

Something must be done, or the institution will die a victim to itself—poisoned by its own sting. It must be treated as we said the Serpentine should be—it must be drained—the foul slime removed—a new foundation laid. By means like these alone can the foul atmosphere surrounding University College be purified. Until this has been done, we can conceive the difficulties which sensitive and honourable men will feel they have to surmount in associating themselves with the institution. Until these difficulties are removed, University College must remain in the third or fourth rate position into which it has so rapidly fallen—that is, if it does not go still lower. Events less likely have full often occurred.

OUR readers have learnt, from the daily press, the particulars of the trial of Mr. DROUETT, at the Central Criminal Court, for manslaughter, and his acquittal by the jury, at the direction of the judge. From the peculiar opinions respecting the value of medical evidence entertained by Mr. RECORDER LAW and Mr. JUSTICE PLATT, such a result might have been anticipated. Of these opinions we have no right to complain, as both these learned gentlemen doubtless exercise the duties of the judicial office to the best of their ability.

No one can, however, regret that such a long train of investigation has taken place. As the trial was stopped upon a merely technical point, the real merits of the case has not been decided upon. The judge pronounced, that certain evidence which had not been supplied by the prosecution, was absolutely necessary; and consequently, that the case could not proceed. The evidence required was, that it should be shown the children were not, when sent to Mr. DROUETT, in such a condition as would have rendered them liable to Asiatic cholera; but that they were reduced to this liability by the treatment they received under his care. This was the view taken by the judges. Their decision was tantamount to a judicial declaration, that death by Asiatic cholera is death by the visitation of God, altogether irrespective of starvation and over-crowding!

In regard to this particular case, as *The Times* justly remarks, everything remains precisely the same as before the trial. However, a great result has been obtained; Child-farming, like Military Flogging, is virtually abolished; and the inquest on the Tooting tragedy may take its rank side by side for importance with the inquest on the tragedy at Hounslow. The humanity of the defenceless pauper-child, as well as of the soldier under the lash, has been successfully vindicated in the face of the country.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE APPROACHING "PUBLIC DAY" OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—A correspondent suggests in the last *LANCET* the propriety of the graduates dining together on the 9th May, and requests the committee of graduates to undertake the arrangements necessary for the purpose. The committee, we are assured, will cordially respond to this suggestion, and gladly seize so favourable an opportunity of still further promoting that spirit of unanimity and friendship among their brother-graduates, which has contributed so much to advance the cause in which they are engaged.

The committee consequently propose to invite the gradu-

ates to meet them on the occasion referred to; and pending the necessary arrangements, which, when completed, will be duly communicated by advertisement or otherwise, we beg to request those gentlemen who may be disposed to support the committee on the occasion, to signify their intention to us.—We have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servants,

ROBERT BARNES, M.D. }
CHAS. J. FOSTER, M.A. } *Hon. Secs.*

April, 1849.

THE FIVE-HUNDRED-POUNDS MEDICAL REFORM FUND.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have much pleasure in adding my name to your list as a contributor of half a sovereign to the "Five-Hundred-Pounds Medical Reform Fund." Should a second subscription be required, I am also willing to aid you in your exertions for our professional welfare; but I trust that the thousands of your contributors will not oblige you to make a second call on individual subscribers. Bristol is a lamentable example of the culpable forbearance of professional men. Quacks and half-bred medical men abound in our streets, to the great injury of those who have had the industry and perseverance to go through the drudgery of attendance on the prescribed course of education. With every hope of eventual success,

I beg to remain, yours most obediently,
W. BIRD HERAPATH, M.B. Lond., &c.

One suggestion permit me to offer with respect to the working of the penal clause—that to the *police* should be given the power to lay informations, and prosecute illegal practitioners. We should then have public prosecutors, whose duty it would be to purge society of charlatans.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you please to add our names (for 10s. each) to the list of subscribers to the "Five-Hundred-Pounds Medical Reform Fund." We are, Sir, yours obediently,

M. RYAN.
Market Drayton, Salop, 1849. W. W. SAXTON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I shall be happy to add a couple of guineas to the "Medical Reform Fund" when called upon.

Faithfully yours,
Dartford, April, 1849. RICHARD TIPPETTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg you will add my name to the list of the "Five-Hundred-Pounds Fund" as a subscriber of £1 1s.

Yours most obediently,
Dartford, April, 1849. W. F. LAWRENCE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I shall feel obliged by your inserting my name as a subscriber for 10s. 6d. towards the "Reform Fund," which I trust will be a means of releasing us from the domineering system now existing.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Bath, April, 1849. JOHN AUGUSTUS LLOYD.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I shall be obliged by your inserting my name as a subscriber of half-a-guinea to the "Medical Reform Fund."

I am, Sir, truly yours,
Wrexham, N. Wales, April, 1849. J. KENRICK LEWIS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I shall be happy to contribute 10s. 6d. to the "Five-Hundred-Pounds Medical Reform Fund," and I hereby promise to pay whenever called upon.

I consider that every surgeon ought to be a thoroughly educated physician, and every physician ought to be a thoroughly educated surgeon; that all future practitioners should be examined by a board composed of physicians and surgeons; and that, by consequence, those two bodies together ought to form the body of general practitioners, without the necessity of introducing any specific body under that name; that the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons are quite adequate for all purposes, for the mass of the profession in the country; that we require no college of general practitioners or Apothecaries' Hall, and that the word apothecary ought not to be retained amongst medical practitioners.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Exeter, April, 1849. H. SHAW, M.R.C.S., &c.