

It is nearly twelve months since that Sir J. McGregor, with the laudable desire of promoting general knowledge among medical men, especially medical officers in the army, made a proposal to the Dublin College, similar to that he had already proffered to the Royal College of Surgeons, in London, viz., "that if the college would establish two studentships in comparative anatomy, zoology, botany, mineralogy, and geology, he would undertake to place at the nomination of the college, once in three years, an assistant surgeoncy in the army, as a reward for liberal acquirements in the sciences enumerated; and that he would use his influence, without doubt of success, with the director-general in the navy for a similar premium on his part for another." It is unnecessary to say that the London College hastily and gladly seized the proffer; and have long since established these foundations at a salary of 100*l.* per annum. Not so the Dublin College, acting under the ministry of the councillors and the schoolmen, at the head of whom are Drs. Jacob, Maunsell, Williams, &c. Coldly it was received, and a dead letter it still remains in the motley, interwoven, and contradictory absurdities and jobberies of the college minutes. Although recently cushioned by Mr. James Cusack's expediency vote of doing no good, because we are supposed to be on the eve of change (the faction however are active and busy enough in mischief), the question of the studentships was not laid on the shelf, before eliciting the economical opinions and determination of these liberal and public-minded councillors and schoolmen. It was proposed to endow, with a paltry salary of 50*l.*, each of those appointments, the duties attached to which were to be sufficiently onerous; no less than two hours' daily attendance for three years in the museum, under the curator, making preparations. This proposition, however, was repeatedly negatived, under the plea of economy: "the funds of the college could not afford such extravagance!" Although in one quarter of a year we have seen it could afford 100 guineas to Mr. Williams, 200 guineas for a mock professorship to Dr. Apjohn, 300 guineas to Mr. Houston, and 250 guineas to the court of censors!!! But, then, all these were either councillors or schoolmen, under the direct and personal patronage of Drs. Jacob and Maunsell, who appropriately enough are aided and abetted in all their college reform by Jemmy Cusack, whom THE LANCET long since has celebrated, for as profound attainments in the lore of corporation jobbery as have ever fallen to the lot of one "small head to know." Truly, saith the adage, "birds of a feather flock together:" then, in truth's name, Jemmy, take to the council: boldly mount the wig and gown. Surrounded by your old associates, and engaged in your old pursuits, you need never

imagine you have forsaken the College of Surgeons. And be without fear, your doings in council will not disable you one whit for your ordinary college practice.

To these recent facts, which however amply they may illustrate the virtue and wisdom of these self-elected councillors of state, in the distribution and appropriation of the public purse, I cannot forbear to add a third, not a whit less striking than its predecessors. From motives of the purest economy, the schoolmen cabinet of the college have just determined to discontinue the scientific re-unions, which have taken place for the last two years, and which have been so instrumental in the spread of a general scientific taste among the public, and the promotion of kindly feeling among the *disjuncta membra* of our absurdly-divided profession. "The funds of the college, however, were not equal to this expensive drain upon them." The apology was plausible enough, as one upon which to smuggle a motion, without notice, through a thin college; but some there be, who suspect that more profound reasons of state policy are at the bottom of it. The cabinet of councillors and schoolmen did not shine before his excellency and the public: monopoly here was out of the question; and a laudably liberal spirit was growing rapidly up, which insisted that every one, even the youngest licentiate, had a right to present himself here before the public, if he had anything worthy to communicate. This was a severe shock to a set of men who had well nigh exhausted their little stores of curiosities; and, in their efforts, too, had cut but a poor figure; nay, more, had been eclipsed on their own stage, in the enactments of characters which it were well the gentle public should imagine peculiar to themselves. Far be it for an humble scribe like me to presume to fathom the depth of a Jacob's sagacity; but, certainly, that the college funds should be so expansible for one set of objects and so unyielding for another set of objects, is somewhat remarkable.

PUBLICOLA.

HOW THESE THINGS ARE MANAGED IN DUBLIN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—I have always been averse to appear in print, being convinced that it is a much more politic and wise plan to pursue my course, without regard to anything, save the attaining of the object which I have in view, viz., the good of the institution with which I am connected. I have, however, lately seen my name associated, in your Journal, with certain proceedings in our College of Surgeons; and although the allu-

sions therein contained may not have been intended for myself, I feel anxious to prevent any misconstruction of the motives which always have regulated, and always shall regulate, my conduct in that body. I hold that the college is only the *aggregate* of its members; therefore, that the interests of the *members* are, and must be, the interest of the college; and that whatever is opposed to the interests of the *members*, cannot be for the good of the college: consequently, that the interest of the former ought to be upheld "*per fas et nefas*." I hold it idle to object to this doctrine, that the interests of one section of the members may be at variance with those of another: each man must stand by his party, be it right or be it wrong, and maintain it to lie in the college, else no party can hold together for a moment, nor any man expect others to protect and serve *his* interests, if he will not do the same by *them*. Equally futile is it to say, that a section of the members, or even the whole of them, do not represent the college, since they bear but an insignificant proportion—not more than 1-7 or 1-8—to the licentiates; because though the latter are recognised by the charter, yet they are not of the community, and therefore are not to be considered. It matters little why they are not of the community—they are *not*; and that is enough. It matters not if they are excluded by a corrupt and tyrannical by-law, inconsistent with the spirit of the charter, persisted in notwithstanding repeated remonstrances against it, and upheld by the grossest tergiversation and chicanery. All this matters not. While the by-law is preserved, the licentiates are kept out *legally*; and while those who exclude them take care to keep themselves safe from the reach of the law of the realm, they need not fear; but pursue steadily that wise principle, that duty "for myself first; for my party next; for the rest, who cares?" And I do assure you, Sir, that this maxim is well understood amongst us; aye! and—were I not afraid of Messrs. Collis and Benson, I would say—"Fore the gods! bravely acted on too;" in a manner to delight you, could you but witness it. We never, for instance, hesitate to do things, to serve the purpose of the moment, which might, perhaps, be said to be contradictory, inconsistent, or disreputable; but which we hold the great objects we have in view to justify fully. So we oppose to-day the very proposition which we advocated, or even made, ourselves yesterday—we resist on one day, for the very same reasons upon which we supported on another: nay, we do not fear to exult in, to boast of our inconsistency, and to make a present of it to our adversaries—we are never at a loss for a crafty story with which to entrap the attention, or to alarm the apprehensions and rouse the prejudices of the senseless creatures whose noses we com-

mand with bonds as persuasive, as ever guided the shambling gambols of the stupid bear; albeit the brute seems less insensible to his degradation. What matter if it prove to *be a story*? it is believed for the nonce; they have neither the sense to detect nor the spirit to resent it; and deceived to-day, they are deceived again to-morrow. How else are they to be managed? We are always ready, too, with a precedent for every scheme we wish to accomplish. We have been, you must know, some of us, upon the CONTINENT OF EUROPE; and as this is an unknown region to nine-tenths of our party, we silence all opposition upon a pinch by the simple assertion, "*it is so in Germany*." Beyond this there is no appeal; we are safe from detection, and no one ventures to question our veracity.

Such is the policy which has guided me in the small part which I have taken in the affairs of our college; a policy in the wisdom of which I am sure you will concur, and by publishing which you will do a great service to our body.

I intended to illustrate the working of this admirable system in maintaining the interest of the college, but my space will not allow it; and I must postpone my purpose to another opportunity. I remain, with great respect, your obedient servant,

JANUS KUSACK.

Dublin, Jan. 15, 1841.

MEDICAL REFORM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—A few months ago, when Mr. Warburton's long-expected Bill was laid before the public, I took the liberty of suggesting, through the medium of your columns, that it would be well for the profession to suspend their opinions on it until the one promised by Mr. Hawes and the one expected from yourself had made their appearance. Mr. Hawes' Bill has been before the public for some time, and yours is expected daily; and now is the time for them to make up their minds as to what is good or bad in the whole three, and to state it. In the mean time, I wish to call the attention of the medical public to a point of paramount importance, which I am afraid may be overlooked, or at this time seem to be unnecessary; I mean the necessity of petitioning *both* Houses of Parliament in the same way and in the same words as last year. Persons who petitioned last year are not to suppose that they have done enough, but ought to petition, year after year, until their object is attained. Let, then, every medical man, who feels any interest in the cause, get up a petition (drawn out as was done last year on foolscap paper), and send it to Parliament, no matter whether there be one name or one hundred at-