

deration of the sum of £31, paid to him by the said Frederick Dawson, on the 9th day of May next, doth hereby sell, dispose of, and make over to the said Frederick Dawson all such fixtures, drugs, articles, matters and things as are specified and described in the schedule annexed. And, furthermore, the said Fred. Dawson hath agreed to pay down the sum of £10 (in part of payment of the £31) as a deposit, until this agreement is fulfilled. In witness whereof the said parties hereto have hereunto set their hands the day and year first above-written.

(Signed)

" RICHARD HARDY.

" FREDERICK DAWSON."

(A copy.)

" *Inventory of Articles, at No. 3, Union-place, Lower-road, Islington.*

" *Shop.*—Bottles, drugs, jars, drawers, shelves, counter, gas-fittings, blinds to window and door, weights, mortar, &c.; fixtures as at present in the shop, with the exception of the clock, including door, partitions, &c.

" *Surgery, or parlour.*—Stove, blind, shelves, &c.

" *Greenhouse,*" &c., &c., &c.

[The remainder we need not publish.]

This is the schedule of articles and fixtures as specified in the agreement.

(Signed) " RICHARD HARDY."

MARYLEBONE INFIRMARY.

LATE ELECTION OF HOUSE-SURGEON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—Being referred to by one of your correspondents in the last number of THE LANCET, signed "Observer," as one of the medical gentlemen belonging to the Committee of the Board of Guardians of Marylebone, for the truth of what he alleges to have taken place lately, in the election of a surgeon to the vacancy of house-surgeon apothecary to the *Marylebone Infirmary*, I am bound, in justice to your anonymous correspondent, to bear testimony to the facts therein stated. A Dr. Murray did present himself for the vacancy, with testimonials of the highest character; but, as he had not been provided with a certificate of qualification from the Apothecaries' Company, agreeably to the terms of the advertisement, he was not considered eligible to become a candidate for the vacancy. Being myself disappointed at the decision of the Committee, I considered it my duty to bring his case before the Board, and I made a motion to the effect, "That he be admitted a candidate for the vacancy." Having taken the sense of the Board upon it, the motion was lost on a division; perhaps, this was to be regretted the more from the salary having been increased a short time

before, with a view of procuring the services of a highly-qualified gentleman, particularly at a moment when a strong public feeling exists against the present system of procuring medicine and medical attendance, by tender, on the lowest terms, thereby contracting for the lowest modicum of professional talent.

In reference to the communication in the last number of THE LANCET, signed "Cautious," I am compelled, from a sense of duty, but with considerable reluctance, to assert most positively, that what he states is not a fact. He says, that the scrutineers who admitted him as a candidate on a former occasion, were the same who rejected him on the last. He should have recollected that, on the occasion when he was admitted, there was no medical gentleman on the Committee; at present there are two. Perhaps, he is not aware that there are several essential requisites necessary to qualify a gentleman for the responsible situation of house-surgeon to so large an establishment as the *Marylebone Infirmary*, besides the mere possession of the legal documents required by the terms of an advertisement. He further insinuates that the election was a job, which I have to observe is as false as it is malicious. There never was an election conducted with more propriety, and with less feeling of prejudice or partiality, the desire of every member of the Committee being to select the most efficient and best qualified candidate, consistently with the terms of the advertisement; and the better to attain that desirable object, the medical officers in ordinary of the establishment were invited to be present, three of whom politely assisted the Committee at the examination of the testimonials, the other gentlemen being absent on professional duty. I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

G. S. RUTHERFORD, M.D., Surgeon.

33, Welbeck-street, Cavendish-square,

June 28th, 1837.

THIEVES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—A gang of thieves are calling on many members of the profession, generally wishing to know the midwifery-fee, &c. I have lost a book by them, and a friend whom I had cautioned, caught one with "Turner's Chemistry" in his possession, but let him off.—Pray insert this notice, and if it occasion one of the batch to be caught, I will cheerfully commence a subscription towards defraying any expenses to which a professional man may be subjected by prosecuting. Yours, &c.

W. T. ILIFF.

Newington, July 5th, 1837.