Surgeon-Apothecaries of England and Wales,” which was formed in 1812, and ceased its labours in the cause of medical reform in 1823, I should like to know what has become of the amount of stock in the three per cents. Reduced, which then stood at four hundred and twenty-five pounds?

The last officers on the 2nd of July, 1823, were—

President—Joseph Hayes, Esq.

Vice-Presidents—James Upton, Esq.; Lewis Leese, Esq.

General Committee—Henry Blatch, Esq.; Thomas Alcock, Esq.; John Brown Eyles, Esq.; Thomas Hurst, Esq.; W. M. Gaitskill, Esq.; James Morrah, Esq.; John Parrott, Esq.; George Rodd, Esq.; W. Henry King, Esq.; Ebenezer Randall, Esq.; Charles Shillitoe, Esq.; George Woolley, Esq.; Henry Coombe, Esq.; Thomas Clarke, Esq.; William Hillman, Esq.; C. T. Haden, Esq.; John Hingeston, Esq.; Edward Leese, Esq.; John Hunter, Esq.; Thomas Parkinson, Esq.; John Hurlock, Esq.; N. Wells, Esq.; William Robins, Esq.; — Williams, Esq.

Treasurers—J. S. Parkinson, Esq.; J. Upton, Esq.; J. Hunter, Esq.

Bankers—Messrs. Gosling and Sharpe, Fleet-street.

Secretary—John Powell, Esq., 1, Keppel-street, Russell-square.

Perhaps the treasurers, if alive, or survivors of the “general committee,” will inform us whether the said sum of four hundred and twenty-five pounds remains still invested, and to what purpose the interest, two hundred and sixty-seven pounds fifteen shillings, has been applied during twenty-one years, as no balance-sheet, to my knowledge, has appeared since the 2nd of July, 1823! I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

T. W. WANSBROUGH, M.D.

Chelsea, Nov. 12, 1844.

THE ORTHOPÆDIC INSTITUTION.

THE Editor of THE LANCET is, of course, aware that in consequence of the bad management (to use a mild term) of the Orthopædic Institution, No. 6, Bloomsbury-square, the following resignations have taken place:—The president, the Right Honourable the Earl of Eldon; the Earl of Arundel and Surrey, Dr. Stromeyer, of Hanover, Amos Swaysland, Esq., Frederick Heisch, Esq., Frederick Heisch, jun., Esq., vice-presidents.

Why this fact is kept a secret by the committee is best known to themselves. The truth of the above can be confirmed by application to any of the parties named.

A CONSTANT READER.

Oct. 4, 1844.