

## QUESTIONS IN MEDICINE.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

SIR,—There are some discrepancies, or *prima facie* contradictions, in medical practice, which I should like to see explained or reconciled. For instance, in sanguineous engorgements of the uterus, we are directed to apply leeches to the vulva to lessen the quantity of blood and to take off its determination to the part; and, on the other hand, when we wish to increase the quantity or produce a determination to the uterus, we are directed to apply leeches—the same remedial means for apparently opposite indications of disease. In various external and internal inflammations, we are directed to apply warm fomentations or poultices to produce resolution; and yet when we wish to promote suppuration, we are advised to apply warm poultices, &c. It seems to me that rules more special and discriminate should be laid down and followed with respect to both hot and cold applications, and I hope the subject will receive further notice.

MEDICUS.

## QUESTIONS IN ANATOMY.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

SIR,—Will some one of your numerous correspondents answer the following questions. They are suggested by a notice in the 23d No. of the present Vol. of your valuable Journal, of the “ingenious explanation” of the *modus operandi* of narcotics in dilating the pupil, by Mr. Walker.

1st. What evidence have we that the third pair of nerves enters into the formation of the lenticular ganglion?

2d. Does muscular motion, in *any* instance, depend upon influence conveyed by nerves of common sensation?

3d. Is the iris muscular?

4th. Is Mr. Walker's explanation “ingenious”?

The inquirer is after truth.

Yours, &c.

Franklin, Vt., Jan. 19th, 1838.

A SUBSCRIBER.

## BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

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## BOYLSTON PRIZE QUESTIONS.

A REFERENCE was made last week to Dr. Holmes's dissertations. We are now prepared to speak with decided approbation of his investigations. Every page gives abundant evidence of his thorough acquaintance with each subject proposed to him by the committee, and he moreover clearly exhibits a degree of patience and perseverance alike creditable to himself and the profession. In this country it rarely happens that a physician can devote sufficient time to the study of diseases to make himself