

## EMPYEMA.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR:—I find that I was wrong in my letter last week in stating that Dr. Davies employs no other method than puncturing in empyema. He has seen three cases where the absorption of the fluid has taken place by puncturation alone, but when the symptoms are urgent he uses the trochar, after the needle, in order to empty the pleuritic cavity as soon as possible. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

D. LEWIS.

28, Artillery-place West, Bunhill-row,  
Jan. 17, 1837.

## PLURALIST LECTURER.

*To the Editor.*—SIR:—In an early number of the present volume you enumerated the different characters in which Mr. SKEY would appear during the present season. But you omitted one. Mr. Skey is not only the Lecturer on Anatomy, and the Demonstrator and Lecturer on Surgery, at the Aldersgate School, but he is also a grinder, both to all chance comers and to his own pupils, who, if they require examinations previous to going to the College, are mulcted in the still further sum of seven guineas by Mr. Skey, besides the fee they have already paid him. In justice to Mr. S., however, I should state that those gentlemen who pay the additional seven guineas are occasionally treated to solos on the flute by Mr. S., who thus mingles melody and anatomy in a very cheerful way. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A. O.

WEBB-STREET SCHOOL.—*To the Editor.*—

SIR:—If Mr. Grainger had adopted the suggestion which you long since offered to him in THE LANCET, of letting the teachers in his school be elected by concours, he would certainly have found his account in it, by the honour which he would have done himself as a medical reformer, and the fame he would have acquired for the school. But he has apportioned the chairs on other terms, and we have just had another unhappy result of this unworthy and anti-scientific mode of appropriating "professorships." Dr. Whiting has succeeded in dispersing the entire class of materia medica in Webb-street, and is obliged to resign the chair, in order to avoid lecturing to empty benches on that subject. Dr. Robert Dickson, the lecturer on botany, is installed in the place of Dr. Whiting; and how much is Dr. Dickson better than Dr. Whiting? Not a whit, in point of lectorial qualifications, only that Dr. Dickson is not personally disliked by the

students. Dr. Whiting still lectures in the school on the practice of medicine. He has, in fact, yet got six hearers in that department. When, when, will the present scandalous system of compulsory payments to lecturers in recognized schools have an end? However, let Mr. Grainger look to it. I tell him, prophetically, that *he must come to the concours*, first or last. *He must.* Let him set the example. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

SPRING SESSION.

Borough, Jan. 18th, 1837.

INSPECTOR OF ANATOMY.—*To the Editor.*—SIR:—I see by the papers that Dr. Somerville is to vacate the office of Inspector of Anatomy for London, and fill the Inspectorship in Edinburgh. Is the London post to be filled by another "Doctor?" What chance is there that any superior medical offices in England will be filled by surgeons in general practice, if those surgeons do not take their own affairs in hand?

W. S.

## CORRESPONDENTS.

L. The extract was taken from an address published in the *Brighton Gazette*, or *Guardian*, of two or three weeks previous date. A file of this paper may probably be seen in London.

Dr. Peacock's third case of "traumatic tetanus cured by oil of turpentine," shall be inserted next week.

X. The communications will be received. The postage need not be paid. They should be addressed to the Editor, by name, Bedford-square, but must not weigh more than an ounce.

Mr. J. Jones would subject himself to the infliction of penalties if he practised as an apothecary, under whatever name the partnership was arranged.

*Philalethes*, in reply to Mr. Lintott, says, "I regret that I cannot particularise my informant, not at the moment having observed him particularly. He was, I presume, a student at the University College, but I have since been led to think, from his answer, that he was not aware of my having any connexion with the profession. I am very happy to add, that I have not since heard of similar occurrences; and, judging from Mr. Lintott's communication, (if he have any influence in the hospital), they will not be very likely to happen."

The statement forwarded by Mr. Denham could not be published unless the name of Mr. P., the party alleged to be aggrieved, was attached to the complaint. If, however, that gentleman believes that an im-