

tice of medicine and surgery, would now form the subjects of study, and having made some progress in that of anatomy, &c., he would be in a condition to profit from attendance upon the sick, in company with his master. He ought not, however, to be permitted himself to undertake the treatment of disease until he has obtained a licence to practise. The culpable custom of committing the health and lives of the suffering poor to the charge of uninstructed apprentices has a powerful tendency to bring odium upon our useful craft, and to countenance a vulgar and prevalent erroneous notion, that persons who have had opportunities of seeing much practice must, on that account, be proportionately skilful. What useful knowledge, I would ask, does a pupil of six-months' standing gain by visiting the sick and prescribing for them? Ignorant of anatomy and the functions of organised structures, is it rational to regard him as competent to rectify their derangements, or afford effectual aid to suffering humanity? Will he learn more by his professional attendance than the friends of the patient, or so much as the observant and useful nurse? He may witness, 'tis true, the death-struggle of the victim of disease, and thus become familiar with the marks of approaching dissolution, but, assuredly, he will fail to deliver him from the jaws of death. Let us then begin by reforming our educational system, requiring, as a *conditio sine qua non*, that all who enter the medical profession shall previously have received a good general education; and that all students shall pursue such a well ordered course of medical instruction, during their pupilage, as may appear best calculated to insure the acquirement of the greatest possible amount of accurate medical knowledge in a given period. Then may we hope to see a phalanx of able men, worthy the name of medical philosophers, sufficient to satisfy the wants of the public, and to banish from society the host of quacks, whether designated by the names of pill-mongers, or homœopathists, or otherpathists, who now fatten upon the public credulity, to the great pecuniary loss of the legitimate professors of the healing art. I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

PHILANTHROPOS.

Feb. 8, 1843.

LIVERPOOL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Every one who has the sound education of the members of our profession at heart must be delighted with the manner in which you have ever advocated the rights of medical students, and the boldness and determination with which you have exposed the non-fulfilment of the engagements entered

into with them by the medical officers of the metropolitan schools and hospitals; but I am afraid the evil extends much further; and if this town (where there is every requisite for an excellent school) may be taken as a specimen, certainly the provincials stand in need, even more than the metropolitans, of your corrective rod. The number of pupils here has, by mismanagement, wofully diminished, there being now studying anatomy only about fourteen; chemistry, four; surgery, three; medicine, three; materia medica, two; midwifery, one. But it is the anatomical department, the most important in a school, the one with which students are most in contact, and the good or bad conducting of which must consequently have so much influence in creating in them enthusiasm on the one hand, or apathy and disgust on the other, which is here in the worst condition. Subjects may here be very readily obtained, yet the dissection of the third one is not yet completed. The demonstrator attempts a half-hour's lecture in the evening; during the day he is scarcely ever in the dissecting-room, and never there at any specified hour, or to instruct the pupils, or facilitate their progress. There is a very good collection of anatomical preparations, but no pupil has access to them; they are locked up; they cannot even be seen through glass.

At that splendid institution, the Liverpool Infirmary, the prospectus states that the fees of twenty and forty guineas "include clinical lectures on medicine and surgery," yet not one is ever delivered!

I trust that some of your correspondents will inform us how these things are done in other provincial towns, and that you will give us the benefit of your helping hand. All the pupils here are disgusted. I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

X. Y. Z.

Liverpool, Jan. 28, 1843.

CONCLUSION OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE APOTHECARIES' COMPANY AT DUDLEY.

To the Editor.—Sir: Having taken upon myself to communicate to you, in your editorial capacity, the proceedings of the APOTHECARIES' COMPANY *versus* LLOYD, I resume my functions, and have the satisfaction of handing you a *literal* transcript of the three last official communications of the secretary to our society, which you will oblige me by publishing in an early number of THE LANCET. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. THOMPSON.

Dudley, Feb. 11, 1843.

"Apothecaries' Hall, May 23, 1842.

"Sir,—The letter of the 17th inst., addressed to Mr. Blatch, bearing the signature

of yourself and several medical practitioners of Dudley, has been placed in my hands as the law officer of the society.

"The society will willingly co-operate with yourself and your medical brethren in checking the practice of the individual referred to, if he should prove to be unqualified. I have addressed him a letter on the subject of his practice, and *if it should fail to induce him to relinquish his practice as an apothecary until he is qualified, the society will take such further steps as the circumstances of the case may require.* To enable the society to interfere further it is necessary that they should be furnished with evidence of Mr. Lloyd's practice.* What that evidence must be will be found on a perusal of the enclosed circular. Upon evidence being furnished the society will instruct an agent on the spot to complete the case by the examination of witnesses. I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

"ROBERT UPTON, Clerk to the Society."

"Apothecaries' Hall, Oct. 21, 1842.

"Sir,—The society having given directions at the last meeting of their committee *that proceedings should be instituted against Mr. Lloyd*, if the evidence which may be obtained should warrant such proceeding, I shall be obliged by your suggesting the name of a solicitor of respectability, at Dudley, who would be willing to act upon the society's instructions in examining witnesses *in proof of Mr. Lloyd's practice.* You are probably aware that the cause, if it should proceed to trial, can only be tried at the assizes. I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

"ROBERT UPTON."

"Apothecaries' Hall, Jan. 5, 1843.

"Your letter of the 22nd of Oct., in reply to mine of the previous day, was received, and I am obliged by your recommendation of Mr. William Fellowes. The reason of the society not having communicated with that gentleman has been that *they have been in correspondence with Mr. Richard Lloyd* on the subject of his qualification to practise as an apothecary.

"*It is not the province of this society to pronounce, authoritatively, on the legal qualification of an individual to practise as an apothecary, nor are they to be understood as deciding upon that point in the present instance.* I am directed, however, to inform you that after considering the evidence which has been adduced by Mr. Lloyd in proof of his having practised as an apothecary prior to the 1st of August, 1815, the society do not feel themselves called upon to institute proceedings against him for the recovery of penalties on the ground of his having practised as an apothecary *without legal qualification.*

* This has been done.—J. T.

"I have to request that you will be good enough to communicate the contents of this letter to the gentlemen whose signatures are, with your own, attached to the letter to the society of the 17th May last. I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

"ROBERT UPTON."

Favete-plaudite.—So ends this farce, and the soi-disant M.R.C.S.'s may persist in practising with impunity, in personally insulting and threatening with violence the resident members of the profession, and in interfering in their attendance on patients, and vilifying and libelling their characters; and this upon such evidence as, in the case of Mr. Lloyd, amounted to a communication from a schoolmaster at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, that *he*, the schoolmaster, was attended by Lloyd in 1814! Lloyd has recently established a manufactory for shaving-soap, which he retails at one shilling per pot, or at ninepence, if you "find your own pot."

J T.

[Since the above communication was sent to press the following note has been sent to us by our correspondent, Mr. Thompson] :—

Feb. 13.—I beg to enclose to you one of the hand-bills of Mr. Lloyd, which I have only just obtained, and to add that he has resigned his claims to professional employment to his son, Reuben Lloyd, an unqualified scion, who practises uninterruptedly, and hesitates not to make out his bills without availing himself of the subterfuge of his father's name. That the authorities at Apothecaries' Hall will pay their respects to the son is little to be expected. Indeed, so small is the reliance of the profession in this part of the county upon the worshipful company, that the qualified practitioners of West Bromwich have subscribed their small savings to prosecute an unlicensed "Macbride," because "the society" either cannot or will not take that duty upon themselves.

The hand-bill commences and runs on thus :—

"Lloyd and Co.'s Royal Albert Shaving Composition, for ease, convenience, and comfort in shaving, 1s. the pot, in squares 9d. Sixpenny-worth of the composition is the least that can be supplied. It instantly yields a delightful, adhesive, lasting, and substantial lather," &c. &c.

DR. WILLIAMS' EXPERIMENTS

ON

PATIENTS AT ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

To the Editor.—Sir: With astonishment I have read in a recent number of THE LANCET (page 628), an account—short, but startling—of a series of experiments on "possible remedies in phthisis," performed