

Royal College of Surgeons. The experience of years had shown them that the best course to be adopted was the one at present proposed, and there was no fear that the general practitioner would, when both his *status* and his information were increased, turn away from his present duties as not deserving of his attention.

Dr. WEBSTER pressed Sir G. Grey to give some information as to the intention of the Government on this matter.

Sir G. GREY replied that at present he was unable to comply with that request.

The deputation then withdrew.

A second deputation of medical gentlemen, proposing a modification of the Charter of the College of Surgeons, waited upon the Home Secretary as soon as the first had withdrawn.

MEDICAL REFORM.—MEMORIAL FROM REIGATE.

To the Right Honourable Sir George Grey, Bart., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The Memorial of the undersigned, members of the Medical Profession, residing and practising at, and in, the neighbourhood of Reigate,

Showeth,—That the circumstances attending the present uneasy and unsettled state of the medical profession having been repeatedly offered to the serious attention of her Majesty's Government, your memorialists will content themselves, on this occasion, with submitting, in concise terms, the following considerations, founded on facts.

That a vast majority of the profession, the general practitioners, from the absence of any bond of union, or any legally authorized executive to represent them, have for many years past been placed in a position of the greatest embarrassment and humiliation. That owing to this radical defect, and the want of any sufficiently influencing power with the executives of the existing medical incorporations, they have hitherto been unable to obtain a recognition of their claims to corporate rights and privileges; or protection from illegal and unprofessional practice:—privileges which they believe to be essential to the public welfare, as well as to the good of the profession.

Your memorialists, therefore, most respectfully request that her Majesty may be advised, forthwith, to grant a Royal Charter for the foundation of a new and independent Royal College, incorporating, in the first instance, those individuals at present practising as practitioners of medicine, surgery, and midwifery, with a representative government, and equal rights and privileges for all its members; giving authority to regulate the education, and to test by examination in every branch of medicine and surgery, all future candidates for its membership.

And, furthermore, that her Majesty's Government may be induced to frame, and carry through parliament, with as little delay as possible, a medical reform bill, containing provisions calculated to give effect to the new incorporation of those engaged in the general practice of medicine, surgery, and midwifery, throughout the country.

JOHN STEELE, Surgeon, &c.; PETER MARTIN; EDWARD BOULGER, Blechingley; WILLIAM HEN. SARGANT, Blechingley; WILLIAM THOMAS SARGANT; THOMAS SMITH, Crawley; ANDREW SISSON, Surgeon; HENRY HARRIS; THOMAS MARTIN.

Correspondence.

“Audi alteram partem.”

THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you accept the thanks of a graduate of the University of London, in common with those of many of his colleagues, for the interest which you have shown at various times in the well-being of our institution? Will you, at the same time, pardon me for asking your attention to the present posture of affairs in connexion with it. Some of the graduates, very irregularly represented, and led by a committee, are running counter to the proceedings and views of the senate. If this system be persisted in, the end will be, that the senate, who have hitherto acted so ably, will be disgusted, and perhaps driven to throw up their connexion with us. The parties engaged in this business are chiefly lawyers, who do not desire

better amusement than discovering imaginary grievances, as themes on which they can display their eloquence. On looking to the composition of this committee, I find, that amongst those who represent the faculty of arts and law, there are twelve men from University College to two from King's College, and there is not one from any other institution. I see the names of some respectable medical graduates on this committee, but I rarely see them at our meetings, and as there were not more than two or three of them at our dinner, they seem to care little about the matter. In common with others, I feel that a hint or two from you would direct the attention of the medical graduates to the subject, and we have confidence in their discretion. However, Sir, your kind notice of the matter, or perhaps your insertion of this note, may have a good effect.

Your obedient servant,

M.B. LOND.

* * Our correspondent will perceive that the subject to which he refers has not escaped our notice.—ED. L.

CASE OF PUERPERAL CONVULSIONS TREATED SUCCESSFULLY BY COPIOUS DEPLETIONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Seeing that some of the statements made by my friend Mr. Langley, in the case of Puerperal Convulsions, reported in your journal of the 27th ult., have been called in question, I beg to state that, having myself been present during a great part of the treatment of the case, I can fully bear evidence to the accuracy of Mr. Langley's statements. Apologizing for my intrusion on your space,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

High-street, Camden-town.

G. WEATHERS, M.R.C.S.

THE HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION, AND THE CURABILITY OF CONSUMPTION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The first Medical Report of the Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest has doubtless been received with interest by the profession, and I confess that I took it up in the hope that the experience of an institution, admitting on an average 1650 patients *per annum*, would afford satisfactory evidence of the curability of the disease. In this, however, I have been disappointed, for on referring to Table xxvii., which exhibits the results of the treatment of 535 individuals, classified according to age, sex, and the stage of the disease, not a single case of recovery is recorded; nay, as if under a fatal prognostication, there is not even a column allotted to cases cured. The greatest amount of benefit achieved would appear to consist in the disease having been, as the report states, in some cases “*arrested*,” and in others, “*much relieved*,” the term “*arrested*” signifying that all the symptoms of the disease had disappeared, and that the patients, feeling themselves well, had returned to their usual occupations; the term “*much relieved*” signifying the removal of the principal symptoms, the health of the patient still remaining delicate: under this classification, out of 535 in-patients, only twenty-three appear to have had the disease arrested, while 133 were “*much relieved*,” that is to say, the disease was arrested in only six per cent., and relieved in nearly twenty-five per cent. The treatment, therefore, at the Consumption Hospital, may be characterized as affording only partial and temporary relief, and as eminently unsuccessful, so far as the cure of the disease is concerned. Whence, may I ask, does this arise? No doubt the medical officers of the institution prescribe with skill and judgment the various medicines applicable to the different stages of the disease; but it appears to me,—and I speak after having for years made this branch of my profession my almost exclusive study, and having the advantage of extensive practice in it,—that they underrate the good effects and efficacy of inhalation, or, perhaps, they do not apply it in the most correct manner. “*Inhalations*,” says the report, “*have been tried under a variety of circumstances, and with signal benefit to some of the distressing symptoms, such as cough and difficulty of breathing*.” Now I do not consider the alleviation of cough and difficulty of breathing to be the most important and only ends to be aimed at, notwithstanding the relief the patient may thereby receive; we may alleviate with great advantage distressing symptoms, but we must not limit our practice to mere symptomatology, but proceed upon pathological principles to attack the seat of the disease. If tubercular cavities exist, the object of treatment is obviously to produce their cicatrization. How is this to be effected? By enlarging the volume of the lungs, namely, by distending the air cells,