

profession, I believe I may add, almost the entire profession are either seeking, or waiting to be put in possession of, a specific that shall cure all eruptions of the head, which a very great majority of practitioners, I find, style invariably "ringworm;" and others again, will not admit eruptions on the head to be ring worm at all, but, nevertheless, fail not most avidously to catch up, and apply indiscriminately, every supposed panacea that is so repeatedly offered, as a cure for ring-worm. It is useless to ask—with what benefit? The same difficulty, as to cure, the profession have still to grapple with, as ever it did, and must continue, so long as it seeks to find that which is as impossible, and as equally wild a goose chase as the search after the philosophers' stone. In fact, it is as absurd to suppose that a remedy shall have the power to eradicate the different diseases of the head, and the different conditions, or stages, that each will be found to have, as it is that the tools of one clever artisan are equally manageable and applicable to all others, never mind what craft they may follow; and it would seem from the little pains that many of the profession take to make themselves acquainted with the subject, that if the tools only are put into their hands, without knowing the use of them, they blindly flatter themselves that they can use them advantageously.

Let the profession avoid the baneful process of shaving the head, and the mischievous operation of destroying the hair by depilatories, or the forcibly plucking it out by the roots, and bearing in mind well what I have said above as to treatment, much of the difficulty will soon vanish and experience will accomplish the rest. Before I conclude, allow me to state, in order to correct an opinion that is very prevalent, and productive of disagreeable consequences (in short, to youth irreparable injury, as lost time can never be regained), that *porrigo scutulata*, the genuine ring-worm of the head, is contagious, and during the early stage, eminently so; and I see no reason to alter my opinion, which has been formed now for many years, during which time so many positive facts have accumulated, that I advance it without the least qualification or reservation; and though it may be doubted, through recent inquiries and experiments, they will not be able, unfortunately for the rising generation, to prove it otherwise than contagious. The crusts of *porrigo favosa* cannot prove to the contrary, as the two diseases, in many respects, differ very materially one from the other; the *favosa* seldom, if ever, proving contagious, unless marks (I say *marks*, as the *scutulata* frequently exhibits itself in different ways) of *porrigo scutulata* be present also on the same head. I have seen it run together.

Dr. Willans' genuine case of *porrigo favosa* (not as represented by Dr. Bateman) is an exceedingly rare disease, falling to the lot of few to meet with, unless cases of *impetigo* be taken for it, and too commonly taught as such by our lecturers. Dr. Willans' *porrigo scutulata*, on the contrary, is very common, and cases daily, in this metropolis, can be produced without the least trouble. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. H. HORNE.

Princes-street, October 30th, 1845.

THE "FELLOWSHIP-QUESTION" OF THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The "Fellowship" debate has been characterized by so much prejudice and misrepresentation on both sides—such utter nonsense has been spoken and written about it—that, like many of my betters, I had intended to take no part in the public discussion.

It has, however, occurred to me that the "fifty-three" Fellows who have obtained this diploma by examination may be suspected of having unanimously concurred with Messrs. Kelson and Harcourt in their recent extraordinary proceedings.

As one of these *fifty-three*, therefore, I beg permission to disclaim any participation in the acts of the above-named gentlemen, or any agreement with their views.

A supplementary Charter, if judiciously framed, may promote the objects for which the grade of Fellows was professedly instituted, and, at the same time, make the *amende* to several Members of the College who well merit the distinction *intended* to be conferred by such grade.

Having expressed myself thus briefly in favour of a supplementary Charter in the abstract, I may be allowed to state my impression, that the only safe course open to the London College is that which has been so successfully adopted by her Dublin sister; namely, to confine the Fellowship, *for the future*,

to those who do not practise pharmacy, or (in terms more applicable to the condition of the profession *in England*) who make no charge, and receive no remuneration, directly or indirectly, for the medicines supplied to their patients. A solemn declaration to this effect should be demanded of every future candidate, whether admitted by examination or under the supplementary Charter.

A man who pockets so many shillings for his physic, even though "a visit" be mentioned to grace the transaction,—or who contracts with Boards and Societies to supply *medicines and attendance* to any class or body of people,—or who receives a public salary, *partly* in consideration of the drugs which he provides for the object of his care,—that man is, *quoad hoc*, an APOTHECARY, and, as such, should never have been admitted to the Fellowship, an exception being permitted only in the case of those whose scientific eminence and extensive reputation raise them above *all* artificial distinctions, as in the instance of Mr. Ceely, and a few others on the first list.

It is the admission of apothecaries, "unknown to fame," that has created the present dilemma. The public, in most parts of the country, see no difference between the Fellow and the Member. But, had the derivation of profit from dispensing medicines rendered the candidate ineligible—had the distinction which *practically* existed *before* the institution of the Fellowship been adopted by the Council in their original selection—little offence would have been given to the great body of members; the public would have recognized the new title as the legal and formal expression of a well-known *fact*, and a grand step would have been taken towards the regeneration of the profession.

These opinions I have held *unaltered* for many years, and nothing that has lately transpired has shaken them. I cannot conclude without expressing my firm belief that the examination for the Fellowship, so far as the *junior* men are concerned, is working out a most important and beneficial change in the character, position and attainments of English surgeons.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. W. RUMSEY.

November 5th, 1845.

REMARKS ON THE LETTER RESPECTING QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Allow me, through the medium of your paper, to reply to the letter that appeared in your last number relative to this College. The writer appears to have been actuated by personal feelings rather than by any sense of justice; for he conceals some facts, and twists others. The Jephson prize is not confined to the *in-students*; but the donor,—with whom lies the fault, *if any*,—expressly states that the candidates shall bring testimonials of good conduct, and of having attended the daily service of the chapel, and the warden's lectures, which are open to all students. As regards the professional acquirements of the successful prizeman this year, I need merely mention that the College of Surgeons have thought proper to elect him a member of their body. The opinion of his talents expressed by "A STUDENT AND SUFFERER" is but that of an individual, and, probably, of a disappointed one; consequently it can have no weight.

The last complaint is that which touches on the five nominal professorships. Here, again, no blame can attach to the College—which endeavours to place within the reach of the students as good an education as possible—but rather with the examining bodies whose curriculum does not require attendance on the lectures in question. The students will not attend lectures which they are not obliged to do, preparatory to *getting through their examinations*. I would just add, that I believe our College presents by no means a single instance of non-lecturing professors.

I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,
A STUDENT WHO HAS BENEFITTED BY THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE.
Q. C. Birmingham, Nov. 10th. 1845.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

SOIREE AT THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.

The new laboratories, the museum and library of this institution, in Bloomsbury-square, were thrown open to the members of the medical profession (by individual invitations), and other scientific gentlemen of the metropolis, on Wednesday evening, last, when a very brilliant and crowded assembly met within the walls, nearly six hundred gentlemen being present.