

deen, &c., Physician to Marylebone Homœopathic Dispensary," as a faithful "indicator of the direction and progress of medical science,"* or as a safeguard to the public in directing them in the choice of a medical attendant.

It may be right to state that the name of "Partridge" here selected, is taken without the slightest personal acquaintance with either of the parties bearing it, merely from the circumstance of its affording a strongly-contrasted example of the evil which it is my object here to expose; and perhaps either you, or some one of your readers, will have the goodness to inform me (having not purchased the volume for 1849) whether the improvements in the *Directory* for the current year include that thorough purgation of the list which was so eminently requisite in the case of that of 1848?

It is perhaps superfluous to observe, that the instance I have quoted is by no means an isolated one; but that the names of those openly professing and practising homœopathy, both in the metropolis as well as in the provinces, are freely† interspersed throughout both divisions of the work, thus not only recognising, but tending to confound and identify them in the public eye with the regular practitioner.—I am, Sir, yours obediently,

January, 1849.

DR. E. CRISP AND THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Every general practitioner must take great interest in Dr. Crisp's examination at the College of Physicians.

In your article in the number for January 20, I think you must have overlooked one circumstance, which bears very strongly in favour of Dr. Crisp's idea—that all has not been conducted fairly.

Allow me to ask, through the medium of your journal, why Dr. Crisp's papers were burnt on the Monday, when on the Wednesday following he was informed that the president and censors were satisfied with his examination? the regulations of the college being that only the papers of rejected candidates are to be destroyed.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

FAIR PLAY.

INTERFERENCE WITH MEDICAL DUTIES ON BOARD OF A LINE-OF-BATTLE SHIP.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You published, in THE LANCET of last week, a letter from an "Assistant-Surgeon," complaining of the arbitrary treatment the assistant-surgeons of a line-of-battle ship on the Mediterranean station are obliged to submit to. From the tenour of the letter, I conclude the "Bellerophon" is the ship indicated; if so, this is not the first occasion on which the medical officers of that ship have been improperly treated, and called upon to perform duties not within the range of their office. The surgeon of the ship, if competent to the discharge of his official and professional duties, is the only proper judge of the necessity of a medical watch at night, in the "sick berth." An order on such a subject, emanating from any other authority in the ship, unless suggested by the medical chief, can only originate in that pitiful spirit of oppression and tyranny so characteristic of a portion of the so-called gallant profession. The following occurrence took place on board H.M.S. "Bellerophon," prior to her departure for the Mediterranean:—The late first lieutenant, Mr. Connolly, now in the "Terrible," had occasion to find fault with a man, for want of habits of cleanliness. After the usual allowance of abuse, he sent a messenger for an assistant-surgeon, who, on his arrival, received an order from this officer, to anoint the culprit all over with blue butter—i. e., mercurial ointment; and the order was enforced by desiring him to see it d—d well rubbed in. This truly illegal order was obeyed by the young assistant-surgeon. Comment on such conduct in the nineteenth century would be superfluous. Some years since, a "stomach-pump affair" on board the "Vanguard" made a great noise in the naval and medical world; but in my opinion that was trivial, in comparison with this atrocity. I was not a personal witness of the transaction,

* Preface to the *Directory* for 1848, p. iv.

† In confirmation of this statement, I append a few names taken promiscuously from amongst those which happened to meet my eye as occurring in the provincial list. *Ex gr.*,

"Madden, Henry R., M.D., of Brighton, Author of 'Homœopathy viewed in connexion with Medical Reform.'

"Newman, Geo., Glastonbury, M.R.C.S., &c., Author of 'Exposition of Homœopathy, and Homœopathic Family Assistant.'

"Black, Francis, Clifton, Bristol, M.D., &c., Author of 'Treatise on the Principles and Practice of Homœopathy.'

"Norton, John E., Birkenhead, Cheshire, Physician to the Homœopathic Dispensary," &c.; with many others of a similar kind, which I will not waste your valuable space by enumerating.

but having heard of this from an officer of undoubted authority and veracity, I took an early opportunity of questioning my friend, Dr. Grahame, surgeon of the ship, on the subject, who confirmed the statement, and, moreover, added that he had brought the subject under Captain Baynes' notice. It may be right to observe that Dr. Grahame joined the "Bellerophon" subsequently to this vile proceeding. The ship became very notorious for the alleged bad and harsh treatment permitted on board. Two of her people committed suicide. The affair was brought under Mr. Cobden's notice, with the hope that he might do something in the House.

If you can make any use of this, do so.

I am, Sir your obedient servant,

B.

January 19, 1849.

SPIRITED PROCEEDING OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN LANCASHIRE.

(COPY.)

At a meeting of the Medical Society of Bury, Lancashire, on the 11th day of December, 1848, a discussion arose respecting the annoyance and injustice to which the medical gentlemen were subjected, in consequence of their attendance being so frequently required at the police courts, &c., to give evidence in criminal cases, not as common witnesses to a fact, but as witnesses to give a professional opinion, and for which opinion no fee is allowed unless the case is referred to a higher tribunal. Should, however, the case demand a trial in any superior court, the medical witness is bound over in heavy sureties to attend and give evidence at such trial, at the conclusion of which the clerk of the Crown will not allow expenses for attendance, &c., at petty sessions, except upon a subpoena or certificate of such attendance from the committing magistrates. And whereas the magistrates of the county for the division of Bury have, by the advice of one of their clerks, refused to grant such certificates, it was unanimously resolved—

1st. That no member of this Society attend to give evidence in any criminal case at petty sessions unless legally subpoenaed thereto, and that all the medical gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood be requested to conform to this resolution.

2nd. That a copy of the above be sent to the medical periodicals, the *London Times*, and the *Manchester papers*.

M. FLETCHER.

JOSEPH GOODLAD.

WILLIAM RAYNER.

JOHN PARKS.

JAMES PARKS.

H. J. HINXMAN.

THOMAS BOTT.

W. P. WOODCOCK.

GEORGE HOLMES.

HENRY ASHTON.

W. BOUTFLOWER.

JAMES TAYLOR.

JESSE LEACH.

JOHN CHADWICK.

J. M. CONWAY.

JOHN YORKE WOOD.

JAMES LORD.

T. H. WARDLEWORTH, jun.

ROBERT HARRIS.

RICHARD PRESTON.

T. H. WARDLEWORTH.

JAMES LANCASHIRE.

EPHRAIM YOUNG.

J. FOSTER.

J. W. PICKFORD.

Bury, Feb. 6, 1849.

THE MEDICAL DIRECTORY FOR 1849.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Three communications have recently appeared in your journal, respectively signed "Scrutator," "Thos. Lightfoot, M.D.," and "I-Ax," on some alleged inaccuracies in the present volume of the *Medical Directory*.

In the first place, we thank you for giving insertion to any letters of complaint which may reach you on this subject; for, animated as we are in our compilation by honest, independent, and impartial feelings, we do not doubt but that the explanations we have to offer will be, and ought to be, as satisfactory to the complainants as honourable to ourselves. We shall proceed to explain with as much good feeling as if each incognito had addressed you in the gentlemanly spirit of Dr. Lightfoot.

To that gentleman we beg to express regret at the error which has occurred as to the *unde derivatur* of his degree, and to assure him that it shall be rectified in our next edition; and we have to beg that every subscriber whose eye this meets will, in Dr. Lightfoot's case, read Glasgow for Giessen.

To "Scrutator's" observations we have to reply (and to "I-Ax" also on this point), that the street list is only to be considered as indicating the residence of the London practitioners, having nothing whatever to do with their qualifications. If information upon this head be required, the reader will of course turn to the alphabetical list. The affix of M.D., or Phys., is merely to distinguish the physician from the surgeon or general practitioner.