

has afforded him, can be less competent to discharge the duties of a physician than if he had commenced the exclusive practice of a physician fresh from his university, his experience limited, and his judgment immature. You must be aware, Sir, that the sphere of observation enjoyed by a young physician in the present day is very contracted; and unless he be aided by some fortuitous circumstances, his title is little more than an empty name, and his coffers much in the same condition. Surely it cannot be contended, that a man who puts his title in abeyance for a time, for the purpose of obtaining a larger scope for the investigation of disease, and for carrying more effectually into practice the principles of the "ars medendi," which he has acquired at the schools, has, by so doing, disqualified himself for entering upon what has been termed the higher walks of the profession. I believe there are now in general practice, in various parts of the kingdom, several graduates of universities of the highest reputation in the country, whose object, on entering the profession, was ultimately to practise as physicians, to which end their general, as well as professional education, had special reference. If the present anomalous plan of legislation obtain the force of a law, one of two things it will be necessary for them to do, either to practise independently of, and unconnected with, the College of Physicians, or to submit to the humiliating alternative of undergoing an examination before a tribunal which now pronounces them to be entirely qualified physicians, if they think proper to practise as such, but which requires their qualifications to be tested by examination, should they for a time have availed themselves of the opportunities afforded them, by general practice, of enlarging their acquaintance with the practice as well as the theory of their profession.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Maldon, March 24, 1849.

GEO. P. MAY, M.D. Edin.

FORGERIES IN QUACK ADVERTISEMENTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As THE LANCET has been always prominent in exposing fraud and abuse in medical matters, will you allow me to call your attention to an advertisement relative to "Dr. Locock's" Wafers, and which appears in a publication entitled "Con Cregan," bearing my name thereto, and which is thus headed—"Cure of Ten Years' Asthmatic Cough."

"Extract of a letter just received from T. M. Griffith, Esq., Vavasour-square, Bath Avenue, Dublin. Dec. 7, 1847."

I now beg publicly to deny it, as having been either directly or indirectly my production. It is the production of some heartless scoundrel whom I do not yet despair of discovering. The facts are briefly these:—From my boyhood, until within the last few months, I have been a resident in Dublin, and just about the date the advertisement appears, 7th Dec., 1847, I had letters from almost every medical establishment of the same stamp as "Dr. Locock's," in answer, as they termed it, to my inquiry. On one or two occasions I succeeded in getting the letters returned, purporting to have been written by me, but as yet have been unable to discover the writer. About the same time,—that is, prior to its publication,—the agent, a Mr. Macarthy, in Dublin, called at my house, to inform me he had a letter from Da Silva and Co. here, saying that I had written to them, with the testimonial in question; and then I not only distinctly denied and forbade him to publish it, but also showed him a host of letters I had been annoyed with, when a friend here, a few days back, put into my hand the little publication with the "Locock" advertisement in. I instantly called on the agents, Da Silva and Co., but I never could see the principal, and my interviews with his representative were not at all satisfactory. I was astonished that they could have the presumption to bring before the public an advertisement that had been distinctly denied and contradicted. I need not say that I have suffered much private annoyance, and indeed, I may also add, injury by it; and your allowing this a place in your columns will oblige, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

London, March, 1849.

THOMAS MAGNUS GRIFFITH.

** Our correspondent has made us fully acquainted with his address and occupation.—ED. L.

THE APPEAL ON BEHALF OF MR. ALEXANDER WALKER.

In a note which we have received from Dr. Willis, since the appearance of our leading article of last week, the learned translator of "Wagner's Physiology" remarks:—"At this time, and as I am situated here, I do not see how I could be of any

use among the list of treasurers or committee of the fund in Mr. Walker's behalf. Well informed of his merits as an original inquirer into the functions of the nervous system, however, I deeply sympathize in his necessities, and have the pleasure to inclose you a cheque for a guinea, which, pray be so good as to add to the other contributions to the Walker Fund,—and oblige, your very obedient servant,

Barnes, March, 1849.

R. WILLIS."

** We have placed the donation of Dr. Willis in the hands of one of the treasurers of the fund residing in this metropolis.—ED. L.

THE NAVAL MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—A Manchester medical student being anxious to know whether there are such appointments as dispensers on board any of her Majesty's ships, allow me, through your columns, to inform him, there are not at present; the duties of dispensing being performed by the medical officers of each ship. Should he be disappointed by this answer, let him not, I beseech him, meditate joining the service upon his obtaining his diploma; as by so doing, he will always regret the misfortune he has had of joining a service, where medical men are detained in an ignominious position for the purpose of being the guardians and directors of boys commencing their naval career; for this question is often asked now by our opponents, "What are we to do with the youngsters, if we give you cabins, and allow you to become ward-room officers?" It will be unnecessary to allude more to that question, it having been so frequently answered.

Let, then, your Manchester correspondent clearly understand what treatment he may expect in the present enlightened age, as a medical man, in her Majesty's naval service: a chest, necessarily small, to contain all his stock of clothing, his books,—unless indeed he wishes to trust them in a midshipman's berth, where books are found of essential service in offence and defence in the science commonly called "sky-larking," a science so abstruse, that few of our medical men, unless, indeed, those who have had the misfortune of serving in her Majesty's naval service;—the chest must also contain his case of surgical instruments, as well as his washing utensils—a heterogeneous medley!! It only wants cooking utensils to complete it. He must sleep in a hammock; in some ships, on the deck, and in close contact with the marines; in other ships, separated from them; on arising in the morning let him content himself to sit on his chest, with his glass in his hand, and shave himself; let him then place his washing utensils on the lid of his chest and complete his toilet for the day. Then, in the berth, let him make up his mind, for some hours of the day, to use his strenuous exertions to keep some order and regularity amongst the rising Nelsons; the rest of the time he can spare from his medical duties, to self-improvement, if such a thing is possible for him in a midshipman's berth.

I fear, Sir, I have trespassed too much on the kindness you always exhibit towards naval assistant-surgeons, both in word and deed, but I trust these remarks may be of service to your correspondent, as well as impress upon the friends of our cause the degraded position we must remain in until a redress of our grievances is granted, which redress can only be obtained by their aid and our own exertions.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

March, 1849.

M.R.C.S., R.N.

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 30th ult.:—

ANNESLEY, THOMAS, Portadown, Armagh, Ireland.
FRESSAUGES, HENRI FRANCAIS, Mauritius.
GUPPY, THOMAS STAKES, Sidbury, Devon.
HUMPHRY, JOHN, Deal, Kent.
IZOD, FREEMAN, Esher, Surrey.
PAYNE, STURLEY, Norwich.
PERRY, WILLIAM, Stonehouse, Devon.

At the same meeting of the Court, Mr. JOHN ELLIOTT passed his examination for naval surgeon: this gentleman had previously been admitted a member of the College, his diploma bearing date July 28th, 1845.