

Cum totis verbis.—We, the elder practitioners, having disgraced ourselves by practising *pharmacy* and *midwifery*, have lost all claim to the honorary title of "FELLOWS" of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and that, to entitle our sons and successors to that high distinction, we are to teach them, by our melancholy example, to avoid the path that we have pursued in the practice of our profession!! Was ever such a direct insult offered by a corporate body to its members? (!)—members, be it remembered, of an "honourable," a "liberal," and an "ENLIGHTENED profession!!!" *Credat Judæus, non ego!* Out upon it. It behoves us more than ever to raise our voices against such an insult, and to unite with one voice, one heart, and one hand, to arrest the tide that, though now seen at a distance, may, and will, by any supineness on our part, ultimately overwhelm us, and all our "honourable" distinctions be "levelled with the dust!" Let us be united—"union is strength"—to crush this Cerberus; already two heads have arisen in array against us, what the third may be heaven only knows! but although no prophet, I will venture to predict, that unless we crush the evil, in limine, we shall be reduced to a far lower level in the eyes of the public than the ancient corporation of barber-surgeons, whose trade was to "share, draw teeth, and bleed," and, *horresco referens*, we may be compelled to relinquish even our low vocation, and seek refuge in the tempting and profitable allurements of a *gin palace*, and adopt the memorable couplet of Swift to an unfortunate wight of the class above-mentioned—

"Rave not from pole to pole, but here turn in,
Where nought exceeds the shaving but the gin."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

T. W. WANSBROUGH, M.D., M.R.C.S.E.

Chelsea, August 19, 1844.

THE QUACK'S BILL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The thirty thousand medical practitioners of England and Wales ought to be vastly obliged to the hon. Secretary of State for offering them such a sop in the pan as a register of their names and the exclusive privilege of holding all public medical and surgical appointments. A kind of thank-you-for-nothing affair. The learned gentleman appears to have forgotten that no situation, either in the Army, Navy, East India Company's Service, Hospitals, &c., or under the Poor-law, can be obtained without the candidate producing his diploma from either of the Colleges of Surgeons in the empire; and to many of these must also be added the licence of the Apothecaries' Company.

Have we no vested rights? Are years of study, anxiety, and expense, nothing? Relying on the faith of an Act of Parliament, thousands of men have burnt the midnight oil and spent their last guinea to qualify themselves as apothecaries,—a name that carries with it no title, gives no introduction to society, and is only adopted from necessity, because, forsooth, a person cannot dispense medicine without being a licentiate of the Hall.

I speak of vested rights. Do away with the act of 1815, and every village in the empire will have its quack, who will tread so hard on the heels of the regularly-educated practitioner that his position will be one both of pecuniary loss and extreme annoyance. Parliament cannot teach the ignorant the nature of a medical or surgical qualification. Needy witty knaves will cajole the poor, wring from them their last mite, and leave them with enfeebled constitutions and empty purses. From my own experience of country people I could quote many instances in which quack after quack have been tried, no argument that was used having had any weight to dissuade the parties from such a ruinous practice.

I contend that the repeal of the Apothecaries' Act will be a vast injury to the energies of the rising generation—the strict nature of the examinations, as they have been conducted of late years, and the range of subjects which a candidate was required to be acquainted with, sent annually into practice a vigorous race of practitioners—well-grounded working men.

A person who could go creditably through the exami-

nations of the Hall and College of Surgeons presented himself with a good grace for the suffrages of the community. But should this new Bill become the law of the land the race of general practitioners will be as a name that was. Anatomy, physiology, and surgery will gain any person the diploma of the College of Surgeons. Young men will, therefore direct their attention only to those subjects, and, consequently, neglect chemistry, the theory and practice of medicine, clinical medicine, materia medica and therapeutics, forensic medicine, &c.

When the Negro Emancipation Act passed vested rights were respected, and twenty millions of gold went into the pockets of the proprietors of slaves. Now I contend that the thirty thousand practitioners of medicine in England and Wales have a claim to at least a thousand pounds each, as being a slight return for the loss they will sustain by this destructive Bill; for there is not the shadow of a doubt but vast numbers of accomplished practitioners will find their "occupation gone," and be obliged to strike out (some in their old age) a new line of life, or quietly walk into the workhouse.

One word, Sir, on the apprenticeship system; shorten the term, but do not abolish it altogether; it does a youth good to be under orders for a time; and what better spot could be selected than the house of an educated practitioner, one who is alive to his pupil's interests, and takes every opportunity of giving him sound practical advice. A little pestle-and-mortar work is not a bad beginning; we have most of us had our turn; and rely on it, Sir, the men of the present day will show as good a sample as the registered members under the new system.

Apologising for thus trespassing on your time, believe me to remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

GEORGE J. PERRY,

Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England, and Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries.

Reynoldstone, Glamorganshire,

August 22, 1844.

EDINBURGH MEDICAL DEGREES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the last number of THE LANCET (p. 661), there is an article upon the assumption of the Edinburgh University degrees by persons who have undergone no examination to fit them for that high honour, the university declaring that no person has received their degree of M.D. who has not previously undergone the regular examination, and subscribed the *sponsis academica* in due and proper form.

The delinquent whose impudence has excited the wrath and indignation of our Edinburgh friend, has been treated something like the jackdaw in the fable. His peacock feathers and parchment decorations have been taken away from him, and the minister of instruction in Paris having placed his heavy paws upon the poor rogue, the would-be Dr. Hazlewood, M.D., of Edinburgh, is about to leave Pau. This is certainly very fine, and we should suppose that our Edinburgh brethren were going to take the lead in high medical tone, but however clear from blame the Edinburgh University may be, the Edinburgh Royal College of Physicians is woefully in fault in these matters, for the Royal College can and does confer its fellowship upon persons who have undergone no examination whatever for their M.D. degrees. I cannot say that I am over fond of oppression, and as I have taken a fancy to Dr. Hazlewood, probably from the euphony of his name, for I never saw him, I shall be happy to avail myself of your columns to inform him how he may obtain the Edinburgh title without examination.

He must procure a degree, by purchase, either from Heidelberg, Erlangen, Giessen, or some other German seat of medical science, and having made friends with one or two fellows of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, he must be proposed by one of them and seconded by another. His name being placed on a board in the college for a short time, a ballot will be