

ROYAL WESTMINSTER INFIRMARY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—So long as the observations you were pleased to make on me, in your Journal, were merely personal, or related to my office as one of the Council of the College of Surgeons, I refrained from noticing them; but now that you have thought proper to publish a statement regarding the Royal Westminster Infirmary for diseases of the eye, which, whilst it implicates my conduct in the performance of the duties of its Surgeon, also declares that the poor persons who are applying to the charity for advice and assistance are neglected, I feel it due to those noblemen and gentlemen, who, at my repeated solicitations, have given it their support, to declare, that the whole of the defamatory part of the following paragraph, copied from THE LANCET of this day, Saturday, May 26, is an infamous and malignant falsehood:—

“The patients of the Westminster Infirmary, for diseases of the eye, are ordered to attend on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, and, though coming from Kilburn, Paddington, Chelsea, and other places in the environs of town, are frequently obliged to return without the sought advice. Dr. Forbes examines about a third of 150 of these poor creatures; the rest are to be seen by Mr. Guthrie, who does not arrive till half past 12 o'clock, and sometimes not at all; and there does not appear to be any efficient home surgeon to act in his absence. It is sad work.”

The days of attendance are Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, at 12 o'clock. The whole duty is done by Dr. Forbes on Saturdays, and on Tuesdays by me. It is performed conjointly on Thursdays, or by either, as the case may be, a message being sent by Dr. Forbes to me, or vice versa. The patients receive a numbered ticket on their arrival, and are called up for examination by tens. The students know that I leave home on foot as soon after 12 as possible, and neither patients nor students expect me to arrive until a quarter past 12. My carriage is never ordered to come for me until a quarter before two. During the ten years I have been surgeon to the Infirmary, I have not failed three times in my attendance on the Tuesday, or day when I was alone expected. I have not been absent twenty times on the Thursday during the same period; and although I am not expected on the Saturday, I have been generally present for a longer or shorter period

of time. On the other four days in the week, I frequently call at the Infirmary to see particular cases, on every one of them; and when any of the out-patients are in danger of losing an eye, I direct them to come to my house, at ten in the morning, on the intervening days. Two men (one of them Thomas Moody, of 12, New-street, Broad-street) are now availing themselves of this privilege. The House Surgeon of the Infirmary, Mr. Tebbs, will have been two years in his office next September, and is better qualified to treat diseases of the eye than nine-tenths of the surgeons in London.

I am aware that this statement may not be considered sufficient proof by all your readers, that the one you have published is the gross and infamous falsehood I deem it; and I have no doubt the person who furnished you with it, will readily supply another of the same description. In order therefore to put the matter out of doubt, I invite you to visit the Infirmary on Tuesday next, the 29th May, at a quarter past twelve, when you shall have the opportunity of inquiring both of the students and patients, as to the correctness of the charges you have made; and as I am personally unacquainted with you, the production of this letter will ensure you a civil reception, and perfect freedom of inquiry.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. J. GUTHRIE.

2, Berkeley Street,
May, 26, 1827.

HOSPITAL REPORTS.

GUY'S HOSPITAL.

DISEASE OF THE ABSORBENT GLANDS OF THE NECK.

THESE is a particular form of disease affecting the absorbent glands of the neck, which appears to have escaped the observation of surgical writers; at least, as far as we know, it is not treated of in any systematic work on surgery. The affection consists in a chronic enlargement of the whole chain of glands from the jaw to the clavicle; both the superficial and deep layer are involved, and ultimately an immense tumour is produced, consisting of a congeries of enlarged glands. The disease generally commences on one side, and goes on to the