

"Learn to read slow, all other graces
Will follow in their proper places."

And the example is to imitate the great orator in overcoming any natural defect of speech, if such exist, by determination and perseverance. I need not point out to Mr. Shaw the plan to pursue.* I am quite sure he will take these words of advice, as they are intended to be given, in a kindly spirit; and should they be effective in working an improvement, none will be more pleased than your obedient servant,

A LATE MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL.

NOTE FROM MR. SARGEANT, OF BATH.

To the Editor.—Sir: I thank you for the notice you have taken of the conduct of the committee of the Bath Hospital towards me, but at the same time I regret that you are led to introduce the name of Mr. Duncan in such a manner, as he is an excellent and charitable gentleman, more disposed to serve than injure any one; and with respect to myself, he was obliging enough to say that in conveying the sentiments of the committee to me, he was, as chairman, merely the instrument of the board. I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

ARTHUR SARGEANT.

Bath, April 22, 1843.

* * We passed no critical remarks on Mr. Duncan, who (perhaps by an error of the press) was called "one Duncan" instead of Mr. Duncan. We fail, however, on re-examining the original documents, to find any opposition or protest on the part of that gentleman regarding the proceedings against Mr. Sargeant. Our respect, certainly, would have specially belonged to him had he refused to be "the instrument of the board." As to the polite manner of ambassadors, the old saw "*verba mollia*," &c., is applicable on all such occasions.

MR. SARGEANT, OF BATH.

(Addressed to the Editor of THE LANCET.)

THE committee of the Bath United Hospital abstain from remark on a certain article, viz., "Mr. Sargeant and the Bath Hospital Committee," published in THE LANCET of the 22nd of April, but the committee submit to the editor's sense of justice his giving publicity to the following documents, viz. :—

"Bath United Hospital.

"A statement has appeared in the Bath

* What, send the "miserable secretary" to the sea-shore to spout medico-chirurgicalisms to the clamorous waves? Better send him to the famous Mr. Cartledge, of Astley's, to take lessons in what Mr. Richardson called "bould speaking" when he added Mr. C. to his Thespian troop.

Journal of the 13th inst., reflecting upon the conduct of the trustees and committee of this institution. Understanding from this statement that their conduct may be submitted to a judicial inquiry, the trustees and committee express their hope that the friends and subscribers of this hospital will suspend their judgment until such an inquiry takes place.—P. B. DUNCAN, Chairman.

"United Hospital, March 13, 1843."

"To the Subscribers of the Hospital.

"An impression having been made on the public mind by a statement from the late house-surgeon, addressed to you in the last *Bath Journal*, comprising a certificate from us, from which it might be inferred that we, the surgeons, are acting in opposition to the committee of the United Hospital, and that we disapprove of the proceedings of that body respecting Mr. Sargeant,—we beg respectfully to state that our certificate had reference only to Mr. S.'s professional conduct, to his demeanour towards ourselves, and, so far as we had knowledge, towards the patients; and that such is the certificate, we have always given to every house-surgeon, on the expiration of his term of office, when his professional conduct merited it. We beg to add, that this testimonial was given for the purpose of assisting Mr. Sargeant's future prospects in his profession, and not with the intention of its being made use of as on the present occasion. It is impossible that we can defend or extenuate Mr. Sargeant's disrespectful behaviour to the committee, or the offensive letter which he subsequently addressed to that body.

"GEORGE NORMAN, J. S. SODEN,
R. W. BROWN.

"Bath United Hospital,
March 14, 1843."

N. B.—As Mr. Sargeant lays some stress upon his dismissal from a situation which he "purchased," it may not be irrelevant to add, that Mr. Sargeant has occupied that situation about six months, and that one moiety of the fee paid to the surgeons for attending the surgical practice at the Bath United Hospital, as house-surgeon, has been returned to, and accepted by, that gentleman, for the unexpired term of his attendance.

POST-MORTEM SPLEENS.

To the Editor.—Sir: The quantity of crude speculations which your readers have lately been presented with on the office of the spleen was brought to a conclusion by your lengthened summary, showing the result to be even more jejune than might have been feared by those who were aware of the inanity of the subject. To sum up your summing up, nothing is yet known of the functions of the spleen. Still these canvassings of opinions, if brief, are agreeable