suspicion of cliquism and partiality must be guaranteed by adequate checks.

Is it true that no candidates offer for the navy but such as have failed elsewhere? The subject is one of deep public interest; for surely the life of a sea officer or a seaman must be held as valuable by the Admiralty as the lives of those in the sister service are held by his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge.

I am, Sir, yours &c.,

March, 1860.

JUNIUS X.

H O M E O P A T H Y.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In two recent numbers of your valuable journal (THE LANCET, March 10th, 1860, p. 256; and March 24th, p. 311) it is stated that the whole contents of homœopathic chests had been swallowed without inconvenience. I am induced, in corroboration, to lay before you the following facts, with which I have become acquainted in my practice.

About three weeks ago, I was summoned in great haste to a family living in apartments at the west-end of the metropolis, and shown a little box containing twelve homœopathic phials, all empty, excepting one in which but a few globules were left. I was informed that a child five years old had played with the box (belonging to the landlady's daughter), and had, just one week previously, swallowed the contents of every phial (save the one labelled *nux vomica*, in which about a dozen globules were left), probably considering them sweetmeats. This little theft had only been discovered a week after it had taken place, and the child had not experienced any ill effects. The phials were labelled as follows: 1, *nux vomica*; 2, *aconite*; 3, *opium*; 4, *ignatia amara*; 5, *dulcamara*; 6, *mercury*; 7, *sulphur*; 8, *bryone*; 9, *pulsatilla*; 10, *arsenicum album*; 11, *belladonna*; 12, *ipecacuanha*.

It is plain, from this fact, and those that have been previously recorded, that homœopathy and expectant medicine are pretty nearly allied. In support of this view, I will just quote the following sensible passage from Sir John Forbes's last work, "Of Nature and Art in the Cure of Disease," second edition:—

"I merely maintain that, on the common and obvious evidence usually admitted in such cases (chronic affections), a sufficiently large number of cases get well under this system of treatment (homœopathy), to prevent the existence of any striking contrast, in the public eye, between its practical effects and those of the ordinary system; and, at all events, and *a fortiori*, to justify the only conclusion I am now anxious to establish—viz., the fact that a large proportion of cases of disease recover under homœopathy; that is, according to my views, recover by means of the curative powers of nature alone."

—p. 161.

I enclose my name and address, and remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

April, 1860.

CHIRURGUS.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND THE INCOME-TAX.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The recent course of financial legislation has destroyed the delusion that the Income-tax was only a temporary source of revenue, and there is too much reason to fear, not only that it will be continued at its present high amount, but that no attempt will be made to adjust its inequalities.

Acting upon these views, a memorial has been addressed to the members for the borough of Reading urging them to impress on the Government the necessity of an equitable adjustment. This memorial will receive the signatures of a very large majority of both political parties, and there is every probability that this important subject will be a leading, if not a determining, question at the next election.

It should not be forgotten, that the Budget of 1853 embodied the modification we are now seeking, and that it was defeated by Mr. Gladstone on the ground that the entire tax was immoral, and that nothing should be done to render it permanent.

If under these altered circumstances professional gentlemen of liberal politics will aid in opposing the Income-tax in its present form, there will be little difficulty in obtaining the desired modification. The law journals are advocating the formation of a central committee in London. If the medical profession can be induced to co-operate cordially in this movement, we may indulge a reasonable hope of success.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Reading, April, 1860.

GEORGE MAY, jun.

ADMISSION OF UNEDUCATED PERSONS TO THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

THE following protest has been addressed to the Council of the College:—

(COPY.)

St. Columb, March 30th, 1860.

GENTLEMEN,—We, the undersigned, being members of your College, do hereby enter our most earnest and solemn protest against the admission to membership of any persons who have not gone through the prescribed course of education.

Your relaxation of this rule on behalf of certain persons, on the plea that they have practised many years, is to us nothing more nor less than an encouragement and condonation of illegal practice, and a heavy injustice done to those many thousands of gentlemen who have in a regular and legal manner become members of the College.

We venture to hope that this unfortunate step taken by the College will not be repeated nor allowed to become a precedent, as we are sure that a deep and strong feeling exists amongst surgeons on the subject, and that although the Council of the College may have the power to act in the manner complained of, it has not the RIGHT to do so.

It will be a sad day for the medical profession when the presidents and leading members of its Colleges, who are more especially appointed to guard the "honour and dignity" of the profession, shall, for such trivial and unjustifiable reasons as those assigned in the letter of Mr. Belfour to Dr. Ladd, do everything in their power to render null and void the advantages which we had expected from the appointment of the Council of Medical Registration and Education.

We are, Gentlemen, your obedient servants,

WM. MOORMAN, M.R.C.S., L.A.C.

J. H. NANKIVELL, M.R.C.S., L.A.C.

To the President and Council of
the Royal College of Surgeons, London.

HULL MEDICAL REGISTRATION ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following is a copy of a petition from the members of the above Association resident in Hull to the General Council of Medical Education:—

"To the General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom.

"The memorial of the undersigned, being members of the Hull Medical Registration Association, sheweth,—That your memorialists observe with regret that, at a time when the most strenuous efforts are being made to raise the status of the medical profession of the United Kingdom, the Royal College of Surgeons of England should so far have neglected its duty as a guardian of the interests of the profession as to have admitted to the honour of its membership men who have not followed any regular course of medical education. Your memorialists, therefore, respectfully request that you will exercise the powers vested in you for the purpose of putting a stop to proceedings so calculated to lower the position of legally-qualified medical practitioners."

The petition is signed by twenty-six of the members of the Association, including the names of Sir Henry Cooper, M.D., Owen Daly, M.D., Drs. Lunn and King, Mr. Craven, &c.; and has been forwarded to the Registrar for presentation to the Council. By the same post, I forwarded to the secretaries of the College of Dentists a protest (signed by thirty medical men of this town) against the granting of diplomas in dentistry by the College of Surgeons.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HENRY CARNLEY, M.B., Hon Sec.

Dock-street, March 31st, 1860.

MEDICAL REGISTRATION ASSOCIATIONS.

LIVERPOOL MEDICAL REGISTRATION ASSOCIATION.

A SPECIAL meeting of this Association was held at the Medical Institution, Mount Pleasant, on Tuesday, March 20th. The chair was taken by Mr. Ellis Jones, the President of the Society. There were also present—Drs. Stookes, J. H. Wilson, Neill, Craig (Birkenhead), Anderton (Wavertree), Turnbull,