taken often to the well, his crooked ways have become so proverbial that, notwithstanding his baronetcy, he has sunk into that state of insignificance which those who longest and best know him always predicted would sooner or later be his fate; but it is deplorable to think that with him he has dragged the department, if not into the gulf of ruin at least to its brink.

It always has been a paradoxical question to those who laboured in the same field, how a person of his caliber succeeded with an officer of the Duke of Wellington's discrimination. Perhaps it is an extraordinary instance, how a little well-timed zeal and industry, with a good deal of the *Scotch accompaniment*, will obscure the discernment of the most acute.

As an old servant it would perhaps be painful to many to hear of his being placed in reduced pecuniary circumstances, especially as he now has a *baronet's family* to support, to do which he is known to have made a great, but it is supposed an unsuccessful, effort by saddling the department with his son as an agent. However, having succeeded in getting himself made civilian, which he long concealed from the department, there are few who would not rejoice at hearing of his enjoying the *otium cum dignitate* at Camden Hill, in order that his situation might be filled by some one more worthy of the enthusiastic support and many acts of friendship which have been from time to time bestowed, *ill bestowed*, upon him. It is impossible (vain as he may be) that he can be blind to the position in which he stands, and with him the department, and it must be superfluous to tell him, that with such a head the body can never regain what it has lost of late years.

It well becomes him to make a show of philanthropy by urging contributions from those who are at his mercy, for the purpose of glossing over his own acts of partiality in establishing funds for professedly charitable purposes, in many instances to be distributed amongst those who, under a strict system of justice and impartiality, in all probability would not now have to bewail in penury the loss of husbands and fathers of whom they have been bereft by the effects of climate whither they had been forced, while others of the *favoured clan* have been permitted to pursue their services unmolested, in conjunction with private practice in the United Kingdom, or have had other lucrative and salubrious stations. We envy him not his midnight reflections.

ONE OF THE SUFFERERS.

Dublin, July, 1834.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS DISPENSARY.

LETTER FROM MR. WAY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As you have admitted into the pages of your Journal a statement relative to the election of House-Surgeon to the above-named institution quite at variance with truth, which if uncontradicted might be prejudicial to the interests of the Dispensary as well as to the character of its medical officers, I am sure you will not hesitate to give insertion to the few facts, which, as being personally alluded to, I feel called upon to offer to yourself and the public on the subject. My object being only to correct error, I shall avoid any other notice of Mr. Cheyne's conduct in this instance but that of an expression of regret, that so respectable a gentleman should, from any cause, have been led to misrepresent a very plain and simple fact. Mr. Cheyne has professed an "unwillingness to colour his own case too highly," yet seems to have forgotten to mention that the "gratuitous performance of the duties of the situation" on which he founds a prior claim to the appointment, was for the accommodation and at the request of the then house-surgeon; neither has he informed you that his testimonials, high, very high as they undoubtedly were, still were *surpassed* in the opinion of many by those of another *unsuccessful* candidate.

Mr. Cheyne next remarks, that "my assistant had been applied to, and had consented not to practise at or within five miles of this place," and, "that such a measure was not sanctioned by any law of the Institution." In each of these particulars Mr. Cheyne is incorrect. I am authorized to say that *no application* was made or consented to, and also that such a regulation was adopted at the formation of the Dispensary (in consideration, but without the interference, of the medical officers), but that it has *never* been acted upon or observed.

A simple statement of facts will answer the last of Mr. Cheyne's charges, "that unfair advantage was taken by myself and others to bias certain members of the Committee." It was only thirty-six hours before the advertisement appeared in your LANCET, that my assistant communicated his wishes to me or to any one; feeling desirous to forward his interests, I wrote to one of the physicians on the subject, who recommended that no other application should be made till the vacancy had been publicly announced by you; this advice was strictly followed, and other

recommendatory letters, which I felt quite at liberty to write, were faithfully withheld till the Saturday, neither do I believe that a single *vote* was really solicited before that day.

On the day of election, five gentlemen having been declared eligible by the Committee, there voted for my assistant nine, for Mr. Cheyne six, and for a third candidate one, and I should inform you that the gentleman who was considered by many to have had superior testimonials, even to Mr. Cheyne, retired from the contest. You will not fail, Sir, to observe that *all* the candidates were considered *eligible*, and I may therefore say, without much fear of contradiction, that the motive which influenced the whole of the gentlemen who supported my assistant was to ensure as far as possible a lengthened residence amongst us by the appointment of an experienced *married man*.

Having made this explanation, I cannot but think, Sir, that the Committee will be acquitted of what Mr. Cheyne has called "jobbing" and "hole-and-corner work;" and as it is by no means my wish to engage in this kind of warfare, should he require any further information, he must expect it at other hands than mine. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. WAY.

Tunbridge Wells, August 14, 1834.

FORCEPS FOR EXTRACTING DENTAL STUMPS.

We have received two letters from Mr. Shepherd, in reply to the remarks of Mr. Paul and Mr. Hunter on the subject of his dental stump forceps. Want of space has prevented us from giving an earlier insertion to his remarks, and we are now, also, unable to find room for any portions of them but those which bear directly on points calculated to interest our readers. In the first of his two letters Mr. Shepherd thus expresses himself:—

"It seems to me to be the intention of Mr. Paul to imply that Mr. Weiss has *not* my sanction to make the forceps for extracting stumps; justice to Mr. Weiss, therefore, requires that I should make the following statement:—

"When first I made the design for my forceps, Mr. Weiss was so much occupied that he requested me to postpone having the pattern made till he was more at leisure, but finding such an instrument as I had in contemplation indispensably necessary to my safe removal of stumps, I employed this Mr. Paul to execute it. He did so, and *did more*; he chose to dispose

of some before the patterns were completed; however, by an effort on my part, I at last succeeded in obtaining about six or seven pairs, *all* differing from the original, and, like the Jew's razors, made to sell, each instrument having broken on the first or second time of using it. I stated in my account published in your Number of May 24th, that it is scarcely possible for my forceps to break a hollow stump; I was not then aware that the *hollow stump might break the forceps* (at least Mr. Paul's forceps) unless the material be good and well tempered. Thus then, as Mr. Adam Paul could neither furnish me with correct patterns nor good steel, I had sufficient cause to return to Mr. Weiss, of whose instruments I cannot speak too highly, having now tried them in many very difficult cases without the least accident whatever; and I cannot too strongly urge all who are disposed to adopt these forceps, to procure them of Mr. Weiss.

"Whilst on the subject, I may state that Mr. Weiss not only has the original pattern from me, but he is now in possession of eleven more, suitable to various cases, all of which I have found necessary: amongst these are two pairs of cutting forceps, for the purpose of separating the fangs of molar teeth when they are very firm in the socket, and are suspected to diverge, so that their extraction entire would endanger the jaw-bone. By this method the possibility of such an accident is entirely done away with. This practice, which is new, I frequently adopt in difficult cases, finding it much safer and less painful to remove the fangs separately, than to employ the force otherwise necessary. So very successfully have I found these forceps to act since my first introducing them to the notice of the profession, that I have carried on the same principle still farther, and now remove whole teeth in the same manner as I should remove a stump.

"Mr. Weiss is preparing patterns of these instruments also, from my designs, under the name of 'Safety Forceps,' their construction being such that it is next to impossible to break a tooth with them with ordinary pressure. Like the stump forceps they save much inconvenience by acting as a gum lancet at the time of their application around the tooth; they reach below the neck, and consequently below the usual seat of decay.

"With all the proposed improvements of late years, it is surprising that similar instruments both to these and the stump forceps, have not ere this been constructed. The latter I am informed, however, have been used *many years* by one of the most skilful operators of the present day; but