

now learn that a proclamation has been agreed to by the Privy Council, at the suggestion of the Board of Health to which the conservation of the public safety has been so recklessly entrusted, which will appear in to-morrow's *Gazette*. We write on Thursday. We cannot possibly therefore at present acquaint our readers with the nature of its contents, but in our next LANCET the precautionary directions shall receive our best attention.

Thus, despite the most perfect and vigilant cordon that military despotism ever created, this disorder has forced its way in every direction. Vienna has for the last month been the theatre of the pestilence; still further to the north-west, Berlin became affected almost at the same time with Vienna, and now Altona, Hamburg, and other towns and cities on the Elbe, between Berlin and the North Sea, have become consecutively affected in the order of their proximity to the Prussian capital.

Meanwhile, let us express our indignation, that of all the capitals of Europe, London should be the only one which has permitted the pestilence to knock at its very gates before any efficient hygienic measures were adopted towards the removal of the general causes of insalubrity of which every great city is so abundantly prolific.

Our journal has lately contained abundant information from various quarters on the subject of the cholera, but to one series of articles with which we have presented the public we would for a moment advert. We allude to the papers of our correspondent "ALPHA," whose views we would warn our readers to regard with some degree of caution, while we fully admit the *ingenuity* of the arguments he brings forward.

We perceive by a paragraph in the newspapers, which has probably been put forth by some exceedingly active and diligent member of the London Board of Health who is anxious to prove to the public that he and his co-adjutors are doing "some-

thing" for the five hundred pounds a-year which Sir Henry Halford has procured for them,—that the Board intend to recommend that such places as may be attacked in this country should be isolated from the rest of the community. Sagacious legislators, who cannot prevent the cholera from traversing the ocean, yet can keep it from penetrating a hedge, or crossing a field! Have the "Board" of Health,—we ask the question emphatically—made themselves acquainted with the results of the *dispersion* of the population of Tefis? If they have not, they deserve the bitter reproaches of every friend of humanity and science.

LONDON COLLEGE OF MEDICINE.

WHEN the Committee of this College decided that it was expedient to postpone the General Convocation in consequence of the agitated state of the public mind, arising from the excitement produced by the unsettled state of the question of Parliamentary Reform, persons were not wanting to condemn such a proceeding as injurious to the best interests of the institution. The Committee, however, took a comprehensive view of the subject, and, acting under the influence of a responsibility from the weight of which they have not once flinched, resolved unanimously that it would be unwise to hold a convocation at a time when it would be impossible to discuss, with the least degree of satisfaction, the most important proposition which could be brought under the consideration of the Fellows. We, of course, refer to an application for a charter, or for an Act of Parliament. For ourselves, we confess that we were most anxious for the postponement, and urged the propriety of such a step with zeal, if not with force of argument; for apprehending, as we did, that the Reform Bill would be rejected by the Lords, we were

not without our fears of what might be the situation of the College, if there were founded a proposition for a most important proceeding, upon a supposition which might never be matured into the reality of fact. The advantages arising from this calm deliberation of the subject, are now very apparent, and highly satisfactory. The road is clear before us, and we have not to found our hopes of prosperity upon any contingency, however probable. The Reform Bill is lost, but the College is not. The wishes of the nation are thwarted with respect to political reform, but the wishes of the profession are in rapid progress towards attainment, through the every-day increasing success of this College. Let us, however, not be misunderstood. We do not undervalue *political* reform with respect to its influence in accelerating the progress of *medical* reform; on the contrary, we have ever contended that the renovation, if not the harmonious union, of medical laws, would be a speedy and certain result of a reform in Parliament, but at the same time we have ever declared, that the members of the medical profession, by *exerting* themselves in the proper direction would be able to secure the interests of themselves and their brethren without even the assistance of legislative sanction. United, however, into one body under the just and equal laws of such a College, what senate could resist their appeal for an act of incorporation, or what Privy Council could reject their prayer for a chartered privilege? If, indeed, the pecuniary interest of the boroughmongers led them to believe that they might suffer a trifling loss by giving legal power to such an Institution, then truly we might look forward to success with but a cheerless spirit. But the Parliament and Monarch are not under the control of such a bigoted and mercenary band. The chains of Tory despotism are broken, never more to be united, and within a few years the whole of our institutions, as well as our

laws, will be founded and constructed upon strictly liberal principles.

Reform, effectual Parliamentary Reform, is near at hand, for the people, alive as they are to the sufferings which they have endured from the non-enjoyment of the right to elect their representatives, will not longer bear the grinding miseries and iniquities of the old flinty-hearted system of Toryism. Nor does evening follow morning with more certainty than a Radical *Medical* Reform will immediately follow effectual Parliamentary Reform. In the meantime, the friends of medical freedom must not remain inactive, and while the nation is struggling against a factious *junto* of boroughmongers, medical reformers must summon all their energies to oppose the factious and monopolizing BATS. But the LONDON COLLEGE OF MEDICINE is so bottomed, so based upon just principles, so firmly fixed upon the rock of truth and equity, that it would flourish in any country where medical science is cultivated, even if that country knew not the tripartite institution of King, Lords, and Commons. The principles of the College are literally unassailable. Take them politically, take them scientifically, they still resist the impression of calumny, they still defy misrepresentation, they still court scrutiny. Even the hired assassins of character, the common, the dirty SLAVES of a still dirtier venal faction, are dismayed and overawed by the mighty power arrayed against them when they raise the hand to deface the bright front of this noble Institution. The miserable hirelings proceed like reptiles to their filthy and infamous task of defamation, and shrink from the slightest encounter with justice in this her fairest monument, dedicated to the science of medicine. What can be more gratifying to the founders of this College than the bare mention of the fact that no anti-medical reformers have ever dared to question the excellence of the principles upon which this College is founded.

Suffering from an overcharge of malignant feeling, and anxious that misrepresentation and falsehood may effect what argument cannot reach, the discomfited host of BATS and corruptionists allege, we hear, that the institution is abandoned! If the public knew not these men and their characters, such reports, if widely spread, might prove injurious, for a time at least, to the cause of medical reform. But what are the facts? Gentlemen of the highest respectability from all parts of Great Britain and Ireland—gentlemen also belonging to the highest departments of the army and navy, have become Fellows;—the College has no debts;—the Treasurer, Mr. BARNETT, whose zeal and ability cannot be too highly commended, possesses ample funds to meet all coming expenses;—the “Eleemosynary Fund,” a source of hope to the widow and orphan, is steadily augmenting;—not a week elapses without bringing with it the applications of new candidates for the fellowship, and the entire affairs of the institution present one cloudless prospect of success.

From amongst many other communications of a similar character, we select the following, as well showing how even the ordinary spirit of rivalry sinks into obliviousness, when the members of the profession reflect upon what may be the vast advantages to medical science from affording support to such an institution as the LONDON COLLEGE OF MEDICINE; nor are they insensible to the high honour which such a circumstance is calculated to reflect upon their reputation as lovers of science, and upon their characters as gentlemen.

“Whitby, Sept. 22, 1831.

“To the Secretary of the LONDON COLLEGE OF MEDICINE.

“SIR,—We, the undersigned medical practitioners of this town, having, through reading THE LANCET, become acquainted with the proposed plan of forming a new institution to be called the LONDON COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, and having attentively considered the subject, are united in our approbation of the same, as well as in our grateful

esteem towards Mr. WAXLEY for his meritorious exertions in promoting an institution which there is every reason to hope will effect a great and most beneficial change in almost every-thing connected with the science and practice of medicine in this country. We therefore request you to have the goodness to enrol our names as candidates for the diploma of the new College, and also as subscribers to the Eleemosynary Fund.

“The diplomas, or other testimonials, which we possess, the necessary fees, &c., shall be forwarded when required.

“We are, Sir, your obedient servants,

“RICHARD RIPLEY,

“JOHN RIPLEY,

“JOHN WILSON,

“JOHN MACFARLANE.

“PETER MACKINTOSH.”

LONDON COLLEGE OF MEDICINE.

NON-EXPULSION OF FELLOWS.—JUNIOR CANDIDATES FOR THE DIPLOMA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As I shall probably be unable to be present at the convocation, and if I could, being no orator, should be extremely likely to lose my speech, I beg, through the medium of THE LANCET, to express a few more ideas that have struck me connected with the subject of the new College. I still most pertinaciously adhere to the principle of non-expulsion, while I equally adhere to my determination to submit, with republican loyalty and submissiveness, to any regulations, however personally opposed to my private opinions, that may be agreed upon at the convocation, even though the unpalatable doctrine of expulsion should be one of them. There is another important subject alluded to by one of your correspondents, who makes the arrangements for examination a ground of disapprobation, and a reason for withholding his name from the list of medical reformers. He wishes certificates of attendances on lectures to be produced; this I totally condemn as needless. It is a farce from end to end. What lying evidences of “attendance at hospitals on lectures,” and the whole of the various processes of professional drilling, are certificates! Look at the schools of *matéria medica*, and count the empty benches from night to night! Yet the certificates of constant attendance on these lectures are as numerous and as *incredibly* attested as any others! I speak of what I know or knew when I was a student. But this, and many like truths, are well known to all who do not prudently choose to shut their eyes upon them. Here is an-