

sary, and in yellow bottles, so as to be clearly and easily distinguished, with proper and legible labels in large letters upon each bottle or vessel, in order to prevent mistake either by himself, his apprentice, or other person entrusted with his Shop or Dispensary—all Arsenic, Strychnine, Corrosive Sublimate or such other article of poison aforesaid, generally known under the denomination of rank poison, under the penalty of five pounds currency, in case of disobedience, and shall be committed until payment of the same.

"IX. And be it further enacted, that the Board of Governors of the College of Physicians and Surgeons shall, by virtue of this Act, have authority to depute any three Governors of the said College to enter the Shop or Dispensary of any Apothecary, Chemist, Druggist, vendor and retailer of Medicines, in order to ascertain if the requirements herein above-mentioned, with respect to Arsenic, Strychnine, Corrosive Sublimate, or other such article of poison as aforesaid, be complied with; and such Apothecary, Chemist and Druggist, vendor and retailer of Medicines, who shall refuse admittance at any hour of the day, between ten in the forenoon and four in the afternoon, to his Shop or Dispensary, to the persons authorized to the intent aforesaid—such persons producing and exhibiting a written authority to the intent aforesaid—shall for every such offence incur a penalty of five pounds currency, and, on conviction, shall be committed to the common Gaol until payment of the same.

"X. And be it further enacted, that the penalties imposed by this Act shall be recoverable on the oath of any two credible witnesses, before any Justice of the Peace for the District in which the offence has been committed; and in default of the payment of such penalty on conviction, the offender may be committed to the common Gaol of the District until the same be paid."

CORRESPONDENCE.

A STUDENT'S LETTERS.

No. VI.

Perhaps it would not be out of place were I to give you my opinion regarding the Medical Schools of the three Capitals of the United Kingdom.

London, the great school of Surgery, is to be preferred before any other, if that be the branch to which most attention is to be paid; but as a school of Medicine, I do not think it is by any means equal to that of Edinburgh. In London the very large hospitals are very numerous, and their days of operation are so arranged that you may be present at one on each of the six days of the week—and some days even at two separately. As operations at each are numerous, you can here see almost every operation performed on the living body in a comparatively short space of time; you can also see the different methods practised by the great surgeons of the day. This is, I think, the only great superiority of London. Another advantage there is also, viz.: the Lectures on

Practical Physiology, or experiments on living animals—the very great benefit of which, to the student, I need not mention—and Histology, or the use of the microscope in examining the arrangement of the ultimate fibres in the different tissues—the student having to prepare his own objects. These lectures are only delivered at the University College, and cannot be attended at any other, except the Continental Schools.

In the London hospitals the medical wards are, generally, but very poorly attended—the surgical division receiving the most attention. This, I think, is due to the very erroneous arrangements of the London College of Surgeons, requiring the examination to consist merely in testing the knowledge of the candidates on the three subjects of Surgery, Anatomy and Physiology; and hence there is less attention paid to the other branches. I am not able to form such a definite conclusion regarding the Dublin School, because being there in the months of September and October, when no lectures are delivered, the medical world was at a stand-still. The great superiority which Dublin undoubtedly possesses is the Lying-in Hospital. The number of students from different parts of Britain, as well as from the United States, is very great, which shows how much the advantages of this institution is appreciated. The General Hospitals in Dublin are numerous, compared with the size of the city, and hence are small.

I can say more about Edinburgh, because I have been here during the winter session. The advantages to be obtained in this city are, I think, greater than in any other; and I think any person who will calmly consider, cannot but come to the same conclusion. As a medical school it is decidedly superior, not only in having as teachers the first medical men of the age, but also in the better method of instructing, and likewise the greater advantages derived from the Infirmary. This is the centre for all the difficult cases in the eastern part of Scotland and the north of England, as well as many from America, who come here for surgical advice. And as there is only one Infirmary in Edinburgh, there is not the same division as exists in both London and Dublin.

Clinical medicine, as taught by Dr. Bennett—and we should say first introduced into this country, from the continent, by him—is decidedly superior to any of the others. All the conveniences required for clinical examination, as the microscope and the different tests for the urine, etc. are in every ward. The great attention which is given by the professors in teaching the students individually, and the autopsy room where each of the fatal cases are examined by the pathologist to the Infirmary, present advantages not to be found in every school. If there be a superiority in medicine, I think there is even more so in surgery. This

branch, I think, is even better taught here than in London, because there are more cases of importance to be seen here than in any single hospital in the last mentioned city. I do not value this so highly as the clinical lectures which are delivered by Mr. Syme and Mr. Spence. These are not like those of clinical medicine given on the patients at present in the ward, and which the students are supposed to have seen, but on the patients at present examined. During the hour of lecture each important case is brought into the theatre, examined and described, and, if required, the operation performed; at each lecture there will be from five to eight examined. Perhaps this way of conducting a clinic may not appear to possess any great advantages; but I think if one be attended which is carried on in this style, and then one given in the usual manner, the difference will be at once evident. I cannot leave this part of my subject without expressing my conviction of the very comprehensive and explanatory course of lectures delivered by Dr. Simpson on Midwifery. These, with the Surgical Clinique, are the two superior courses in Edinburgh.

In finishing, I must state that my opinion of Montreal as a medical school is very much greater than it was when I left, because, after having visited several of what are by all considered to be first in consequence, their superiority over Montreal is but little indeed; and if a course of lectures on Pathological Anatomy and the practical use of the microscope, with lectures on Practical Chemistry, were instituted, I should say on this point it is inferior to none as regards the teaching department. I think these extra lectures could be easily delivered in the summer season, as in this country, and would be well worth the establishing. The sole defect which Montreal would then have is the want of a sufficient number of surgical cases; and this will every day grow less as the city and its manufactures increase. As a medical school it is now as good as any other for general cases, with the advantage of the dispensary practice of the out-door patients.

There is nothing in Edinburgh of late which is worth mentioning. Dr. Bennett's work, the "Clinical Lectures on the Principles and Practice of Medicine," has just issued from the press. There are 930 octavo pages in it, and of course his latest views on medicine are fully explained.

A. R.

Edinburgh, March, 1858.

To the Editors of the MEDICAL CHRONICLE.

GENTLEMEN,—I notice an anonymous communication in the *Chronicle* for February, in which a grave charge is preferred against the three Governors of the College of Physicians and Surgeons for Lower Canada, resident in the District of Bedford. As one of the Governors so attacked, I deem it my duty to notice it. It is asserted by your correspondent, that, in place of any effort to put down the operations of practitioners without license, "quacks" are found "running at loose-ends over the whole country, and the three Governors themselves quietly encouraging it in every instance." Now, this is simply a falsehood, and alander, so far as regards myself, (my colleagues, I doubt not, will answer satisfactorily for themselves,) one which should not be preferred in the columns of a medical journal—the *quasi organ* of the profession in Lower Canada—except upon the very best testimony. It is a charge which your correspondent should have made personally before the College itself, where, the accusation being open, the defence would have been not only in the light of day, but, I am sure, successful. Your correspondent goes farther, and avers that these Governors "have each an illegitimate practitioner in their employment, to whom they are giving their daily bread for their services as hired assistants in their practice, and not as students." Now, Messrs. Editors, previously to the incorporation of the College, the practitioners on the border were compelled, generally, to look to the United States for their assistants,—most of those thus employed being, I believe, "veritable M. D.'s," graduates of American colleges ere coming to Canada, and usually settling here with a view of taking out licenses as soon as their means and opportunity would serve. One of my fellow-Governors began practice in Canada in that manner, but subsequently graduated at McGill College, taking a high position in his class; and so obtained his license, and, not long after, his Governorship. No real evil has arisen from this state of things,—no more wrong to the public and profession resulting than from the manner in which almost every medical man employs the more advanced students indentured to him. Was your correspondent (so charmed with the dignity of his degree as to thrust it forward with a "veritable" attached to it) never employed in this way during the time he was a student and under-graduate?

Such a complaint against the employment of these American M. D.'s can only tend to one end, that under-graduates of the University should be privileged to practice under their patrons' supervision; while men who are not in a position to enter at our Universities, but who are pre-