

the walls of the hospital, and the opprobrium which has been heaped upon his conduct without, made some observations on the subject; but instead of endeavouring to show the propriety of the new appointment, he satisfied himself with accusing the present assistant-surgeon, Mr. Walker, of inattention to his duties in the hospital.

Mr. WALKER, in reply, boldly denied this charge, and directed attention to the jealous feeling with which Mr. Brodie had prevented those duties from devolving on him (Mr. Walker), which he (Mr. Walker) was, notwithstanding, fully adequate to perform, and which it might have been for the benefit of the patients had they been performed by other persons instead of Mr. Brodie.

Dr. WILSON, Mr. FULLER, Mr. STONE, and some other individuals interested in the welfare of the hospital, are using every laudable means to extinguish the system of jobbing, which has been so disgracefully carried on by some of the medical officers; and many of the lay governors have expressed their intention cordially to co-operate in putting a stop to this system, which has for its support, besides Mr. Brodie, those two renowned physicians, Seymour and Macleod, who, from their moral and physical resemblance, and their similarity of pursuits, have been, not unappropriately, denominated by the students the "ST. GEORGE'S TWINS."

THE NEW ASSISTANT-SURGEONCY JOB.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In my last letter I announced to you the approaching perpetration of Mr. Brodie's disreputable job at our hospital. Since then the general meeting (of which the last number of THE LANCET contained an account) has been held, and Mr. Keate's motion for a second assistant-surgeon has been carried, by a very small majority indeed, but yet carried sufficiently to answer the purpose and end of the scheming projectors of it. Your readers may, perhaps, wish to know who the signers of the requisition calling this meeting (exclusive of the surgical officers) were. Mr. Powell is, I regret to say, a member of that body whose rights and privileges you have always strived so nobly to uphold. He is a general practitioner, and most commonly one of the noisiest members of the Weekly Board. Mr. Gaskoin combines the practice of a *pure* and a general practitioner, somewhere in Clarges-street, and was, to use his own words, fairly "kidnapped" into the thing. He was sent for to the hospital, taken into the

Board-room, and told to sign the requisition, he all the time (as a friend has assured me) firmly believing the thing had been mutually agreed upon, for the benefit of the hospital, between the assistant-surgeon and the surgeons. This gentleman is another of Mr. Brodie's dear friends, whom he occasionally pats on the back; and as a proof of it I may mention, that some months ago, a butcher was admitted into the hospital, in Fitzwilliam Ward, with a very bad leprosy, under the care of Mr. Brodie, who, on examining the case, candidly owned that he did not understand "skin diseases," and that he should request this same Mr. Gaskoin to see him. Mr. Gaskoin did see him, and came to the hospital regularly twice or three times a week during the whole time he was in, and prescribed for him,—Mr. Brodie never interfering in or doing anything for the case at all, and the man went out perfectly cured by such simple treatment as venesection and the sulphuret of antimony; and this is the way in which Mr. Brodie performs his duty; and by such an example as this does he profess to train up young sucking assistant-surgeons in the way they should go. The thing is a perfect farce, and a disgrace to the hospital.

For some weeks previous to the meeting, it was remarked that Mr. Brodie was more attentive to his hospital duties (coming at the regular days and hours); and was much more affable and kind to the students than he had been for some time—the cause of all this was easily surmised. This continues still, and most probably will do so, as long as the necessity for it remains. His satellites follow his example, with a degree of cautious dissimulation which has been, doubtless, instilled like mother's milk into them.

When the governors assembled, it was at once discovered that the greatest exertions had been made by the Brodie party to obtain as large a majority as possible—they bristled up like quills upon a porcupine. Mr. Walker had, very properly, endeavoured to make the appointment of assistant-physician and assistant-surgeon two separate points of debate; but the opposite party would not listen for one moment to such an arrangement—they would have them considered as one and the same question, and why? Because they knew that the appointment of an assistant-physician was one, in the propriety of which most of the governors were agreed, and they fondly hoped that this would strengthen their forlorn proposal of an assistant-surgeon. It did so, and to this circumstance, and this circumstance only, is the majority they gained to be as-

cribed. This is only one instance among many of the deep, designing, artful conduct that was practised on the occasion. Then why did Mr. Keate bring forward the motion? Because Mr. Brodie commanded him to do so, and because Mr. Brodie was ashamed to act, the dirty work was handed over to his *dependant* to do. Then, Sir, as to the fact that Messrs. Keate and Brodie harped so much upon—about the benefit that would accrue to the hospital from gentlemen serving the hospital as assistant-surgeons for four years before they are elected full surgeons; why, if the two junior surgeons, Messrs. Hawkins and Babington, who were present, and who heard these remarks, had possessed one spark of proper feeling, they would have sunk into the earth at being thus severely scarified; for it is a well-known fact, that neither of these gentlemen served the office of assistant-surgeon above *four months* previous to their being elected full surgeons. This is another disgraceful fact that ought to see the light. But these gentlemen are under Mr. Brodie's thumb, and they dared neither speak nor move. On the question being pressed upon Mr. Brodie, he remarked that it would be extremely *inconvenient* to define the duties of the assistant-surgeon. It would be very inconvenient to Mr. Brodie, I am sure; for, in defining them, it must be stated that Mr. Walker has generally seen his patients six days out of the seven, when Mr. B. has neglected seeing them himself. Mr. Brodie likewise took the same opportunity of throwing out a very ungentlemanly remark upon Mr. Walker's character and conduct at the hospital; this was such a barefaced thing, that Mr. Walker very properly brought the subject before the Board on Wednesday last, prefacing it by a very strong resolution (which I hope to be able to send you), and demanding a court of inquiry into his conduct. Such bold and spirited conduct rather alarmed Mr. Brodie, and, at the eleventh hour, he publicly apologized to Mr. Walker, in a full and satisfactory manner, before the whole Board. Of the squabble that took place between Dr. Macleod and Dr. Gregory, I will say that it was utterly disgraceful to both parties, and that they can hardly dare show themselves in respectable society again. Every governor, indeed, considers that Dr. Macleod's connexion with the hospital is a stain and a stigma upon it. It is also a well-known fact, that Mr. Fuller was present for the purpose of bringing forward some specific resolution; but on a wink being given by his superior, Mr. Brodie, this gent. slunk out of the room,

and did not vote at all; this was noticed by many. Mr. Bramah, Dr. Wilson, and Mr. Stone, spoke their sentiments in a free and gentlemanly style, that formed a strong and striking contrast to the hypocrisy and subservience of the opposite party. But of the numerous governors, private patients, and friends of Mr. Brodie, many of them saw so clearly through the trickery of the whole affair, that notwithstanding all Mr. B.'s bowing and scraping, they declined voting at all.

Previous to the meeting the whole plan had been chalked out, and for many weeks it was noticed that many of Mr. Brodie's embryo assistants went regularly round the wards with Mr. Walker—a thing which they had never done before, and the reason of which was obvious enough. Hole-and-corner meetings were held, and dinners were repeatedly given in Saville Row and Albemarle Street, for the mature arrangements of all their plans. It is notorious that when a gentleman waited on a governor for his vote two days after the thing was publicly known, the answer was, that “*three weeks* before Mr. Keate had engaged the vote for Mr. Cutler.” Let the opposite party deny this if they dare.

The new assistant-surgeon, it was well known, was to have had the care of Mr. Brodie's out-patients; but Mr. Walker's spirited conduct has prevented this, and it is understood that he is only to have the out-patients of the two junior surgeons. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A GOVERNOR OF ST. GEORGE'S
HOSPITAL.

London, July 8th, 1834.

GUY'S HOSPITAL.

OPERATIONS.—REMOVAL OF A GREAT PORTION OF THE UPPER JAW-BONE.

ON Tuesday three operations were performed at this hospital by Mr. KEY. AS one of the operations was intended for the removal of the greater portion of the superior maxilla, a large number of pupils was collected on the occasion. The first patient who was brought into the theatre had a large steatomatous tumour on the right shoulder. This was speedily removed, as, likewise, was the inferior limb of the second patient, who had an incurable disease of the tarsus. The third case, the one of most interest, was now introduced. The man, John Harlow, is of middle age, and was admitted into the hospital about a fortnight back, with a malignant fungoid