

TO THE PUPILS OF THE ALDERSGATE STREET
MEDICAL SCHOOL.

GENTLEMEN,—I have been made acquainted with the resolutions adopted by you at a public meeting held Aug. 16th, and published in *THE LANCET*. The kind feelings of regret you express, that my name no longer appears with those of my late colleagues, and your generous design of taking further steps to perpetuate the recollection of our intercourse, and seal the bonds of our friendship, fill my heart with grateful emotion; and I thank you with its best thanks.

The word retirement, you are pleased to use, may possibly be construed by those, unacquainted with the facts, into a breach of faith on my part; therefore it is incumbent on me to state, that, however strongly the urgent calls of private practice (which you know, require the best time and first care of every practitioner) might have induced me to quit the anatomical department, as I had pledged myself never to leave it until you should declare the time these calls permitted me to devote to it insufficient, I should have attempted by working early and late to deserve the honour of filling it as long as possible.

The fulfilment of this intention, I am sorry to say, has been frustrated by the proprietor of the theatre himself. This declaration is necessary to justify myself, and I never will shrink from any public duty, however painful, which may be required in defence of my own character or that of my friends. Public investigation I have always coveted—it is the only way to justice.—I have lived in it with honour, and am content to stand or fall by its test; and, when I consider how seldom professional men have an opportunity of bringing their honest competition fairly before the tribunal of the public—that those placed by interest dread it—that the council of the London University refused it to me in contradiction to their public professions—I rejoice and exult that you, who can be swayed by no motive but zeal for your profession, have come forward unsolicited, openly to assert that principle, without which virtue has no safeguard, and vice no punishment.

I cannot adequately acknowledge the signal manner in which you have rewarded well-meant exertions. We all seek to serve ourselves—many perhaps regardless of the general good or ill; but there are also many who connect their own interests with those of their fellows. I have endeavoured to deserve to be ranked among the latter; and to this endeavour, and not to any intellectual superiority, I attribute your affectionate regard. Services, Gentlemen, should engender services, and I am bound in common

gratitude to consult your wishes and interests through life. At present I am deprived of *anatomical conveniences*, but *surgical* I possess; and it seems to me that I can best promote your welfare, that of the public and my own, by devoting all the time and knowledge I can command to your instruction and that of your friends, in lectures on Surgery, in the hope that sooner or later we may form or be associated with some institution where the principles of Anthropology we profess shall be respected.

As an anatomist, I aspired to the high prize you have awarded to me, by strenuous efforts to inspire and encourage a love of science, and to make you masters of the physical structure of man, in the shortest possible time. As a Surgeon, I will exert myself with you to the utmost, to find new fields for laudable enterprise, and by an impartial survey of all that has been accomplished, strive to establish the rules of practice upon the basis of truth.

Once more permit me heartily to thank you for the distinguished manner in which you have noticed my humble efforts, and with the sincerest wishes for your health and prosperity, to remain unalterably

Your much attached friend and
grateful servant,

T. KING.

10, Hanover Street, Hanover Square,
Aug. 24th, 1830.

DR. HENNING ON SCROFULA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Fifteen years have now elapsed since—"A Critical Inquiry into the Pathology of Scrofula, with a new and improved method of treating that disease"—was submitted to the public. During this long space of time I have, in my private and hospital practice, enjoyed very numerous opportunities of confirming my belief in the correctness of the opinions which were delivered in the first part of the work, relative to the cause and nature of scrofula, and to its mode of action on the human body; and also of verifying the efficacy of the treatment recommended in the second, or practical part of it.

I can very truly say, that the method of encouraging scrofulous swellings to suppurate, with the view of puncturing them, and controlling or graduating the discharge of their contents, in the manner described, is one by which the formation of the scrofulous ulcer, so peculiarly difficult to heal, may with great certainty be prevented. The health of the patient also will be protected against those consequences which I am ac-

customed to regard as secondary, or constitutional, symptoms of the parent, or original disease. These symptoms, therefore, may be contemplated as the result of scrofulous virus, absorbed and deposited on some important part susceptible of its contamination, such as the lung, producing in it the germ of fatal phthisis; or the mesentery, causing abscess, and inevitable death; or tumour, with extreme atrophy, and the most imminent danger of dying.

The various affections of the joints, which are so commonly classed with complaints truly scrofulous, as indeed are many local diseases of an indolent nature, may perhaps be also the effects of the retrogradation of the scrofulous virus on the system, after it had been matured on the surface, and too often plunge the patient into long and arduous struggles against debility, as well as disease, either just allowing him to escape with an imperfect recovery, or at length subduing him. These sad results, which I have so often witnessed, plead loudly for a timely evacuation of the contents of scrofulous abscesses and the suppuration of scrofulous tumours, as the most probable means of preventing them.

I take this opportunity gratefully to acknowledge the numerous testimonies of approbation, which I have received from gentlemen eminent in the double profession, relative to this work. I feel persuaded, when I contemplate them, that, though the sale of it has been steadily though slowly progressive, it would have been hastened, if, which was not the case, it had attracted the notice of the Editor of *THE LANCET*, and had also been more generally made known, by being advertised in the customary way.

In venturing thus favourably to express myself of my own performance, I may seem to be justly chargeable with presumption. From this imputation, however, I hope to be absolved, by submitting to the perusal of your readers, Sir, the following letter, with which I was favoured by the late distinguished physician, Dr. Baillie, which shows that it is, on authority, far superior to my own, that I dare so to speak of it:—

“Windsor Castle, July 15, 1815.

“Dear Sir,—I return you my best thanks for the book which you have been so good as to present to me. I am highly gratified by having been selected by you as a fit person to whom your book might be dedicated, and, by the very flattering terms in which the Dedication has been expressed. I have just finished the perusal of your book, which is highly creditable to you; it is very clearly written, refutes, in a satisfactory manner, the several opinions which have been hitherto entertained respecting the cause of scrofula, and contains an im-

portant improvement in the treatment of this formidable disease.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Your very faithful servant,

A. BAILLIE.

Dr. Henning, Bristol.”

I hope I may be allowed to add, that if a new edition of this book should be required, I will use my best endeavour to make it as worthy of the public approbation as I can, by adding to the present work whatever knowledge I have acquired by subsequent experience; also, that I am preparing to publish Medical Reports of some of the more difficult diseases, with the effects of medicines in the treatment of them. The first part will treat of colds, coughs, and consumption.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

G. HENNING, M.D.

Late one of the physicians of the Taunton and Somerset County Hospital.

London, Aug. 1, 1830.

P. S. The full title of the work on Scrofula is—“A Critical Inquiry into the Pathology of Scrofula, in which the origin of that disease is accounted for on new principles; and a new and much-improved method is recommended and explained for the treatment of it.”

The copies which remain unsold may be had of Messrs. Poole and Edwards, booksellers, Ave-Maria-Lane, London.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE, V. THE SECRETS OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

To the Editor of *THE LANCET*.

SIR,—There is a powerful and interesting paper in the present number of Blackwood's Magazine,—“*Passages from the Diary of a late Physician*,” which I was rather surprised to be informed, by one or two of the Newspapers,* contained the history of the “early days of the late Dr. Armstrong.” Surely this is untrue. Dr. Armstrong practised at first, for several years, in Sunderland; whereas the paper in Blackwood represents the *Physician* to have toiled and struggled his first few years in the West of London. There is certainly a coincidence between the rapid, bold, and striking style of that article, and the style in which my late valued friend Dr. Armstrong expressed himself; and another circumstance tends to confirm the opinion,—the said paper representing its subject to have been “particularly familiar with diseases of the Lungs.” This was Dr. Arm-

* The Age, Courier, and another.