come a convert to the *homœopathic* system, and is now under the guidance of a German doctor, who is giving her (I suppose because she is a Queen) only *the ten-thousandth part of a grain* of some of his nostrums. Her little homœopathic medicine chest, with all its little bottles, is a nice little toy to amuse her! Lord Howe watches the effects of these wonderful millionth-fraction pills; and I have never been nor am I likely ever to be consulted by her.

"I have got the periodicals regularly. I need not conceal from you, my worthy friend, that I am grieved and vexed to see extracts of my examination before the Committee, printed in *THE LANCET*; and had I not been taken partly by surprise, and lost my temper somewhat during the examination, I should not have said so much, and attempted to show that the cause of our not making Fellows of the Licentiates, was the defective moral character of the Licentiates. I confess it was a sad blunder on my part, to say in public that while we encouraged the Licentiate to practise Midwifery, we considered it beneath the dignity of a Fellow to touch such things.

"Write me anything you hear that is going on in Pall-mall, Blackfriars, or Lincoln's-inn-fields. I intend writing to Sir ASTLEY about some vexatious things which I have heard respecting the certificate system. It cannot go on. How do little BENJAMIN'S honours sit upon him? I long to see *her ladyship*! Is it true that he has got a carriage in imitation of mine?

"Write me every thing; and put your letters under cover to my son, which will save the postage.

"Your faithful,
"H. H."

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL AGAIN — SIR BENJAMIN AGAIN—AND ANOTHER NEW SCHOOL.

It is rumoured that Sir B. BRODIE is about to establish a new school of anatomy in the immediate vicinity of St. George's Hospital. We understand that the ground is purchased, and the site fixed, in the neighbourhood of Belgrave-square. There is, we believe, a double motive for this measure. It is at once designed to check, if possible, the increasing prosperity of Dr. WILSON'S anatomical school, and to provide a situation for Mr. TATHAM, one of Sir BENJAMIN'S protégés, and formerly, we believe, assistant-demonstrator in the school of Great Windmill-street.

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR, — Those who have long been about our hospitals, have the opportunity of watching the character of medical students. They find that they are divided into two classes; those who are zealous, and those who are idle.

The former class think it their business to be always at the hospital; and if you inquire of them, they will give you an epitome of ALL the cases of interest and importance, while the latter think they may glean whatever information is necessary to qualify themselves for practice, by attending operations and post-mortem examinations, imagining it beneath them to toil daily round the wards.

The attentive and diligent student appears always busy, and is dissatisfied only that he cannot spend a larger portion of his time in the wards. While at the hospital, he is to be found taking cases and making observations, or else he will be in the dead-house or pupil's-room. While these men are so laudably employed, their opponents, the idle ones, are seen loitering about, or they just drop in occasionally, not as a matter of course, but merely to inquire 'whether there be any operations going on, or any out-of-the-way case, and then they express great surprise that there should have been an operation yesterday, at a time "when they could not come," or that a post-mortem examination took place "when they did not know even of the death of the patient," and so they determine immediately to expose this hole-and-corner proceeding, because, forsooth, a man was operated on to save his life, or an examination was made out of the usual time, because the friends of the deceased would not consent to leave the body during the night (a circumstance not unfrequent among the Irish).

As a friend to this hospital I make these remarks, having seen a letter in your journal, urging some groundless complaints, and desire, at the same time, to warn the young student, lest the example of the idle, dissatisfied, and necessarily ignorant, should unhappily be followed.

Trusting that you will give this an early insertion, I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN ELWIN,
Late House-Surgeon, Middlesex Hospital.
Oct. 1st.

. We insert this letter, although the *object* of the writer is not very apparent.

Complaints are made respecting certain irregularities in the London Hospitals, and Mr. ELWIN would infer that the expressions of dissatisfaction emanate from those students who are idle,—“the idle, the negligent”—only. The studious pupil is the last person to complain of the person who ought to be his instructor. It is the industrious student,—the young man who will not allow his time to be wasted,—who complains of the negligence and irregularity of the medical officers,—a fact with which Mr. ELWIN is as well acquainted as ourselves. We agree with the writer that the students are divided into two classes, those who are zealous and those who are idle, but we are at a loss to understand how the former can think it their “business to be *always* at the hospital, and can give an epitome of all the “cases of interest and importance,” when they are compelled by the operation of the certificate-system to spend eight or ten hours of the day in schools often situated at a considerable distance from the hospital. At the *Middlesex Hospital* there is no school of medicine, but in order that the hospital may not be without its advantages to students, the surgeons in this establishment, as at *St. George's Hospital*, all go through the wards *at the same hour*!—ED. L.

MIDWIFERY CHAIR OF GUY'S HOSPITAL.

DR. ASHWELL'S REPLY TO DR. BLUNDELL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having read a letter from Dr. Blundell in Saturday's *LANCET* calculated to produce an erroneous impression, I am anxious to prevent such a result, by a very brief statement of facts.

Dr. Blundell has certainly retired from Guy's, and there are connected with his retirement some circumstances requiring an explanation which his letter does not afford. It must be supposed from the statement, “that the gentleman whom the treasurer seemed desirous to patronise,” and the insertion of whose name as a joint obstetric lecturer appears to have been the grave indignity which the Doctor could not brook, was a nominee or protégé of the treasurer, unknown, or

nearly so, to Dr. Blundell. The entire reverse of this is the fact. Nine years ago negotiations were entered into between Dr. Blundell and myself, without the treasurer's knowledge, the object of which was my succeeding to the obstetric chair, a large pecuniary consideration being required by Dr. B. But as it was intimated to me that the treasurer would not for a moment listen to, or allow, any arrangement founded on a pecuniary basis, I abandoned the idea, but continued my obstetric pursuits at the hospital.

In 1829-30, in consequence of new arrangements which then took place, I was requested by Dr. Blundell to give clinical instructions to his pupils. It had been recommended by the Doctor to have a lying-in ward, but instead of it the present Hospital Lying-in Charity was established, and cases of uterine disease were received into a part of the hospital appropriated to that purpose. I then received a communication from Dr. Blundell, requesting that as his duties were increased and his health uncertain, I would officiate as his obstetric assistant. It was not till this period that I had the pleasure of being personally known to the treasurer. I gave the clinical lectures for two or three seasons; I saw and treated nearly all the cases in the female ward, I had the entire charge of the Hospital Lying-in Charity and of the obstetric out-patients, and I gave forty out of the forty-three midwifery lectures in the spring course of 1834, having been solicited to do all this by Dr. Blundell himself.

Surely then the circumstance of my name being associated as colleague (for it had been so already as obstetric assistant) is no justification of the indignation he expresses. Can it be deemed extraordinary, after what I had done, that I should express a strong wish that my name should be included in the lecture papers as colleague, so that in the event of renewed illness, and his requiring a large share of help from me, I should appear before the class on the proper footing, and prevent the Doctor's inability being regarded as a breach of faith, either on his own part, or that of the school?

If Dr. Blundell has retired from Guy's, it is, to use his own words, because “*sic jubeo, sic volo, stet pro ratione voluntas.*” It appears, by his own statement, that he might have resumed the chair, “if he had not considered it redolent and reeking with the indignity that stained it.” I may be allowed perhaps to express my surprise and regret, that this indignity was supposed by him to consist, in my being called upon to act as his colleague instead of his representative, in which situation I