new appointments were resolved on, the hospital has afforded a daily arena of contention, wrangling, dispute, and intrigue. Amongst other modes of war, an anonymous paragraph appeared in one of the daily papers, having evidently two purposes, one of them to extol Mr. Walker, and Mr. Lane; the other to involve the new Baronet in a paper fight. It had the merit of eliciting a reply from Sir Benjamin, which in verbosity and craftiness was equal to the anticipations of those who knew the objects of his late selfish and unprofessional movements. It called from Mr. Walker a bitter exposure of Sir Benjamin's misstatements regarding the causes which had led to the appointment of Mr. Brodie, Mr. Keate, and the late Mr. Ewbank, as assistant-surgeons, and showing that intrigues equally disgraceful were practised on those occasions. Mr. Keate, it appears, was made an assistant-surgeon of St. George's, not because the institution required such an officer, but that he might serve an uncle who was already there, and to secure his own election as surgeon when his uncle's place should be vacant by the removal of that affectionate relative to a better and happier state. Mr. Brodie was made assistant to Sir Everard Home for similar benevolent purposes, and the late Mr. Ewbank, consistently with the same system, was appointed under the late Mr. Griffith, to whom report said a very large bonus was given as a retiring fee,—a circumstance which it could not be expected Sir Benjamin would divulge on the present occasion, and to which Mr. Walker had not the sagacity to allude.

The result of the election on the 7th was exactly what might have been anticipated from a six months' start in the canvass, the creation of upwards of *forty new governors*, and the possession of a "certificate" from Sir Astley Cooper for exhibition to the non-professional electors.

With regard to the assistant-physician, the appointment seemed to create no kind of interest in any quarter, the duties of such an office being regarded as of minor importance. Jack Noakes or Tom Styles might have had it, had either of those gentlemen dedicated a thick volume to the medical staff, and printed their names in **conspicuous letters**. The circumstance of Jack or Tom having been assistant-fabricator to Roderick, would probably have increased their recommendations as candidates.

GUY'S HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I read with perfect astonishment the account contained in your last week's journal of a fracas which took place at Guy's Hospital, between one of Mr. Morgan's dressers and Mr. Napper, of Pulborough, who is there designated "Mr. Pupil." I do not for one moment hesitate to contradict every assertion made by your informant respecting it, and I denounce the whole of the column in page 299, as being nothing but a fabrication, having not the slightest basis in truth.

On the day mentioned in the statement the area in the operating theatre was remarkably well cleared; no dressers but those of the surgeon operating standing within the circle. Mr. Rathill's duty compelled him to take a station near the patient, but he selected one which prevented the least possible number of students from seeing what was going on. Behind him and in a portion of the theatre not appropriated to the use of pupils, stood Mr. Napper. Suddenly, before the operation had commenced, and certainly without any previous intimation of his wishes, he leaned forward and struck Mr. Rathill a violent blow on the head with his hat. Mr. R. took no immediate notice of the insult, or rather assault, but on the conclusion of the operations Mr. Rathill asked Mr. Napper what he meant by striking him so hard a blow, and begged he would never repeat the liberty. I was not sufficiently near to hear the whole of the conversation, but I am assured by Mr. Rathill and many other gentlemen who were standing near that nothing like an apology was offered by Mr. Napper; on the contrary, his language was exceedingly insolent, threatening to repeat the outrage when he thought proper. He at length seized Mr. Rathill's arm, which was resented by a blow in the face of the assailant; others of course followed, and had it not been for the prompt interference of Mr. Browell, the steward of the Hospital, I fear Mr. Napper would soon have been placed in one of its wards, in spite of his professed pugilistic skill, which in this instance availed him but very little.

Your informant, Sir, knew too well the infamy that would attend such a step to subscribe his name to a piece of composition of which he might justly be ashamed. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. H. FREEMAN.

Guy's Hospital, Nov. 18, 1834.