Not any alcohol, narcotic, or sedative is given. Only one was confined to bed last winter for a short time with bronchitis; this winter she is well, and there has been scarcely a case of "cold."

The free cases are sent by magistrates and by missionaries. The paid cases require a certificate from their medical man, saying they are not insane, and a written promise from a friend to remove them if required.

The Home can be seen on application any day except Sunday, after 10 A.M.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE MEDICAL DEGREES OF THE LONDON UNIVERSITY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your report of the late meeting of the Convocation of the University of London, you remark, "It is significant somewhat of the apathy of its medical graduates that so few presented themselves on the occasion." A few minutes' consideration will show you that probably their absence arose, not from apathy, but from a desire to fulfil the most pressing duty. As you well know, a medical man, unless he have a partner or assistant (both which things I abhor), cannot leave his practice for many hours in any peace or comfort if it be at all extensive, or embraces much midwifery. Take my own case as an example of many others. I reside three or three and a half hours' run from London; but, owing to railway arrangements, I, had I carried out my intention of being present at the meeting in question, should have been obliged to start at 11.37 A.M., and could not have returned until about the same hour next morning. On the morning of the 13th inst., in our neighbourhood a very heavy snowstorm was raging—so fierce, in fact, that I feared to make the attempt lest the line might become blocked and I should not be able to get home on the following day. As the day wore on I of course saw such a contingency would not occur, but then it was too late to reach town in time for the meeting. Had I been there I should have strenuously opposed the resolution moved by Dr. G. V. Poore, on these grounds:

1st. We have to compete with the older universities, and the only method in which we can overcome the prestige given by their long-continued existence and the social traditions connected with them, is by the high standard of our examinations.

2nd. Although the character of the examination be not altered as far as knowledge is concerned, yet by increasing the number of the times for holding the examination, indirectly the mental power of the successful candidates will be lowered; at least it seems to me that the man who can get up four subjects in twelve months must be possessed of more mental power or more industry than the man who can only manage three subjects, and therefore as a whole our body of medical graduates are better without the latter man than with him.

Should the proposed change be carried out we shall probably increase the number but not the quality of our medical members.

Far from regarding the fact that only 21 per cent. of candidates ultimately obtain a degree in medicine as a thing to be deplored, I consider it a thing to be deeply grateful for.

As to the question of "a mischievous strain of the brain power," I would only point to the positions held by many of our graduates; and I very much doubt whether more of our men break down from mental strain than do men holding lower degrees. My *personal* experience tells decidedly in favour of our University as compared with the College of Surgeons; but this experience is not large enough to be of any value.

Although writing about medical degrees, I have yet to learn that the other degrees are in their way easier to obtain; and the same reasoning may be applied to the varied degrees granted by the University of London.

I remain, Sir, yours obediently,

G. C. TAYLER, M.D. Univ. Lond.

Trowbridge, 17th Jan., 1880.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, PENDLEBURY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg to forward you an address of sympathy to Dr. Humphreys, which has been signed by the physicians and surgeons to the hospitals in Manchester and Salford. The circumstances of the case were stated by Dr. Humphreys in his letter to your paper of the 20th of December.

The action of the committee has excited great indignation in the profession, since no justifiable cause has been given for his suspension by the committee.

Personally, I have had a full opportunity of observing the able and painstaking manner in which Dr. Humphreys fulfilled his duties whilst physician to the hospital. I had the pleasure of acting as resident medical officer under him at the Children's Hospital for twelve months.

Though I am well acquainted with the working of many hospitals, I can safely say that I have never seen work more efficiently carried out than it was by Dr. Humphreys, who devoted his time and energies most thoroughly to the children under his care.

I myself fail utterly to comprehend the procedure which terminated in his resignation.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

JUDSON S. BURY, M.D., B.S. (Lond.)

Late Senior Resident Medical Officer to the Children's Hospital, Pendlebury.

Fitzwarren-street, Pendleton, Jan. 1880.

To HENRY HUMPHREYS, Esq., M.D., M.R.C.P.

We, the undersigned physicians and surgeons to the hospitals in Manchester, wish to express our sympathy with you in the position in which you have been placed by the action of the Committee of the Children's Hospital, Pendlebury.

Since you came to Manchester, three years ago, you have shown by your contributions to the Medical and Microscopical Societies, and in other ways, that you possess marked ability, and that you follow your profession most zealously.

We deeply regret that your work, which promised to add much to medical knowledge, should have been cut short for the present in the manner it has been.

Since the Committee of the Pendlebury Hospital refuse to give other grounds for their action than those which appear in your letter to THE LANCET of the 20th of December, we can only presume that they have acted solely on these grounds. Should such be the case, we feel that their conduct has been extremely arbitrary and unwarranted, and that they have been wanting in that courtesy which was to be expected from the committee of a hospital towards a physician of your standing. If, on the other hand, the committee have been led to the course they have adopted by reasons other than those which they have set forth, but which they decline to communicate to you, we cannot but characterise such conduct as unjust to you, and unworthy of those gentlemen to whom the supervision of the hospital has been entrusted.

We feel that the committee have, by their action, done you a most grievous wrong, and we are satisfied that in doing so they have acted in a manner detrimental to the interests of the hospital of which they have the management.

Wm. Roberts, M.D., F.R.S., F. A. Heath, M.R.C.S., H. Simpson, M.D., E. Lund, F.R.C.S., J. Morgan, M.D., F.R.C.P., S. M. Bradley, F.R.C.S., D. J. Leech, M.D., F.R.C.P., W. Whitehead, F.R.C.S. Ed., J. Thornburn, M.D., D. Little, M.D., J. Dreschfeld, M.D., M.R.C.P., J. Hardie, M.D., J. Ross, M.D., M.R.C.P., D. Lloyd Roberts, M.D., F.R.C.P., R. Heslop, L.R.C.S., C. J. Cullingworth, M.R.C.P., J. H. Ewart, M.R.C.S., E. Gumpert, M.D., W. N. Maccall, M.D., H. W. Boddy, M.D., S. Buckley, F.R.C.S., G. Reed, M.D., A. W. Stocks, M.R.C.S., A. M. Edge, M.D., M.R.C.P., A. Boutflower, M.R.C.S., J. H. Morris, M.R.C.S., W. J. Sinclair, M.D., R. D. Fox, F.R.C.S. Ed., J. Scott, M.B., C. E. Glascott, M.D., S. H. Mules, M.D., A. E. Jones, M.D., F. M. Pierce, M.D., T. H. Pinder, M.R.C.S.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I can endorse the statements of your correspondent, Dr. Rayne, in reference to the management of the Children's Hospital, Pendlebury.