DISSENSIONS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In consequence of two professors, supposed, on account of their conduct, to have been Professors Davis and Conolly, having gone to the warden and alarmed him by stating, what is known by all my friends to be untrue, that I intended to excite a disturbance at the Medical Society of the University,—the warden, without saying any-thing to me, or to any of my friends, ordered the porter to prevent my entrance into the University. The pupils, therefore, like honest men, gave me that hearing, which the council and warden had denied me, and afterwards sent me the following documents, of which I am indeed proud, because they show the rising spirit of the young men of the present day. You will oblige me by publishing them with my answer.

ALEX. THOMSON.

“University of London, Oct. 14.

“Dear Sir,—We have great pleasure in enclosing the resolutions agreed upon at the meeting yesterday, with only two dissentient voices, and remain,

“Dear Sir, yours very truly,

“N. EISDELL, Chairman.

“T. HOWITT, Secretary.

“At a meeting of the medical students of the London University, held in their common room, on Wednesday, the 13th of October, 1830, it was resolved, that

“1. This meeting views with anxious concern the unmerited displeasure of the council, lately manifested toward their fellow student Dr. Alexander Thomson.

“2. Dr. A. Thomson having fully laid before the students of the University, every particular of his late conduct in connexion with that institution, and submitted to their perusal authentic documents in support of his statements, this meeting begs respectfully to intimate to the council its unqualified approbation of the motives Dr. Thomson acted upon in the transactions alluded to.

“3. The students are fully aware of the deference they owe to the ordinances of the council, but cannot view, without apprehension, the summary measure which has been put in force in the case of Dr. A. Thomson, viz., his extraordinary expulsion from the University. They conceive it to be a *public* institution, established on a system of enlarged and scientific usefulness to society; and, they think themselves called upon to enter their firm protest against the dismissal of a pupil from its class-rooms, without his having violated any known law, any hearing of evidence, or even an official notice of his

dismissal. They are convinced that a proceeding so arbitrary, irregular, and unjust, is incompatible with the best interests of the University, and subversive of the liberal principles, to which it owes its foundation and support.

“The following students have appended their names to the above resolutions :—

65, N. Eisdell, Chairman.

1. W. Calvert	49. W. R. Williams
2. B. D. Goodwin	50. D. W. Nash
3. E. Meryon	51. W. Rayner
4. W. C. Copperthwaite	52. J. Storar
5. C. R. Bree	53. J. Wakefield
6. J. Boosey	54. Jos. Thompson
7. A. Little	55. R. G. Shute
8. J. Skitt	56. W. Cluley
9. W. P. Jorden	57. J. Douglas
10. W. Bayes	58. W. Bennett
11. C. Harland	59. M. Brown
12. W. Evans	60. W. G. Driver
13. W. McKie	61. W. Johnson
14. W. Thisselton	62. J. N. Hudleston
15. W. Mumford	63. G. Hume
16. W. Player	64. T. Pidwell
17. H. Bird	66. R. Garner
18. C. G. De Morgan	67. W. Adamthwaite
19. H. Devonshire	68. E. Parslow
20. J. Johnson	69. J. Hull
21. J. Harris	70. J. Dyer
22. T. Woolwidge	71. T. Cutler
23. T. Johnson	72. C. G. Ford
24. R. Dudley	73. J. P. Litchfield
25. T. G. Wright	74. J. P. Wallis
26. R. W. Semple	75. A. M. à Beckett
27. J. H. Worthington	76. J. Massey
28. M. Cowan	77. J. Rayner
29. H. W. Lloyd	78. J. Merriman
30. S. Chadwick	79. T. Chandler
31. P. H. Edge	80. J. Thomson
32. J. R. Noble	81. A. Sisson
33. S. Bullen	82. C. Roberts
34. J. R. Lewis	83. W. Reily
35. Hanbury Smith	84. Henry Thomas
36. J. T. Owen	85. R. Wakefield
37. R. Jowett	86. W. Tomkyns
38. W. G. S. Clack	87. W. Elsworth
39. G. L. Cooper	88. B. Johnson
40. R. Smith Owen	89. R. Stevens
41. P. Walsh	90. S. McMorris
42. T. D. Goodridge	91. E. Norton
43. F. Spry	92. J. C. Leadtetter
44. Chas. Thompson	93. F. W. Holland
45. W. James	94. John Chisholm
46. E. Jay	95. Millward Pogson
47. J. Weston	96. T. Howitt, Secretary.
48. T. Davie	

Many of my fellow pupils have called upon me, and informed me, that double the number of names would have been appended, had a communication not been made from the office, stating that I was not a matriculated pupil. As soon as I heard of this, I sent the following letter to the warden :—

"Sir,—Having received a very gratifying communication from ninety-six of my fellow students, approving of my conduct in regard to Professor Pattison, and having been informed by many others of them, who have not appended their signatures to this document, that they have been restrained, by a communication from the office affirming that I am not a matriculated student, from appending their names to this document, the whole tenour of which they otherwise approve; I beg to express to you my surprise at such information, and to inform you, that the moment I heard of it, I went to the office and tendered my money for a library ticket, which was refused. I assure you, that I have been attending the University under the belief that I was a regularly matriculated student; for, when I feed Dr. Davis for his lectures, he informed me publicly, in the presence of his class, that his share of the money at least would be remitted to me from the office.* This money I have never received, although I have more than once applied to Dr. Davis for it. I concluded, therefore, that this money was left for me at the office, where I wished it to remain, as my matriculation fee. Under this belief I attended many of the lectures last year. Again, Sir, I wish to ask of you whether, as a gentleman *permitted* by the council, through courtesy, to attend lectures in their institution, they give you authority to prohibit my entrance without sending me any written document, and through the mouth of the porter? Again, Sir, I wish to know whether you can expel me from, or prevent me entering, the medical society, of which I was the founder, as well as framer of its laws, and am still an honorary member, having paid all my fees. If I, an old pupil by *your* acknowledgment, am excluded in this manner, of what use is it to me to have paid all my fees to that society? An answer to these queries will oblige

"Your obedient servant,

(Signed) "ALEX. THOMSON.

"October 15th, 1830."

To those Pupils of the University of London, who have signed the Protest to the Council in favour of Dr. Alex. Thomson.

"Gentlemen,—Allow me to return you my thanks for the kind interest you have taken in my welfare; I wish you had rather had moral courage enough to have insisted

upon your own rights, and then you would not have been insulted by the council,* who after reading your testimonial, sent me a letter, of which the following is a copy:—

Copy of the Warden's letter to Dr. Thomson.

"University of London, Oct. 15, 1830,

"Sir,—I have laid your letter of this date before the council, and I am directed to transmit to you the following resolutions of the council passed this day:—

"That Dr. Alexander Thomson be not permitted in future to come within the precincts of the University, and that the warden do give the necessary orders for carrying this resolution into effect.

"That a copy of the preceding resolution be transmitted to Dr. Alexander Thomson."

"I am, Sir,

"Your very obedient servant,

"LEONARD HORNER, Warden.

"Dr. Alex. Thomson."

"Moreover, Gentlemen, they have come to a resolution to take no notice whatever of your protest, and on no account to acknowledge the students as a *body* possessing any rights, but such as they in courtesy may choose to grant. If you are idiots and cowards enough to submit to this, you deserve all the inflictions which that body can impose upon you, and will, in the language of your haughty professor of midwifery, be "*crushed*." I have done my duty in giving you the opportunity of asserting your independence: I deeply regret the existence in so large a body of young and strong men, of the pusillanimity and weakness of intellect which has made you neglect it.

"Your fellow student,

"ALEX. THOMSON.

"October 18th, 1830."

MEDICAL ELECTIONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I and many of my brother pupils should esteem it a particular favour, if you would insert in your LANCET of next Saturday, the following passage from Mr. Dermott's introductory lecture. You will, I am sure, be pleased to learn, that the entire address consisted of an able condensation of those arguments which you have so repeat-

* There is an agreement among the professors, that they will receive no money from their colleagues' sons. But the council do not sanction this agreement, and, therefore, the sons are obliged to purchase a library ticket each year, as no one is permitted to buy a library ticket who does not intend to enter to a course of lectures, to pay that part of the fee which goes to the University chest.

* It is better, however, to observe to you, that not more than six members of council met on this occasion, as I am credibly informed by two of the professors. Dr. Bakbeek and Mr. Stuch were, I am also told, of the number.