

OBITUARY—MR. MARTINEAU.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—On the 1st of January, in this year, died, Philip Meadows Martineau, Esq., aged 76, the most successful lithotomist that ever lived. As it has not been recorded in any of the Medical Journals, and as Mr. Martineau belonged to that class of the profession styled GENERAL PRACTITIONERS, I do not know where his obituary can be so well inserted as in the pages of your Journal.

Having been indebted to him at the commencement of my professional studies, for many opportunities of acquiring surgical knowledge, I shall feel obliged by your inserting the enclosed paragraph from the Norfolk Chronicle.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

W. SIMPSON.

Hammersmith, March 3d, 1829.

“We cannot insert in our obituary a record of the death of Philip Meadows Martineau, Esq., without feeling that a tributary mark of respect is due to the memory of one, who, by a long series of unremitting professional attention to the surgical department of a noble institution in this city, has founded the strongest claim upon public gratitude. Mr. Martineau was one of the first surgeons to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital from its erection in 1772, and that charity continued to have the benefit of his talent and skill until within a few months of his decease. Pre-eminently successful as an operator, and most intimately acquainted with the theory of his profession, Mr. Martineau's name has not been confined to the comparative small sphere of practice in this district, but is celebrated in every part of England and throughout Europe, and may be said to rank with the highest of the same faculty. By the exertion of such men, the character of our hospital has been raised to that of the first class of surgical practice out of the Metropolis, particularly in cases of lithotomy, a branch of study to which Mr. Martineau had early directed the vigour of his mind with such distinguished success. To the esteem of the members of his own profession he united the respect of all classes by the general courteousness of his manners, and he may truly be said to die universally regretted.”

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Mr. Meredith—Mr. W. Clark—Dr. Forster—Dr. Walker—Mr. S. Cooper—Mr. J. S. Thomas—Mr. Wilmot—Mr. W. Marsden

—Mr. M. P. Moyle—Mr. Liston—Mr. Pewtress—J. B.

It is probable, that a hospital capable of containing at least 200 beds, will be erected on part of the foundation of the London University, in the course of the ensuing summer.

We did not insert, or take any notice, of the letters sent to us by Mr. Liston's namesake, because we regarded them as a weak attempt at a hoax. Can the man get twelve of his pupils to assert on their honour that the lecture, or at least, that the substance of the lecture on aneurism, was *not* delivered by him?

“G. P.” The index to the contents of each Number has been omitted on the *wrapper*, in order to expedite the hour of publication; and it has been omitted in the last page, because we are of opinion, that the space can be occupied more beneficially to the reader, and because, as there is a very copious index to each volume at the end of every six months, we consider that an index to each Number is not required.

“Truth and Equity.” The letter signed thus, cannot be inserted until it is authenticated.

Medical men, “when summoned to give evidence before coroner's juries” cannot enforce payment for their loss of time. This circumstance, we do not hesitate to say, is a disgrace to our law.

Mr. W. H. Thomas is deceived. The pupil whom he suspects has had no share whatever in the transaction. The Oyster is stale and offensive.

“E. X.” will find two notices of the disturbances at the Theatre of St. Bartholomew's, in the body of the work. It does not appear to us that the pupils are so much to blame. If the physicians, surgeons, and lecturers, were all of them punctual to their appointed hours, we have no doubt that the pupils would be punctual also. The physicians and surgeons seldom reach the hospital at the prescribed time, and the lecturers often detain the students in the theatre, for twenty or thirty minutes beyond the hour. A student cannot listen to an important lecture with advantage to himself, beyond one hour; and no lecturer, as a general rule, is justified in exceeding that time.

ERRATUM.

In the report of the London Medical Society, for March 2nd, which appeared in our last number, the line “on the present occasion the Registrar officiated” was inserted in the absence of the copy, after an accident had happened to the type; it should not have appeared. And in the second line from the bottom, in the same column, for Registrar read President.