short, the attempt to fasten a charge of plagiarism on Dr. Laycock is evidently made with the hope of gaining notoriety by means of a polemical discussion.

SYDENHAM SOCIETY.—The first meeting of this society was held on Monday evening, in the library of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, Sir H. Halford in the chair. The meeting was numerously attended. The report was read and adopted, and several resolutions were passed respecting the objects and intentions of the society. The number of members at present amounts to 850.

BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL.—We are informed by a correspondent "that the arrangements for providing collegiately for the board, lodging, and tutelary care of the students of the Birmingham Royal School of Medicine and Surgery, under the charge of a Warden, are completed. In the list of donors who have already subscribed towards the erection of the college are the Earl of Dartmouth, 100*l.*; the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, 100*l.*; Earl Howe, 100*l.*; the Earl of Bradford, 100*l.*; Lord Sandon, 25*l.*; the Rev. Dr. Warneford, 1000*l.*; the Rev. Chancellor Law, 100*l.*; the Rev. V. Thomas, 100*l.*; the Rev. T. Mosely, 20*l.*; J. E. Piercy, Esq., 50*l.*; Joseph Webster, 20*l.*

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Revenue in Jeopardy from Spurious Chemistry. By Andrew Ure, M.D., F.R.S., &c., Analytical Chemist to the Board of Customs. London: Ridgway. 1843. pp. 35.

* * A pamphlet containing some curious and important facts, worthy the attention of chemists,—professors of an "exact science,"—written on edge, however, which was scarcely necessary for the vindication of the author, who has done some service in it to the tax-collectors, but very possibly made himself some enemies amongst the "rogues in grain."

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON.

LIST of gentlemen admitted members on Friday, May 5, 1843:—A. G. Canton, H. Lang, S. E. R. Jones, F. Sopwith, W. L. Echlin, R. N. Rubidge, J. Blaxland, W. W. Wildey, W. B. Kellock, C. Hall, T. B. Cowherd.

NEWS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir,—Is there a disease of the skin where living *animals* or *insects* are turned out. It was stated that the late Duke of Northumberland had such a disease. Could it arise from uncleanness? Probably some of your correspondents will answer this query. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A CONSTANT SUBSCRIBER.

* * There is a disease called *morbus pedi-*

culosus, and it was also current that the distinguished individual named was affected with it. A want of cleanliness is not necessary to its production, and can hardly be supposed a cause in the case specified.

We state for the information of Mr. *Parkin*, who expresses a wish on the subject, in our number, page 156, that the French physician who advocates the combination of carbonic acid with quinine is Dr. Meirieu, physician to the hospital of St. Gilles, dep. Gard., whose remarks on this head are to be found in "L'Experience," for the 17th Nov., 1842, page 311. But we may add that Dr. Meirieu himself seems to admit that the greater efficiency of the quinine in some of his prescriptions is due, not to the carbonic acid so much as to the greater solubility of the quinine effected by the excess of tartaric acid employed. In this he corroborates the opinion of Prince Lucien Buonaparte, who has found the salts of quinine to be efficacious in proportion as they are soluble. And such was the opinion of our translator, although it accidentally escaped being appended to the article in the number of April the 8th.

Hippocrates.—It is not "usual." Two graduates in medicine might form a legal partnership, but only, probably, when one or both practise as an apothecary. What is very unusual may generally be regarded as "unprofessional."

Fraudatus can recover for attendance on a "surgical" case, but not if the case were "medical," unless he be also a L.A.C.L. Nor could he recover in any case under the "deed of purchase," because that deed did not make him a L.A.C. Counsel for defendant would soon show that the action was brought in the name of a firm which had no existence, besides showing that A (whatever B may have been) was and is not a legally qualified apothecary.

NOTE. — *To the Editor.* — Sir: Dr. John Craig, of Paisley, in his "Remarks on some Practical Points of Midwifery," in THE LANCET of April 22nd (page 115), which I have only this moment received, says, "In Dr. William Henderson's case (Feb. 11th), this woman was only fifteen hours in labour, and yet, from its nature, the child was lost. If the unnatural contractions in this woman's uterus had been removed six or eight hours after the commencement of labour, the child would not only have been sooner born, but in perfect safety, at least so far as strangulation was concerned." There was "no unnatural contraction in this woman's uterus" previous to the birth of the head of the child. The "unnatural contractions" of the os uteri took place after the birth of the head, and continued until the child was born. Yours, &c.

WILLIAM HENDERSON, M.D.

Corstorphine, Edinburgh, April 3, 1843.