themselves to seek their advice (which I regret to say is not always withheld) without the knowledge or consent of their ordinary medical attendant; or, if they inform him of their wish, they signify that they can go alone, in which case a single fee only, instead of three, is incurred.

These two customs should be resisted before they become too firmly established. They are essentially wrong, and are calculated to breed heart-burning and professional jealousy.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
London, April, 1877. A GENERAL PRACTITIONER.

SPLINT FOR USE IN EXCISION OF THE KNEE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I enclose a drawing of a splint, devised by myself, which has been in use in this hospital for excision of the knee-joint, and which is, I think, worthy of notice on account of its simplicity. An ordinary wooden back-splint, with sliding foot-piece, is modified for the purpose by the introduction of a rectangular bracket three and a half inches deep or more, with a movable popliteal iron support, working on a pivot at one end, enabling it readily to

be opened for dressing, and when shut is secured by a simple bolt attached to the splint at the opposite end, which passes into a notch in the support made with that object. Two side splints with foot-pieces, bracketed at the knee, complete the apparatus. After dressing with antiseptic gauze, it is necessary to use an oakum pad to fill up the intervening space between the limb and the support. Most splints made for this operation are costly, and do not give more advantages, if so many, as the simple contrivance here described. We are able to dress our cases easily and effectually, with little or no disturbance to the limb and comfort to the patient. The whole is, of course, slung to a cradle, to free the posterior bracket from the bed. Hoping you may think this brief description and drawing sufficient to submit to the notice of the profession,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
LEWIS W. MARSHALL, M.D.,
General Hospital, Nottingham, April 11th, 1877. Resident Surgeon.

“DENTAL REFORM.”

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the letter which you did me the honour to insert in your last week's number, there is a mistake which I shall feel obliged by your allowing me to correct. The amendment to the resolution to which I referred was proposed by Mr. Tomes and not by Mr. Turner. I regret the error, but have no doubt my indistinct writing was the cause. I may state that if I did not give the exact words of the amendment I gave, I believe, its spirit correctly.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
[April 24th, 1877. SAMUEL CARTWRIGHT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the last number of THE LANCET appears a letter from the Chairman of the Dental Reform Committee, giving the text of a resolution passed at their last meeting, of such a nature as to call forth a disclaimer from every member of the profession desirous of its higher development. Being on that committee, I was prepared to support a reasonable measure, giving as much protection against the invasion of our ranks by unqualified persons as is enjoyed by the corporate bodies of medicine and surgery, which might be secured by enacting “that no unqualified person should be allowed to call himself dentist, surgeon-dentist,” &c. But to put in the same category educated

gentlemen, holding the diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons, whom we should on every consideration regard as friends and allies, must call for the reprobation of all who have laboured for the elevation of the profession. It thus became impossible for me to remain a member of that committee, a matter which I should not have thought it necessary to make known, were it not that, having been opposed to the formation of the new association, as being unnecessary, and an occasion of schism and disunion, I might otherwise be held responsible for the doings and opinions of the other party.

Yours truly,
EDWIN SAUNDERS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Doubtless Mr. Cartwright has already written to you stating that my name was inadvertently connected with the proposal of a certain resolution referred to in his letter which appeared in your last issue. Will you allow me to make a further correction, and to enclose a copy of the resolution as it was proposed, whereby those of your readers interested may see that the matter placed between inverted commas in Mr. Cartwright's letter is not a transcript of the said resolution, which is as follows:—

“That those persons only who possess the Dental Licentiatehip of the Royal College of Surgeons shall be entitled to use the designation of Dental Surgeon, Surgeon Dentist, or Dental Practitioner, or Dentist.”

I would also state that the Dental Reform Committee do not propose to interfere with vested interests, as may be seen from another resolution, which runs thus:—“That nothing in this Act shall apply to the prejudice or hindrance of persons whose professional education has commenced,” &c.

The lines on which the committee proceed are those laid down in two memorials presented to the Royal College of Surgeons, the first dated December 11th, 1855, and the second April 4th, 1857, and to both of which Mr. Cartwright's name is appended. In the first memorial it is stated that “a strictly medical or surgical degree” cannot in itself prove that “the possessor is familiar with the practice of dental surgery.” The second says, “The President and Council of the Odontological Society are fully prepared to show that the acquisition of a fair amount of proficiency in the requirements peculiar to dental practice necessitates close application on the part of the student over a period of little short of three years, and are of opinion that any attempt to materially shorten that term would be attended with great disadvantages. If three years be added to the curriculum already enjoined by the College, the education of the dental surgeon becomes more extended, both as regards knowledge and the period of pupillage, and more expensive than that required of the surgeon.”

On these and other statements the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons established a special dental diploma, and laid down a special dental curriculum, which has since been increased in stringency, and is, perhaps, more expensive to fulfil than the surgical curriculum.

It is well known that the exigencies of dental requirements have not been modified since that time, neither have any changes in the surgical curriculum made it more suitable for the education of a dentist.

I am, &c.,
JAMES SMITH TURNER, M.R.C.S., L.D.S.,
Hon. Sec. Dental Reform Committee.

Obituary.

WILLIAM NORRIS, M.D.

WE regret to have occasion to notice the death of one of the oldest medical practitioners of the Midland Counties, Dr. William Norris, which happened at Stourbridge, on March 23rd, 1877, from hemiplegia and apoplexy. Born so long ago as 1792, he had reached the now rare age of eighty-five years. He entered St. Bartholomew's Hospital as a student in 1810, studied there under Abernethy, and was the fellow-student of Dr. Humphry Sandwith whilst