

surface of the tumour; these means may be continued, and its progress watched, to palliate any accidents which may subsequently appear, as we cannot look for a radical cure.

(To be continued.)

THE LANCET.

London, Saturday, July 19, 1834.

WHEN the surgeons of the Bristol Infirmary addressed a MEMORIAL to the Parliamentary Committee on the subject of the monopoly, which had been created in favour of the London hospitals by the "regulations" of the officers of those hospitals acting in the capacity of councillors of that College, the gentlemen of the Bristol Institution embraced a favourable opportunity of supporting the interests of the public, as well as of upholding the dignity of the mass of the profession. What is there, we would ask, in connexion with the London hospitals, which renders those institutions the best-qualified schools for furnishing the means of instruction to medical students? The surgeons of the Bristol Infirmary were not content with asking this question with candour, and in replying to it with boldness, but they advanced a step farther, and referred to certain obvious disadvantages connected with the prosecution of studies in the metropolis, which are wholly unknown in most of our country towns, and are only productive of slight inconveniences in other populous places situated at a distance from London. It is unnecessary that we should go over this ground anew, as it has been often occupied in the pages of this journal. Indeed, the readers of THE LANCET know full well that the track was first beaten out by this publication; but we no longer act singly in the open path which is directed against the medical monopolists, and

which, consequently, inclines to a direction favourable to the discovery of a scene of justice.

It is extraordinary that the surgeons of the country hospitals should for so long a period have submitted, without opposition, to the odious mandates of the College in Lincoln's-Inn Fields; and it can only be explained or accounted for, by believing that the officers of our medical institutions generally are influenced in their conduct and are united in their interests by a spirit of clanship, which pervades every set of those functionaries. Hospital physicians and surgeons are too much in the habit of considering that they belong to a distinct, or to a superior, class of practitioners, to act in accordance with the feelings, or the implied rights of those members of the profession, whom they are disposed to regard as occupying an inferior station in society. Accordingly it has happened, that some of the hospital surgeons of the country institutions have acquiesced in, if they have not actually supported by open approval, the oppressive "regulations" which from time to time have been issued by the Hospital surgeons of London, sitting in the capacity of councillors of the College—thus placed at the head of the surgical part of the profession by the charter which received the signature of the too-supple hand of his late Majesty George the Third. Strongly impressed with a knowledge of these circumstances, the profession read with feelings of surprise the Memorial of the Bristol Surgeons, containing distinct charges of unfair dealing, and gross partiality, against the Council of the London College of Surgeons. On the contrary, the approval of the conduct of the COUNCIL by the surgeons of the Birmingham Hospital has excited no surprise whatever; because a concurrence in that system of monopoly which was long ago created, and which has been for such a length

of time supported by the rulers of the institution in Lincoln's-Inn Fields, was a circumstance which experience had taught the profession to expect would characterize the conduct of a large numerical proportion of the officers of the County Medical Establishments. Instructed then, as we have been, by the events of some years past, to look for a continuance of that truckling submission which has already signalized the demeanour of many surgeons "in office" to the official ordinances of the incorporated monopolists, we were most agreeably surprised when we perused the memorial that had been addressed by the Surgeons of the Bristol Infirmary to the Medical Committee of the House of Commons. We were neither, however, astonished nor dissatisfied on reading the replication of the Surgeons of the Birmingham Hospital, wherein they spoke disparagingly of the opportunities afforded by their own institution, as compared with the benefits conferred by the hospitals of the metropolis: but we have felt both surprise and gratification on examining a statement of the reasons which have induced the PHYSICIANS of the Birmingham General Hospital to "believe that the opportunities afforded for medical and surgical education by that institution are *equal* to those of the London hospitals." The following is the communication which has been addressed by those gentlemen to the Members of the Parliamentary Committee:—

"The physicians of the Birmingham General Hospital, believing that the opportunities afforded for medical and surgical education by that institution are equal to those of the London hospitals, submit the following reasons in support of their opinion:—

"1. The Birmingham Hospital, containing 180 beds, is as large as most of the London hospitals.

"2. The manufactories of the town and the mining operations of its neighbourhood afford a large number of accidents, almost all of which are brought to the Birmingham hospital.

"3. This hospital being open to patients from any distance, and not appropriated exclusively to the use of inhabitants of the town, contains cases of all the diseases prevailing in the midland counties, of which Birmingham may be considered the centre.

"4. *Clinical* lectures and instructions are given by the physicians, who regularly attend three times a week, and oftener when the cases are urgent.

"5. In order to enforce the attendance of pupils, they are required to enter their names in a book provided for that purpose; and certificates are not granted to them unless this regulation shall have been strictly complied with.

"6. Medical cases are accurately recorded for the use of the students; and the bodies of all patients, medical or surgical, who may die in the hospital (if permitted) are examined in the presence of, at least, one of the medical officers.

"7. All accidents and *urgent medical cases* are admitted *at any hour* of the day or night *without* a ticket of recommendation being demanded.

"8. The physicians of the Birmingham General Hospital are of opinion that Provincial Medical and Surgical Schools, *together with* the opportunities for instruction afforded by *such* institutions as the *Birmingham General Hospital*, give to the student a complete knowledge of the principles and practice of his profession, which is further *guaranteed* to the PUBLIC by the subsequent examinations in London.

"(Signed)

"GEO. EDW. MALE, JAS. JOHNSTONE,
JOHN K. BOOTH, JOHN ECCLES,
Physicians to the General Hospital.

"Birmingham, June 28, 1834."

Although this is a brief statement, it is an important one, and is well calculated to produce a sensation of shame in the minds of the officers of the *London Hospitals*. In the first place, we observe that the Birmingham General Hospital contains 180 beds; and it is well known that those beds are invariably occupied by patients who belong not only to Birmingham, but to places remote from that important town. These facts justify the remarks made in the foregoing statement, that the hospital may be said to represent correct examples of those diseases which usually occur in the midland counties. Thus this hospital,

which has been virtually proscribed by the by-laws of the College of Surgeons, contains one hundred and eighty beds, whereas one of the "recognised" institutions,—the Westminster Hospital, contained, until recently, *less than one hundred beds*; but that hospital possesses this advantage over the institution in the country—the *four* surgeons who hold office in it occupy seats at the board of that Council which concocted the regulation in favour of its own monopoly. If we had but this one fact in proof of the pernicious authority which can be exercised under the sanction of the charter of the College of Surgeons, it would be sufficient to sustain and justify a demand for making an alteration in our system of medical government. What find we in the fifth paragraph? Why, that a book is kept open for receiving the inscriptions of students, and it is observed that the certificates are withheld, if the attendance be not regularly maintained. In which of the hospitals of *London* are the inscriptions of students taken? Such a thing is not to be found. But what do we remark in paragraph the sixth? That records of the cases are kept for the use of the students, and that, when permission can be obtained to examine the bodies, those examinations are "always made in the presence of one of the medical officers." Here are two circumstances in the highest degree favourable to the attainment of knowledge by the student—two immense advantages presented in the management of this proscribed institution, neither of which is offered by a single one of the seven favoured hospitals of this metropolis. We know that there are three or four physicians and surgeons who make notes of their cases for the use of the students, and who superintend, occasionally, the inspection of bodies in the dead-houses; but in this respect they accord not with the system of medical government observed in our hospitals, but

deviate from it in a mode of conduct as beneficial as it is peculiar.

The pertinacity which marks the adherence of the Council of the College, and of their truckling "official" supporters in and out of London, to the existing order of things, is a sufficient illustration of the advantages which *they* derive from the present state of medical law. But is it possible that the health of the community is to be confided to the care of gangs of conceited mercenaries? Whatever may be the schemes of the corruptionists with a view to their own security in the positions which they improperly occupy, we venture to predict that their career in corporate iniquity is drawing towards its close. The fetters, which they have imposed on private teachers, will shortly be broken asunder, and medical education will receive that prodigious impulse which can be given in no other mode whatever, than by rendering the cultivators of medical science perfectly free to act in accordance with those plans and principles which have received the all-important sanction of experience.

THE meetings of the Dublin College of Surgeons increase in interest as they proceed in their deliberations; the body, indeed, would seem resolved on preserving to the last that consistency in error which has led them into so many ludicrous embarrassments of late. Our readers will recollect, that we announced some time ago the addition of Messrs. JACOB and HARRISON to the London deputation, at an expense of five guineas a day, and by an act of the College, which by many was considered to have been illegal. The manner in which these gentlemen (courtesy is one of the cardinal virtues in the Dublin College of Surgeons!) were smuggled into the receipt of thirty-five guineas a week each, and the personal objections to

their mission at all, justly excited in the body a reaction, in which we suspect, indeed, that men of all parties participated. The appointment of six individuals at so extravagant an expense on the part of the College, without one of these being nominated by the private teachers, together with the suspicion that the latter would depute some person of their own body to represent their interests in the medical Committee, swelled the ranks of the opposition into a formidable array of numbers. In this state of things a requisition, numerously signed, and calling on the president to convene a meeting of the College for the purpose of appointing, on the same footing as the other members of the deputation, a representative of the private schools, was presented to Mr. KIRBY. What was to be done? Here was a dilemma, either horn of which was equally fatal to the diplomacy of the school-men of Stephen's Green and of Park Street. "We will recal HARRISON and JACOB," said one, "rather than Mr. ELLIS should be added to the deputation."—"We will send over some non-entity, whose want of information and independence will prevent him from doing mischief," cried another. Such overtures were accordingly made, and, we are happy to add, were repudiated with the contempt which they deserved. But to the result. The parties met; the opposition presented a long and lowering front. The President announced the purpose for which the College met; Mr. CUSACK immediately rose, and, to the astonishment of all those who were not conversant with the depth of that gentleman's political sagacity, proposed Mr. ELLIS, of the Peter Street School, as the fittest and most proper person to represent the interests of the private schools before the Medical Committee of the House of Commons! Mr. PORTER alone, whose virulent prejudices are a subject of pity rather than of repro-

bation, protested against a proposal, which was immediately ratified by the College without being put to the ballot.

We need scarcely point out in detail the policy of Mr. CUSACK's conduct on this occasion. Had not his presence of mind prevented it, his less politic associates would have imprudently incurred the odium of illiberality and the ridicule of a defeat, by submitting the question to the ordeal of the ballot. But the petty considerations of persons and things never stand in the way of Mr. CUSACK's endeavours to attain his objects; and what in this instance he could not withhold, he wisely conceded with the semblance of generosity. We willingly accord to his generalship the tribute of our admiration: *he knows* we should not be warranted in giving him credit for more. We hope Mr. ELLIS will not make a mistake the other way. Had he been appointed by the opposition alone, we should deem this intimation unnecessary; but since the enemy has condescended to contribute to his appointment, we take this early opportunity of warning him against the emollient influence of patronage, and the seductions of "gratitude." Let him not, therefore, forget, that though he is now, like his brother delegates, about to receive the wages, it is not incumbent on him to perform the services, of corruption. The importance of the duties which he has to perform, will be the standard by which we shall pronounce judgment on the manner in which they will be executed. His evidence will very shortly come before us, and furnish us with the means of judging whether these suggestions were necessary or not. We again caution him against the consequences of a default of duty for which, in deficiency of information, or the rectitude of the cause in which he is embarked, he can have no apology. His task is an easy one—merely to tell the truth; if he do this he ill do enough. It

is now too late to remonstrate on the ruinous impolicy of exhausting the College treasury by the expenses of a deputation, one half of whom would have been sufficient for all useful purposes. We trust, indeed, that the wild and wicked proceedings of the College for the last few weeks, will awaken the rational and moderate members of the body to a sense of the danger and impropriety of suffering the destinies of an institution which might be rendered, by very little trouble on their part, highly useful to society, to fall into the hands of (with one or perhaps two exceptions) some half dozen of designing men, who, in point of abilities, are really below the same number of teachers in any similar institution in Europe.

AFTER the late exhibitions of duplicity at the Westminster Medical Society, we hoped and expected that we should not be required to notice any proceedings connected with the name of Dr. GEORGE GREGORY. Disappointment, however, is our portion, inasmuch as we find it to be our imperative duty to insert a "*Narrative*," which this individual has printed, descriptive of the occurrences which have recently transpired at St. George's Hospital. Here is the document, inserted *verbatim*, and it should be remarked that the words in *Italic characters* are so printed in the original. We entreat every reader of this Journal to bestow on it a patient examination, assuring him with confidence that his time thus employed will not be ill bestowed.

"DR. GREGORY'S NARRATIVE.

"St. George's Hospital, June, 1834.

"On Wednesday, May 21st, it was announced, at the Board Room of St. George's Hospital, that a vacancy existed in the office of teacher of medical jurisprudence in the school attached to that hospital. On Thursday, May 22nd, Mr. Stone showed me a circular from Drs. Hope and Williams, proposing to lecture conjointly on

that subject. The same evening I wrote to Dr. Macleod, offering my services in a like capacity. On Friday, May 23rd, by the advice of Dr. Macleod, I wrote formal letters to all the medical officers of the hospital, soliciting their support in my application for the office of lecturer on medical jurisprudence.

"In the course of the following week, I received a very kind reply from Mr. Brodie, giving me every encouragement; also one from Dr. Chambers, expressed in very flattering terms; a third from Dr. Seymour, stating that 'individually he should be happy to promote my views;' and a fourth from Mr. Caesar Hawkins, giving no definite opinion. All concurred in stating, that the matter was still undecided.

"The extremely favourable replies from Dr. Chambers and Mr. Brodie, led me to think that I might rely upon the support of the medical officers in any office about the hospital for which I was qualified. About this period I threw together a few loose hints on the subject of an assistant-physician, which I sent to Dr. Macleod. As this was an *ex-parte* statement, or project, written hastily, on a subject wherein I was imperfectly informed, *and on the merits of which I could not pledge myself*, I sent it anonymously. On Saturday, June 7th, I first heard that the medical officers of the hospital did contemplate the appointment of an assistant-physician. I concluded that they had fully considered the subject, and had good reasons for taking such a step, and naturally became anxious to know how far I might calculate upon their support.

"Between the 7th and 11th of June, I communicated several times with Dr. Macleod on this subject. I represented to him that my age and standing in the profession, and the peculiar circumstances in which I stood with regard to one of the candidates (Dr. Hope, with whom I had had an unsuccessful contest a few years ago at the Marylebone Infirmary), would not justify my coming forward for the inferior situation of assistant-physician, *unless with a strong moral certainty of success*, which could be derived only from an explicit avowal of the feelings and wishes of the medical officers. I entreated Dr. Macleod to be explicit on this subject, but his reply was, '*All that I have been able to get for you (or all that I can ensure you), is a clear stage and no favour.*' When pressed still more closely, on the evening of Tuesday, June 10th, his reply was, '*You must not calculate on what is called the medical interest, for I fear the majority of the influential medical officers of the hospital are against you.*' However, he added,

Do not trust to what I say. Go and see the other medical officers, and judge for yourself.

"Accordingly, on the morning of Wednesday, June 11th, I called on Mr. Brodie, whose reply was so unsatisfactory, that my first impression was to proceed no further; but, at his instigation, I called on Drs. Seymour and Wilson, who candidly professed their intention to be *perfectly neutral* in the approaching contest, so far at least as Dr. Hope and myself were concerned. I begged for further explanation—as for instance, whether they would individually vote for me?—whether, if asked, they would state that, on public grounds, I was the candidate that deserved the support of the governors; but I could ascertain nothing beyond their determination to maintain the *strictest neutrality*.

"In an hour after this, the proposal for an assistant-physician was made to the Weekly Board by Dr. Seymour, and the canvass began. I addressed Drs. Seymour, Wilson, and Macleod, in the Board Room, who told me that my election (if it took place) would have their entire concurrence and approbation, but that *they could not do any thing more for me*. I now applied myself to other influential governors. Sir Charles Clarke and Mr. Tupper most handsomely volunteered their support. Mr. Fuller stated, that while the physicians of the hospital remained neutral, he could only offer me his *single* vote. Other governors whom I addressed, hung back until the wishes of the physicians were declared.

"There was encouragement in all this, but not that moral certainty of success, without which I could not safely enter on a canvass of six hundred governors for an inferior situation not yet created, and about the necessity and propriety of which doubts existed. Still I began my canvass, hoping that to-morrow might bring with it a brighter prospect. I met however with but very partial encouragement. Many of those medical friends, on whose support I relied (Dr. Holland, Dr. Merri-man, Dr. Park, Mr. Pennington, Mr. Powell, Mr. Lockley), were already busily engaged in the support of other candidates. The neutrality professed by the physicians of the hospital was the line of policy adopted by many governors. I now reverted to that memorable expression of Dr. Macleod's, that '*he feared the influential majority of the medical officers of the hospital were against me*;' and finding this opinion corroborated by various circumstances that occurred in the course of my first day's canvass, and that great doubts existed as to the propriety of my

canvassing at all for an office not yet in existence, I decided, at ten o'clock p.m., to retire from the contest, and issued notices to that effect on Friday morning, June 13th, at eight a.m.

"At nine o'clock Dr. Macleod called upon me, and now professed himself so anxious for my success, that, as he himself states (in a letter to me, dated June 15th), '*he spent nearly an hour in endeavouring to dissuade me from the rash step I had taken*.' 'Having failed in my efforts,' he adds, 'I set out to Mr. Stone's, as a friend of yours, and urged him to go to you. From him I went to and saw, either at their own houses, or at the hospital, five of the medical officers; and having positively assured myself again that there was no under current against you, I returned to Weymouth Street once more, and was once more unsuccessful.'

"The medical officers of the hospital having now, after two days of strict neutrality, while I was in the field, declared themselves unreservedly in my favour, when I was not, offers of assistance poured in upon me from all quarters during the whole of Friday, the 13th of June; but the secession, which had drawn this opinion forth, was now widely known, and the other candidates availed themselves of it to secure votes.

"On Saturday, June 14th, I received a letter from Dr. Wilson, one of the physicians of the hospital, telling me, 'that his anxiety for the best interests of the hospital, induced him to request my vote and interest in favour of Mr. Lane, candidate for the office of second assistant-surgeon.' In my reply, dated Monday, June 16th, I begged to inquire, why his anxiety for the best interests of the hospital might not equally have led him to select one out of the many candidates for the office of *assistant-physician*; and why *neutrality* was professed in the one case, and *favouritism* in the other.

"In his reply to me, dated 17th June, Dr. Wilson states, that 'with respect to the assistant-physicianship (in the propriety of which office he concurs), he is, and shall remain, neutral until the Special General Court shall have decided on the appointment; but with respect to the second assistant-surgeoncy, in the necessity or propriety of which appointment he does *not* concur, he feels it due to the best interests of the hospital to support and make known his opinion of a particular candidate.'

"Early on Tuesday, June 17th, I addressed a long letter to Dr. Seymour, embodying the substance of the preceding statements, and pointing out to him how much I had suffered from that system of

strict *neutrality* now for the first time (and I hoped the last) adopted by the physicians of St. George's Hospital, and for which, as being the first time, I could not possibly have been prepared. To this I received, in reply, a note, requesting me to call without delay; I did so, and met Dr. Macleod there.

"In the course of conversation, I inquired whether the physicians of the hospital were really decided as to the necessity of an assistant-physician. They seemed disposed to leave the matter upon its own merits to the judgment of the governors at the Special Court; and when I further inquired, whether they would consider any exertion on my part to defeat the proposed measure as personally hostile to the physicians, both Dr. Seymour and Dr. Macleod replied, '*Certainly not.*' On the following day, June 18th, I received a letter from Dr. Seymour, embodying the substance of this conversation, and concluding with the emphatic expression, '*Certainly not.*'

"I now, *for the first time*, set myself seriously to consider whether the office of assistant-physician was really necessary, and what arguments could be adduced *against* it. I began to compare the medical establishment at St. George's with that of other hospitals, and collected from various sources the several documents which I laid before the Special Court on Friday, June 27th. These, in my opinion, fully authorized me in then stating to the governors (as I did also in a circular, dated June 18th), that the present establishment of medical officers is *effective* for all the purposes of the charity. I convinced myself, that the analogy between the appointment of assistant-physician and assistant-surgeon, on which, in my *anonymous* communication to Dr. Macleod, I had thoughtlessly laid stress, did not, in truth, hold good, inasmuch as an hospital physician can be *effectively* educated at a dispensary, while an hospital surgeon cannot. The whole tenor of the proceedings in this case convinced me, that if now, or at any other time, further assistance in the medical establishment of the hospital should be required, it ought to be in the shape of an *additional*, and not in that of an *assistant* physician. I could not but feel, upon reflection, that a system, under which St. George's Hospital had attained its present celebrity, could not be essentially defective; and I therefore proposed to the Special General Court the following resolution:—'That a sub-committee be appointed to inquire into the present state of the medical establishment of the hospital, with a view to ascertain whether any addition to it is called for by the al-

tered circumstances of the hospital; and if so, under what denomination such new office should be created.' I cannot but regret that this resolution was negatived.

"In looking back upon the course which I have pursued, from the onset to the close of this affair, my only regret is, that I was ever induced to become, even for a few hours, candidate for an office, before the necessity and propriety of establishing that office had been dispassionately considered. The question admits of great difference of opinion, and the decision of it is of such vital importance, if not to the present, at least to the *future* interests of the charity, that I trust it will still be calmly reconsidered, before the measure is finally carried into execution.

"GEORGE GREGORY, M.D.

"31, Weymouth Street,
June 28, 1834."

Is this man demented, that he should take the pains of publishing to the world a correct record of his own shuffling conduct? But let us see; let us strip this production of the fringe that hangs about it, of the veil that is thrown over portions of it, and observe of what the fabric consists.

Having received an intimation from the medical officers of the hospital, in reply to a solicitation made by him, begging their support for his appointment to "the chair of medical jurisprudence," he was "led to think that he might rely upon the support of the medical officers for any office about the hospital for which he was qualified." With this agreeable impression tickling his mind, GEORGE looks about him in order to discover whether *any* situation in the hospital be vacant, but unfortunately every place is filled, from that of physician down to that of nurses and messengers. What was to be done? A *new* office must be created to be sure, and GEORGE, not forgetting the old maxim, "*Facilius crescit, quam inchoatur, dignitas,*" resolved on throwing together "a few loose hints" on the subject of an *assistant*-physician. These "hints" he sent to "his friend" and literary coadjutor, RODERICK MACLEOD; but he transmitted them "*anonymously,*" be-

cause he was "imperfectly informed on the subject, and on its merits could not pledge himself." Alas, GEORGE, you should not trouble yourself to make explanations; if you will only tell us what your conduct is, we will dispense with your reasons. Why, GEORGE, as you threw the "loose hints" together, with no other view than that of creating the office for yourself, would it not,—come, come, be candid,—would it not have been rather too barefaced to have attached the name of *George Gregory* to the ingenious device? How would it have appeared, think you, most sapient GEORGE, if a *suggestion* for the creation of such an office had appeared, signed *George Gregory* on one week, had it been followed, on the next, by a letter of *solicitation* bearing the same notable signature! So it was sent "anonymously" to a brother editor, who, of course, was incapable of recognising the autograph! What happened next? Why, of course, on the 7th of June, GEORGE heard that the medical officers of the establishment "*did* contemplate the appointment of an assistant-physician." *Of course* they did! Our hero now sets to work to fill the place which his own ingenuity had created. But, alas, for the mutability of human hopes and expectations! In less than four days he found there were *other candidates* in the field, and instead of obtaining the support of the medical officers, on which he had all along calculated, poor Dr. GEORGE succeeded in obtaining that kind of support which TEDDY MAHONEY felt fully assured would crown him with victory—"faith, the warm neutrality of his friends!" Aye; our doughty schemer was "assured in the Board Room" on the 11th of June, within an hour after receiving an unsatisfactory reply, and after calling, at Mr. BRODIE'S instigation, on Drs. SEYMOUR and WILSON, who candidly professed their intention to be "perfectly neutral,"—"in an hour after,"

exclaims GEORGE, "the office was created and the canvass begun." "I then," says he, "addressed Drs. SEYMOUR and WILSON in the Board Room;" and of what do these friends assure him? How ardent must be their regard for their friend! We must quote the words of our hero:—"They told me that my election (*if it took place*) would have their entire concurrence and approbation, but that they "could not do anything more for me." That word "*do*" comes in strangely, and, when *sounded* in the sentence, strikes upon the ear most ludicrously. Look at your "*if*," Dr. GEORGE, in the parenthesis; the "*do*," you see, was fudge; you were to get their *approbation* *IF* you were elected. This was a rare "*do*," truly, towards obtaining the office,—their "concurrence and approbation" after you had acquired it! What think you now of the support of "neutral" friends? Your opinion of their worth, perchance, harmonizes somewhat with their opinion of what would be your value as a colleague.

Finding how matters stood, our discomfited hero retired from the contest, in exactly two days after the proposal for creating the office had been made before the Weekly Board. On being fairly beaten out of the field by his opponents,—on retiring from a contest for an office of his own creating,—after having thrown together the "loose hints" on the subject of such an office,—what step does this actor of many parts next take in this farcical and disgusting transaction? Why, this inventor of the office exclaims, "I now *for the first time*—(indeed!)—set myself seriously to consider whether the office of "assistant-physician was *really* necessary, and what arguments could be adduced *against* it." (He has himself printed the word "against" in italics.) And what was the result of the cogitation of our most profound thinker and schemer? Why, that the present establishment and

medical officers in the hospital "is *effective* for all the purposes of the charity;" and that, if any further assistance should be required, it ought to be in the shape of an *additional*, and not that of an assistant, physician. So, on discovering—after he had caused the office of *assistant* physician to be officially proposed—that *he* had no chance of occupying it, GEORGE commences knocking down that office, and creating another upon its ruins, trusting to fortune, the versatility of his genius, and the "neutrality" of his friends, for the chance of filling the newly contemplated post of honour.

On the 8th of June we find that our hero addressed the Governors in the following circular:—

To the Governors of St. George's Hospital.

My Lords and Gentlemen,—It is not my intention to become a Candidate for the new Office contemplated by certain Governors of the Hospital, and which they propose to denominate ASSISTANT-PHYSICIAN; but whenever a Vacancy may occur among the ordinary Physicians of the Hospital, I shall do myself the honour of most respectfully soliciting your support and interest.

The Special General Court, summoned to consider the propriety of either creating such an office, or of leaving the establishment of attending Physicians upon its present effective footing, will be held at the hospital, on Friday, 27th June, at twelve o'clock.

I have the honour to be, my Lords and Gentlemen, your very faithful humble servant,

GEORGE GREGORY, M.D.
31, Weymouth-Street, Portland Place,
18th June, 1834.

This is the concluding touch of the picture; it admits not of additional light, and

the shadows are complete. On perusing this most extraordinary epistle, where is the person who, whatever may have been the subtlety of his own conduct—whatever he may have observed of trickery or tortuous designs in the conduct of other men, could ever imagine, for one moment, that the writer of this circular was himself the man who first threw together the "loose hints" which suggested the creation of the office of assistant-physician? In the second paragraph, it is intimated that the medical establishment is already upon an "*effective* footing;" in the first part of the introductory paragraph he speaks of a "new office contemplated by *certain* governors of the hospital which *they* propose to denominate ASSISTANT-PHYSICIAN"—(*They*, Dr. GEORGE, are not so stupid as to apply the epithet "office" to the man who fills it. The blunder is your own, Dr. GEORGE); and then he goes on to say that "whenever a vacancy *may* occur among the ordinary physicians *he* shall do himself the honour of most *respectfully* soliciting their support." Should he stand forward in that character, we may remark that the medical officers and governors will confer an honour upon Dr. GEORGE GREGORY if they even consider him a very "*ordinary*" candidate.

We cannot close this article without throwing into juxtaposition four statements made by GEORGE GREGORY in different parts of his "narrative" and circular. If they are not seen at one view, it is almost impossible to estimate correctly the very peculiar merits of their author.

"About this period I threw together a few loose hints on the subject of an assistant-physician, which I sent to Dr. Macleod."—*Narrative*, 1st page.

"I began my canvass, hoping that tomorrow might bring with it a brighter prospect. * * * I decided at ten o'clock p.m. to retire from the contest, and issued notices to that effect on Friday morning, June the *thirteenth*."

"I now, *for the first time*, set myself seriously to consider, whether the office of assistant-physician was *really* necessary, and what arguments could be *adduced against* it."—*Narrative*, 3rd page.

"It is not my intention to *become* a candidate for the new office contemplated by certain governors."—*Circular*, June the *eighteenth*.

He "began his canvass" on the *eleventh* of June, although he informed the governors on the *eighteenth* that it was "not his intention to become a candidate." Verily we are thankful that such men as GEORGE GREGORY write "Narratives" of their proceedings. Although the law of England does not require that culprits should criminate themselves, yet we think that no evidence, condemnatory of a man's conduct or character, is of equal weight with that which falls from his own lips, or is indited by his own pen.

WE feel it to be our duty to call the attention of the PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE to the medical department of Christ's Hospital. The election of a physician to that Institution has lately taken place under very suspicious circumstances, and it is a well-known fact that the disease commonly termed *ringworm* has raged in this hospital for some years past. Although the complaint is of the most troublesome and perplexing, still it is not,—as it would appear to be in Christ's Hospital,—an incurable malady. The subject at any rate demands immediate inquiry, and the medical officers should be instantly summoned before the Committee.

THE Governors of that venerable institution, SAINT BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, animated by the same benevolent spirit of Christian charity which has so long influenced their brethren of SAINT GEORGE'S, lately proposed to elect two ASSISTANT-PHYSICIANS, but with this proviso—that they should be selected from the *Fellows*, and not from the *Licentiates* of the College!

When the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee heard of this proposition, he promptly summoned the secretary of the said institution before the Committee

of the House of Commons, and on examination it was elicited from the hospital functionary that such a *proposal* had indeed been made, but that the *idea* had been relinquished until the proceedings of the Parliamentary Committee are concluded!!

DUBLIN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Perhaps at this momentous period the pages of THE LANCET, the able and ever-ready champion of medical reform and correction, will not be closed against the following observations, however imperfect. At Dublin, as well as elsewhere, we have two grand parties, which are *in general* opposed to each other. One, which dignifies itself with the appellation of "the college," "college party," &c. &c.; the other, which is stigmatized by the worthies of the former party with the names of "low," "vulgar," "radical," "anarchist," &c., and everything else that the virulence of selfish monopoly, and interested love of corruption, can suggest. The former, led by their tastes, habits, and interests, boldly maintain "things as they are," laud our institution to the skies, see nothing but perfection within its walls, and boast that they and they alone shall come off with flying colours before the grand "inquisition." "For," say they, "what can be more liberal than our constitution?—what more in unison with the spirit of the times? We are a scientific body—we patronize science, we teach science; the curriculum of *our* school, and ours only, is the true standard of safety for the public and respectability to the profession. We examine without fear, favour, or affection; all our services are performed without remuneration. We are a body young, fresh, and vigorous, and exhibit the grand desideratum, the wondrous monster, a corporation without corruption and abuse; with little money in our purse, but a vast deal of virtue in our hearts, and science in our heads, sacrificing our private interests to the advantage of the community. We constitute a little *republic*, where every individual has an equal voice in our councils; and, to crown all, we possess the ballot, which guards us against the little frailties of humanity,—the ballot, the essential defender of probity and impartiality. In fact, we have a right, not only