works of Christian philanthropy which had associated with the honoured name of Ashley more glorious renown than even that bestowed by the coronet he now wore. The second name was that of one who, by common acclaim, was at the very head of organic science, and which always called forth in his mind a feeling approaching to veneration—Professor Owen,—to whom he was indebted not only in common with all interested in physiological research, but also for the friendship with which he had for so many years been honoured. Mr. Grainger then glanced at the progress of the profession during the time he had been engaged in teaching. He began his career in a state of war, and happily ended it in one of peace. Some forty years ago the profession was torn by intestine divisions, the majority of its members being dissatisfied with its governing bodies. Since then, by the progress of liberal feeling, and by the enlightened measures adopted by the colleges, much more satisfactory and equitable relations had been established; and though all might not be quite what was desirable, yet the change effected was not only satisfactory to the profession, but was most conducive to the public welfare. He would not detain them to dwell on the marvellous progress of scientific and practical knowledge in late years, for that was universally recognised. There was, however, one circumstance he must notice, and that was the moral and religious change that had come over the London schools of medicine. There was formerly a degree of scepticism and of laxity of morality which happily now is unknown. His valued friend who presided over that meeting had been pleased to refer to his efforts in other than professional pursuits. It certainly was one of the greatest satisfactions of his life that he had been permitted to take some part in promoting sanitary improvements. In another great question, the limitation of labour in the manufacturing districts, he had also the happiness of taking a part. He was thankful that he had been permitted to assist in the inquiry now in progress, still further to extend the benefits of the Factory Act; and, by a curious coincidence, the first report of the commission of which he had the honour of being a member had on that day been completed. In thus looking back over a period of forty years, he saw unbounded cause for rejoicing in the rapid and sound progress of medical science and of social amelioration. But above all, those who, like himself, were now passing from the scene had the unspeakable satisfaction of handing down as a rich inheritance to their successors that association of science with religion which had, by the Divine blessing, taken such firm root among the members of this their glorious profession, and which, whilst it constituted the purest delight in this transient stage of existence, was of all the best preparation for that better life to come, which, like its great Author, was eternal.

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. F. Le Gros Clark and seconded by Mr. T. Carr Jackson, the meeting separated.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE EXAMINERS AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Understanding that a statement has been made that my recent letter respecting the examinations at the College of Surgeons was written with the view of influencing Mr. Hawkins's election on the Council of the College, I think it right to state, in the same columns in which that letter appeared, that it was written on purely public grounds, and that the private communications I have since received from other London teachers only confirm the justice of my remarks.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Sackville-street, June, 1863. CHRISTOPHER HEATH, F.R.C.S.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg to add to others already published by you, my complaint of the conduct of Mr. Cæsar Hawkins in the examining hall of the College of Surgeons.

I presented myself for the first part of my professional examination for the diploma in April of last year. I can conscientiously say that I had been an industrious student; and

having been during the six months of the previous winter session prosecutor to the lecturer on anatomy at the College to which I was attached, I suppose it will be acknowledged that I had unusual opportunities for the study of practical anatomy.

On the day of my *viva voce* examination, I met at the first table Mr. Hawkins (then President), but who had momentarily taken the place of another examiner. He examined me I should say for about three minutes; and his churlish and petulant manner, combined with his abrupt and cross way of speaking, was cause enough, when combined with a young man's natural nervousness at his first examination, to make me hesitating, and, perhaps, confused in my answers. Mr. Hawkins very quickly told me that he could see I knew nothing whatever of the subject. Here, luckily, the proper examiner returned, and his kindly manner soon gave me assurance, and I did well at that table. At the next table I was not examined the full time, and Mr. Skey (my examiner) complimented me on my evidently thorough practical knowledge of anatomy. I got through, and, Providence having answered my prayers, I did not meet Mr. Hawkins at my second part of the examination, and I escaped the risk I ran of being referred in my first.

I leave it to your sense of justice, Sir, and to the consideration of the Council and the profession at large, whether such conduct as that which has lately been so fully described in your journal be either gentlemanly or justifiable.

I enclose my card.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

May, 1863.

A YOUNG SURGEON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In bearing evidence to the correctness of Mr. Heath's statement as to the insolence manifested by some of the examiners towards many of the candidates for the College licence, allow me to say that three years since a friend of mine, who was the best up in our school, and in which he held the office of sub-demonstrator of anatomy, was so abused in his examination that he lost all self-possession, and was consequently rejected. Feeling perfectly sure that his failure arose entirely from embarrassment most gratuitously caused by the coarseness of the treatment he received, he demanded the return of his examination fee, which, after a scene in the theatre of the College, was returned to him; whereupon he at once passed at a Scotch university, and now holds an appointment of surgeon in the navy.

I will venture to say that it is generally known in most of our schools that students frequently get bullied in their examinations, and that those who can so blunt their feelings as to remain undisturbed by repeated insults will have a greater chance of passing than others who are better up, but who, from gentlemanly breeding, are so sensitive to indignities that they are crushed by the brutalities they receive, from the very men to whom they should look up and take their tone from in their future course of medical life. I, for one, from this exceptionable conduct, have sought in Pall-mall a more respectable and useful diploma than can be obtained in Lincoln's-inn-fields; and to all those influenced by similar considerations I would strongly advise the same course.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Durham, May, 1863.

L.R.C.P. LOND. & L.S.A.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having recently been subjected to the tender mercies of Mr. Cæsar Hawkins, I can corroborate in every respect the statements made by Mr. Heath.

I was interrogated in a very gentlemanly manner by two of the examiners, but when I arrived at the table where Mr. Hawkins presided my troubles began.

It was impossible to ascertain what particular information he wished to extract, his questions were put in such an ambiguous manner. For instance, he asked what particular symptom would indicate to me that a person was suffering from concussion, if I were called to see him twenty-four hours after an injury to the head had occurred. Totally ignoring all other symptoms, the only one he wanted, and which he declared to be pathognomonic of the state referred to, was "imperfect sensibility."

His constant observation was—"You got that from books." And this was the kind of treatment to which almost every gentleman examined by Mr. Hawkins on that evening was subjected; sending those who were unfortunate enough to go to him first in no very enviable state of mind to the next table.

No one is a greater advocate for a thorough examination than myself; but let it be conducted in a fair and gentlemanly manner, not in the captious and unsatisfactory way pursued (at all events in some instances) by Mr. Hawkins.

I remain, Sir, yours &c.,
M.R.C.S.

May, 1863.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have seen the correspondence in your journal respecting the conduct of the examiners of the College of Surgeons at their examination, but did not at first intend writing to you on the subject; perhaps, however, you will allow me to say a few words. When I returned successful from my first examination, I was congratulated by several men who had been before Mr. Cæsar Hawkins, that I had not been examined by him. But when I went up for the final examination I did find myself in Mr. Hawkins's presence, and have never forgotten it; for after doing well at two tables, on proceeding to Mr. Hawkins's I was perfectly stupefied and "shut up" (to use an expressive slang term), after giving an answer to the first question, by hearing the words "No you wouldn't; you wouldn't do anything of the sort;" and so on through the whole examination, until I was only too glad to get out of the place, believing that this table had "floored" me; but I was pleased to find I had passed, thanks to the civility of two of the examiners, which enabled me to do well at their tables.

But what I wish to say, Sir, is this: that, as a matter of course, there are a great many men to whom Mr. Hawkins (when in a happy mood) may be perfectly civil, and these may write and say so; but that does not do away with the fact that to a vast number (I myself know of upwards of twenty instances) he is so ungentlemanlike as to scare away their senses for the time being. We owe many thanks to Mr. Christopher Heath for commencing the subject, though I fear it leads us to trespass much on your valuable space.

I remain, Sir, yours obediently,

May, 1863.

A. M.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It has occurred to me, with reference to the notorious incivility of certain of the examiners of the College of Surgeons, that it would be desirable, for many reasons, that the examiners should be appointed yearly, as is the case at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

May, 1863.

M.A.

* * The foregoing letters, selected from a large number of others breathing a similar feeling, have been standing over for want of room, owing to the pressure on our space occasioned by the report of the proceedings of the Medical Council.—ED. L.

THE TREATMENT OF WHOOPING-COUGH.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your last week's impression, a correspondent directs attention to the success attending his administration of antispasmodics in cases of whooping-cough, complains of the inefficiency of the usual remedies for the disease, and describes how he was led to employ the remedies recommended, because he was "disinclined to be beaten in the treatment of a disease which so often occurred."

I fear that this kind of therapeutical heroism is not calculated to advance medical science. I am well convinced that the recommendation of special formulæ to be used arbitrarily in cases of pertussis, whatever the prevailing character of the disease or diversity of the symptoms, will only serve to perpetuate that very difficulty which your correspondent deploras.

In THE LANCET of May 25th, 1861, I described at length the results of a series of observations on Whooping-cough, and the plan of treatment I had been led to adopt. It was essentially a "plan" of treatment; for it required that the practitioner should in each case carefully and thoroughly examine the relative importance of every symptom or group of symptoms, modifying his treatment according to the special exigencies of each individual case.

I have only to add that the results, both in my own cases and in those of other medical men who have favoured me with their experience, have confirmed the good report I gave as to the practical success of the plan of treatment described.

In those cases which have been submitted to my notice as illustrative of its failure, a more careful examination has always

revealed some unobserved cause of reflex irritation, usually intestinal, which has interfered with the progress exactly as described in my previous communication on the subject.

I remain, Sir, yours obediently,
HENRY G. WRIGHT, M.D., M.R.C.P.

Somerset-street, Portman-square, June, 1863.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your last number there is a letter on the Treatment of Whooping-Cough—a disease which undoubtedly is an *opprobrium medicorum*. Will you allow me to make a few remarks on the same? During the last ten years I have had a large number of cases of pertussis, both in public and private practice; and, like every other practitioner, I have endeavoured to find the best remedy. The treatment that I have found most successful is a combination of aconite, antimony, and iron, using a liniment externally. My attention was first directed to this plan of treatment by a valuable contribution to THE LANCET, in May, 1861, by Dr. Henry G. Wright. I would recommend to your readers a careful perusal of it; and have no hesitation in saying that if the treatment, with its modifications, suggested by Dr. Wright be adopted, the mortality from this dreadful disease will be considerably diminished. The liniment I find most useful is composed of extract of belladonna, oil of amber, soap liniment, and tincture of opium.

I am, Sir, yours very obediently,
D. H. G. WILDBORE, M.D., F.R.C.S. Eng.

Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square, June, 1863.

ARTIFICIAL LIMBS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I should be very sorry to detract from the merit of anyone who had adjusted a new and cleverly-devised artificial limb, such as your correspondent from Cupar evidently supposes has been expressly invented for his especial requirement; but as your numerous readers will be led to infer that some extraordinary departure from the plans pursued by other anatomical mechanicians must have occurred, I crave the indulgence of sufficient space in your valuable columns to enable me to explain that the form of limb supplied by Mr. Masters is one common to myself, Mr. Gray, and Mr. Grossmith, who undoubtedly could furnish any number of complimentary letters similar to that sent by your Cupar correspondent.

I may also, perhaps, be permitted to take this opportunity of stating that the plan of constructing an artificial foot for Syme and Chopart's amputation, furnished with lateral ankle-joints, and having a sheath for the reception of the stump, is one fully detailed in a work I published on artificial limbs as early as 1855, and which can readily be referred to by any of your readers.—I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Leicester-square, June, 1863.

H. HEATHER BIGG.

MEDICAL TRIALS.

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH, WESTMINSTER, JUNE 11TH.

(Sittings in Banco, before the LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, Mr. Justice WIGHTMAN, Mr. Justice CROMPTON, and Mr. Justice BLACKBURN.)

THE QUEEN v. THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND REGISTRATION.

THIS case raised a question of great importance to the medical profession (and also to the public, on account of the deep interest they have in the character of that profession) under the important Act of 1858, passed "to regulate the qualifications of practitioners in medicine and surgery." The question was as to the functions of the Council in regard to registration of medical practitioners. The Act imposes on the Council the duty of keeping such registry; and the 14th section provides as follows:—"It shall be the duty of the registrars to keep their respective registers correct, and in accordance with the Act, and to erase the names of all registered persons who shall have died, and shall from time to time make the necessary alterations in the addresses or qualifications of the persons registered under the Act; and it shall be lawful for the registrar to write a letter to any registered person addressed to him according to his address on the register to inquire whether he has changed his residence or has ceased to practise, and if no