

difference being the presence of a larger quantity of sulphur in combination with the arsenic, and the sulphuret in either case is reducible by black flux. When arseniate of silver is reduced by charcoal in a tube, nearly the whole, if not entirely the whole, of the volatile metal sublimes.

The conversion of the arsenious into arsenic acid, and the destruction of the organic matter, may be effected by evaporating to dryness, and fusing the dried mass with nitrate of potass; on treating the residue with distilled water, a solution of arseniate of potass will be obtained, which may be treated in a variety of ways, quite unnecessary here to detail.

Although I cannot immediately refer to the place, I think I have mentioned the above processes either in *THE LANCET* or the *Medical Gazette*, or else in some other publication; but if not, I have been constantly in the habit of exhibiting the processes to my forensic class; and it is matter of great congratulation to me to find that it is not only original with, but so highly approved of by, authority such as Dr. Ayres.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ROBERT VENABLES.

St. Vincent-place, City-road. April 15, 1845.

WE have received the following letter, among others, on the subject of Mr. MUNTZ's proposition:—

To the Editor of *THE LANCET*.

SIR,—The proposal of Mr. Muntz "to introduce a clause into Sir James Graham's Medical Bill, to make it imperative 'that all prescriptions should be written in the English instead of the Latin language,'" is evidently unfair to the physician, the surgeon, and the chemist, to those who prescribe and those who prepare medicines; whilst it would not affect the apothecary, who does not give a prescription, but sends medicines to his patients. The advantages of the Latin language are, its preciseness and its conciseness; the disadvantages of the English language are, the jumble of untranslatable terms in our medical nomenclature: "Take of creosote," for instance; or "of the hydrochloride of lime;" and, in some cases, the too great facility with which the prescription may be read; more than one half of its efficacy depending on its secrecy. In all hypochondriacal cases, I would write my prescriptions in symbolical characters, if it could be read by the chemist. It is the practice of some medical men to write their prescriptions so illegibly as to defy the most skilful scribe to decipher them. Why is this?

Yours,

FAIRPLAY.

April 29, 1845.

REGISTRATION QUERIES.

To the Editor of *THE LANCET*.

SIR,—I should feel obliged by the insertion of the enclosed letters in the pages of your journal, as I think them of consequence to gentlemen who hold the double qualification.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

WM. PHILPOT BROOKES, M.D., M.R.C.S.E.

Albion-House, Cheltenham, April 2, 1845.

Cheltenham, March 23, 1845.

SIR,—I have been applied to by a number of gentlemen of the medical profession, practising in this town and neighbourhood, to apply to you respecting clause 17 of the Medical Bill of last session, which, it appears, is omitted in the new Bill, and which gave the power to gentlemen holding the diploma of surgeon and physician to register in both. Now, as many gentlemen practise as surgeons, and wish to continue to do so, who have also their physicians' qualification, to use at any future period, should they feel inclined, I should esteem it a favour if you would oblige me with a reply to the following questions, as the doubt is by no means solved by reference to the above-named Bills.

First.—Can a gentleman, who now holds the diploma of the College of Surgeons, and also that of a physician, register on both, and if not, how can he, at any future period, register either without paying any extra fees for registration, and without passing another examination?

Secondly.—Can a gentleman, who registers as a physician, (holding also a surgical diploma,) practise in all the branches of the profession, and hold surgical appointments? It would appear a great hardship for those who have obtained both a physician's and surgeon's diploma, to be compelled to give up either of their degrees, and thus to be deprived of that which may have been obtained at considerable cost of money, time, and study, particularly as circumstances might in future life render the possession of one of those qualifications highly desirable.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

Craven F. Berkeley.

To the Right Hon. Sir James Graham, Bart., &c. &c. &c.

Whitehall, March 31, 1845.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th inst.

A gentleman who now holds the diploma of the College of Surgeons, and also that of a physician, cannot register on both. If he registers as a physician he may practise surgery, but he has no legal title to fees, which are honorary. He may register afterwards, at any time, as physician, if he prefers not to do so now.

A gentleman who registers as a physician, holding also a surgical diploma, may practise in all the branches of the profession, and hold surgical appointments. This will be better secured by the intended omission, in committee, of the last part of the 28th section of the Bill.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES GRAHAM.

The Hon. Craven F. Berkeley, M.P.

DR. LINDLEY'S LECTURES.

To the Editor of *THE LANCET*.

SIR,—I perceive by the circular which has just been issued by the Society of Apothecaries, that Dr. Lindley is to deliver his annual course of lectures on botany at the Chelsea Gardens, so early as half-past eight A.M. This early lecturing will greatly inconvenience students generally, but more particularly those who live a long distance from the gardens. I think you will agree with me that this plan of proceeding, on the Society of Apothecaries' part, is anything but just and fair to students, for two reasons:—First, with respect to distance, by which the majority of students will not be able to attend in time to hear the learned professor's lectures at that time of the morning, as there are no vehicles of any kind that ply so early, with the exception of cabs, which are rather too expensive for the students. Secondly, by attending these lectures so early, students will be obliged to miss or lose a greater part of their own lectures at their different hospitals.

The time fixed may suit Dr. Lindley and a few of the students very well, but surely the opinions of the majority of them ought to have some, if not more attention, paid to them by the Apothecaries' Society. In conclusion, I would venture to suggest that the lectures on botany be delivered in the afternoon, when most, if not all, of the students will have ended their studies at the hospitals for the day, whereby they will be able to set out for the gardens, as vehicles will be plying to and fro, and they will not have lost any of their lectures delivered at the hospitals.

Knowing that you advocate and have the interests of the students at heart, I trust you will oblige, not myself only, but also the whole body of students in this metropolis, by inserting these few lines in your next journal.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

FRANCIS LEOPOLD HOOPER,
Student at St. Thomas's Hospital.

St. Thomas's Hospital, April 30, 1845.

THE JAMAICA COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

To the Editor of *THE LANCET*.

SIR,—I perceive by the new charter for the incorporation of the medical profession, published in *THE LANCET* of March 15th, 1845, that "Every gentleman who was in actual practice &c. previous to 1815, and every licentiate &c., every doctor or bachelor of ANY University of the United Kingdom, and every fellow or licentiate of ANY College of the United Kingdom, who shall have been &c. in actual practice as a general practitioner in England or Wales at the period of granting the charter, and who shall be enrolled a member WITHIN TWELVE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE CHARTER," shall be considered *de factis* a fellow of the college.

Here there is no mention that the surgeons, or fellows, or graduates of the Jamaica College of Physicians and Surgeons, incorporated by royal charter, shall be entitled to similar privileges. This must surely be an oversight. The Jamaica College contains some of the most eminent men in the profession, "whether at home or abroad," members of the Edinburgh, Dublin, Cambridge, London, and other Colleges, and whose talents and professional skill will stand a comparison with any body of practitioners in Europe.

The members, however, of these colleges practising in Jamaica, I should think, are not excluded by this clause, as they will claim to be registered members by virtue of their British diplomata; but what will be the condition of those gentlemen who have only the Jamaica diploma, supposing at any period of their lives they should wish to settle in Great Britain or Ireland? Why, they