

inventor his fair reward, but not an unjust reward at the expence of the health, and perhaps the lives, of his fellow creatures, as at present.

The following account will illustrate the origin of a vast number of quack medicines:—A non-medical person having seen the prescription of a physician for a disease of the skin, and knowing the patient, was surprised to witness the rough and scurfy surface become smooth and soft, since he imagined all the means to effect a cure had been exhausted by himself (wise man!) From circumstances not necessary to be specified, he had abundant opportunity to test the efficacy of the medicine, and he found that, in many cases which had proved incurable by ordinary means, it effected a speedy and permanent cure; he deemed it a specific, and, of course, I repeat, *of course*, he disguised it, and made it a patent medicine; or placed on it the *convenient*, the *tempting*, the *ever-ready*, the *fraudful* stamp!—called himself the inventor, gave it a fantastic and high sounding name, advertised it unscrupulously, called it innocent though a most active poison, and adduced many respectable authorities to attest its wonderful efficacy, and this latter he could honestly do. Is not this transaction fraught with fraud? It is yet to be ascertained whether a government, confidently expected to be patriotic and manly, will knowingly disgrace itself by receiving money so basely acquired; if the government is properly made acquainted with the facts it certainly will not:—concisely, clearly, tangibly made acquainted with the facts; and it is both our interest and duty to do so: but we want no favour, we ask no favour, that is, we ask for nothing that may give us an unfair advantage either over individuals or over the public, but we do ask, and we ask only for fair play, and we seek our end through the public good.

That some much more competent person may give his aid in this truly national question, and that some effectual steps may be taken to put an end to this most disgraceful, heartless, and inhuman traffic in the property, healths, and lives of the credulous and unwary, is the devout desire of

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,
P. S. KNIGHT.

Lyne Regis, Jan. 5, 1842.

MR. CARMICHAEL ON MEDICAL REFORM.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL
AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—I should be glad to ask, through you, on what grounds Mr. Carmichael, the distinguished surgeon of Dublin, makes the suggestion that general practitioners ought to be excluded from any share in the government and regulation of our profession in the proposed uniform Faculty Act. Such a proposition betrays a spirit of exclusiveness which I could not have thought so eminent an advocate of the new law, as Mr. Carmichael is, could have entertained, and coming from him, may lead to consequences injurious to medical reform. Is not this the very spirit we are combating in the college? The desire to aggrandise one set of men to the exclusion of others upon insufficient and unreasonable grounds. "What a poor-forked animal is man!" Who, I would ask, is to define what a general practitioner is? If a man of genius be placed in a sphere of society wherein his practice must necessarily be a general practice, in order that he may be useful, is this sufficient to render him ineligible to a particular situation, though otherwise well qualified for it? Is it not a stigma cast undeservedly by the surgeon upon the general practitioner? We could not have expected anything more severe from the College of Physicians itself, and nothing more exclusive from that of the surgeons. Under such a spirit, nothing improving to the profession in general

can be expected from the new acts of Parliament. The monster of monopoly in things intellectual and professional will only become larger, more hateful, and more oppressive, may more so than ever the colleges were.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your constant reader,

A STUDENT OF MEDICINE.

Douglas, Isle of Man, Jan. 8, 1842.

EDITORIAL INJUSTICE.—AMERICAN JOURNAL.

In a short article, contained in the last number of the "American Journal of the Medical Sciences" (Oct., 1841, p. 525) the editor accuses M. Guerin of having transferred without acknowledgment, an article on the cure of recto-vaginal fistula from the pages of the "American Journal," to those of the "Gazette Medicale." The editor of the "American Journal of Medical Sciences" also notices that we have taken the same article from the "Gazette Medicale," without referring to the "American Journal."

As we have much respect for the good opinion of our talented American contemporary, and as we detest, above all other offences, literary theft, we would offer a few words of explanation to the editor of the "American Journal."

The article alluded to was published on the 1st of May, 1841, in the "Gazette Medicale," as an original communication from Dr. Valentine Mott. It was republished from the "Gazette," in the "Provincial Journal," on May 8, 1841, and we had every reason to regard it as an original communication, because we knew that Dr. Mott was at that time a resident in Paris, and because we had not seen the "American Journal" for 1840.

It now appears, however, that the case published by M. Guerin, and communicated to him by Dr. Mott, was a simple translation of one published by Dr. J. R. Barton, in the "American Journal" for August, 1840.

From our knowledge of M. Guerin, we think it highly probable that the "editorial injustice" complained of by the "American Journal" should not be laid to his account, but that Dr. Mott, in communicating the case, forgot to mention that it had been previously published in another journal, and that the operation had been performed by Dr. Barton—not by himself.—Eps.]

HOMŒOPATHY IN GERMANY.

By a decree, dated Oct. 1841, the Emperor of Austria has created a chair of homœopathy in the School of Medicine at Vienna, and also appropriated 100 beds, in the hospital of St. Elizabeth, to the homœopathic treatment of disease.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON.

List of Gentlemen admitted Members on Friday
Jan. 14, 1842.

Frederick Eldridge, Henry Budd, Henry Kindale, William Orlando Markham, William Mercer, William Leopold Metcalfe, Frederick Howe Hale, Richard John Peckham, Robert John Spitta, Silas Stilwell Stedman.

Printed by SAMUEL TAYLOR, of 8, Chandos-street, in the Parish of St. Paul's, Covent-garden, at his Office, No. 6, Chandos-street, aforesaid; and published by JOHN CHURCHILL, at his residence, No. 16, Princes-street, in the Parish of St. Anne, Westminster.—Friday, January 21, 1842.