

to support that influence over the profession which the Legislature intended when its charter was granted.

It never could have been contemplated that the powers with which the College was invested at its creation should be employed for the purpose of making a little snug monopoly of an aristocratic character, or that the charter should merely have a view to the whims of the doctors, and not a more extensive operation in favour of the people. I am not in possession of a copy of the charter, but from what I can gather, and from what is reasonable and just, it seems to me that the corporation was instituted for the purpose of protecting the public against the evils arising from medicine being practised by incompetent persons, and that power was given to the College to grant testimonials of competence to all sufficiently qualified candidates, without any restrictions as to the peculiar mode in which they should pursue the practice of medicine. Yet we see that a vast majority of medical practitioners have been for ages, in this metropolis, and throughout the kingdom, pursuing the profession not only without any testimonials or licence from the College, but without being allowed to become candidates for the licence, excepting under such restrictions as would render them less able to meet the wants of the public by affording prompt and positive assistance as well as advice. Thus the College refuses to give to the public that information respecting the abilities of practitioners which the public has a right to expect from it. With the power to license they had, also, a power to restrain the unlicensed; but failing in one duty, it tried to keep up the power to punish. Now this was too bad to be allowed; the voice of the public, and the dictates of common sense and fair justice, protected the unlicensed practitioners, and gave encouragement to them. The College in vain attempted to enforce its restrictive law, and that institution is now, virtually, a MEDICAL CLUB, and nothing more. The apothecaries of the present time have more power than the College; the College has been fairly driven from the field, and is now a monument of the fatal results of pride and selfishness.

The apothecaries are *bonâ fide* physicians. Although not necessarily "Doctors of Medicine," yet to all intents and purposes they are physicians, that is, legally-authorized medical practitioners, and they can enforce their demands for medical attendance, independently of their charges for medicine supplied; and if any one of them wishes to practise under the appellation of "Doctor," there are universities that will recognise their just claims,—founded on education, previous apothecaries' licence, and practical experience,—to that distinction, and the whole College is thus set at defiance, its teeth are drawn, and its claws are cut, and it can

only growl. There appears to be one experiment that it may perhaps try, whereby to catch some who have a respect for the antiquity of the institution, and a reverence for the great names with which it has been associated, and that is to grant testimonials without restriction of mode of practice (it has not the power to confer any authority beyond what every apothecary already possesses), and to lower its exorbitant fee.

By this plan it is reasonable to expect that many who possess aristocratic prejudices would apply for the licence. Restrictions might still rest on the fellows, if they like them, as they do on the council of the College of Surgeons, but the mass of the profession should be free to use their own discretion, whether or not they would supply their own medicines, or bleed a patient labouring under apoplexy; or even administer an enema, or secure a wounded artery. They should not be liable to fine or expulsion if they refused to let a patient wait for hours in agony for medicine, when they could immediately administer to his relief. How can men deserve the name of sons of Esculapius who refuse to do any appropriate thing for the relief of the afflicted besides writing a prescription? Is this either moral, dignified, humane, or decent? Reform will progress, and those who resist it will fall a sacrifice to their own obstinacy.

I hope to see the day when all that is barbarous will be swept from the profession of medicine as well as from all others, and that men will be content to stand upon their own individual merits, and not require the trickery and trumpery of meretricious decorations. The names of Bacon, Newton, Harvey, Sydenham, Haller, John Hunter, and others, outshine all the titular appendages that could be attached to them. No honour could be conferred on them that their merits would not eclipse. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ANGLUS.

London, Sept. 1, 1842.

PARISH VACCINATORS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You will oblige me by inserting in your excellent, and by wrong doers most dreaded, Publication, the following instance of unprofessional conduct. The publication of such cases I believe to be the most effectual method of preventing their repetition. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

SAM. RICHARDS.
39A, Bedford-square,
Sept. 6, 1842.

On the 26th of May I delivered Mrs. Goodall, of 36, Penton street, Pentonville, for the second time; and on Saturday last, according to my usual and with my patients

well-understood custom, called to vaccinate the child. I was not a little astonished when the mother expressed her regret at the trouble I was put to, informing me, at the same time, that the child was already vaccinated. She then went on to explain that one day, a short time previously, a medical gentleman, perfectly strange to her, called, and all but insisted upon his vaccinating the child, informing her she would otherwise be liable to be severely *fined*, he being appointed to vaccinate *all* for that district. She objected to this, informing him she expected her "family doctor" calling daily to do it, as he had done the other. But eventually, owing to the absence of her husband, and the dread of the *fine* for non-compliance, she reluctantly assented. The child was vaccinated, and medicine sent and paid for. The husband expresses himself as very dissatisfied and angry with such interference, and taking advantage of his absence to alarm his wife into compliance.

I submit to the profession the propriety of a parish vaccinator going into the houses of respectable tradesmen, who are both able and willing to pay their own medical attendant, unsought and objected to, but accomplishing his purpose by the anything-but-professional means above detailed.

So long as such vaccinator confined his operations to the "back-slums and by-ways," hunting up and vaccinating the needy poor, for which purpose, in my humble opinion, his office was created, he would be acting meritoriously, and but fulfilling his proper duty.

PREPARATIONS OF IRON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg to forward you the following formulæ for the use of the general practitioner, being at once eligible and economical, requiring but little trouble in the preparation, and always to be depended upon, as to the proportion of the active ingredient in a given quantity of the liquid. I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,

JOHN TODD, M.D.,
King's College, Aberdeen.

Mare-street, Hackney,
Sept. 5, 1842.

LIQUOR FERRI POTASSIO-CITRATIS.

Rx *Acid. citric. crystallizat.*, ℥j. ʒv;
Potassæ carbonatis, ʒvij;
Ferri sesquioxidi, ℥j;
Sp. ammonia aromati., q. s.;
Aquæ distillat., ℥xxiv.

Dissolve the acid, citric, and potass. carbonat. in the water, when the effervescence has ceased, add the ferri sesquioxyd., and digest for twenty-four hours (frequently stirring) in a gentle heat; filter the liquid, and neutralise any excess of acid by dropping in, gradually,

sp. ammon. arom., until it is saturated. The liquid is of a reddish-brown colour, not precipitated by alkalis, nor altered in colour by the ferrocyanide of potassium, or tincture of galls. The taste is slightly styptic, though not unpleasant. It will be seen that there are two equivalents of acid. citric. combined with one equivalent of potass. and one equivalent of the ferri sesquioxyd. :—*one drachm* of this solution contains *five grains* of the dry ferri potassio-citras.

An agreeable syrup may be made by dissolving sacchar. alb., lb. j in fʒviij of the solution, and liquefying by a gentle heat. We have thus fʒxviiij of syrup; consequently fʒj will contain 2.25 grains.

SYRUPUS FERRI IODIDI.

Rx *Iodine*, grs. 362;
Ferri limatur., grs. 90;
Aquæ distillat., ʒviij;
Sacchar. alb., lb. j.

Digest the iodine and iron in the water until it become nearly colourless; pour off the clear liquid, and dissolve the sacchar. alb. with a gentle heat. When cold, pour off the clear syrup, and keep it in half-pint bottles well corked, and in the dark. The deoxydising agency of the sugar renders it unnecessary to keep a piece of iron wire in the bottle. As no precipitate takes place, except when exposed to a strong light, and air combined. In this, 362 grains of iodine combined with 80 grains of iron, forming 442 grains of ferri iodidi, dissolved in water ʒviij, which by the solution of the sacchar. alb., lb. j makes ʒxviiij, being three grains of ferri iodidi in fʒj of the syrup.

QUESTION OF WINDOW-TAX ON HOSPITALS.

THE FEVER HOSPITAL.

THE 48 Geo. 3, c. 55, imposes a duty on *dwelling-houses* for not more than six windows or lights, and for seven windows or lights, and exempts hospitals, except officers' and servants' apartments, which it declares should be assessed as entire *dwelling-houses*; the 6 Geo. 4, c. 7, s. 1, repeals the above duties. Held, that the duty on *dwelling-houses*, for not more than six and for seven windows being so taken away, it must be likewise deemed to be taken off the officers' and servants' apartments in hospitals, such apartments being, by the clause of the repealed Act, so treated and assessed as *dwelling-houses*.

Middlesex, Holborn Division.

At a meeting of the commissioners of assessed taxes, acting for the said division, holden at the board-room, No. 24, Red Lion-square, in the said division, the 3rd day of September, 1841, Mr. Hyde appealed