

I have hitherto advocated the sending a fee to the medical man without effect, but hope that next month, at the quarterly meeting, some more able member will move and carry a resolution to erase this blot from the fair fame of this respectable society.—Sir, yours faithfully,

May, 1847.

L. L.—, M.D., & F.R.C.S.

CASE OF MR. W. H. OSBORNE.

THE following important letter has been addressed to Mr. FOSBROOKE. It puts one part of the schedule of Osborne in a more prominent light than before, and increases the necessity for interference on the part of the Council of the College of Surgeons:—

South Shields, June, 1847.

SIR,—I make no apology for thus intruding on your attention, as I am certain you will excuse me. On perusal of Saturday's LANCET, I observe that John Henry Osborne has been a member of the College of Surgeons nearly as long as myself. Now this surprises me greatly, as I knew him to be a first year's student immediately before I went up for examination, (June, 1845.) In his schedule are two false certificates, and two others exceedingly suspicious looking. The false ones are Dr. Lawrie's and Dr. Hannay's for hospital practice, and Mr. Lyon's for surgical lectures. In the spring of 1842, I commenced attendance in Dr. Moses' and Buchanan's dissecting-room. I found that the doctor would take charge of half the surgical wards in the infirmary, 1st May, 1842—Mr. Lyon to be his colleague until May, 1843, when, by the rules of the hospital, he retired. Dr. Pagan now became Dr. Buchanan's colleague for the remainder of Dr. Buchanan's term of office—viz., till May, 1844. At this date, Dr. Pagan becomes senior surgeon; Dr. Hannay succeeds Dr. Buchanan. On 1st May, 1845, Dr. Pagan retires, and is succeeded by Dr. Lawrie. Osborne's certificates, to be correct, ought to be attested by the signatures of Drs. Buchanan and Pagan, from November, 1843, to May, 1844; by Drs. Pagan and Hannay, from May, 1844, to May, 1845; and by Drs. Hannay and Lawrie, from May to August, 1845. I do not wish to doubt Dr. Lawrie's honesty; I believe him to be unknowingly the instrument of a falsehood. He certifies to an attendance of twenty-one months, which is eighteen months antecedent to his becoming surgeon to the hospital. In like manner Dr. Hannay bears testimony to an antecedent period of six months. I do not believe Dr. Pagan's signature has been asked. Why, is obvious. The date of Osborne's entrance to the practice of the infirmary can be ascertained from the superintendent's register. Also from the names of the students in the album, which we were in the habit of signing every two months. That Osborne was not attending the infirmary during the session 1843-44, I am well aware, as are others. He never was seen in the hospital that winter. Had he been in attendance I should certainly have seen him.

In the summer of 1842, Mr. Lyon lectured on surgery; but owing to the small attendance on his winter course, he did not do so any more in summer. In the spring of 1845, I was repeatedly urged by a Mr. King, of Bradford, to be one of a party who were anxious to get Mr. Lyon to give a course of lectures on surgery between April and August. Their object was to get the College schedule filled up. I expressed my doubts as to the sufficiency of a summer course of lectures on surgery for recognition at the London College. An advertisement of the Portland-street School of Medicine appeared in April or May, 1845, in which Mr. Lyon expressed his willingness to lecture if a sufficient number came forward. Whether the lectures were delivered or not I cannot tell; but assuming that they were, how is it that Osborne's certificate is dated 1844, instead of 1845? I doubt not there is deliberate fraud here, at whose hands ought to be shown. Either Osborne has altered the date, or Mr. Lyon has knowingly certified to a falsehood.

If Mr. Belfour would allow you to look at the schedules deposited by John Maund, of Bromsgrove, Benjamin Sykes, of Clickheaton, William S. King, of Bradford, or any others from Glasgow, in the beginning of August, 1845, you can draw an inference as to the culpability of the parties. I will only add that Osborne told me, in Dr. Buchanan's class-room, that his father predated his indentures to enable him to obtain his examination at Apothecaries' Hall in accordance with the curriculum prior to 1835.

You are at liberty to make any use of this you think proper.—I am, Sir, yours truly, J. S. DUNHAM, M.R.C.S.E.

To J. E. Fosbrooke, Esq.

The following letter, addressed to Dr. WATTS, shows either that the medical authorities of Glasgow have grossly deceived the College, or else that the Council are fully aware of the frauds contained in the schedule of Osborne. We shall take occasion to comment further upon the matter. It is most extraordinary, that a number of persons should be openly charged with participation in what cannot be considered as otherwise than careless or wilful fraud, and yet up to this time not a single answer or explanation has been made:—

29, St. Vincent-place, Glasgow, July 30th, 1847.

SIR,—Reverting to your communication of the 25th current, regarding Mr. John Henry Osborne, I am directed by the Weekly Committee of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary to intimate in answer, that they received various applications from Mr. Belfour, of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, regarding Mr. Osborne, and that they have furnished him with the facts of the case, and I beg, therefore, to refer you to that gentleman for the information you desire.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ROB. LAMOND.

To Wm. Watts, Esq., M.D., Exchange, Nottingham.

QUACKS AND QUACKERY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Like yourself I have a great antipathy to quackery within or without the profession; that without now assumes a bolder front than ever, and calls for our reproof and reform, since, to our honour as a body, we are willing to submit ourselves to a reform in qualification and morals for any new legislation affecting us. The notorious Morrison, with his advertisement puffs, pervaded the civilized world, gathering its gold, but his successor, Holloway, leaves him far in the shade. When Morrison, fifteen years ago, added the Asiatic cholera to his puff cure-list, I cautioned the people in my neighbourhood, through our provincial paper, against him, and received from him an especial notice in all his advertisements of that time; but that I cared not for, being desirous of doing good. It appears to me at this time, if practitioners, in their several localities, would occasionally address similar cautions to the readers of local newspapers, they would enlighten them against the chicaneries of the quacks, and in part do what it is to be hoped the Government will be brought to do, clip the wings of this carrion crow, quackery, whose scream of delusion and affright is so resonant in our land. When I hear the dons of the profession laugh at any legal interference with this fraud, I am not surprised at its triumph; but true it is, reforms in divinity, law, or physic, do not essentially originate with the rich and distinguished of those bodies, and therefore the general practitioners must take the subject the more thoroughly in hand. If the public reflected on the matter—inasmuch as one nostrum succeeds another so constantly,—they would conclude that all are bubbles which burst alike; but we know the hope and the gullibility of the sick do not often allow of any reasoning upon the subject, and especially when a few high-coloured cases of cures are before them. There was a man, called the Prophet, last year at Stroud, who cured complaints by a special gift of God, as he said. Many believed it, and many said they were cured; and this man could have obtained signatures in abundance for remarkable cures under credulity and excitement; but he had not been gone a week before the maladies kept creeping back, and it was found the Prophet had not effected the cures. He was to return, but has not, of course. In this way many quack cures are effected by nostrums, and after the cases have been published, the individuals have found their complaints again. In answer to these remarks, it may be said, that some, from perseverance in merely a course of purgation with Morrison's pills have been cured of complaints which have defied all science; but if the failures and the mischiefs proceeding from one curative nostrum were placed against the credit side, there can be no question the remedy would be easily proved bankrupt. If Holloway's pills and ointment were adopted by any medical man to cure all that Holloway vouches for, that medical man would soon find his practice leave him. This would open the eyes of a legislator, could he see with the eyes of an enlightened observer. Holloway and Co. succeed because they have not a small community to sell physic to, but a kingdom, or many kingdoms, where their failures are not compared by one with another from distance, and every chance or temporary success is alone exaggerated and puffed to the advertisement and case reader. If you look at Holloway's envelop for the ointment you will see the