

THE CHEAPEST COLLEGE WITH THE SHORTEST COURSE.

MR. DAVID WILLIAMS.—We are unable to say which medical college in America "is the cheapest and has the shortest course," nor do we think the information would be of the smallest value, except as a warning to avoid such an institution.

NOTES, LETTERS, ETC.

RECIPROCITY.

MR. THOMAS A. WHITE (L'Abri, Territet, Vaud) writes: I beg to inform you that in continuance of my letter to you, December 29th, 1887, I have received a letter from the Préfet de Vevey, informing me that at a meeting of the Conseil d'Etat held on January 21st, they had ordered that the fine of 200 francs inflicted upon me for practising medicine here without Federal diploma should be reduced to that of ten francs; and I have been further advised to discontinue my practice until such time as they again communicate with me.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

DR. C. M. CAMPBELL (Queen Anne Street, Cavendish Square) writes: The article which appeared in the JOURNAL of January 28th has well criticised the existing impudent burlesque of managing a public charity; but it seems to me that the writer has weakened the force of his remarks by the openly expressed prejudice which he exhibits against all special hospitals. I need not discuss the much vexed question of special versus general hospitals, further than to say that the apathy of the latter in days gone by supplied the *raison d'être* of the former. If the public did not desire special hospitals, they would soon cease to exist; and unless you advocate a return to the darkest days of trades unionism, I fall to see what grounds exist for attacking special hospitals *per se*. That the men connected with such are not all actuated by base and selfish motives is sufficiently evident by the course recently taken by my colleagues and myself in fearlessly exposing what we could not reconcile to our professional consciences. It was open to us, and would have been so much easier for us, to have winked at everything, and held our tongues. My colleague, Dr. Robinson, has alluded to the unknown but large number of men who had held office in St. John's Hospital and left it. One should imagine that any skin hospital would have been proud to own such names on its staff as Sir Brasmus Wilson and Dr. Tilbury Fox, who once belonged to St. John's. What were the reasons for their leaving it? Perhaps the veteran honorary solicitor can enlighten us. Perhaps he will also explain the following curious misstatement, which I find both in *Whitaker's Almanack* for 1888, and in the *Hospital Almanack*, 1888, and which is certainly calculated to give an exaggerated idea of the extent of the establishment upon which the management expends some £3,000 per annum. In both publications I find the following particulars: "Matron, Miss Ingleby. Nurses, 2. Beds, 25," which reads very nicely. As a matter of fact Miss Ingleby, who was the only trained nurse in the hospital, left last November, her place being filled by the cook, an excellent person, but not a trained nurse. If other two nurses existed, I can only say that I never saw them, up to the date of my last visit on December 16th. If twenty-five beds exist in the hospital in Leicester Square, the Chelsea branch having been closed many months ago, I can also affirm that I have never seen that number.

Now the main point is this: Who supplied this information? There is good ground for supposing that it was supplied officially, and subsequent to my suspension on December 15th, as my name is omitted from the list of the medical staff in the *Hospital Almanack*, 1888. It would thus appear to have been supplied nearly a month after Miss Ingleby had left. Unless the management can explain this, you can draw your own conclusions. I regret to say that it is but a fair example of the procedures into which we desire to have a full investigation, and which we will yet have, *malgré* the success of the monstrous tactics employed at the last special meeting to howl down the debate. That Lord Aberdare should have followed the example of the Duke of Northumberland, and resigned the vice-presidency, in consequence of the refusal of the Board and its supporters to have an independent inquiry, is no more than might have been expected. Does the Board really suppose that it can defy criticism in this fashion, and retain the sympathy and support of men of honour and position? If so, it will very shortly be undeceived.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR THE PARALYSED AND EPILEPTIC.

MR. B. BURFORD RAWLINGS, Secretary-Director, writes: Will you allow me to say that a recent article in a daily evening paper, to which my attention has been drawn, purporting to describe the work of this hospital, has not been inspired by the authorities here, and that I am ignorant of its source?

I should be ungrateful not to acknowledge the kindly spirit which animates the notice, but there are reasons why my board must disclaim responsibility for it, whether as a whole or in respect of certain statements contained in it, which are entirely, though of course unintentionally, inaccurate.

ERRATUM.—In Dr. Hunter Mackenzie's communication in the JOURNAL of February 4th, p. 245, for "of lactic acid and of thymol," substitute "of lactic acid and of menthol."

THE TREATMENT OF INTRACTABLE ROSACEOUS NOSE.

A COUNTRY PRACTITIONER, who has long suffered from rosaceous nose, writes to recommend scarification, at first twice a week, then once, and latterly once a fortnight. His nose was freely scarified by Mr. Malcolm Morris, and with the most marvellous effect, the heat, pain, and unnatural shape at once subsiding, and the redness rapidly abating, until, at the end of three months—a month since any scarification was performed—the nose is happily restored to its natural shape and colour. Scarification, as performed by Mr. Morris, is not, he says, at all a painful process.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, etc., have been received from:

Mr. T. F. Raven, Broadstairs; Mr. C. E. Abbott, Braintree; Dr. Sanderson, Hastings; Dr. Fraser, Totnes; Mr. J. H. Corbyn, London; Mr. F. R. Humphreys, London; Sir E. Lechmere, London; Dr. S. Wilks, London; Mr. J. B. Miller, Lechdale; Surgeon J. F. Evans, Burmah; Dr. H. Keegel, Colombo, Ceylon; Miss M. A. Mushet, London; Mr. T. M. Pierce, Manchester; Dr. Mickle, London; Dr. W. A. McKeown, Belfast; Dr. J. Reid, Melbourne; C. W. Gray, M.B., Newry; Dr. H. Rayner, London; Mr. W. A. A. Cheeves,

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BOOKS, ETC. RECEIVED.

Transactions of the American Gynecological Association, vol. xli. 1887. New York: Appleton and Co.

The Comparative Anatomy of the Domesticated Animals. Part I. Osteology. By J. McFadyean, M.B., C.M. Edinburgh and London: W. and A. K. Johnston.

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