individual schools—that is, the teachers will not examine their own students. Moreover, the examination held at the schools will be controlled by the Faculty and the Academic Council—i.e., by the teachers at the constituent colleges.

The President of the Board of Education has clearly indicated that when a Bill has been submitted by the Departmental Committee at present sitting, the Bill will be made a Government measure, and will presumably be backed by the present Coalition majority. It may then be asked: "What is the use of kicking against the pricks?" and it may be questioned whether the present Faculty of Medicine can do anything to save the situation. I believe that it can, but not without combination with other faculties and not without exerting itself to the utmost.

There is a proposal now being discussed in other faculties, and notably in the Faculties of Arts and Science, by which, if the Report of the Commission is pushed, certain modifications may be obtained which will remedy to some degree the more glaring injustices of the changes recommended by the Report. My chief purpose in writing this letter is to lay before your readers the modification suggested. To put it as briefly as possible, the present Medical Faculty is urged to demand that the privilege of reporting direct to the Senate through the special committee to be appointed by that body, which I have called the "Scholastic Council," shall be retained permanently, and shall not be given up, as the Report suggests, when the new Faculty of Medicine comes to be constituted.

The effect of this modification will best be understood by reference to the diagram. Scheme I. represents the proposal of the Commissioners, which will come into operation as soon as a constituent college, and thereby the new Faculty, comes into being. By this scheme any report from the Board of Studies must be submitted to the Faculty, and this report follows the course indicated by the arrows in the diagram until the instructions of the Senate come back to the Board of Studies *via* the "Scholastic Council." As the "control of the teaching and examining work of the University should as far as possible rest with the faculties" and "only the control of finance and administration business rest with the Senate" it is obvious that in most cases affecting the schools the Senate will do little more than transmit the judgments passed by the Faculty and Academic Council. It is surely unjust to require that "the principal teachers in the Schools" shall have to submit in all their arrangements for teaching and examining their own students to revision by a body of competing teachers of no higher status than themselves, but who happen to be teachers in a constituent college. The scheme marked II. represents on the side marked schools the procedure which the Commission recommends as provisional until the new Faculty is established. By this scheme the schools have direct access to the Senate *via* the "Scholastic Council," and the proposal to which I am inviting the attention of the present Faculty is that when the constituent college and the new Faculty make their appearance the affairs of the constituent college shall be managed by the Faculty and Academic Council (subject to the final authority of the Senate), and the affairs of the schools shall be managed by the Board of Studies and the Scholastic Council, which should be strengthened by representation from the schools in the same measure as the colleges are represented on the Academic Council. The Scholastic Council will

be to the same degree under the authority of the Senate, and this Council should have the same representation on the Senate as the Report concedes to the Academic Council. The subordination of the schools to the colleges which is contemplated in the Report thus disappears. If it is thought advisable to have contact between the schools and colleges, this might be arranged by the common session of the committees of the Faculty and of the Board of Studies (indicated in the diagram by the double pointed arrow B). This would mean an inter-

DIAGRAMS.

(I)

(II)

change of views on an equal basis, and the common outlook thus obtained would usefully lighten both the parent bodies to which these committees report. If it be objected—and the objection has been made—that this is to separate the colleges and the schools into watertight compartments, the answer is that the Commission has so decreed it—"Tu l'as voulu, Georges Dandin"—and it is useless to attempt to override their Report. All that can be done, if, indeed, that little is possible, is to correct the most obvious inequalities; and I repeat that it is only by concerted action by as many faculties as may be practicable that even this may be achieved.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

E. GRAHAM LITTLE,

Member of the Senate of the University of London;
Member of the Board of the Faculty of Medicine.

Wimpole-street, W., Dec 1st, 1913.

THE PATHOLOGY OF YELLOW FEVER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I would like to bring to your notice the results of some investigations by Dr. J. W. Scott Macfie and myself at the Medical Research Institute, Lagos, during a small outbreak of yellow fever that commenced in May of this year. We had the opportunity of examining very many blood films from infected patients and of carrying out experimental inoculation of animals.

In the course of our observations we discovered in the red cells small parasitic bodies which proved to be identical with the *paraplasma flavigenum* described by Seidelin in Vol I. of the "Yellow Fever Bureau Bulletin." These proved, on further experience, to be fairly numerous in the blood; moreover,

we found them in practically every definite case of yellow fever that we examined, and we are confident that they are of very great service in the correct diagnosis of the disease. The paraplasmata bodies were found to be present for several days—in one case for 12—and we succeeded in infecting guinea-pigs as late as the eighth day, facts that would tend to invalidate the usually ascribed period of infectivity of three days.

In our animal experiments we were most successful with guinea-pigs, though we also succeeded in infecting dogs and white rats—the latter specially imported from England—and we also infected guinea-pigs on subinoculation. As a result of inoculation the animals showed paraplasmata flavigenum in the blood, and in the case of most of the guinea-pigs a very definite rise of temperature of 1.5° to 2° or more, lasting for several days. The white rats showed a modified reaction of shorter duration, the dogs no febrile rise whatever, though most of the dogs showed paraplasmata in their blood. We also examined several stray dogs brought to us, and in two of them we found very similar bodies—a point that may prove to be of importance in the spread of the disease. The blood of several fowls proved to be entirely negative.

These results, as tending to a more rapid and more certain diagnosis, increase in importance when one considers the very fatal nature of the disease when attacking Europeans and the great natural difficulties met with in dealing effectively with an outbreak in a country such as Southern Nigeria.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

J. E. L. JOHNSTON,

Bude, Cornwall, Nov. 30th, 1913.

West African Medical Staff.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As honorary secretary of the Society of Members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, which society was responsible for preparing and issuing the letter to which Mr. Brudenell Carter refers in your issue of Nov. 22nd, I feel sure that, in view of your journal's motto, "Audi alteram partem," you will allow me to answer his would-be searching criticism.

The letter accurately described the condition of Mr. Carter as a *Member* and not as a *Fellow*; to him as a *Member* the letter was sent. Mr. Carter is probably unaware that by Clause 6 of the charter of 1843, which filched from the Members some of their ancient rights, every Fellow must also be a Member of the College. It is only inasmuch as he is a Member that Mr. Carter has any legal interest in the property of the College, which (by ancient charter) is vested in the Members only.

We must, as Sir Rickman Godlee says in THE LANCET of Nov. 22nd (p. 1444, col. 2, line 8), "emancipate ourselves from the superstitions and traditions of our elders." He also says on p. 1447 that the examinations the would-be M.R.C.S. has to pass are recognised as being "models of fairness and thoroughness, and are specially distinguished by their practical character," and might be the pattern for State examinations in a single portal system.

The last statement of Mr. Carter's letter is not only insolent but untrue, as we are all aware that lack of money on the part of a student or his parents to pay for the extended time of study

required has often been the only impediment to a youth of ability taking his Fellowship shortly after his becoming a Member of the College.

In the recent congratulatory address from the English to the American College of Surgeons it is stated: "We cannot forget the important advances in the science and art of surgery achieved by many distinguished surgeons in the continent of America during the past"; and these advances have not been achieved by Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

My society does not propose, as your correspondent alleges, to transfer the government of the College from the Fellows to the Members, but it only asks for a small number of persons elected by the Members to be joined to the present Council of 24 Fellows; the Members might elect as their direct representatives other Fellows who are worthy of their confidence.

The charter of 1800, which constituted the College of Surgeons in its original form, stated that "the establishment of a College of Surgeons will be expedient for the due promotion and encouragement of the study and practice of the art and science of surgery"—i.e., as a whole and not specially for the encouragement of major operations at the hands of Fellows. Indeed, it did not sanction the creation of Fellows at all, but it was left to the charter of 1843 to permit the wholesale translation of 542 Members into Fellows without any qualifying examinations whatever.

The objects of the Society of Members are—

(A) To arouse and maintain among Members of the R.C.S. Eng. a permanent interest in their College, by obtaining for them a share in its management.

(B) To promote an amendment of the charters of the College which shall permit the Members to take part in the election of the governing body.

(C) While seeking primarily to further the interests of Members, to coöperate with the Fellows in obtaining such reforms as are possible under the present charters.

(D) Generally to promote the true welfare of the corporation by bringing the Council, Fellows, and Members into harmonious action.

All sensible persons will admit that these principles contain nothing the acceptance of which is derogatory to the dignity of the College or inimical to the interests of the Fellows. Therefore many Fellows subscribe annually to the funds of the society, and at the annual meeting in Lincoln's Inn Fields, progressive and distinguished Fellows speak and vote in favour of the direct representation of Members on the Council. In or about 1903, at a meeting exclusively composed of Fellows, this resolution was passed by an overwhelming majority: "That it is desirable to give Members a direct representation on the Council."

Finally, I would remind Mr. Carter of the admonition (centuries old) of Sir Thomas Vicary, first Master of the Barber-Surgeons' Company: "Despise no other chirurgeon without a great cause; for it is meete that one chirurgeon should love another, as Christ loveth us all."

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

SIDNEY C. LAWRENCE.

22, Latymer-road, Lower Edmonton, N., Dec. 1st, 1913.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Mr. R. Brudenell Carter's suggestion in THE LANCET of Nov. 22nd that the claim of Members to a voice in the governance of their own College, of which they are by law an actual part of the body corporate, would if granted be highly prejudicial, shows, I submit, a peculiar trend of mind