I have already stated that I regard the very act of sending that letter as "the misrepresentation."

These printed statements, by Dr. Hall, in *THE LANCET* of February 17th, 1838, excepting only the two words, "in reply," are verbatim copies of portions of his own autograph letter, addressed "To the Council of the Royal Society," and which, fortunately for me, is in the care of the assistant secretary of the Royal Society, and may be inspected by any of the Fellows, on application to that officer.

It will now be seen that the "authority" on which the writer of your leading articles has relied, in denying my facts, is utterly unworthy of credit; and never again can it be questioned that my letter to Dr. Hall was sent by Dr. Hall himself to the Council of the Royal Society in November, 1836, and also a paragraph of it (copied) in February, 1838.

This exposition of facts, more detailed than that which I had already given, together with the new accusations of "thrusting cavilling upon your readers," and of "always accusing," must entirely preclude me from entering into any further discussion in your journal.

No charges, made or threatened, of "low estimate," of "cowardice," of "inuendo," of "cavilling," or of "always accusing," shall again extort from me a reply, in return for which, to judge from the past, I might expect only further aspersion; nor shall any fear of injury make me shrink from the declaration, when I see fit, of what I know to be correct and just.

I will conclude these, the last remarks I intend to address to you, with your own words—"In all the common affairs of life there is the right of appeal against injustice. In science, there is no appeal, save to time and to posterity."

Your obedient servant,

Upper Southwick-street, Cambridge-terrace, GEORGE NEWPORT.
May, 1846.

THE MEDALS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY.—DR. LEE'S DEMONSTRATIONS OF THE UTERINE NERVES.

(LETTER FROM DR. TODD.)

To the Editor of *THE LANCET*.

SIR,—After the exhibition of personal feeling which the last few weeks have witnessed, in connexion with the controversy respecting the nerves of the uterus, I am scarcely surprised at the extraordinary misconceptions which have been put forth by some one or other regarding my own opinions on this anatomical point.

In a late number of the *Literary Gazette*, I was shown the following paragraph:—"Dr. Todd now admits that Mr. Beck's dissections confirm those of Dr. Lee;" and in your last week's number of *THE LANCET*, you relate, "on authority," an incident which you say occurred on a recent occasion, when, on Dr. Lee's invitation, in his own house, and in company only with Dr. Lee, and my friend Mr. Simon, I was shown the Doctor's preparations.

I have already written to the editor of the *Literary Gazette*, to give the most unqualified contradiction to the paragraph which appeared in that journal.

With respect to the statement in *THE LANCET*, so far as it asserts that I made any admission in favour of Dr. Lee's peculiar views, it is altogether in error; and the charge against me, of not knowing a great nerve "known to Galen," affects me so little, that I do not think it worthy of contradiction.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

New-street, Spring-gardens, May, 1846.

R. B. TODD.

[We would tell Dr. Todd that no "personal feeling" has influenced us in what has transpired relative to the Royal Society. Dr. Todd might very appropriately have held a higher view of the matter than this. Personal injustice is bad enough, but it is not *persons*, so much as the sciences of anatomy, and physiology, which have been wounded by the transactions in which he has borne so prominent a part; and certainly his dignity is not so pre-eminent, but that he might stoop to contradict the assertion that he did not know the hypogastric nerve when it was shown to him—if the assertion could, indeed, with truth, be contradicted?—Ed. L.]

THE MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

(NOTE FROM MR. DAVIS, OF HAMPSTEAD.)

To the Editor of *THE LANCET*.

SIR,—I think it a duty I owe the medical public, as well as myself, to correct your report of April 25, of what I said at the meeting of the National Association of General Practi-

tioners in Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery, held at the Hanover-Square Rooms. It may be immaterial what I did say, but not so that which I did not say, being calculated to mislead. My friend, Mr. Downing, was a staff-surgeon, and refused to do medical duty; therefore I attended 210 (not one) patients for him, to prevent a court-martial. It was of surgeons only I spoke, and not of physicians. They never wronged me, or other old members of the College of Surgeons. We never were physicians. But if we had run their prescribed curriculum, and become fellows or licentiates of their body, as we did that of surgeons, and become members thereof, we should have been protected in our "rights, privileges, and immunities." They would have rendered unto Cæsar the things which were Cæsar's; and no minister of state, or wily surgeon "extraordinary," with the same diploma as ourselves, could have robbed us of our title to equal rank by an *ex post facto* law; but any new thing, misnamed a charter, would have honestly run thus—"From and after the date hereof, be it enacted," &c. &c., securing equal rank to those in possession, with the exception only of those who had rendered themselves unworthy of it. *Verbum sat sapienti*. Although it may be unimportant to those of my age and standing in the profession, what is done or left undone by the "powers that be," perhaps you may insert this, and oblige, your obedient servant,

Hampstead, May, 1846.

THOMAS DAVIS.

NON-QUALIFIED VISITING ASSISTANTS.

To the Editor of *THE LANCET*.

SIR,—As I wish you every success in your crusade against quackery, I trust you will kindly excuse my directing your attention to the most grievous intra-professional nuisance of this description in existence. To the best of my knowledge, it has not even been hinted at by any journal, hitherto, and the only reason I can give for the oversight is, that nine out of ten medical practitioners are daily countenancing the fraud. I allude to the employment of non-qualified visiting assistants.

A medical man, perhaps already in good private practice, is appointed surgeon to an Union at 100*l.* per annum, or any other sum he may engage to attend the poor for. He knows he cannot attend to his private patients and Union patients likewise; he therefore hires an assistant, who, for 25*l.* or 30*l.* a year, visits and prescribes for nine-tenths of the paupers, and, moreover, attends midwifery cases, although he may never have even seen a human uterus, much less have studied the minute and relative anatomy of the organ.

The poor people have no alternative; the Union surgeon must be employed, and other private practitioners are shut out from this source of information, unless they attend gratuitously. In this manner is the profession stocked with quacks, by the profession; your bonesetters, midwives, *et hoc genus omne*, may frequently be traced to this source. If a man can, without the qualification that appears to be so much insisted upon, visit and prescribe for one hundred paupers, why may he not do the same for a hundred noblemen or squires?

Yours, &c.

SCALPEL.

THE WATERS OF VERNET, (PYRENEES),

AND THE MODE OF THEIR APPLICATION IN THE TREATMENT OF DISEASE.

In an establishment at Vernet, the waters from hot sulphurous springs are conveyed through open pipes, so as to maintain the temperature constantly at sixty degrees. A correspondent states, that both the equable temperature and the medicated atmosphere have been found beneficial to phthisical patients. His remarks on this subject are,—

"Every one knows that the hydro-sulphuric waters are most useful in all chronic affections of the lungs. The reputation of the Eaux Bonnes (Pyrenees) in all cases of this kind is very well known. But how are these waters generally employed? In baths—or they are more usually drunk. The waters of the Eaux Bonnes can only be administered in these modes, on account of their low temperature. If sulphurous waters are found so useful in all cases of chronic pulmonary affections, applied only to the skin, or introduced into the digestive tube, how efficacious ought they not to be when they are brought into immediate contact with the very organs affected—when, in a word, they penetrate into the remotest ramifications of the air-vessels. All medical practitioners have acknowledged the importance of immediate direct action, and very many of them have imagined ways in which pulmonary patients may be enabled to breathe a medicated air. In order