

at 12, Doughty-street; we also hear of a Daniel Gosset practising at Leicester. We refer to the College list, wherein Daniel Gosset is said to be residing in Doughty-street; we then refer to the Hall list, and there we find that Daniel Gosset is residing at Leicester. Aware of the little confidence to be placed in these lists, we preferred to wait for more positive information direct from yourself, or from one of your friends, rather than compromise the correctness of our work by including your name in the "list of known qualified practitioners."

In the current edition of the Directory we have adduced instances in which names of qualified practitioners are assumed, and the pirates have sailed under false colours for years, undetected. Indeed, could anything be more easy than for A. B. to sell to C. D. the privilege of using his name and qualifications, in a distant place, for a consideration? From facts which have come to our knowledge we suspect that this is not unfrequently done.

Upon consideration, then, we flatter ourselves you will see the propriety of our having omitted your name from the more honourable section of our work, until your identity was clearly established, and incontrovertible.

You ask what course we intend pursuing to withdraw the stigma we have so wantonly affixed on you? Inasmuch as we have done nothing of the sort, we may fairly ask, what course you intend pursuing for so unwarrantable an accusation?

As a quondam "magistrate of the borough of Leicester, a trustee of the church charities, and for a time one of the town council," you will, of course, make the *amende honorable*; and as it is our most sincere desire to do you every justice, we may state what is our intention for the future. If, by the time our next edition is ready for the press, you have a fixed residence and are in practice, and if no Daniel Gosset, of 12, Doughty-street, comes forward to dispute the honours to which you of Leicester lay claim, we shall of course have no hesitation in including your name in our general list, with all the appendages consistent with the plan and object of our work.

Really, Dr. Gosset, instead of suffering yourself to figure for three successive years in the supplemental list, and now bursting with wrathful indignation at your being so placed, how much better it would have been, and how much trouble it would have saved both yourself and us, had you favoured us with that which is always due between gentlemen—namely, a courteous reply to a courteous application.—We are, Sir, your very obedient servants,

THE EDITORS OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTORY.

MAYNE'S POCKET DISPENSATORY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Accept of my thanks for your critical notice of the "Pocket Dispensatory" in the number of your excellent journal for 22nd inst. Allow me, however, to set myself right with you and your numerous readers in respect of a circumstance which you have referred to—namely, dedication of the volume to the late Mr. Liston, "although the title-page bears date 1848." The greater portion of the work was printed off, and some of its sheets, along with a *proof of the dedication*, were presented to Mr. Liston, while no suspicion existed in my mind of the impending evil which was so speedily to prove fatal; and I had the gratification to receive his acknowledgment as quoted below. The book was, in consequence, immediately completed, and forwarded to its respected publisher just before the occurrence of the melancholy event alluded to—that is, in the second week of December, 1847.—I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

January 24, 1848.

JOHN MAYNE.

(Mr. Liston's Letter.)

MY DEAR MAYNE.—I have looked over the proofs. Your little work will be exceedingly useful. I shall be very glad to see a copy of it, and to notice my name as you propose to place it. Believe me, &c. &c.,

Clifford-street, Nov. 3, 1847.

(Signed) ROBERT LISTON.

THE APPOINTMENT AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In common with many of your readers I have been disappointed in not finding in this day's LANCET some remarks from yourself on the letter of Dr. Webster, on the recent appointment at University College and Hospital, which appeared in your columns. Is it because you think that the observations of an individual who thrusts himself forward as the defender of the political movements of an institution with which he has not the

most distant connexion are undeserving of notice? Or do you suppose that Dr. Webster has been writing ironically, and that in reality he has been advocating the same cause which you have so generously supported? It appears so to myself and others, when I find him saying that "old pupils are not neglected for any other influences when they are capable of filling situations in the Hospital and College," and proving his statement by quoting some half-dozen inferior offices which they fill, including that of "a lecturer on the teeth!" Is not this exactly your view of the case, when you say the education is bad or the pupil is neglected? Besides, Dr. Webster quotes the "characteristic modesty" of one of the surgeons, who most truly would never be recognised under such a mask, and who, instead of selling his "birthright for a mess of porridge," is, it is well known, contriving by every possible means to swing himself into the chair of surgery.

Depend on it, that Dr. Webster has been laughing in his sleeve at those who might believe him sincere in his defence of those who are ashamed to defend themselves.—Yours gratefully,

January 29, 1848.

AN OLD UNIVERSITY-COLLEGE MAN.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL.—THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. SYME.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The letters of your three correspondents in last week's LANCET, on the subject of the recent appointments at University College, are so opposed to the almost universal feeling of the profession on the subject, and are of so unjust and partial a character, that they ought not to be allowed to pass without remark. Why are they written in this tone? Is it because the writers are Scotchmen? "The Medical Directory" seems to indicate that it is so, in the instances of "George Webster" and "Peter Bell." And surely there are few who can more justly than a Scotchman arrogate to himself the title of a "citizen of the world," assumed by your third correspondent. Let the question be discussed on its merits. You assert that the college has been a failure. Its best and warmest friends, its noble president amongst them, proclaim it with regret. You assert that it is misgoverned. Who can deny it? You ascend from clerks and secretaries to visiting, house, and medical committees in the hospital. In the college you have two or three faculties, a senate, a committee of management, a council, vice-president, presidents, and various sub-denominations. Can it be possible that a machinery like this—a "multitude of wheels within wheels"—can work well? It does not, Sir. There are two or three *hidden* springs which control and move the whole; the *apparent* movers have as much to do with it as the hands with the movements of a clock. The real movers are irresponsible, and the apparent ones, in their self-elective system, are not less so. You assert that the council have acted unjustly in nominating Mr. Syme to the office recently vacant. Who doubts it, except some of his "fellow citizens of the world"? I care not whence Mr. Syme comes. Why did not the council advertise the vacancy? Would they not then have had an opportunity of selecting the most competent; and who dare question the selection of a fair and an open one? Then indeed might "George Webster" quote for them the motto "*Detur digniori*." You are right in asserting that the men educated in the school are "impertinently and unjustly treated" by those who should give them countenance and support. The fact is well known and severely felt by the old University-College men. You assert that there is not a single professor in the faculty of medicine who had been educated in the college; and in doing so you state another fact. "George Webster" in triumph replies, "Mr. Quain, the professor of anatomy, was a pupil," &c. *Never* in University College,—perhaps fortunately for himself. "Dr. Taylor was professor," &c. True, he was. But is his successor one who has been educated there? or is it possible that, amidst the annual batch of medallists, not one had yet arrived at sufficient maturity to make him a physician to the hospital, and a professor of clinical medicine? "Mr. Morton has been acting as professor of surgery," &c. True again; but will he continue to do so? Did "G. W.'s" informant tell him of a little arrangement which is in contemplation, by which the chair of surgery is very soon to be made vacant, and by which Mr. Syme is not to lay claim to it, or to its emoluments? If "G. W." has not been informed on these points; let him ask again, and then, perhaps, he may discover a substantial reason why Mr. Quain, "with characteristic modesty and sound sense, preferred the interest of the hospital and school to his own private interests or ambition." "Drs. Parke and Garrod are assistant physicians." So they are, and so they will long remain, if we estimate the future by the past,