an operation was thought necessary. The aforesaid doctor feelingly suggested that the operation should be exceedingly private, the pupils sent to play, and the doors double-locked. Accordingly when the senior pupil arrived at the institution on the day appointed for the operation, he was told "he should not see it," although he had already been present at an examination of the parts,—although he had attended midwifery two years,—and although the operating surgeon, whose apprentice he was, wished him to see the operation. An interview with the "doctor" was sought and obtained. The senior pupil "hoped he did not object to his seeing the operation;" the doctor said, "I have a great objection, it will hurt the woman's feelings, nothing can be learned from the operation;" the pupil opined "that something might be learned even from the most simple operation," but the doctor strictly prohibited the pupil from having *any* opinion on the subject at all—"he had *no right*, he said, to have an opinion;" adding, "I suppose you read THE LANCET, Sir, your conduct is becoming that of one of Wakley's bullies." The doctor and his friends finally agreed to exclude the senior pupil from the operation, and actually invited to it a *young* practitioner who lives in the neighbourhood and has nothing to do with the institution; and one of the "exclusive" surgeons modestly proposed that a pupil of his son, who has been in London six months, should be admitted, although, according to the doctor, he could "learn nothing," and would "hurt the woman's delicate feelings."

I should not have blotted paper concerning this transaction, were I not fearful it might be hereafter quoted as a precedent in the institution for the exclusion of all pupils from the operations. Reform is wanting there as well as in other great houses, and if a "purge" can thoroughly cleanse the one, "THE LANCET," freely used, cannot fail to restore the shattered constitution of the other.

COMMON-SENSE.

Stafford, June, 1831.

[If the facts mentioned in this letter are correctly stated, the governors of the charity will not discharge their duty to the students if they do not visit upon the self-important and, we dare swear, *empty* *dux*, a severe reprimand. How, we should like to know, are the pupils to acquire a knowledge of their profession if they are to be excluded from every operation where feelings of delicacy may call for their absence?]

DELIRIUM TREMENS.

SUCCESSFUL ADMINISTRATION OF OPIUM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As an illustration of the success with which opium may be administered in large doses in that important disease *delirium tremens*, the following case may be considered useful. If you think so, you are at liberty to publish it in your valuable journal. I am, Sir,

Your obliged and obedient servant,
GEORGE EVANS, M.R.C.S. &c.

CASE.

Mr. G——, a master gardener, aged 45, residing in Grove Lane, requested my advice, May 28th, in consequence of an external injury received by a fall on the head from a cart the day previous. On examination, my attention was particularly attracted to the state of his tongue, which assumed a mahogany hue, with a nervous tremor of the whole frame: his pulse was peculiarly slow; he complained of coldness of the hands and feet; cramp in the extremities, and fancied himself surrounded by butterflies. These I considered to be the predisposing causes of delirium tremens, and after the operation of a brisk cathartic, to correct the torpid state of his bowels, I commenced giving him the following draught:—

R *Tinct. opii*, ʒi;

Spt. lavend. c.,

Tinct. castorei, aa ʒi; aq. ad ʒv.

Mf. haustus;

for the purpose of tranquillising the system and procuring the critical sleep so ably described by Dr. Schmidt in your last Number. He took this at intervals of two hours, for twenty-four hours successively, without the slightest effect being produced. On the contrary, he was so outrageous, that four stout men could scarcely keep him in bed. At this juncture I requested the attendance of Dr. Sutton from Greenwich, who perfectly concurred in the treatment pursued, and ordered the draughts to be continued every hour, adding ʒss *tinct. opii* to each. After taking four more, the cerebral system submitted to their influence, he fell into a doze, and ultimately slept soundly for ten hours. On awaking he was perfectly sensible and composed. As his bowels had not been relieved for some time, I gave *ol. ricini* ʒiiss, which in a short period produced several copious alvine evacuations. His tongue has now lost the mahogany appearance, and his pulse beats soft at 80, so that I look forward with confidence to a successful termination of the disease.

Deptford, June 1st, 1831.