to the operation. Our only care would be to adopt it early, as we feel confident had it been performed before inflammation had proceeded so far, that the result would have been a recovery; just in the same manner that cases of strangulated hernia depend for recovery, not so much on this or that operator or operation, or on any of the treatments adopted, but on the circumstance of the operation being performed before inflammation shall have spread to the peritoneum and intestines.

Basford, Nottingham, July 1848.

Analyses or COMMUNICATIONS IN MS. RECEIVED FOR PUBLICATION IN THE LANCET.

"L'auteur se tue à allonger ce que le lecteur se tue à s'égayer."

On Medical Corporation Reform.


"On reading, some time ago, a letter written on the above subject, by Dr. Dick, which appeared in The Lancet for April, I must confess, that first, doubts assailed me in my mind, whether some racy satire was not intended by the author, which would be more clearly appreciated at the close of the letter. My surprise increased tenfold, when it appeared that the question of the end at first attempting medical corporations was seriously intended to be advocated—it was, in fact, a startling novelty! That many abuses exist under the present system cannot be denied, and any proposition to remedy these would meet with the consideration of the thousands; but when we have communism in medicine inculcated, some attempt at refutation seems desirable.

The study of medicine is vast, to those who follow it as the dread of a medical man is of such high character and of such vast importance. The three years of consideration what precepts are worthy to be remembered, and what more fairly accomplished than at our recognised medical schools. It cannot be taught by books alone—but in the hospital, lecture, and dissecting rooms. It is most important, that some general standard of excellence should be obtained by all; and the higher that standard becomes, the safer is it for the public health.

Your correspondent observes, that the fixed places, terms, and modes of study unwarrantably interfere with 'private and individual liberty of choice and action.' I cannot consider so, when the office of a medical man is of such high character and of such vast importance. The three years of study will not too much disturb him, nor will it interfere with his duties well in after life. His diplomas ought to be the guarantee to those who employ him, that their health is not entrusted to an uneducated man.

Your correspondent remarks, that some might fear that the art would become extinct, were there no 'legal establishment of medicine.' With him, I think not; for there would always be some eminent men, lights to their profession, and ornaments to their country. But, on the other hand, hosts of noisy theorists, impudent quacks, and ignorant men, would so far undo what the examining bodies have accomplished within these last thirty years, that the old times would again return of misty theory and dangerous practice.

Medical Registration and Reform.

"Collegians" addresses us as follows:

"After the reception your Medical Registration Bill met with in the House of Commons, and the unanimous support given to it by the profession, and also the promises of the present Home Secretary, to render all his aid in carrying such a measure, I must confess, that first, doubts assailed me in my mind, whether some racy satire was not intended by the author, who fully coincided with the principles it set forth, that long ere this it would have become law. Yet, since the introduction of your excellent Bill, which contains all our wants and desires, I have found this impression after session had glided by, and alas! nothing is attained.

In referring to members of the Scotch and Irish medical institutions, and of the London College of Surgeons, he says, "It is most impious that gentlemen of such acknowledged merit should be restricted in the exercise of any branch of the profession. It is properly remarked, in extracts in your journal, that to all purposes and in every way the surgeon is a physician, with the ability to operate chirurgically superadded to the medical acquirements; and he is conventionally to operate, prescribe, and receive his fee, as long as he calls himself Surgeon." I trust the legislature will at once unite us in one college, and cause the profession to be entered by one entrance.

In conclusion, Sir, allow me to say, that if petitions are necessary to assist you in your great work, say the word, and you will be inundated with them. We are ready to act, almost to a man, under your leadership; you will find us faithful and devoted to the good cause, which we have been much too long, and at great cost and injury, waiting for. May the time now be close at hand, when thousands shall gratefully enclose you in their congratulations on your success."

"We may remark our correspondent, that after the prolonged labours of the Medical Committee of the House of Commons, and the attention which has been given to the subject of medical organization by a portion of the legislature, a medical bill now brought into parliament ought to be of much more comprehensive nature than one simply for medical registration.—Ed. L.

On Emigration, and the Advantages it presents to our over-stocked Profession.

Dr. John James Macaroon, in a note to us, remarks, "The public as well as the medical profession feel indebted to you for the manner in which you have drawn their attention to the very important subject of emigration, and for giving additional publicity to the syllabus of government regulations, prepared by the committee. We are ready to act, as well as cordially to respond to the views of the writer on medical emigration, which appear to me, at the present moment, peculiarly apposite and practical. It is beyond dispute, that in the British Islands, the profession is utterly over-crowded, and the number of medical men being out of all proportion to the population, and this despite the decimating blight of Irish typhus, as well as the moral mismanagement generated by the mortal struggle after existence, especially in our crowded cities. What, then, can present a more natural and healthy safety-valve in such a human pressure than a prudent emigration to our colonies, where workmen, whether intellectual or physical, seem to be at the present moment in high demand? I hope, Sir, you could dwell on the length of this most important topic, in your future numbers, and pause not before you enlist the attention of government towards holding out encouragement to well-qualified medical men to settle in our colonies. I trust you will find the medical profession sufficiently important to entitle them to the highest distinction, which can only be procured by the common decencies of life, and is to 'keep up appearances' at home, are wasting their prime of existence in the vain and fruitless pursuit of an empty shadow, and, worse than all, losing their independence and self-respect in the frightful conflict. "Divide et impera," although in a very different sense from that in which it is commonly applied, would seem, in our day, to be the most likely strategy to ensure the battle; and I have little doubt that hundreds, whose talents at home, owing to obstacles from enormous competition, are unknown or disregarded, would be justly estimated by their countrymen in a foreign land."