

## THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Much credit is due to those gentlemen who, having been unfairly treated at the Royal Society, have nobly come forward and enabled you to lay the disgraceful affair before the profession.

But there are others, of whom, I fear, one can only say, that they are ignobly allowing these courageous spirits to fight their battle for them. Of this number are, Mr. Nasmyth, Mr. Gulliver, Mr. Wharton Jones. In the Royal Society, or out of the Royal Society, these gentlemen have suffered wrongfully. To them, therefore, I say, come forth, and join the pioneers in their worthy and common battle; never lie skulking whilst fighting is going on! I say—come forth; be men; be Britons! “England expects every man to do his duty.”

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
SPECTATOR.

## THE WATER-DEATH.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The accompanying paragraph is going the round of the newspapers here; and as some of my friends hesitate in adopting my own opinion,—that it is merely one of Punch's sly hits,—a few words from you on the subject would much gratify them, and, Sir, your obedient servant,

Edinburgh, July, 1846.

CHIRURGUS.

“HYDROPATHY IN THE ARMY.—We understand that Dr. Stummes, late of Vienna, at present physician to the hydropathic establishment at Grasmere, in Westmoreland, has proposed to the Commander-in-Chief the introduction of the hydropathic treatment into the Military Hospitals, more especially of the East and West Indies, for the cure of fevers and inflammatory diseases. To restore the soldier to his duty much sooner than by the ordinary treatment is possible, and, consequently, to increase in the same degree the effectiveness of the troops, besides economising to the treasury thousands of pounds in drugs; these, it is said, are the principal arguments by which Dr. Stummes supports his proposal. They are very strong ones, and, as we think them, well founded. We have heard with pleasure that the subject is entertained by the Commander-in-Chief, and that Dr. Stummes has been requested to put himself in communication with the Army Medical Department.”!!!!—*United Service Gazette*.

\* \* This paragraph has appeared in several public prints; perhaps it was written by Dr. Stummes himself, and fabricated as a puff of the quack “establishment,” for circulation amongst the gulls in different parts of the country.—ED. L.

## CORN-CUTTING.—THE TESTIMONIAL SYSTEM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have just cut out of a Cheltenham paper the enclosed “low” affair, in which three or four “disinterested” medical men have advertised their names, who, to say the least, ought to be ashamed of themselves for their want of skill in not being able to attend to their own feet:—

## “NOTICE.

BY THE REV. FRANCIS CLOSE.

Mr. Lowe is a respectable man, and, I am assured, a competent operator in his profession. FRANCIS CLOSE.  
Cheltenham, April 25th, 1846.

BY THE REV. DR. A. PHILLIPS.

I have much pleasure in stating that I have had proof of Mr. Lowe's skill as a chiropodist, and that I believe him to be a most respectable man. A. PHILLIPS, D.D.

Howick House, Worcester, May 7th, 1846.

BY C. T. COOKE, ESQ.

I have had an opportunity of witnessing Mr. Lowe's dexterity and nicety in extracting a long-existent and deep-seated corn upon the joint of the great toe; I can therefore recommend him as a competent and skilful operator in all the ordinary affections of the feet, to which his attention has been for so many years directed. C. T. COOKE, Surgeon.

26, Cambray-place, Cheltenham.

BY WILLIAM HAMILTON, M.D.

Mr. Lowe has operated on my foot without giving me the least pain, and has given me, certainly, relief.

14, York-terrace, Leamington.

WILLIAM HAMILTON, M.D.

BY JOHN TEUSS, M.D.

Mr. Lowe has operated on my foot, and relieved me of a very bad corn, with great skill and success.

58, Park-street, Bristol.

JOHN TEUSS, M.D.”

I don't wish to be uncharitable, but when I see medical men allow their names to be inserted in newspapers, I cannot help thinking it is intended as a sneaking kind of advertisement, hoping that some timorous old lady will come for their advice before risking their toes.

A few weeks back, a letter appeared in THE LANCET, complaining that the clergy of Cheltenham were great countenancers of quackery. Can you wonder at it when the profession goes hand in hand with quacks?

Being a young member of the profession, (which ought to be honourable,) I feel deeply the disrepute it is brought into by my seniors, who ought to know better.—I am, Sir, yours obliged,

VERBA.

Hastings, June, 1846.

## THE LUNATIC ASYLUM AT PALERMO.

(Extract from “Records of a Route through France and Italy.”

By RAE WILSON, F.A.S., A.S.R. pp. 270—273. 1835.)

“WHAT, however, is of infinitely greater importance, is the excellence of the institution itself, and the admirable system and care observed in it, both which reflect the highest credit on the skill and humanity of Baron Pisani, who has successfully devoted himself to the alleviation of one of the greatest calamities to which the children of mortality are liable. For the horrible condition to which those afflicted with the loss of reason used formerly to be consigned, the philanthropy of this excellent nobleman has substituted one of order and comfort. Instead of being treated like wild beasts, chained in filthy cells,—a mode better calculated to aggravate than to overcome their maladies,—they are now provided for with every attention, and subjected to such humane discipline, that numbers have been completely restored; and, with the exception of a few obstinate cases, coercion has been found quite unnecessary. To the admirable regularity and cleanliness which prevail throughout, to the tractability and inoffensive deportment of the unfortunate patients, I can myself bear evidence, having been conducted over the whole building by the Baron himself.

“The inmates are divided into two separate classes—viz., those who are admitted gratuitously, and those whose friends pay for their support. When a patient is first received, he is placed for a certain number of days in a room apart from the rest, in order that his peculiar kind of derangement may be studied by the medical attendants, and the particular kind of treatment required for it ascertained. Great care is taken to discriminate with precision the exact species and degree of insanity, and the causes which have occasioned it. Conformably with this system, one excellent regulation has been adopted, which is that of keeping a list, or register, of all the patients, wherein their names, ages, previous professions, the nature of their disease, &c., are minutely specified. A copy of this is kept framed, and hung up in the entrance hall. At the time of my visit, there were fifty-four females, and eighty-two males, in the house; and the principal causes assigned for their loss of intellect were, terror, love, jealousy, use of strong liquors, venereal affections, deep sorrow from loss of children or parents, and reverses of fortune. Manual occupation—adapted, as far as possible, to their previous habits—has been found most efficaciously salutary, and for the most part to supersede all occasion for harsher measures. Although so very little actual coercion appears to be resorted to in this institution, I observed that all the patients entertained a great fear of the Baron; for a look or gesture from him was sufficient to restrain the most refractory of those I beheld.

“During the time of being there, the greater part of the patients assembled together for dinner, entering the room one by one, and taking their place at table in an orderly manner. On grace being said by one of the attendants, they all stood up and chanted a sort of hymn; after this, their repast commenced, which consisted of soup carried round by attendants, who filled the plate of each individual in turn; this was succeeded by meat and vegetables, cut into small pieces before being brought in, for neither knives nor forks are allowed, but merely spoons. Oranges were liberally distributed among them, being considered very beneficial, and I was assured that some of them had been known to devour upwards of thirty of them in a day. Conceiving that those present could be only such of the patients as had become in some degree tranquillized, I was rather astonished when some among them were pointed out to me as labouring under decided mania,