

son for his evidence: mushrooms! the bairn never had any mushrooms."—I am, etc.,

HENRY THOMPSON,
Assistant-Surgeon Hull Infirmary; Surgeon
to the Hull Police.

16, Albion Street, Hull, January 31st.

MEDICAL REFORM.

SIR,—If my namesake Mr. R. H. S. Carpenter is not better acquainted with other matters concerning which he tries to enlighten his brethren, than he is with myself and my mode of practice, he will woefully mislead those who follow him. Mr. Carpenter says: "We both practice our profession precisely in the same way, and with equal respectability as apothecaries." Mr. R. H. S. Carpenter is welcome to think so if he pleases, but as I have given up pharmacy and general practice for a long time past, and now being a Member of the Royal College of Physicians, am precluded from acting as an apothecary, I am compelled to ask him to be more careful in his statements in future than he was in his last letter. There is one difference between us, which will be manifest to your readers.—Believe me, faithfully yours,

ALFRED CARPENTER, M.D.Lond., M.R.C.P.Lond.

Croydon, February 21st, 1883.

SIR,—In your last issue—probably by a misprint by your printer—I am made to speak of Mr. Alfred Carpenter, the apothecary, of Croydon, as "Dr." Alfred Carpenter. I did not do so, but addressed him merely as "Mr." Alfred Carpenter; and I confined my description of myself to Mr. R. H. S. Carpenter, the apothecary, of Stockwell. Moreover, I did not say, as your printer has made me to say, that I should feel affronted were the profession to mistake me for another person; but I did say, and still say, that I, as the Stockwell apothecary, would feel myself affronted were I mistaken for the Croydon apothecary. I wrote, and am now writing, of Mr. Alfred Carpenter and myself as practising honestly and legally, in virtue of our apothecaries' licences, as *bona fide* apothecaries; and my next communication to you will discuss the mode of our practice under the respective designations of Dr. Alfred Carpenter, of the University of London, and Dr. R. H. S. Carpenter, of the Royal College of Physicians of London; and I shall show that the advantages in practice, both legally and morally, belong to my licence, and not to his university degree. Until then, I subscribe myself, sir, under the title of which I am very proud indeed to be possessed, your obedient servant,

R. H. S. CARPENTER, Apothecary.

February 20th, 1883.

FINANCIAL CRISIS AT THE LONDON HOSPITALS.

SIR,—I, in common with, I am sure, many of my medical brethren, can fully endorse the remarks made by Dr. Fairlie Clarke in the JOURNAL of February 10th, under the above heading. That the London hospitals as at present managed, or rather mismanaged, are exercising an enormous influence for evil in affording gratuitous relief to many persons well able to pay the small fees of a general practitioner, few will be able to dispute. Why, I ask, should this state of affairs be allowed to persist? Surely, some system of supervision, or at least some attempt at such, could be organised and put in force. At present, everyone who can obtain a letter (and often without even this recommendation) is admitted, to the detriment of the struggling practitioners of the neighbourhood. But this, sir, I venture to affirm, is not the only or worst evil at present pressing upon us; I allude to a system, rapidly growing among the leaders of our profession, of giving advice and prescriptions gratuitously at their own houses on certain days, or even on any days, when no fee is forthcoming. Such ways (the object of which is manifest), I take to be beneath the dignity of our profession; but that such exists, I am only too well aware from sad personal experience; and I cannot say that, even when the consultant ascertains that the patient has been under the treatment of a general practitioner, he is at all anxious to send the patient back, but prescribes for the patient, he takes no fee, but injures his brother.

Is there, I ask, any other association of men, engaged in any pursuit whatever, who so persistently cut each other's and their own throats in the way that we do? No one has a greater appreciation of the noble work hospitals may be made to do, when the mode of relief is properly applied, than I have; but I fail to see why the medical profession, any more than the legal, should be expected by the public to pauperise itself both in the matter of brain and pocket; but that this spirit should be encouraged chiefly by the profession

itself is the most astounding part of the matter, even when the question of personal aggrandisement and advancement is taken into consideration.—Yours faithfully,

JAS. McDONAGH.

February 13th, 1883.

MR. EVE'S LECTURES ON THE PATHOLOGY OF TUMOURS.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to Mr. Roger Williams's letter, which appeared in this JOURNAL of the 17th instant, I beg to state that the statistics referred to were taken from Mr. Butlin's tables, as published, with abstracts of his Erasmus Wilson Lectures, in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL. Mr. Butlin's book (*Sarcomata and Carcinomata*) had not then appeared. I subsequently referred to the book in my MS as more accessible than the abstracts, not knowing that the tables had been added to before publication. To this extension of the tables, the discrepancy pointed out by Mr. Williams is chiefly due.

My references to the tables of sarcomata of bones (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, vol. ii, 1880, page 11) are correct; as are also the numbers taken from the tables of Cancer of the Tongue and Oesophagus (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, vol. i, 1881, page 556); but, in the latter instance, I inadvertently erred in putting the cases at a decade too late. I had arranged the cases in columns for each decade; and, in referring to my note a little time afterwards, took those cases placed under the number 40, as if they occurred in the fifth decade, whereas I ought also to have included with them those placed under 50, which really were of the fifth decade. This mistake does not materially affect the argument; and the point is also clearly proved by the statistics quoted from Von Winiwarter.

I feel flattered that my lectures have found so attentive a reader as Mr. Roger Williams, and take the opportunity of publicly correcting the error.—I am, sir, yours truly,

FREDERIC S. EVE.

Royal College of Surgeons of England,
Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C., February 19th, 1883.

MEDICO-PARLIAMENTARY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The following are among the notices on the paper of the House of Commons.

Cruelty to Animals Acts Amendment Bill—"to amend the Acts against Cruelty to Animals," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, March 7th, and to be printed. [Bill 13.]

Vivisection Abolition Bill—"for the Abolition of Vivisection," presented by Mr. Reid, Sir Eardley Wilmot, Mr. Samuel Morley, and Mr. Firth, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, April 4th, and to be printed. [Bill 46.]

Mr. Arthur Balfour: On second reading of Vivisection Abolition Bill, to move, That, while due provision should be made for preventing the infliction of unnecessary pain on animals, it is inexpedient so to limit scientific investigation as to hinder discoveries which must result in a great diminution of human suffering. [Monday, February 19th.]

Private Lunatic Asylums (Ireland) Bill.—Mr. William Corbet: To alter and amend the law relating to Private Lunatic Asylums in Ireland, and to make other and more suitable provision for paying patients.

Infectious Diseases Notification Bill.—Mr. Hastings: To provide for the better Notification of Infectious Diseases.

February 19th.

Lead-Poisoning.—Mr. BURT asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a further report on lead-poisoning had recently been presented to him by Mr. Redgrave, Inspector of Factories; and, if so, whether he would lay it upon the table of the House.—Sir W. HARCOURT said that this report was in the printer's hands, and would be ready, he hoped, very soon.

HOSPITAL SATURDAY FUND.—According to the report of Messrs. Pannell, Cartwright and Co., honorary auditors of this fund, just issued, the entire collection for last year was £8,690, or £516 more than the total of 1881. There was an available balance in hand of £7,517, an increase of £336 over the available balance of 1881.

A SERIOUS epidemic of measles having broken out at Oban, Shettleston, near Glasgow, the public schools have been closed, as has already been done at Walls, Orkney.