Palmer will both canvass for the office, though it is exceedingly doubtful whether the motion will pass at the meeting of governors in October. Mr. Palmer is one of Mr. Brodie's devoted friends who has made a stand on this occasion for the sake of appearances, but it is expected, from the known good blood of Mr. Lane, that he will not *strike*.

SECOND ASSISTANT-SURGEON AT ST.
GEORGE'S.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the last Number of THE LANCET, in your comments on the new appointment of a second assistant-surgeon to St. George's Hospital, you state that the other two candidates, Mr. Palmer and Mr. Lane, are "shams." In justice to myself I feel it necessary to set you right on this point, and to assert most positively that I am no "sham" in this affair; but, on the contrary, that I am opposed to the principle of the appointment, that I voted against it on Friday the 27th ult., and that I am the only candidate who did so. I beg leave further to state, that I am in earnest in the contest, and am determined to persevere to the last, I trust with fair grounds of success. Under these circumstances, Sir, I am sure you will see the injurious tendency of your remarks, both to my character and interests, at the present moment, and I feel confident you will hasten to do me justice by removing such an erroneous impression at your earliest opportunity. I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,
SAMUEL LANE.

No. 1, Grosvenor Place,
July 1, 1834.

THE DEGRADING DISPENSARY SYSTEM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your Number of the 7th of June, there is a letter signed "H. B.," with some well-timed remarks on the attempts of certain practitioners who would obtain a little notoriety by the old and stale method of giving away their services; and I think it but right, as one of the profession, to say how heartily I agree with that writer in what he has there stated. I have resided in the same neighbourhood as these dispensary gentlemen for the last seven or eight years, and can vouch for the inutility of anything additional in the dispensary way, there being already something of that sort in almost

every street, and with whatever new features this delusive proffer of medical charity may be given to the world the profession well know, and the public also are beginning to understand, the drift of such fallacious contrivances.

London is perhaps the last place in the kingdom where the poor can reasonably complain of any want of medical attention, and I am wholly at a loss to know how the projectors of a scheme such as this can expect to sustain their respectable professional characters, by such a contemptible expedient as this pretended act of charity. Show me a parson or a lawyer who offers his gratuitous services like these men!

You, Mr. Editor, may write about medical reform as long as you please, but I believe (and I know I am not singular in the belief) that the defects in our profession are to be attributed fully as much to the malpractices of some of its members, as to the rules by which we are governed; and while we have to protect ourselves, and the respectability of our profession, from the degradations to which it would be subjected by men who appear to have very limited views in this respect, I fear there is no great chance of amendment.

I regret that the very sensible letter of your correspondent is anonymous, and being convinced that too much cannot be openly advanced in reprobation of the trickery of which it treats, I do not hesitate to subscribe my name and residence. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ROBT. HANCORNE.
54, George Street, Euston Square,
June 20th, 1834.

MR. CORBYN'S TREATMENT OF CHOLERA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Under a sense of duty to the public, and in justice to the merits of one who is too remote to speak for himself, I take this opportunity of requesting you to insert, in your very useful publication, a few matters of fact relative to that formidable disease with which this country has lately been visited, the cholera.

When I was in India, in 1833, having some cholera patients on board the ship of which I was surgeon, I called on Mr. Corbyn, garrison-surgeon of Fort William, and author of a treatise on cholera, to consult with him regarding the treatment. He recommended me to bleed freely, and to give sedatives, and, after a few hours,