quick depressed pulse, with a tendency rather to stupor than violent perturbation accompany all, and, if not relieved, terminate in delirium, languor, clammy sweats, and death."

I remain, Sir, yours, &c., much obliged,
B. HART,
Surgeon and Zoatrist.

April 9, 1831.

MEDICAL FEES IN DUBLIN.—REAL CAUSE
OF PROFESSIONAL DISTRESS IN THAT
CAPITAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—With reference to a letter signed "A Young Practitioner," which appears in the last number of your valuable LANCET, I take leave to observe that the remedy of lowering the fee to five shillings a visit for medical or surgical attendance, would not only not answer the object proposed, but tend to lower the medical profession in the eyes of the public. If "A Young Practitioner" had any share of practice he would know that many of the juniors, his contemporaries, are actively and profitably engaged in practice, and through the very means that he calls for; namely, by taking a smaller remuneration than they are entitled to by the custom of society, or than is given to their seniors; but this is not, thank God, done in the way proposed, by five-shilling visits. Another, and a more honourable mode, both to practitioner and patient, is resorted to; that is, the latter, where his means will not allow of greater generosity, fees his physician or surgeon every second, third, or fourth visit, as is most convenient to him, *but only in paper or gold*. Away then with the mean and base practice of a nominal five-shilling visit, the gentleman who has broached it might as well have come down to the Dutch or Spanish fee of a stiver or a pistner. It is not a regulation of fees we want in Dublin, but a correction of that corrupt and oppressive, that cruel and heartless, system of nepotism and favouritism which renders rotten to the core our public hospitals and institutions, and does all it can to crush honesty, independence, and talent, unless it happen to be of the dominant faction.

To call a meeting of the profession throughout Ireland to assemble in Dublin to take into consideration the best means of exposing to the world the execrable, flagitious, corrupt, and exclusive by-laws and trickery of the two Corporations of Physicians and Surgeons' Colleges in this city, would be a much more feasible and useful plan than entering into a discussion on fees.

It is scarcely to be credited, yet it is notoriously the fact, that a member of the Colleges of Surgeons of London or Edinburgh is excluded from the appointment to a county infirmary in Ireland, although eligible in any other part of the King's dominions! Nor is a member of the Dublin College, allowed by an infamous by-law of his College, to meet a member of another college in consultation, under a penalty of fine or expulsion. Can, or should, such a system last much longer? Forbid it Heaven! The day of reform and retribution is at hand, thanks to the aid of your excellent LANCET, which, I trust, with the co-operation of our worthy friend "Erinensis," will again take the field against the Dublin hydras.

To return to your correspondent, "A Young Practitioner," I can assure him and others similarly situated, that unless they have other means of support they had better make a hasty retreat from the medical profession before grim starvation comes on them while they are under the expectancy of practice; for it is notorious that the medical and surgical profession is *ten times* over done in Ireland; and the common observation is, that there are more doctors and surgeons in Dublin than patients. Every petty trader or mechanic must make his son a doctor or a surgeon. The thing will cure itself. Yours, dear Sir,
AN OBSERVER.

April, 1831.

SIZE OF THE SANGUINEOUS PARTICLES IN
THE FŒTUS AND IN MATURE AGE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It has lately occurred to me to observe a remarkable peculiarity in the blood of the fœtus, and of animals in the early stages of life, of which I cannot find any previous notice to have been taken. It relates to the *size of the sanguineous particles*. If the blood of an animal *in utero* be examined microscopically, and compared with that of the mother, the fœtal particles will be found much larger than the maternal—considerably so in the first stages of gestation; and as the ovum increases in size, the particles diminish, nor do they obtain their permanent dimensions till some time after birth.

If these facts have not been disposed of before, and you think them interesting, I shall be much obliged by your giving them a place in your Journal, and shall be happy to supply you in a future communication, with further particulars and observations on the subject. I remain yours, &c.,

H. PEACOCK.

18, Salisbury-sq., Fleet-st.,
May 9, 1831.