

dent, for with drugs, in the literal sense of the word, they had nothing to do, therefore his practical acquaintance with them would avail him nothing.

I am, Sir,

A PUPIL.

London University,
May 24, 1834.

TEST FOR GOOD APOTHECARY
SECRETARIES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The subjoined is submitted to your attention and reprobation, because it displays the folly and ungenerous spirit which actuates some men when dressed in a little brief authority. Your obedient servant,

A CONSTANT READER.

King's Road Chelsea, May 22, 1834.

"At a meeting of the medical officers of the *Chelsea, Brompton, and Belgrave Dispensary*, at the Dispensary House, May 14th, 1834, present, Dr. Boyton, in the chair, and Messrs. Woolley, Bowden, and Dickinson, it was resolved unanimously, 'That it is the opinion of the medical officers, that no gentleman should henceforth be admitted as a candidate for the vacant office of apothecary and secretary to this institution, who has not obtained a license to practise from the Society of Apothecaries, which is the legal and best proof of his possessing the necessary knowledge for performing the duties of the office.'

"W. M. BOYTON, Chairman.

"I perfectly agree with the above resolution.
JOHN PERRY."

* * * We need not reprobate. The resolution is self-reprobating.—ED. L.

MR. MACFARLANE AND THE APOTHE-
CARIES' COMPANY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have just received THE LANCET for May 3rd, and beg leave to correct a mistake into which your Yorkshire correspondent has fallen, viz., that I was admitted for examination at Apothecaries' Hall, London, on the strength of my Edinburgh diploma, *without an indenture of apprenticeship*. My Edinburgh diploma was received at the Hall, instead of the course of study ordered in the regulations of the Company; but I also served an apprenticeship of five years to H. Johnson,

Esq., Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh. By noticing this communication as early as possible, you will oblige your obedient servant,

JOHN MACFARLANE.

Hutton Rudley, May 23, 1834.

INJURIES CAUSED BY AN ALLEGED
QUACK.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As you have always endeavoured, through the medium of your Journal, to expose and abolish quackery, I send you the following cases for insertion. I have the honour to remain, Sir, yours, very respectfully,

WILLIAM WALTHER,
Mem. Roy. Coll. Surg., and Licen. of
Apoth. Hall, London.

Holyhead, May 22nd, 1834.

An old woman belonging to this parish, and a patient of mine, whom I knew to be hypochondriacal, applied to me to have what she called a "wild wart" extracted from the side of her nose. I examined the nose and face minutely, without detecting the least change of structure, or any cause for her fancy. The symptoms dwelt only in the old woman's imagination. She said that it sometimes suddenly showed its head by the side of her nose, and that when she tried to grasp it with her finger and thumb, it would instantly run back, but that one morning she was beforehand with it, and just caught its tip, since which it has never appeared, but seemed to be enraged at the treatment it had experienced, ever since poking her nose from side to side, and dragging at her face like so many fiends. It also often got to the crown of her head, and there annoyed her exceedingly. I could not, although I saw her often, reason away this false impression; however, I promised if she would come to me whenever the wart made its appearance again, I would cure her.

A short time after this, I was informed that she had gone to a man in the neighbourhood of Slangeefni, eighteen miles distant, who was famed for curing cancerous diseases. This man wilfully or ignorantly coincided with her whims, and set about treating her, but in the most barbarous manner. From what I can learn, he applied a paste made with some powerful escharotic (perhaps *potassa fusa*) across the bridge of her nose, which caused the healthy skin covering that part to slough away, and which he persuaded the old woman was the wart. At this she was rejoiced, notwithstanding all she had suf-

fered from the burning properties of the paste; her tormenter was now safely deposited in a tea-cup, well salted, for inspection, and in this state I saw it on her return home; her mind, after this, for a short time only was at ease, for she fancied some of the roots of the wart still remained. Accordingly, back she went to the man, and now has returned a second time most inhumanly treated. The cartilages of her nose are destroyed, portions of the nasal processes of the superior maxillary bones have exfoliated, the skin and muscles of the face up to the lower eyelids are eaten away, and she has become, from being a good-looking old woman, a most frightful object, a living monument of the butchery of a man who will most probably escape unpunished, as she is poor and friendless.

The second case is that of a woman in a more comfortable station of life, who was induced, through the celebrity the man had gained by the former case, to become his patient! She also consulted me, but was not satisfied, because I said her complaint was not malignant, and that it was an inflammation of the bones of her nose, of which she would get well by taking proper medicines. She has returned, a similar object to the former, the ala nasi on one side completely destroyed, the cartilages of the nose injured, and her face very much disfigured. She has since been my patient, and is now getting well by taking sarsaparilla and alterative doses of mercury.

This patient showed herself the other day to Mr. Kirby of Dublin, who was surprised that she should allow herself to be treated so barbarously, and took pains to convince her of her error. She also presented herself to Mr. Corbett, of the same place, who considered it a case of *noli me tangere*, barbarously treated. It was natural enough, upon seeing her extensive scars, for Mr. Corbett to fancy something had been the matter with the skin or other parts of her nose, to account in some way for the treatment she had undergone; I can, however, positively state that there was no cutaneous affection whatever, but merely pain in the bones of her nose, and that not severe.

IRREGULARITIES AT THE LONDON HOSPITAL.—*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*—Sir, The notices of the irregularities of the London Hospital Surgical Officers has, I think, occupied more space in your truly valuable columns than was necessary. The fact is, that since the death of Mr. Headington, there has been observed neither

method nor arrangement as to the appointed time for the performance of operations generally, each surgeon operating when most convenient to himself. This has arisen from a want of unanimity and common courtesy existing between the surgeons, and the indifference they show to the pupils generally. To correct this inconvenience, I would suggest that the surgeons should not allow their private feelings to operate against their pupils' advantage, and that the latter should be more attentive to the hospital practice, and not absent themselves from the hospital during the stated attendance of the former. Hoping these hints may be useful, I am, Sir, yours very obediently,

SPECTATOR.

London Hospital, May 19, 1834.

GUY'S HOSPITAL.

TUESDAY last, the 27th, was a "field day" at this hospital. Four operations were performed in the theatre, three of which were justly named "capital operations." There were present, besides the surgeons attached to the hospital, many students from St. Bartholomew's, and some from the London University.

LIGATURE OF FEMORAL ARTERY.—The first operation, that of tying the right femoral artery for popliteal aneurysm, was performed by Mr. MORGAN, on Joseph Tomkins, a middle-aged man, who was admitted into Naaman's Ward on Friday last. According to the man's account the tumour has not been forming longer than nine weeks, but at the present time it has attained a considerable size. The operation was performed in the usual manner, at about the middle third of the thigh, the first incision being about three inches in length, and guided by the inner edge of the sartorius muscle. The artery was quickly exposed and secured. No dressing was placed on the wound whilst the patient was in the theatre, that step being deferred till he had been some little time in his ward. On visiting him some few hours after the operation, we found that he had dosed for some short space of time, and that he was tolerably free from pain; pulse good and skin moist, but he expressed a feeling of faintness.

LITHOTOMY.—The second operation was for stone, on a child about four years of age, performed also by Mr. MORGAN with much skill, and completed in about half a minute. Mr. MORGAN, as is his usual practice, used the curved staff and