

sities of the United Kingdom, should also be examined by a College of Physicians, a requirement unnecessarily complicating, without affording greater certainty to, the tests of professional competence, diminishing the real value and respectability of the honours conferred by the Universities, and involving an undue concession to the several Colleges of Physicians.

"That in order to secure the advancement of the professional qualifications of that class of practitioners to which your Petitioners belong, they pray, that all candidates for registration as physicians, should be required to give satisfactory proof of their having applied themselves to medical studies, during at least seven years, and of having attained the age of twenty-seven.

"That your Petitioners approve of all legislative discountenance of illegal practice, but humbly suggest, that an inquiry be made into the operation of the laws now enforced against such practice in foreign countries, and in the United Kingdom.

#### HULL MEETING.

Dr. Cooper presents his compliments to the Editor of the *Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal*, and begs he will have the kindness to make the following correction in the report of the Hull Meeting:—The Petition, unanimously adopted by the meeting, embraces only the three first resolutions; the fourth, which has reference to the constitution of the Council of Health, has been, with the consent of the mover, embodied in a separate memorial.

Hull, Nov. 14, 1844.

#### INDIAN REMEDY FOR BOWEL COMPLAINTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

A correspondent in your Journal of the 30th of October, makes some inquiries respecting a fruit used by the natives of India, in diarrhoea, and which his informant calls "gorbus," and says resembles "a pear in shape and size." May not the fruit alluded to be the *Psidium pomiferum*, belonging to the natural order Myrtaceæ, and one of the species of "Guava." Its properties are astringent and stomachic, and it is I believe used medicinally by the natives of tropical climates.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

M. D.

Isle of Wight, Nov. 13, 1844.

The *Psidium pomiferum* is a native of South America, Mexico, and the West Indies, but is found also in different parts of India, where it is presumed to have been introduced, though it is said to be indigenous in Cochin-China and the Moluccas. The guava is frequently used by the private soldiers in the West Indies, as an astringent in dysentery, diarrhoea, and bowel complaints generally, and we may add, as we are given to understand, surreptitiously, and without the knowledge of the medical officers, even in the military hospitals.—Ed.

#### MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

The following gentlemen have been chosen office-bearers of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, for the ensuing year:—*President*, James Simson, M.D.; *Treasurer*, Alexander Macauley, M.D.; *Librarian*, Robert Omond, M.D.; *Conservator of the Museum*, Henry Goodsir.

Mr. Stanley has been elected one of the Examiners at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, in the room of Mr. Thomas, resigned.

#### OBITUARY.

The Edinburgh papers of Friday announce the sudden death of Dr. Abercrombie, of that city. On Thursday morning he was found by his servant lying dead in his own room. It is supposed that he was carried off in a fit of apoplexy. Dr. Abercrombie was an Honorary Member of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

Remarks on the Present State of the Medical Profession in this Country, and on the changes proposed by the Bill recently introduced into Parliament by Sir James Graham, Bart., &c. By Thomas Nunneley, F.R.C.S., &c. &c. Leeds. 1844. pp. 24.

A Manifesto, by the Medical and Surgical Association of the Borough of Marylebone. London. 1844. 8vo. pp. 16.

#### ERRATUM.

We are requested by the author of the letter on the "Incorporation of General Practitioners," to correct an error in the fifth paragraph of his letter. The passage referred to should read as follows:—"This Society or College should, under the provisions of the bill, return from two to four representatives to the Council of Health and Medical Education. If the number of representatives be fixed at four, two of these at least should be from the provinces. When incorporated, the new Society or College should either alone," &c.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Mr. F. W. Pittock; Dr. Souby; Mr. Carter; Dr. Tunstall; Mr. W. Matterson, jun.; Mr. Watson; Dr. Mactear; Mr. Vale; Messrs. Dorrington and Franklin; Mr. Caffin; Mr. F. Elkington; Dr. J. C. Smart; Mr. Trevor; Sir J. Fife; Mr. Clarke; Mr. P. Martin; and Mr. F. Cox.

These communications, together with several others, which have been unavoidably postponed to make room for the Report of the Derby Meeting, shall receive early attention.

*A Constant Reader*: The list to which he alludes has not hitherto been regularly sent for insertion. We will, however, endeavour to remedy the omission.

It is requested that all letters and communications be sent to Dr. Streeten, Foregate Street, Worcester. Parcels, and books for review, may be addressed to the Editor of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal, care of Mr. Churchill, Princes Street, Soho.