

donna, and to take a saline mixture with half-drachm doses of colchicum every six hours. Upon visiting her on the following day I was as much gratified as surprised at the result of the treatment. The fever had entirely disappeared; the breasts were quite soft; the milk had flowed away in great abundance into a bread and water poultice; a cheerful expression of countenance was exchanged for the former one of anxiety and dread; and all apprehension of evil had disappeared. I ordered the mixture to be omitted, but to continue the local application. The case required no further treatment, and she was "about" in the course of a few days.

CASE 2.—A. S.—, three days after her confinement (Jan. 1857) began to suffer great pain in the nipples when the child attempted to suck. Shields, unguents, nitrate of silver, were applied, but with temporary relief. At length the agony was so great, that it was determined to abandon all further attempts at suckling. The nipples were deeply ulcerated, and the breasts began to exhibit the usual symptoms of inflammation from lacteal engorgement. I directed the extract of belladonna to be applied, and with the same happy results as in the former case; the bread-and-water poultice being saturated with the escaping secretion, and all inflammatory excitement subsiding in a remarkably short space of time.

In the cases related by Dr. Goolden, the belladonna, with the internal administration of colchicum, appeared to have had the effect of arresting the secretion of the milk. In the two cases above detailed it is seen that the milk flowed away abundantly, and that the mother was enabled to continue lactation shortly after the application. Its beneficial effect in subduing the inflammation seems to me to admit of an easy explanation. The long-recognised power which this drug is known to possess of relaxing muscular contraction, at once suggests the *modus operandi* in these cases. I do not know if a sphincter has yet been demonstrated at the exit of the lactiferous ducts, but that the ducts are themselves muscular is well known; and the belladonna, by relaxing the muscles (or sphincters, if there be such), allows the cause of the inflammation—the accumulated secretion, to pass away readily, when the inflammatory symptoms and the accompanying fever rapidly subside.

Doubtless, any of the active forms of belladonna would answer the purpose equally well with the extract; such as a solution of its active principle, atropine. I do not, however, think that the choice of the form is altogether a matter of indifference. The latter is undoubtedly more elegant, and I dare say would be more speedy in its effect; but the extract, from its being a messy and unsightly application, is much more likely to be carefully washed off, so as not to be injurious to the infant when replaced at the breast.

Trusting this remedy may prove as effectual in other hands,

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

James-street, Covent-garden, May, 1857. E. U. BERRY, M.R.C.S.

THE PRESENT PRIZE SYSTEM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the so-called reply to, but which I would fain call auxiliary support of, my letter, "A Prizeman" says, "The horses which run for the Derby are not bad ones because half the hacks in the country do not run also: so the successful competitor for a professor's chair and the medical prizemen are not less deserving because few compete." The "Prizeman" does not seem to be aware that in the application of analogy, everything depends upon the exact resemblance of the analogous points, and that these should be the essential and determining ones. I am not deeply acquainted with racing matters, for it is not my fortune to live within the halo of the glory of Tattersall's; but I believe that the horses for the Derby, and certainly for most other races, run only under certain conditions, as of age, &c. Now in the competition amongst students this is not generally the case, and in the school at which my education was obtained there were no conditions whatever. This fact was well pointed out in the article about which my letter appeared. Were I to adopt the "Prizeman's" style of analogy, I might say that a donkey which wins the race does so in virtue of its merits, and must be better than the winner of the Derby; although all the world knows that the racehorse would not be degraded into such a competition. It is possible for a horse to walk over the course in virtue of no merit of its own, but in virtue of certain conditions which preclude competition on the part of the best horses—in fact, as the result of a bad system. Did it never suggest itself to the "Prizeman" that the matured man has not the same thirst for college distinction as has the developing boy? Does he not know that

there are men of excellent abilities and extensive knowledge who will not "go in" for prizes—not from any fear of being beaten, as he, naturally enough, flatters himself, but because they object to making machines of themselves, and are not willing to cram lectures, only, parrot-like, to emit them again? It is a notorious fact that the majority of prizemen are men of no originality of mind—literally "plodders;" and in this fact one may find the explanation of another, equally notorious,—namely, the remarkable oblivion into which such sink in after-life.

So, again, the successful competitor for a professorship is not very deserving, if the conditions of appointment are such as to preclude the best men. "If 'Apis' wishes to know how many competitors there really are, let him look into the lecture-room at the commencement of the session," &c. Surely the complacent assurance of a "Prizeman" would not seriously maintain the proposition, that all who do not compete fail to do so from fear; and that of the many who occupy the same benches with him, all are to be considered in the light of beaten competitors? If so, it would not cause surprise to hear him assert that the horse which wins the *first* race on the Derby day is better than any other horse at Epsom that day—superior, *par consequens*, to that which wins the grand race of the day.

The fact that the very porters can bet 2 to 1 on the prizeman is no argument whatever against "cramming," and, indeed, if it does anything, tends to overthrow, rather than support, the "Prizeman's" propositions. It is well known to every one "who knows anything of schools" that there are but few men, comparatively, who will submit to the drudging necessary to secure a prize—who will consent to the requisite injury of their bodily health and annihilation of their mental individuality. Look at the prize-lists of some of our schools, and tell us how it happens that two or three men have obtained them all? Look again at the pallid and spectacled faces of our prizemen—their hurried and anxious manner—and doubt not that the "very porters" can easily recognise them. Speak to them, and hear how they talk "lectures" and "vade-mecums."

As the result of considerable experience, my opinion remains positive, that cramming is as necessary for a prize competitor as is training for a boxer or a racer; and I should be as reluctant to bet on a non-crammed man for a prize as I should on a non-trained boxer for a fight, or a non-trained racer for a race; and so would the "very porters."

The "Prizeman" is mistaken when he says that "Apis" urges that there is no credit due to success when few compete. He gives them the credit of being better than those whom they defeat, and doubts not that they may be good men. He can call to mind, however, instances in which they have not been so; and he objects to a prizeman being necessarily considered a "great gun," and to honours obtained under a bad system being made the test of a man's ability. He knows frequent instances in which a third prizeman would infallibly have been *first*, had it been his destiny to compete a year later; and others in which a prizeman, had his lot fallen at a different period, would not have been prize-adorned at all. "Apis" object was not to attack prizemen generally, but a bad system, which failed often in securing rewards to the most able men.

In conclusion, "Apis" does not, and is inclined to believe that nobody else will deny, that it is by "one continued course of successes that a student gets his prizes."

I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,

College of Surgeons, May, 1857.

APIS.

ON THE SPECULUM OCULI OR OPHTHALMOSCOPE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—With reference to the drawings which have appeared in THE LANCET, and also those of a more finished character exhibited by me at the Medical Society, permit me to state that they were drawn by myself, *from patients under my care*, for the express purpose of publication; and from these drawings I had very careful copies made by Mr. Walter Learson, assistant at the College. If anyone else has made drawings of my cases, it has been without my consent, and is not only a most unusual but a most improper course to take, especially for one entirely unconnected with our hospital.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Gower-street, June, 1857.

JABEZ HOGG.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The audacity of Mr. Parkinson so surprises me, that I cannot refrain from at once giving the most positive denial to

his communication of last week, with reference to the drawings of eye diseases said "to be copied from his originals." I can give a most positive denial to his assertion, and will, moreover, testify that Mr. Hogg made these drawings from the patients, without any reference to what Mr. Parkinson had done. In fact, there can be no doubt in my mind that this letter has emanated in spleen on the part of Mr. Parkinson, whose conduct, with reference to his having taken drawings of Mr. Hogg's cases, very properly called forth his disapprobation.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

HENRY PALMER, House-Surgeon.

Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, May, 1857.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the Diploma, were admitted members of the College at the meeting of the Court of Examiners on the 29th ult. :—

BRIGHT, RICHARD STONEHEWER, Richmond, Surrey.
BUSS, HENRY, Barnsbury-grove.
CHANDRA, BABU RAJENDRA CHANDRA, Calcutta.
CROMARTY, JAMES PATTISON, Aberdeen.
GULL, FREDERICK, Stanway, near Colchester.
HEPWORTH, FRANCIS, Croftsbank, near Patricroft.
JAMES, HERBERT, Merthyr Tydfil.
ROWLANDS, ISAAC, Llanfer.
TRIMNELL, THOMAS JAMES, Cape of Good Hope.
WATTS, STEPHEN WILLIAM, Army.
WRIGHT, RICHARD, Dublin.

NEW FELLOWS.—The following members of the College having undergone the necessary examinations on the 19th and 21st ult., were admitted to the Fellowship at the last meeting of the Council :—

ALLINGHAM, WILLIAM, Finsbury-square; diploma of membership dated March 6, 1855.
BOWDEN, STEPHEN, Royal Navy; April 28, 1843.
CLAPTON, EDWARD, St. Thomas's Hospital; April 4, 1853.
FLOWER, WILLIAM HENRY, Queen Anne-street; March 27, 1854.
HULKE, JOHN WHITAKER, King's College; July 16, 1852.
JACKSON, THOMAS CARR, Hamilton-place, New-road; May 30, 1845.
MAUNDER, CHARLES FREDERICK, Finsbury place South; March 10, 1854.
NOLLOTH, EDWARD, Royal Navy; May 5, 1845.
NUNN, THOMAS WILLIAM, Stratford-place; Dec. 18, 1846.
ROSS, JAMES TYRRELL CARTER, Bengal Medical Staff; April 14, 1845.
RUDALL, JAMES THOMAS, Rochester-square, Camden-town; March 27, 1854.
SIBLEY, SEPTIMUS WILLIAM, New Burlington-street; Feb. 27, 1852.
TAAFFE, RICHARD P. BURKE, Pavilion-parade, Brighton; Aug. 4, 1852.
TEALE, THOMAS PRIDGEW, Leeds; March 28, 1855.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise, on

Thursday, May 28th.

DAVIS, WILLIAM HASLAM, Shelton, Stafford.
DAVY, FRANCIS JEFFORD, Knighton, near Newton Abbots, Devon.
EDWARDS, EDWIN THOMAS, Newcastle, Stafford.
HART, GRATIAN CHARLES BARRY, Bristol.
HIND, ALBERT, London.
MCWHINNIE, JOHN, Royal Navy.
MAUDSLEY, HENRY, Settle, Yorks.
WHITEFIELD, ARTHUR, Barnstaple, Devon.

PROPOSED CHANGES AT OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE.—We have been informed that a memorial to the authorities of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge is in preparation, to pray that these universities should confer some such title as Associate in Arts on every person who passed an examination before a board appointed either by the hebdomadal council or by a delegacy, as might be thought best. The scheme is proposed to comprise a preliminary examination in English literature, history, modern languages, Latin, mathematics, physical science, &c., &c.

MEDICAL REFORM.—Petitions upon this subject pour in upon Parliament; and all the corporations are alive and teeming with resolutions. The Royal College of Physicians presents a petition in favour of Mr. Headlam's Bill, in which it applauds the provision for perpetuating the division of the profession into physicians, surgeons, and general practitioners as consonant with the highest possible standard of professional education. Objections are urged against Lord Elcho's Bill on the ground that the general licence will take away all inducements to procure a higher professional qualification. It is also asserted, that this latter measure will tend to lower the standard of education throughout the profession. The Apothecaries' Society of Dublin proclaims in favour of Lord Elcho's Bill, upon the ground that it preserves to them their privileges, and has respect to kings and charters; whereas Mr. Headlam's Bill abolishes all their privileges, and making no concession to them whatever, transfers their rights to another class of practitioners.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY ON THE SALE OF POISONS.—On the evening of the 3rd inst., a special pharmaceutical meeting of this Society was held at the offices in Bloomsbury-square, to consider the precautions which ought to be adopted with reference to the sale of poisons, and the provisions of a Bill on this subject now before the House of Lords. Mr. Jacob Bell, President of the Society, took the chair. The subject seemed to excite much interest, and the room was crowded. After a long discussion, in which Professor Rogers and Professor Redwood took part, with many others, the following resolutions were agreed to :—"That the Bill now before the House of Lords, entitled an Act to Restrict and Regulate the Sale of Poisons, is not calculated to effect the object for which it is professedly introduced, and that it would prove no protection to the public, but, on the contrary, greatly augment the existing evils, and also throw needless obstacles on the legitimate sale of useful and necessary medicines." The second resolution was—"That, in the event of the Bill making any further progress, it is desirable that a special general meeting of the whole Pharmaceutical Society be convened, and that local secretaries be communicated with on the subject, with the view of offering the most strenuous opposition to such a measure." At the close of the meeting the chairman intimated that it was the intention of the Society to send a deputation to Earl Granville in order to explain to his lordship the objections to the proposed measure, and lay before him the suggestions of practical men upon the question of the sale of poisons.

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.—The fifth anniversary festival of this valuable institution was held on Thursday se'nnight at the Freemasons' Tavern, Lord Granville in the chair. The "gathering" was most numerous and influential. The proceedings were of the most cheering and animated character. The subscriptions and donations amounted to nearly £2500, exclusive of £1000 from the Devon and Exeter Medical Society.

THE ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—This society held its anniversary meeting on Friday, May 29th. The Council's Report announced various changes, and a considerable improvement in financial and other prospects. Sir James Clark was elected president.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.—At a meeting of the medical officers of the Droitwich Union, held at Droitwich on the 26th of May, 1857,—present, Mr. Jaques (chairman), Mr. Rogers, Mr. Suffield, Mr. Woodward,—it was resolved unanimously,—

1. That this meeting feels great pleasure in acknowledging the strenuous exertions made by Richard Griffin, Esq., on behalf of Union medical officers, and promises him its cordial co-operation and support.
2. That this meeting cordially approves of the principles laid down in the petition about to be presented to Parliament, and pledge themselves to sign an abbreviated form of the same.
3. That a subscription of 5s. 6d. each be entered into, to assist in carrying out the objects of the Poor-law Medical Reform Association, and the amount forwarded to Mr. Griffin.
4. That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to Mr. Griffin and to each of the medical journals.

THE NEWNHAM TESTIMONIAL.—The following letter from Mrs. Newnham to Sir John Forbes, the Secretary to the Committee, has been forwarded to us for publication :—"MY DEAR SIR JOHN,—I am at a loss in what terms to express my grateful feelings for the invaluable gift of the portrait of my dear husband. This testimony to his long-devoted services in the cause of humanity, and to the high estimation in which