lege of Surgeons ought to have more representatives than the University of Durham, he entirely agreed with him.

Mr. GANT said that the resolution, if it passed in the form proposed, might lead to the supposition that, on the restoration of Clause 18, the Fellows and Members of the College would be perfectly satisfied with the Bill. He suggested an addition to the resolution, stating that no Bill would satisfy the just claims of the Fellows and Members of the College which did not distinctly provide for their direct representation in the Medical Council.

The PRESIDENT said that the meeting had been summoned for one purpose only, and though he had been pleased to hear the speakers allude to other matters, he did not think it was competent to the meeting to pass resolutions in reference to any other subject than that which it had been specially convened to consider.

Mr. J. F. CLARKE said that Clause 18 was the fundamental point of the Bill, and its omission would be most disastrous. If the Bill passed without it the result would be like playing a game with loaded dice. If they could carry their point with regard to Clause 18, they would thereby show their power in the House, and secure other advantages of a most important character.

Mr. BUSK said that, in speaking of the representation of the College on the Council, he intended to make no reference to the mode in which the representatives should be elected. He entirely differed from Mr. Heath in his view of the matter, and thought that the scheme for electing representatives in the Council from the general body of the profession was utterly preposterous and impossible of execution. (No, no.) He was also of opinion that an immense deal of mischief had been done by the apparent antagonism of a certain part of the profession towards the Council and the College. (Question.)

Mr. COOPER expressed his hearty concurrence in the resolution proposed by Mr. Busk.

Mr. JAMES, after thanking the President and the authorities of the Council for the steps they had taken, proposed as an amendment, "That, while returning thanks to the President of the Council for petitioning the House for the restoration of Clause 18, this meeting is of opinion that even the restoration of the clause would not satisfy the profession, and that no Bill would be of any use which does not provide for the representation of the profession in the General Medical Council, and for one single examination entrance into the profession."

Mr. GANT seconded the amendment, but subsequently stated that, desiring to have a unanimous expression of opinion with reference to Clause 18, he would recommend the withdrawal of the amendment.

The resolution then passed unanimously.

Mr. JAMES expressed a hope that the Council would take the other matters into consideration, and give the fellows and members an early opportunity of discussing them within the walls of the College.

A petition to the House of Lords, praying for the restoration of Clause 18, and specifying the reasons for such restoration, was then read and agreed to.

The PRESIDENT said he hoped that the Members and Fellows would bring to bear all the influence they possessed on the members of the Legislature before the passing of the Bill.

On the motion of Mr. SPENCER WELLS, seconded by Mr. GAMGEE, a vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to the President, and the proceedings terminated.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE annual meeting of this large and important Association will be held at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, on Wednesday, July 13th, at 5 P.M. The necessary routine business being completed, the President will deliver his inaugural address, which, as on previous occasions, will probably be of much interest. As very considerable success has attended the spirited and energetic public action which this Association has taken (of which the recent interesting debate and division in the House of Commons on the Superannuation Bill form signal proof), it is earnestly hoped that Poor-law medical officers generally will make an effort to attend the meeting. We

trust that members of the profession not connected with the Poor-law service will strengthen the meeting with their presence, and thereby aid the President and Council in their desire to treat with becoming consideration and respect those members of the Legislature who have signified their intention to attend and dine with the Association.

Gentlemen who intend to be present are requested to apply to J. Norton, Esq., 38, John-street, Bedford-row, or Benson Baker, Esq., 42, Grove-road, Regent's-park, Honorary Secretaries of the Dinner Committee, on or before Saturday, July 9th.

SIR JAMES Y. SIMPSON AND HOSPITALS FOR WOMEN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having for twenty-eight years enjoyed the privilege of the late Sir James Y. Simpson's friendship, I well know his opinion in reference to the resolution proposed by Lord Dalhousie, and seconded by Mr. Dempster at the meeting held at Stafford House last Thursday.

From one of his letters in my possession—an extract from which follows—I am able to confirm Lord Dalhousie's statement, "That no commemoration of a man so eminently practical would be complete which did not embrace the establishment of a hospital where the diseases peculiar to females could be treated, which every friend of the late Sir James Y. Simpson knows was an object very near his heart."

Extract from a letter addressed to my colleague, the late Dr. Rigby.

"I am delighted to hear that you are proposing to establish an hospital for female complaints exclusively. There certainly should be such an hospital in every large city. See what an immensity of good has been conferred upon humanity and upon medical science by the institution of separate wards for female ailments in the great Dublin Lying-in Hospital. If I had seen any prospect of success I would, ere this, have attempted to get a ward or two set apart for these diseases in the Edinburgh Hospital. Here we lack not the will, but the means. Local female diseases are so little studied by the general physician and surgeon that they admit them with hesitation into their hospital wards—take no sufficient interest in the cases when forced under their care—and, for the most part, have really given little or no attention to the peculiarities of diagnosis and treatment which such maladies require. No man doubts the propriety of separate hospitals and dispensaries for diseases of the eye. Every argument that could be adduced in favour of such separate institutions for the diseases of the eye might, with equal truth and propriety, be adduced in favour of separate wards and institutions for the diseases of the uterus. I often see cases where a little hospital care and treatment would set the patient perfectly well, and restore her again to health and happiness; but where, from the want of a proper institution, she is obliged to linger on in wretchedness and misery. Our present hospitals, in fact, only admit uterine ailments *after* they have become highly exaggerated and are probably beyond the reach of medical or surgical treatment. What is to be wished for is an institution where such cases could be admitted and treated *before* they had reached such a stage. We have nowhere, I believe, in the United Kingdom such an hospital except the one in Dublin, which I have already alluded to. I heartily wish you every success in trying to establish an institution of this kind in London.

* * * * *

"Believe me, with every respect, yours very faithfully,
(Signed) "J. Y. SIMPSON.

"22, Albany-street, Edinburgh, 22nd September, 1842."

Since the date of this letter I have on several occasions conversed with Sir James on the subject of the Hospital for Women which was established in that year in London. The last time of doing so was in Dublin, at the annual meeting of the British Medical Association, in 1867. He then remarked that the Hospital for Women might claim exception to the objections raised against general hospitals on the plea that only non-contagious diseases were admitted into its wards. And he at the same time agreed with me that

advantages must also accrue from the facility which the Hospital for Women offered to the student for classifying the diseases peculiar to women. Sir James Simpson on several occasions visited the Hospital for Women, and performed operations there.

On these grounds I beg most earnestly to support the adoption of the resolution of the Provisional Committee, held in Edinburgh on Friday last.

"The Committee are unanimously of opinion that the first object to be aimed at should be a suitable monument, including a statue, to be erected in a conspicuous situation in Edinburgh. Further, bearing in mind the great work which Sir James Simpson accomplished in the improvement of the treatment of a particular class of diseases, they are of opinion that the sum aimed at should be sufficient not only for the erection of such a monument, but also for the establishment of an institution for the treatment of the diseases of women and children, open to sufferers from any quarter."

I trust, therefore, that the recommendation to abandon the proposition for a memorial hospital ("on the ground that the opinion of Sir James Y. Simpson was persistently opposed to the establishment of special hospitals for the treatment of diseases peculiar to women") will not prevent its adoption. It is a proposal which of all others is best calculated to further the objects to which his life was so unceasingly devoted, and with such unrivalled success—viz., the study and the treatment of the diseases of women.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

PROTHEROE SMITH.

Park-street, Grosvenor-square, June 27th, 1870.

PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE EPIDEMIC OF SMALL-POX.

THE small-pox epidemic does not show signs of decline, and the number of deaths for the week ending June 25th has been, strange to say, exactly the same as in the preceding week—namely, 238. The Vaccinal Congress, wherein the rare detractors of vaccine were so heavily beaten by the mass of the assembly, has had the good effect of increasing largely the number of persons who present themselves to be revaccinated either at the *mairies* or at the hospitals. On the other hand, the authorities have been taking measures to diminish the risk of contamination during the illness or after the death of variolic patients by allowing the burial to take place after a shorter lapse of time, &c. How far these measures will tend to arrest the progress of the pestilence will be shown by time; but probably the epidemic, which undoubtedly had been favoured by existing circumstances, must "vent its spleen," and will only decline and die out *qu'après avoir donné tout ce qu'elle avait à donner*—the causes of its banishment being as little known as those of its eruption. Everybody in Paris, medical or non-medical, seems to be struck with utter surprise at the speedy and extensive development of a disease which has caused as many as 5000 deaths since the beginning of the year, and which, according to common belief, had been driven away, with the black death and other plagues of the middle ages, by Jenner's invention, never to return. The present epidemic will have had the good effect of rousing the Parisian population from the state of calm indifference wherein they were plunged with regard to vaccination. Certainly the lesson will be a very severe one; but the French, perhaps, needed it, in order to be awakened to the necessity of adopting a general and compulsory system of vaccination, like the one which has already been enforced in Great Britain (without the need of any such extraordinary stimulant) and which, until now, had been much criticised here. *En attendant* the authorities have become at least aware of the urgency of practising vaccination and revaccination on an extensive scale, and of having on hand a stock of good vaccinal virus. A spirit of prudence and foresight has been engendered, and as the epidemic seems destined to proceed northwards, proper measures of precaution are urgently recommended to be at once taken in what seems the probable itinerary of the pestilence—namely, the north of France.

ACADEMICAL ELECTIONS.

At the last meeting of the Academy of Medicine, M. Payen, already a member of the Academy of Sciences and the author of several remarkable scientific productions, was elected an *associé libre*, or honorary fellow, of the society; the other candidates being M. Théophile Roussel and M. Brochin, the talented editor of the *Gazette des Hôpitaux*.

The Academy of Sciences has also proceeded to fill up two vacant seats among the foreign associates, or correspondents. One of the seats was in the section of medicine and surgery, and was given to Rokitsansky. Among the names which had been brought forward for election by the committee were those of Paget and Bowman, if I am not mistaken. The other seat belonged to the section of physiology, and I am glad to say that Mr. Joule, of Manchester, was elected to it on the very first vote. The other names presented were those of Angström, of Upsaal; Jacobi, of St. Petersburg; Dove and Riess, of Berlin; Grove and Tyndall, of London; W. Thomson, of Glasgow; Lloyd, of Dublin; G. Stokes, of Cambridge; Henry, of Philadelphia; Volpicelli, of Rome; and Billet, of Dijon.

CLUB OF THE MEDICAL STUDENTS.

The medical students of Paris are busy organising a club in which they will be able to meet and discuss all questions of scientific or professional interest. The idea of this club arose amidst the agitation which has lately been carried on in respect of the "free" teaching of medicine. Of course the club will not be merely a *lieu de réunion* for debating purposes, but will be made to contain as many general comforts and conveniences as possible. I have been told by one of the chief promoters of the scheme that their success has been unexpected, and that the club will soon be in full operation.

HEALTH OF THE EMPEROR.

The latest accounts from the imperial residence of St. Cloud mention that the Emperor is still in good general health, and only suffers, as I informed you, from a localised attack of gout in the feet. He still walks with difficulty, but all the functions are unimpaired, and his Majesty can give his entire attention to the business of the State. Nevertheless, projects of a voyage to Vichy or Contrexeville are entertained.

Paris, June 27th, 1870.

THE MEDICAL BILL IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

ON Thursday evening the Bill, as amended on report, passed, as might have been expected, with very little alteration, through Committee in the House of Lords. Before the hour there was a considerable gathering in the lobbies of medical men from all parts of the kingdom, representing interests which might be supposed to be involved. The Duke of Richmond withdrew his principal amendments, on which we commented last week, observing that they had much more extensive bearings than he thought they had when he drew them up. On Clause 14 (of the Bill as amended) Lord De Grey said that while he could not see his way clear to one board for the whole kingdom, there was considerable force in the objection that had been made that, as the clause stood, the licences would be invidiously distinguished according to the particular board passed. He, therefore, —at least so we understood him—would agree that the licence should bear the authority of the General Medical Council and not that of the particular local board. Clause 19 concerning the erasing of names from the Register was commented on by Lord Salisbury. He thought the power given to the Council of erasing a name on account of "infamous or disgraceful conduct in any professional respect" was severe. But Lord De Grey pointed out that it was not different from the power given in previous Acts; and the clause passed. Some discussion arose on Lord Cairns's amendment—on which also we commented last week—making an exception in favour of those universities which require a degree in Arts previous to granting a degree in