

department. We trust such indications will not be lost on the senate. Let that body advocate a constitution for the University; a legitimate development of the principles of freedom upon which it was founded, and there will, we venture to say, be no lack of graduates. Without these concessions, the University cannot become great in the department of medicine, which once promised to be, and which might still be made, its chief boast and support.

ASYLUM FOR THE INDIGENT INSANE OF THE EDUCATED CLASSES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have perused, with great satisfaction, in THE LANCET of Oct. 19, the remarks of Dr. Conolly, and his "Suggestions for the Establishment of an Asylum for the Indigent Insane of the Educated Classes," and those who have had opportunities of judging will not hesitate in corroborating the statements made in that letter, as to the privations endured by the afflicted of those classes, and which not only press heavily upon the unfortunate sufferers, but also upon their families and connexions, entailing, in most instances, a great amount of suffering, poverty, and distress.

For many years past, this state of matters has given much consideration and anxiety to benevolent and philanthropic men, and many means have been devised for its amelioration, and attempts have been made, which, in some instances, have been attended with success, but which fall far short to meet the demands made upon them. Still, public attention has been drawn to the want of, and the necessity of supplying, such accommodation.

In accordance with these feelings, the trustees of the Manchester Royal Lunatic Hospital decided to act, when an opportunity was given them, four years ago, of rebuilding their institution, and, as far as was practicable, adapting it for carrying out the most enlightened and humane methods of treatment which human foresight and experience could devise. These, during the eleven months the hospital has been opened, have been practised, and the success has been most favourable and satisfactory.

The surplus of revenue obtained from those patients who pay the higher rates of board, together with the annual subscriptions raised in Manchester, and by parties at a distance, are thrown together into one fund, called the "Benevolent Fund," out of which such allowances are made (by a reduction of the rates of board) as, upon application to the committee, appears to be necessary to meet the wants of the case. Hitherto, no one has been admitted gratuitously, but very many have been admitted at terms varying from one-third to two-thirds of the usual rates.

By the existence of this fund, the trustees are enabled to give not only the best method of treatment, and the other advantages of a public institution, to those who can afford to pay, but to those of the middle and educated classes, who cannot do so, a direct relief and benefit.

In conclusion, I beg to say, that a "healthful, cheerful, asylum for the insane of the educated classes, (indigent as well as wealthy,) furnished with every appliance that experience or ingenuity could suggest, for the comfort and improvement of patients of this particular description, and the terms of which are moderate," is already in existence in the neighbourhood of Manchester; and that, however much the wants of such an institution may still be felt in many of our large towns, in this matter Manchester has done, and is doing her duty, in having provided an establishment for the indigent as well as the wealthy insane of the educated classes.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

THOMAS DICKSON, L.R.C.S.E., Med. Super.

Manchester Royal Lunatic Hospital, Cheadle,
near Manchester, Nov. 6, 1850.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.—Charitable bequests to this institution: £1000, free of legacy duty, from the late Mr. Jeremiah Olive, of York-terrace, Regent's-park; £500 from a public body; and £100 from a deceased clergyman. We understand the hospital will realize only £600 of the £1000 left to it by the late Mr. Cuthbert, the estate affording but six-tenths of the money bequeathed.

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 8th inst.:—

ALLEN, PATERSON, Waltham Abbey, Essex.
ASPINALL, THOMAS, Over Darwen, Lancashire.
BUTTON, ARTHUR MICHAEL, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.
HEATH, RICHARD, London.
LARCOMBE, SAMUEL SLEE, Langport, Somerset.
M'MULLAN, CHARLES CLARKE, Belfast.
MORRIS, TREVOR, Chepstow, Monmouthshire.
PRESTON, ANTHONY TAYLOR, Manchester.
SYKES, JOHN, Mile End-road.
WILLIAMS, JOSEPH, Portloe, Cornwall.

At the same meeting of the court, Messrs. JOHN WARD and CHARLES SAYER HUGO passed their examinations for naval surgeons; these gentlemen had previously been admitted members of the college, their diplomas bearing date, respectively, May 8, 1846, and March 12, 1847.

THE FELLOWSHIP.—The following were the questions submitted to the junior candidates for this distinction, at the examination last week at the Royal College of Surgeons:—

1. Find the interest of £324 8s. 4d. for four years nine months, at four per cent. per annum.
2. If 400 men, working eight hours a day, are required to do a piece of work in thirty days, find how many men would be required to do the same in sixteen days, working ten hours a day.
3. Required the number, consisting of two digits together making ten, to which, if thirty-six be added, the digits will be inverted.
4. Prove that the three angles of any triangle are together equal to two right angles.
Also, that the exterior angles of any polygon, formed by producing all its sides, each in one direction, are together equal to four right angles.
5. Prove that a straight line drawn at right angles to the diameter of a circle, from the extremity of it, falls without the circle.
6. Prove that there is equilibrium on the inclined plane when the power is to the weight as the height of the plane to its length, the plane being smooth, and the power acting in a direction parallel to the plane.
When the plane is rough, find the most advantageous direction in which the power can act, according as the object is to prevent a body from sliding down the plane, or to drag the same body up.
7. Prove that in every rigid body there exists a point at which the whole weight may be supposed to be collected without effecting the conditions of the body's equilibrium.
What is this point called? In what sense must the proposition be understood, when the point in question falls outside the body?

8. Prove from elementary principles that the pressure sustained by a given small area in the side or bottom of a vessel containing water, depends only on the depth of the area below the surface of the water, and not on the form or dimensions of the vessel.

9. Explain the action of the siphon.

What would take place if a siphon in action were placed under the receiver of an air-pump, and the air exhausted?

10. Enunciate the laws of the reflexion and refraction of light.

11. Explain the construction and functions of the eye, in so far as it may be regarded merely as an optical instrument.

Explain the nature of the defects of long sight and short sight, and the reason why they can be corrected by the use of lenses.

The candidates were also called upon to translate into English portions of the works of Cicero, and of the Odyssey of Homer, &c.

The professional examination of the candidates will take place on Tuesday and Thursday, the 3rd and 5th of December next.

VALEDICTORY COMPLIMENT TO DR. HENRY DAVIES.

—A few of this gentleman's attached friends met on Monday last, at the Hanover-square Rooms. Sir C. M. Clarke kindly came to town to take the chair. There were also present Sir Charles F. Forbes, Drs. Locock, Bright, Lee, Cape, J. Clarke,