THE HOMŒOPATHS' DIRECTORY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following note I addressed and sent to the Editors of the Homœopathic Directory, and informed them of my opinion.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
R. D. STATTER.

[COPY.]

Liverpool, No. 1, Oxford-street, 25th October, 1852.

To the Editors of the London and Provincial Medical Directory,
4, Adam-street, Adelphi, London.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to acknowledge the arrival to hand of your second and last application for the insertion of my name in your Directory. Since its first publication, you are too well aware that the profession has been burthened by a parasite, under the name of homœopathy, foreign to its philosophical inductions, and which has neither an atom of sense nor a grain of reason for a basis to stand upon.

Such being the case, the sooner it is expunged the better; and I am sorry to see that you, who should be truly *jealous of the honour and dignity of our profession*, still persist in countenancing men who prostitute their intellects at the shrine of a fashionable quackery for the sake of filthy lucre, who are undoubtedly liars, knaves, and something worse. This I say in pity, not in anger.

No, thank God! I think I shall be able to face the world without the patronage of my name being inserted in a Medical Directory of such a caste, in company with men of such unprincipled actions; and although you append the opinions of eminent men in the profession, I care not.

I am content that my name be left out entirely—in fact, I would prefer it; so please erase it entirely: it is no honour to be in such company.

You have been, in your applications to me, at the expenditure of two postage-stamps; I return them enclosed, and

I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
RICHARD DOVER STATTER.

THE LATE DEATH FROM THE BITE OF THE
COBRA DE CAPELLO.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Agreeably with my promise made yesterday at the inquest on Frederick Girling, I have the pleasure to send Dr. Mac Rae's own statement.

Cure of a Bite of a Cobra de Capello, as tried by Dr. Mac Rae on himself, on the night of the 12th May, 1809, at Chittagong.

"I directed a teaspoonful to be given me of the spiritus ammoniæ compositus, in a Madeira glass of water. Finding the first dose agreed with me, in five minutes or less I took a second, and so on, a third, fourth, fifth, and sixth, when the medicine began to have a favourable effect. The first benefit I was sensible of deriving from it was a relief from the sickness at the stomach; my breathing next became easier, my skin to recover its natural warmth, and the perspiration, with which I had been in a manner drenched, dried up by degrees. I still went on with the medicine, but at longer intervals, for every now and then I had a slight return of the oppression in breathing, which was immediately relieved on taking the alkali. I had thus gone on until I had taken thirteen spoonfuls, or a wine-glassful, of the medicine before I considered myself as out of danger; and in proportion as I recovered, I became more and more sensible of the nauseous taste of the alkali, which latterly seemed to burn my throat as I swallowed it, though I could scarcely perceive the taste of the first dose I took, so totally or nearly gone was the nervous sensibility of my palate. In the course of three hours from my receiving the bite, I was out of danger."

I can parallel the above with the case of a Sipahce of my own Battalion, (1st Battalion, 23rd Regiment,) while stationed at Kissengunge, Bahar, many years afterwards. *Ex uno disce omnes.*

So well aware are the native medical staff, and all intelligent natives, of the efficacy of ammonia in these bites, that they commence with it *on the instant*, not waiting for superior advice. They frequently administer the Eau de Luce.

Dr. Mac Rae* was a most intelligent physician of the Honourable East India Company's Service, of large experi-

ence and esteem. He proved his case, his servant having struck and killed the cobra.

The truth of the above practice can be testified to by hundreds of gentlemen now in this country.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

EDWARD HICKMAN,
Formerly of the Divisional Medical
Staff, Barrackpore, Calcutta.

Southampton-place, Easton-square,
October 23, 1852.

Medical News.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—Sixty-one gentlemen presented themselves on Wednesday for examination for the degree of Bachelor of Arts, annually awarded by the senate of this university. The candidates were examined in mathematics, classics, moral philosophy, animal physiology, French, and German—the examiners being the Rev. Dr. Jerrard, and T. B. Burcham, Esq., M.A., barrister-at-law, late fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. The examination terminated on Thursday, when those candidates who desire it may enter upon an examination for orders, which will commence on Tuesday, Nov. 2, and conclude on Friday, Nov. 19. There will also be an examination in the Hebrew text of the Old Testament, the Greek text of the New Testament, and in Scripture history, commencing on Nov. 15. The examination for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine is appointed to commence on Monday, Nov. 1, and that for Doctor of Medicine, on Monday, Nov. 22.

COMMISSIONERS IN LUNACY, AND ST. PANCRAS WORKHOUSE.—Last week, in consequence of statements forwarded to the Commissioners in Lunacy respecting the alleged cruel treatment of the pauper lunatics in the St. Pancras workhouse, who were, it is said, strapped and padlocked, hands, feet, and body, to their beds, and there left in wet, &c., Messrs. Mayhew and Gaskell visited the infirmary and insane ward of the workhouse, but refused to make a report, as certain charges, preferred by Mr. Hilles and others, remained *sub lite*. Mr. Robinson, the house-surgeon, preferred before the Board of Guardians a written complaint against Mr. Hilles for holding a private communication with the Commissioners. Whereupon Mr. Hilles wrote to the Commissioners, charging them with a breach of trust, and with consequently preventing him, or any one else, interfering in future on behalf of the most helpless and most pitiable of their species. There the quarrel for the present rests.

SIR JAMES PITCAIRN.—This gentleman, who has been long at the head of the medical staff in Ireland, was presented last Saturday with an address and testimonials by the medical men of the army upon his retirement.

DR. WALLIS AND HIS MEDICAL CONFRERES IN THE BRISTOL INFIRMARY.—The committee of this institution have been for some time engaged in an inquiry, arising out of the following circumstances. It appears that Dr. Wallis, the senior physician of the institution, published some time ago a letter or letters in which he charged his professional brethren belonging to the Infirmary, with ordering for their patients expensive drugs to a greater extent than was necessary, and in cases where less costly ones might be used. The committee, considering they could not affect ignorance of a charge thus publicly made by the senior physician against those with whom he was acting, and considering, too, that the drug bill was large, (whether necessarily so or not they could not say), thought it advisable to at least call the attention of the faculty to the circumstance, and an inquiry followed; the result of which was, that the committee did not consider the professional men to blame; and we have heard that Dr. Wallis has undertaken to correct himself in another letter.—*Bristol Times.*

PROMOTIONS.—William Robertson, M.D. (1843), from the *Houge*, screw steam-ship, at Portsmouth, to the *Leander*, 50, at Portsmouth; James G. Buchanan (1846), to the *Impregnable*, flag-ship, at Devonport.

APPOINTMENTS.—The Honourable Board of Ordnance have appointed Mr. George Moseley, of Sandgate, Acting Ordnance surgeon in charge of the Detachment of Royal Artillery, Shorncliffe Barracks. The Detachment consists of a Nine Pound Field Battery.—Mr. William Adams has been elected to the St. Pancras Dispensary.

* Very many years on the Civil Medical Staff at Chittagong.