

Mr. Erichsen) to correspond in degree to the same classes in the other College; and as in the latter all are surgeons, so in the former all are physicians. But those who possess merely the licence to practise are surely not physicians, though they call themselves so; and if such title is assumed by the consent of the two higher classes, it is quite time the matter is authoritatively looked to. There is not a corresponding body amongst surgeons at all to this class.

With regard to the title of "Doctor" I cannot see any just or sufficient reason why its value should be depreciated by allowing its assumption by any who have not passed some examination other than that for surgeon or general practitioner, though I would be quite willing to grant it to any who subjected themselves to some examination of this sort, having first qualified by a surgical and medical examination as at present.

The claim of the Apothecaries' Society to a share in the power of examining for an entrance into the profession is as good, or better, than that of either of the Colleges. For many years it was far more dreaded than the examination of the College of Surgeons, and that of the College of Physicians is much younger. Long may it still exist and flourish.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

L.S.A., M.D., F.R.C.S.

Nov. 1886.

THE CHARTER OF CHARLES I.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—There are several legal points connected with the present position of affairs and with the existing Charters on which it is desirable that the Council, if they have not already done so, should take legal opinion, and Mr. Erichsen would render a real service to the College by urging upon the Council that the opinion of the solicitor to the College should be published on the following points:—

1. Whether the right to hold lands and houses to the value of £2000 a year is given by the Charters to the Members of the College or to the Council?

2. Whether the Council have not largely exceeded the limit of £2000 a year?

3. Whether the Council have thereby incurred any penalties under any Statute of Mortmain, and if so what; and whether such penalty falls on the Council or on the College?

4. Whether there is any authority in the Charters for the Council holding lands or houses conjointly with the College of Physicians?

I trust Mr. Erichsen will not dissent from the view that this is a reasonable request.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

H. NELSON HARDY.

November, 1886.

THE M.CH. DEGREE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—When the attention of the medical profession is being directed towards reform and removing anomalies, it seems a fitting occasion to direct attention to a distinct grievance which a large number of the profession suffer from, and to agitate for its removal. It is a palpable injustice to the holders of the degree of Master in Surgery that, in the case of a large number of hospitals and infirmaries, that degree does not qualify them to apply for the post of hon. surgeon.

A representation from the Medical Council to the governing boards of the hospitals in question would no doubt have the effect of inducing them to alter a superannuated rule not consonant with the times, and which is a plain injustice to a large number of well-educated and competent surgeons. In the majority of cases these rules were framed at a time when the degree in question was either non-existent or but little known. Such is not now the case, and it is time that the rules were changed to meet the altered circumstances. A representation such as I have suggested would doubtless be successful where the personal efforts of the comparatively small number of the holders of the degree would be inadequate.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

M.CH.

Nov. 1886.

LONDON SEWAGE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Advertisements are now being circulated seeking tenders for the construction of *additional* tank room at Barking, in order that Mr. Dibden may have greater space for his chemical experiments, which practical men regard as worthless in relation to the ultimate solution of the great sewage question.

The cost of the additional works required at the present outfalls, according to the joint report of the engineer and chemist of the Metropolitan Board, was £1,140,000, involving a charge on the ratepayers of £34,000 a year. Yet such is the rapid growth of population in the metropolis, particularly in the east, that it is stated on good authority that 65,000 persons are now being added yearly to a population already numbering five millions, so that it is quite certain that both Barking and Crossness will in a few years be densely surrounded with population and dwellings. Let me point out that this expenditure of £1,140,000, great as it is, cannot prevent the condemnation of the present outfalls in a very few years. It appears, therefore, to be a monstrous waste of good money sanctioned by certain members of the Board, who resolutely refuse to consider anything else, although Messrs. Jones and Denton's Canvey Island scheme has much to recommend it, and although they offer to place all their plans and details before a competent independent engineer, when they say they can prove that their proposal, if adopted, would save the metropolis one-half the outlay resulting from chemical treatment.—Yours faithfully,

Nov. 1886.

OBSERVER.

"THE LIABILITY OF FRIENDLY SOCIETIES FOR EXTRA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I find on page 1044 of THE LANCET for Nov. 27th, 1886, a paragraph under the above heading, and as the information contained in the paragraph is *untrue* and calculated to damage the reputation of the Nottingham Friendly Societies' Medical Institution, I hope you will contradict the report in your next issue. 1. The action in the County Court was *not* taken by Dr. Collins against the Friendly Societies' Medical Institution, but against the patient himself. 2. Dr. Collins was *not* an officer of the Nottingham Friendly Societies' Medical Institution. 3. The Nottingham Friendly Societies' Medical Institution had two *doubly qualified* medical officers engaged on the staff at that time, the second gentleman (Dr. Rodgers) being fully competent to perform the operation. 4. Whenever the Nottingham Friendly Societies' Medical Institution has engaged the services of medical men the Committee has paid them punctually and liberally.—I am Sir, yours respectfully,

Nottingham, Nov. 28th, 1886.

J. LEE, Secretary.

LIVERPOOL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE MAYOR AND THE ROYAL SOUTHERN HOSPITAL.

FOLLOWING the annual custom of more than forty years, the newly elected mayor, Mr. James Poole, attended the morning service at St. Barnabas' Church on the 21st inst. (the second Sunday after his election), when a sermon was preached by Archdeacon Gore, and a collection was made on behalf of the funds of the hospital. The collection realised £101. After the service the Mayor visited the hospital, which is within a short distance of St. Barnabas, accompanied by some of the medical staff, and the aldermen and city councillors, who had attended service.

HOSPITAL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

A correspondence has taken place between the Town Clerk and the Local Government Board in regard to the erection of a hospital for infectious diseases in Grafton-street. Subject to some slight alteration in the plans as to the position of the ambulance shed at the proposed hospital,