TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

DAVID JOHNSTON, M. D.

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, &c.

AS CANDIDATE FOR THE

CHAIR OF MATERIA MEDICA

IN THE

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

(DAY OF ELECTION FIXED FOR JUNE 20. 1832.)

TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD PROVOST AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EDINBURGH, PATRONS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Having previously announced myself as a candidate for the vacant Chair of Materia Medica in the University, I now take the liberty of laying before you such Testimonials as my limited time has enabled me to procure. Had longer space been allowed, I should have had it in my power to have brought forward a much larger mass of testimony, and more particularly from remote parts of the Continent. As it is, I trust, with a very considerable degree of confidence, that those I have been favoured with will be considered most highly respectable, and will, at least, relieve me from the charge of presumption in offering myself a Candidate for a situation so eminently important and honourable.

I have perhaps been somewhat tardy in starting on the present occasion, but the assurance I received from individual Members of the Council, that the respective merits of the Candidates would be judged of by their Testimonials, has allowed me all along to look forward to the result with confidence.

In my circular of May 15th, I stated that I founded my pretensions not upon the ground—certainly a very subordinate one—of having given Lectures. Conceiving, as I do, that lecturing is but the mechanical part of the duties of such a Chair, I felt myself perfectly justified in coming forward in opposition to those who had already lectured.

The literary reputation I had acquired at an early age, both at home and on the Continent, joined to the full opportunities I have ever enjoyed of obtaining practical knowledge in my profession, have warranted me in taking the course I have pursued.

After having completed my full course of medical and general study in Edinburgh, I took my degree of M. D. I then repaired to the Continent, where I spent four years in the Medical Schools of France, Italy, and Germany,—adding to my stock of knowledge, studying the literature, and making myself familiar with the languages of these countries.

On my return to Edinburgh, I entered as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, and became connected with my father, Mr Henry Johnston, in general practice.

Subsequently to this, I published several works, which were received in this country most honourably, and were praised in a very flattering manner by the various periodicals of the day. On the Continent they were more especially noticed, and the principal of them was translated into German, and I have been led to believe also into Italian. I may be allowed to add, that they attracted, in a particular manner, the notice of the illustrious Marquis de Pastoret, late Chancellor of France.

With respect to that knowledge more immediately necessary for discharging properly the duties of the vacant Chair, I beg to state, that, having obtained a thorough chemical education in Edinburgh, I prosecuted the study analytically, and more in detail, in the great practical laboratories of Vauquelin, and the other celebrated chemists of Paris. When residing within the Jardin des Plantes, I had, from particular circumstances, free access to the *ateliers*, where the distinguished

Professor, and his scarcely less distinguished Assistants, made those deep and practical inquiries which have given so rapid an impulsion to the science of chemistry in France. I was favoured, by being permitted to join in these researches, and I trust I did so with benefit as well as pleasure.

I resided a twelvemonth within the walls of the Jardin des Plantes, engaged in the study of medicinal and other plants, and was aiding and assisting in bringing out that valuable publication, which gives a full account of the vast treasures of that magnificent establishment.

My knowledge during the period of my residence there was drawn from the Fountain Head. I did not merely attend classes with the ordinary Students,—every thing was open to me, and, at times, when the gates being shut, and the Public excluded, I had full opportunity of studying minutely, and in detail, those natural sciences, which are all more or less connected with Materia Medica.

It is unnecessary for me to enter farther into an account of my studies in this Garden; its celebrity is a sufficient warrant that so long a term of residence in it could not fail of being attended with striking benefit.

With respect to Pharmacy, besides my practical education in the Laboratories of the French Chemists, I may, in addition, be allowed to remark, that ever since I commenced the study of my Profession I have been familiar with this in my Father's house, and being now connected with him in business, it is a department which naturally falls under my immediate superintendance.

I also feel justified in saying, that few of my standing possess more extensive opportunities of applying their previously acquired knowledge to the treatment of disease; for, besides my connexion with my Father, I have charge of one

of the largest Charitable Institutions of this City, containing a population of not less than Five hundred persons of all ages.

I may be permitted, before finishing, to add—as will be seen in one of the following documents—that I have been deprived of most invaluable testimonials by the lamented death of the illustrious CUVIER. My intercourse with him was of such a nature as to have ensured me a powerful, and, from such a man, most invaluable testimonial. The death of M. LAUGIER, and of various other individuals connected with the Medical School of Paris, in like manner, has diminished the expected number of my Certificates.

Had my time been less limited, I should also have been able to have added to my list documents from Vienna, Berlin, Dresden, Prague, Pavia, Padua, Geneva, and many of the principal cities of France.

I have already mentioned in my Circular, that feelings of delicacy towards the late Dr DUNCAN and his Family prevented me from starting so soon as some other Candidates. This, of course, I do not regret, although it has been the means of depriving me of valuable Testimonials from professional friends in Edinburgh, whose influence and interest had, I found, been previously secured in favour of other Candidates.

Respectfully submitting the documents which follow to your consideration,

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient and very humble servant,

DAVID JOHNSTON, M. D.

34. QUEEN STREET, *7th June* 1832.

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Note.—Dr JOHNSTON thinks it right to state, that he has received several very flattering Letters from Medical Friends in Edinburgh and elsewhere. As these Gentlemen, however, had previously given direct Certificates to other Candidates, they felt unwilling that these should be published on the present occasion.

TESTIMONIALS.

I. *From the Very Rev.* GEORGE HUSBAND BAIRD, *D. D. Principal of the University of Edinburgh, and one of the Ministers of the High Church.*

DEAR SIR, EDINBURGH, *June* 4. 1832.

THOUGH I am an utterly incompetent judge of the professional qualifications of medical men, and therefore never presume to give any opinion as to their comparative merits; and, though my wishes may lean to another candidate than you for success in the canvass for the vacant chair of Materia Medica, yet I do not feel myself precluded by these considerations from stating, as you desire, my general impressions as to your literary attainments and character.

I beg, then, to assure you, that both from the personal intercourse I have had the gratification to enjoy with you, and from a perusal of your publications, my impressions are very favourable of your industry, judgment, and active and persevering zeal in those various lines of research and pursuit, which are either directly or collaterally connected with the profession of Medicine.

I willingly, therefore, declare, that you are at present fully fitted by talents, acquirements, and habits, for filling with credit and usefulness a responsible public department, and that you are continuing to exhibit that devotedness to the peculiar studies and labours suited to your views in life,

which promise, I think, to secure for you hereafter an increasing measure of general confidence and respect.

I remain, with esteem and regard,

DEAR SIR,

Yours faithfully,

GEO. H. BAIRD.

DAVID JOHNSTON, M. D.

II. *From the Rev. GEORGE COOK, D. D., Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of St Andrew's, one of the Deans of the Chapel Royal, and Dean of the Thistle, late Member of the Royal University Commission.*

MY DEAR SIR, LAURENCEKIRK, 14*th November* 1826.

I HAD the pleasure of receiving your letter of the 5th instant, and on the day after the manuscript which you were so good as to send me. I have read it over twice most carefully, and I have derived from the perusal much instruction. The work, in my estimation, is highly creditable to your son. It evinces great research, and it presents a mass of information altogether new to me, and new, I suspect, to the great part of literary men in this country.

I can have no hesitation in saying that it should be given to the public, and that it will, in all probability, bring Mr JOHNSTON most favourably into notice.

I am, with much respect and regard,

MY DEAR SIR,

Yours most sincerely,

GEORGE COOK.

TO HENRY JOHNSTON, Esq.
Surgeon,
34. Queen Street.

[Dr Cook having been so kind as to offer to peruse the manuscript of my Work, the above is an extract from a letter written to my Father in consequence.]

Second Letter from Dr Cook.

My dear Sir, Edinburgh, 18*th May* 1832.

I understand that you are a Candidate for the Materia Medica Chair, vacant by the death of poor Dr Duncan. Permit me to offer to you my best wishes for your success.

From my studies having been in quite a different direction, I can express no opinion as to your medical attainments; but having paid much attention to the different works with which you have favoured the public, I am perfectly assured, that by devoting to any subject the talents and the well conducted accurate research which you have displayed in them, you would do it the fullest justice, and that you would be a most enlightened and useful Professor.

I am, with much respect,

My dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE COOK.

Dr D. Johnston.

III. *From Alexander Monro, Esq. M. D., Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in the University of Edinburgh.*

My dear Sir, Edinburgh, *May* 29. 1832.

In consequence of your request, I have taken the liberty of addressing this letter to you. You have flattered

me very much, by supposing that my testimonial can be of the highest consequence to your son Dr DAVID, who, you may be assured, was a very zealous and successful student at our University, and who gave the strongest evidence of the depth and extent of his Medical and Surgical information at his several examinations before the Faculty of Medicine.

Through your liberality, he has since had the most favourable means of gaining additional information on the Continent; and, in particular, he must have derived much information on Chemistry and Pharmacy, during the long period he worked in the laboratory of the late distinguished VAUQUELIN of Paris.

Under your own tuition, he could not fail to receive much valuable instruction; and his works on the present system of Education in France, and on the Medical and Statistical History of the present constitution of Public Charities, and Letter to Sir ROBERT PEEL on a motion for leave to bring in a Bill for the better regulation of Lunatic Establishments, have been duly appreciated by the public.

Believe me ever

Most truly yours,

ALEXANDER MONRO.

For HENRY JOHNSTON, Esq.

IV. *From ROBERT JAMESON, Esq. F.R.S.E., F.L.S.E., Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, and President of the Wernerian Natural History Society, &c. &c. &c.*

MY DEAR SIR, COLLEGE MUSEUM, *June* 6. 1832.

I REMEMBER well your ardour and zeal as a student in this University, and am equally familiar with the exten-

sive progress you have since made in Medicine, Chemistry, and Natural History.

During your residence abroad, I know you sustained the high reputation you had acquired here, and, in the Garden of Plants of Paris, was considered as an accomplished man of science.

Your writings, which have been for some time before the public, have deservedly added to your reputation, and augur well for the future increase of your usefulness and fame.

I trust the attractions of medical practice will not, for a time at least, withdraw you from the more elevated pursuits of pure science.

I am, my dear Sir,

Ever faithfully yours,

ROB. JAMESON.

For Dr JOHNSTON jun. Queen Street.

V. *From* ROBERT BRIGGS, *Esq. M. D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and Professor of Medicine in the University of St Andrew's.*

DEAR SIR, [ST ANDREW'S, *June* 5. 1832.

ALTHOUGH I have not the honour of being personally acquainted with you, yet I am no stranger to your merit as an author. From the complete Surgical and Medical education you have obtained under the fostering care of a father, who was so able and willing to direct your studies both at home and abroad; and from the most convincing proofs which you have given to the public that you have profited largely by your various opportunities of improvement, I have no difficulty in stating that, in my opi-

nion, your works would do honour to any Medical Chair in any of our Universities.

I am aware that the opinion of such an obscure individual as I am can have no weight whatever with the Patrons of my *Alma Mater*, but should they be pleased to select you to the chair of my old friend Dr Duncan, I can venture to say you will not be an unworthy successor to that highly-gifted gentleman who has now been removed from the scene.

With every good wish for your success,

I am,

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient servant and friend,

R. BRIGGS.

Dr D. Johnston, Queen Street, Edinburgh.

VI. *From the Reverend David Ritchie, D. D. Professor of Logic in the University of Edinburgh, and one of the Ministers of St Andrew's Church.*

My Dear Sir,

I have perused with much satisfaction, and with not a little instruction, your works on the state of Medical and of general Education, &c. in France. They exhibit a luminous view of this interesting subject, and shew in their author great power of observation, and talent for accurate thinking and clear statement. In my humble opinion the author of such works is capable of excelling in any subject whatever to which he may direct his attention, and may fairly offer himself to fill any office that lies within the line of his studies; for I am persuaded that he possesses the talents, as well as the general information, which would qua-

lify him to discharge, in the most efficient manner, the duties of any such office.

In giving this my honest opinion of your general merits as a scholar, I do not venture to allude to your medical acquirements, which, however, from the extensive range of your professional education, I have no doubt, are ample and profound. But I should think it impertinent to obtrude my opinion on a subject of which I am not qualified to form a judgment.

I remain, my Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

DAVID RITCHIE.

To Dr David Johnston.

VII. *From William Robertson, Esq. M. D., Physician in Bath, and formerly Physician to the Forces.*

14. Paragan Buildings, Bath,
1st June 1832.

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 15th I only received last evening, it having been detained in the Post-office here, from my name not having been distinctly written on the address.

If you think the enclosed of any use, you may publish it. I regret having no interest with the Patrons, and I hope you will have time to get forward your foreign testimonials.

Believe me,

With sincere wishes for your success,

Faithfully yours,

Wm. ROBERTSON.

To the Right Honourable the LORD PROVOST *and other Members of the* TOWN COUNCIL *of Edinburgh.*

12. PARAGAN BUILDINGS, BATA.
1st June 1832.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

As there is a vacancy by the lamented death of Dr DUNCAN in the Chair of Materia Medica in your University, permit me to state, that I spent a year at Versailles and Paris, where I had an opportunity of witnessing the zeal and assiduity with which DAVID JOHNSON, M. D. prosecuted his studies, and the correctness of his moral conduct in a situation, where there were so many incitements to irregularity and dissipation, without parents or relations to check.

From his acquaintance with the Medical Professors, and other literary characters, he was enabled to publish a view of the system of Medical and General Education in France, also a Medical and Statistical Account of Hospitals and Public Charities there; two works well known here, and which gained him *great credit* on the Continent.

During a twelvemonth he resided within the walls of the Jardin des Plantes, and assisted in preparing for publication a full account of its many treasures. There he must have acquired a knowledge of the medical plants of every country almost in the world.

Previous to visiting the Continent, he had served an apprenticeship with his father, where he had practical knowledge both of simple and compound medicines: and after spending several years on the Continent, he qualified himself by acquiring foreign languages, studying Chemistry under VAUQUELIN, and seeing the practice of the first physicians, for filling that situation to which he now aspires. If successful, I feel confident he will fill it with honour to

himself, and will support, if not increase, that high reputation the University has so justly acquired.

I surely need not point out to you, my Lord and Gentlemen, the advantages of having the chairs filled by individuals, who are not only known here, but on the Continent, by their literary productions, as he is, and who have had extensive opportunities of obtaining information, with talents for observation, and facility in communicating to the public the results.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient and very humble servant,

Wm. ROBERTSON, M. D.

VIII.—*From the Rev. John Morgan, M. A., of Caius College, Cambridge, Domestic Chaplain to the Right Honourable Lord Sleaford, Rector of Normanton and of Kirkby-Laythorpe, in the County of Lincoln.*

Kirby Rectory, Sleaford,
May 19. 1832.

My dear Johnston,

I am happy to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, in which you inform me that you have offered yourself as a candidate for the Chair of Materia Medica in the University of Edinburgh. Your determination gives me great pleasure, because I am convinced that the situation to which you aspire is one for which your habits and attainments peculiarly qualify you.

Having had the pleasure of your acquaintance from the period of your arrival in Paris, I have it in my power, in consequence of the constant intercourse which subsisted between us during a great part of your residence in that city,

to render the most unqualified testimony to the zeal and application with which you availed yourself of those advantages, for the acquisition and increase of many branches of knowledge connected with the medical profession which the French capital is supposed to offer.

I believe, from excellent authority, that your assiduity in the pursuit of these important studies has been as successful as might confidently be expected from one of your talents and acquirements.

Of the extent of your proficiency in Medical Science, I cannot, of course, speak from personal knowledge, but from what I have heard asserted by the most competent judges, it is my decided opinion, that, in all essential requisites, a more eligible person than yourself could not be found to fill the vacant chair.

I now conclude with the most sincere and heartfelt wishes for your speedy and complete success, and believe me, my dear JOHNSTON, your ever faithful friend,

JOHN MORGAN.

To D. JOHNSTON, Esq. M.D.
Queen Street, Edinburgh.

IX.—*From* PATRICK NEILL, *Esq. Secretary to the Wernerian Natural History Society.*

MY DEAR SIR, CANONMILLS, *June* 2. 1832.

I HAVE the honor and happiness of being distantly related to Dr TRAILL of Liverpool, and a few days ago, at his request, I wrote a letter to the Lord Provost in his favour as one of the candidates for the vacant chair in our University. This, however, ought not and shall not prevent me from stating my opinion of your merits, since you

desire me to do so; and my friend Dr TRAILL, I well know, would be the last man to find fault with me for doing so.

I assure you I was much gratified by seeing your name mentioned in the newspapers among the candidates; because I felt that it ought to appear there, and that you are entitled to come prominently forward in the Medical world.

Your interesting publications fully warrant this; for they have been most favourably received, not only at home, but abroad,—having been translated into foreign languages, and honoured by the notice of the Institute of France.

I am not aware that any physician in Edinburgh, or in Scotland, has had such close intercourse as you have had, for a number of years past, with the scientific medical men of Paris. I can never forget the high eulogy which I heard pronounced upon you at the Museum in the Jardin des Plantes, as one of the most diligent, well-informed, and kind-hearted Englishmen that had ever studied in the French school. I found that the mere circumstance of my being acquainted with you, procured me warm friends there.

My opinion of your talents and acquirements is truly very high, and I have had good opportunity of judging of them. I only regret that my situation in life must prevent my testimony from carrying that weight which I would, for your sake, wish it to carry. But other friends, whose judgment is better entitled to consideration, will, I am certain, corroborate all that I can say in your favour.

With best wishes, I remain,

DEAR SIR,

Very sincerely yours,

PAT. NEILL,
Sec. Wern. Nat. Hist. Soc.

Dr DAVID JOHNSTON.

X.—*From the Reverend* William Singer, *D. D. late Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and Chaplain to her Majesty the Queen.*

Kirkpatrick, by Moffat,
June 4. 1832.

My Dear Sir,

I have the honour of your letter of the 2d current, but not considering myself entitled to form even a private judgment of the requisite qualifications of a successor to the late Professor of Materia Medica and Pharmacy at Edinburgh, I cannot allow myself to presume that my opinion can be of the least importance to you in the estimation of the Patrons.

It is therefore chiefly for your own satisfaction that, on this occasion, I take the opportunity of repeating to yourself, what I have often had the pleasure to remark to others, that such works as have appeared in your name discover a spirit of ardent and persevering inquiry into subjects of the highest importance to the public, and an extensive and liberal power of transferring to this country whatever has occurred to you as likely to be useful to it in your visits to foreign nations: and to this extent, all have agreed with me who have read your works on Education, on Hospitals and Charities, and on the Lunatic Establishments, in France. I may add that, from these works, I have myself obtained information that was new to me and instructing; discovering something which it would be important mutually to that kingdom and to our own land to introduce.

With respect to the course of education through which you have passed, I always understood that it was regular and liberal; but it never occurred to me, whatever inclination I had, that I had any right to trace the whole course of it in the way wherein you have gratified me by your

statement of that course; and, without again recurring to the publications which have resulted from it,—conscious also as I feel of my inability to form a correct opinion, I would be wanting in justice to you and to myself if I hesitated in stating that the course of education through which you have passed, both at home and abroad, appears eminently calculated to qualify for that high and important office to which you aspire, and which was filled by one for whom I always felt inclined to cherish no ordinary sentiments of regard and esteem.

In one respect your connexion in practice, and the superintending charge of a great establishment, have afforded you excellent means of correct and enlarged improvement; and, in another respect, your well known and active disposition to act as the late Professor did, in turning your attainments to the advantage of the public, certainly must have some weight with those who have the power of nomination to the vacant Chair. I may add that the opportunities which you have enjoyed abroad for making progress in chemical and botanical research, coupled with a disposition now well known to make the most of them, not only for your own benefit but for that of your country, would have great effect, I must presume, if you had not been so late in your application.

I do not know who are the applicants for this office, but have learned that there are many, and of high attainments. Your present views may, therefore, be in some danger of disappointment perhaps, but your claims can hardly fail to be remembered to your credit, and probably to your future advantage.

Allow me to say, that I send you this answer as a private communication, rather than one to be made use of with gentlemen to whom I have no right, and can have no preten-

sions to recommend. But, though this is my feeling certainly, I commit the letter to your discretion as it only contains the sentiments which I have often expressed to others.

I always am, my Dear Sir,

Faithfully yours,

WM. SINGER.

DR D. JOHNSTON.

XI. *From THOMAS SHORTT, Esq. M. D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, Physician to the Royal Infirmary, late Physician to the Forces.*

MY DEAR SIR, EDINBURGH, *4th June* 1832.

I WAS not aware, till the receipt of your letter of today's date, that you were a Candidate for the Chair of Materia Medica in this University. From my personal knowledge of the care and opportunities afforded you in your professional education, and from the great attention given by you to your studies, as evinced in your publications regarding the different Institutions, &c. on the Continent of Europe, it gives me great pleasure to state, that I consider you well qualified to undertake the task of teaching any branch of medical science; and although, at present, the field may perhaps be occupied, I sincerely trust, on some future occasion, you will be more successful.

I remain,

MY DEAR SIR,

Yours very faithfully,

THOMAS SHORTT, M. D.

D. JOHNSTON, M. D. Phys. Royal Infirmary.

&c. &c. &c.

XII. *From Sir* RICHARD DOBSON, *Surgeon to Greenwich Hospital.*

ROYAL HOSPITAL, GREENWICH,
27th May 1832.

DEAR COLONEL,

NOTHING would afford me more pleasure than to hear of your nephew Dr DAVID JOHNSTON being appointed to the vacant Chair of Materia Medica and Pharmacy in the University of Edinburgh. His character and acquirements are well known to the profession; and it being the interest of the Patrons, as well as their inclination, to select for the Professorship a man of talents, there can be no candidate who has higher claims to their favourable consideration than Dr JOHNSTON, to whom, from my heart, I wish all the success he so well deserves. I remain,

DEAR COLONEL,

Yours sincerely,

R. DOBSON.

To Lt. Col. NICHOLSON.

XIII. *From D.* DOMVILLE, *Esq. M. D., Surgeon, Royal Navy.*

GREENWICH HOSPITAL,
May 26. 1832.

MY DEAR COLONEL,

I HAVE much pleasure in forwarding Sir WILLIAM BEATTY's note to me, containing his opinion of the works of your nephew Dr JOHNSTON, which very justly have been deemed worthy of a place in the Public Library of this Institution. I can only add, that I have perused them with much satisfaction, not only as regards the talents of the respected author, but on account of the valuable information which has, through his individual labour and research, been laid before the public.

Sir RICHARD DOBSON tells me he has heard from you. I will write to you to-morrow or next day.

Accept our united wishes for his success, and believe me,

MY DEAR COLONEL,

Yours very faithfully,

J. DOMVILLE, M. D.
Surgeon, Royal Navy.

To Col. J. NICHOLSON, Woolwich.

XIV. *From Sir WILLIAM BEATTY, M. D., Physician of Greenwich Hospital, Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.*

ROYAL INFIRMARY, GREENWICH HOSPITAL,
May 24. 1832.

MY DEAR SIR,

IN reference to the subject of your note of yesterday, I beg to say, that I perused the different works with which Dr D. JOHNSTON has favoured the public, particularly that one on "Public Charity in France," soon after its publication in 1829, with much interest and satisfaction; and I am well satisfied, from their contents, that the talents displayed therein fit him to do ample justice to a Professor's Chair, for which I hear he is now a candidate. Wishing him success,

I remain,

MY DEAR SIR,

Yours most sincerely,

WM. BEATTY, M. D.
Physician of Greenwich Hospital.

To Dr DOMVILLE.

XV. *From* GEORGE VANCE, *Esq. M. D., one of the most celebrated Practitioners in London.*

27. SACKVILLE STREET,
27th May 1832.

I HAVE the satisfaction of being acquainted with Dr DAVID JOHNSTON, who is the author of several books which have been well received by the public.

I understand that he is a Candidate for the Professorship of Materia Medica and Pharmacy in the University of Edinburgh, and if he should attain the honour to which he aspires, I believe he will fill the Chair with credit to himself and benefit to the University, as I entertain a high opinion of his talents, assiduity, and general conduct as a gentleman.

GEORGE VANCE, M. D.
Surgeon in London.

XVI. *From* HENRY PASKINE, *Esq. M. D., Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of London, and Surgeon of the Royal Marine Infirmary and Naval Hospital, Woolwich.*

MY DEAR COLONEL,

WHATEVER may be the pretensions of other men, it is clear that those of Dr JOHNSTON eminently prove him a qualified person to fulfil the duties of the office for which he is a candidate. And I much doubt whether the Chair of Medicine would be more usefully, and therefore more honourably, filled, than by his election.

The time devoted to professional pursuits in the Continental Schools has been most diligently employed, and the

instruction this gentleman is capable of imparting, has evidently been gathered and digested by laborious application and a solid judgment.

The works he has already laid before the Public cannot, I think, fail of producing important results, for to the Medical profession of this country at least, no subjects could have more interest, or be presented to them with more intelligence.

My wishes for his success cannot be better understood than by this opinion of his merits.

Believe me to be,

Yours sincerely,

HENRY PASKINE, M. D.

To Colonel NICHOLSON, Woolwich.

XVII. *From the Rev. ANDREW GRANT, D. D., one of the Ministers of St Andrew's Church, Edinburgh, and one of the Deans of the Chapel Royal.*

MY DEAR SIR, EDINBURGH, 22*d May* 1832.

I AM glad to hear that your son Dr DAVID JOHNSTON is a Candidate for the Medical Chair, now vacant by the death of Dr DUNCAN. From my respect for you, and from the high opinion which I have of your son, it would have given me much pleasure to have been of service to him on this occasion; but I am afraid that my want of medical knowledge may make my good opinion of little value. But I can safely say, that from his early years I have known him to be an excellent scholar; that he distinguished himself in the College classes, and was known to be devoting his time to literary pursuits. He has since had the very

best opportunities of acquiring Medical Science in Edinburgh, in Paris where he long resided, and in other places of the Continent, where he is known by his writings; and those who are acquainted with himself and with his publications, are satisfied that he has improved these precious opportunities with ardour and success. His being joined with you in your extensive practice, must also have been of signal service to him in his profession. In a word, I am satisfied, from what I know of him, and from the general opinion entertained of him by others who are better qualified to judge than I am, that, if he obtains the object of his ambition, he will do ample justice to the subjects discussed in his class, and be a credit to the University and to those who have been instrumental in placing him there. I am,

My dear Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

ANDREW GRANT.

To Henry Johnstone, Esq.
Surgeon, Queen Street.

XVIII. *From Nathaniel Lister, Esq. M. D. London.*

My dear Sir, Lincoln's Inn Fields, *May* 22. 1832.

I learn with great pleasure your intention to appear as a Candidate, and heartily wish you success in your canvass, for the Professorship of Materia Medica.

In lecturing upon this subject, the attention you have formerly paid to Natural History must be of great advantage to you, and your acquaintance with the Medical Institutions and Language of Germany will open to you the same sources

of information with which the late Dr DUNCAN enriched each successive edition of his excellent work on Materia Medica.

I think you will have peculiar advantages, as a teacher, from the thorough knowledge of the continental systems of education which you must have acquired in the course of your travels.

It would have given my lamented Father great pleasure to have joined with me on an occasion like the present, in expressing the high opinion we had formed, from personal acquaintance, as well as from the perusal of some of your works, of your talents, industry, and attainments.

With great regard,

Believe me, DEAR SIR,

Yours very faithfully,

NATHANIEL LISTER.

To Dr JOHNSTON, M. D.

XIX. *From the Rev. THOMAS CHALMERS, D. D. Professor of Divinity in the University of Edinburgh, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and Chaplain in Ordinary to his Majesty.*

MY DEAR SIR, EDINBURGH, *May* 15. 1832.

I SEVERAL years ago perused your work on the System of Public Charities in France, and with very great satisfaction, both on account of the important statements it contains, and its sound Christian views.

As I am no judge whatever of your professional claims for the vacant Chair in our University, I think it better not to attempt any regular testimonial—utterly incompetent as

I feel myself for doing justice either to yourself or to any of the other Candidates.

I am,

My dear Sir,

Yours truly,

THOMAS CHALMERS.

Dr David Johnston.

XX. *From John Rogerson, Esq. of Wamphray, M. D. formerly Physician to the Forces.*

My dear Sir, 5. Moray Place, *June* 5. 1832.

I have received your letter, and observe that you are a Candidate for the Chair of Materia Medica. As I have known you for some years, but particularly during my residence in Paris, I can have no hesitation in bearing my feeble testimony to the great attention you paid to your studies in that city. The constant labour and unwearied zeal with which you endeavoured to improve and perfect yourself in every branch of Medical Science, was most exemplary and praiseworthy.

As a proof of your habits of industry and application, it is sufficient to appeal to your valuable works, by which you have rendered very considerable service to the Medical Profession.

Believe me to be,

My dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

JOHN ROGERSON.

XXI. *From the Rev.* ROBERT MOREHEAD, *D. D. one of the Ministers of St Paul's Chapel, York Place, Edinburgh.*

MY DEAR SIR, LONDON, *June* 4. 1832.

ALTHOUGH a very inadequate judge of the merits of publications on the subjects which have occupied your research, yet they could not but impress me with a deep sense of diligent inquiry, and a zeal in the prosecution of useful knowledge, very remarkable in a young man, and which, as I doubt not, fully justifies the public approbation which they have received.

They are written in a very clear and eloquent style, and I have every reason to think, that the person who could thus write on subjects of public interest, would make a useful and valuable lecturer on any branch of knowledge to which he might direct his attention.

I am, my dear Sir,

With esteem,

Your faithful servant,

ROB. MOREHEAD.

XXII. *From* PATRICK CHARLES, *Esq. M. D. Putney.*

MY DEAR SIR, PUTNEY (SURRY), *June* 4. 1832.

I HAVE much pleasure in stating my conviction, that you are truly well qualified, by your general abilities, by your peculiar advantages, and by the manner in which you have availed yourself of these, for filling the vacant chair of Materia Medica and Pharmacy, for which I am happy to learn you are a candidate.

In support of the first, even your collateral occupations bear strong evidence,—publications which, though only recreations from your principal studies, have called forth the strongest eulogies from the first men of our own and foreign countries.

But the peculiar advantages which you have had of studying, and the advances you have made in that particular branch of our profession—by your long residence in the first emporium of all connected with this department of the subject, to-wit the Garden of Plants at Paris—ought to constitute a very strong claim in your favour.

I need not insist on the assiduity you have evinced in, nor your devotedness to, the study of Pharmacy, but wishing you the success your merits deserve,

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

P. CHARLES, M. D.

DAVID JOHNSTON, Esq. M. D.
34. Queen Street, Edinburgh.

XXIII. *From N. GRANT, Esq. M. D. Surgeon in London.*

81. THAYER STREET, MANCHESTER SQUARE,
LONDON, *June* 4. 1832.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE only this morning received your letter, of date June 1st, and hasten to answer it according to your wish.

It gives me great pleasure in being able to bear testimony to your professional and literary abilities, and I should have no doubt in believing, that, with your talents and application, you would fill the vacant chair of Materia Medica with much usefulness to the Edinburgh School of Medicine, and

great credit to yourself. I should think that your long intercourse with foreign men of science, and your assiduous habits of observation, particularly point you out as well qualified for a teacher of any branch of medical science to which you may have turned your attention.

With best wishes for success in your canvass for the chair of Materia Medica in the University of Edinburgh,

I remain,

My Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

N. GRANT.

XXIV. *From* Alexander M'Konochie, *Esq. Captain Royal Navy, Secretary R. G. S. L.*

21 Regent Street, London,
June 4. 1832.

My Dear Johnston,

I hope you have many more witnesses to your diligence and success in your medical studies than myself; for I confess that I am almost ashamed to put pen to paper on such a subject. The little I can say, however, you are most welcome to, and I wish it were more.

I had the pleasure of studying at the Jardin des Plantes along with you, and used very often to admire your diligence and envy your talent, for retaining the several lectures. You then resided with one of the Officers attached to the Garden, and gave yourself wholly up to study, as I know, from having often tried ineffectually to seduce you away. You have since proved the success of your labours by several works, of which I have myself indeed only read one—your account of Education in France, but all of which I have seen highly praised. I have also heard you honourably and highly spoken of in private practice.

I do not recollect any thing more specific that I can testify to of my own knowledge; but the completeness of your education I have often heard cited as shewing the advantages you had had, and I know enough of your taste for the natural sciences to be persuaded that a minute knowledge of Materia Medica would be one of your strongest points.

I remain,

My Dear Johnston,

Very truly and sincerely yours,

ALEX. M'KONOCHIE.

XXV. *Memorandum from James Wardrop, Esq.*

Charles Street, St James Square,
May 25. 1832.

Although my personal acquaintance with Dr David Johnston is limited, yet the Certificates he is enabled to produce of his zeal and assiduity in the pursuit of medical knowledge, and the works he has published, incontestibly prove that he has in a special manner qualified himself to teach Materia Medica.

JAMES WARDROP.

XXVI. *From G. J. Walker Arnot, Esq. of Arlary, one of the most celebrated Botanists in Europe.*

Arlary, (by Kinross),
June 4. 1832.

Dear Sir,

It may be deemed presumptuous in me who am neither a medical practitioner, nor have even so much as ever attended a medical class, to bear testimony to the qualifications of any one for the Class of Materia Medica. At the

same time, having given my almost undivided attention for many years to one of the studies introductory to that subject, I allude to Botany, I can have no hesitation in saying, that in as far as that and the other branches of Natural History are concerned, you enjoyed advantages that few have had.

That Mineralogy, Zoology, and Botany, are all absolutely necessary to a medical gentleman, particularly to one who is himself to lecture on the products and effects of the different natural substances, must be acknowledged by all; and although, by some strange omission, the class of Natural History is not made equally compulsatory on students of Medicine with that of Botany, yet it is evident that one must have attended it as well as Botany before they can have a competent knowledge of the very foundation of Materia Medica. That you have attended to these subjects in this country, your tickets from the different Professors, and the testimonials which they can afford you, will amply show; but notwithstanding the present excellence of the Edinburgh Schools of Natural History as taught by Professors Jameson and Graham, there can be no doubt that, to obtain a more perfect knowledge, one must go farther, and study the systems and collections in other countries. For this purpose, your visit to Germany, and more particularly your long residence within the very walls of the Jardin des Plantes at Paris was well adapted, and the access you there had not only to the Garden, but the facility of acquiring a knowledge of the Jussieuan System (without which, no one can attempt to teach with satisfaction to himself or his pupils the Botanical part of Materia Medica), and of studying Mineralogy and Zoology, must prove of the highest service to those to whom you may lecture.

Should you obtain the Chair, I would earnestly recommend to you to have an understanding with both Dr Graham

and Professor JAMESON, so as not to "poach on each other's manors." I mean that you ought not to teach the elements of Botany or Natural History, or even so much as give the characters of the plant, mineral, or animal, whose product you are discussing. These ought to be *previously* acquired by the student; nor ought, perhaps, any one to be admitted to the Materia Medica class who cannot show that he has already attended those elementary ones. On the other hand, Botany, Mineralogy, and Zoology, ought to be so far freed from the trammels of Medicine, as to be taught without the slightest allusion to that study, which it is the peculiar province of the Materia Medica class to combine them with. Thus Botany is one study, of which its application to agriculture, domestic economy, and medicine, forms no branch. The whole three branches of Natural History are totally independent of Medicine, although Medicine be dependent on them. Were such a plan adopted as I recommend, much more time could be devoted to the principal objects of pursuit in the respective classes.

Sir, I remain yours truly,

G. J. WALKER ARNOT.

To DAVID JOHNSTON, Esq. M. D.

XXVII. *From* GEORGE GOVAN, *Esq. M. D., H. E. I. C. Service.*

BLALOWAN, by CUPAR FIFE,
Monday Morning.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 2d. You do me justice in supposing you have both my favourable opinion and my best wishes for your success. It would be presumption in me to write, as supposing these

could be of any service to you on the present occasion; yet, believe me, there is no one with whom I had the pleasure of becoming acquainted when last in England, whom I believe better qualified to benefit by the extensive opportunities which you must have had while abroad of increasing your acquaintance with the particular department to which your views are at present directed.

I should have thought it an object of the first consequence could I have had the advantages enjoyed by you of so long a residence in the Jardin des Plantes to have assisted me in my inquiries (while attached to the Himalayan survey in India) into the medicinal qualities of its vegetable productions.

I regret that I have but my best wishes to give you on this occasion; and,

Believe me,

Yours very truly,

G. GOVAN.

XXVIII. *Extract from the Letter of a Medical Officer in the Honourable Company's Bombay Establishment.*

29th December 1829.

—" At present, after the perusal of his (Dr D. JOHNSTON's) Work, from which I have probably obtained more advantage than many of his readers, who are not connected with hospitals, I have been introducing improvements in my Lunatic Asylum. And I have no doubt it will be no trifling pleasure to him to hear that the information contained in his truly valuable work has already been productive of benefit to the unfortunates of this distant clime.

"If the noble-minded Mr ELPHINSTONE were at present Governor of Bombay, I should, without hesitation, take the liberty of presenting him with the copy sent to me, for I well know no greater compliment could be paid him."

XXIX. *From M. LE MARQUIS DE PASTORET, Peer of France, late Chancellor of the Kingdom.*

MONSIEUR, PARIS, *le* 23. *Mai* 1832.

JE vous remercie des sentimens que vous me temoignez dans la lettre que vous venez de m'écrire. Vous savez avec quel interet j'ai lû votre ouvrage. Je le devois à l'importance du sujet et aux talens de l'auteur. Je le devois encore comme ayant consacré une partie de mes travaux aux hospices et aux sécours publics. Je devois enfin, comme Français, être plein de reconnoissance pour la bienveillance que vous temoignez plus d'une fois envers ce que nous avons fait dans notre Patrie pour adoucir les malheurs des pauvres et accroitre les moyens qui peuvent les soulager.

Votre ouvrage a eu ici tout le succés qu'il meritait. On a rendu justice à la sagesse de vos vues et à la profondeur de vos observations. Je suis heureux, Monsieur, de me trouver en ce moment, l'interprete de tous ceux qui vous ont lû, et c'est avec un grand plaisir que je vous offre l'expression écrite de ma haute estime et de ma consideration la plus distinguée.

PASTORET.

A MONSIEUR
Monsieur DAVID JOHNSTON, Docteur en Medécine
de l'Université d'Edimbourg, &c. &c.
Queen Street, à Edimbourg.

[The following Extracts from two Letters of M. Royer, *Chef de Bureau de l'Administration, Jardin des Plantes* will serve to explain the absence of certain certificates of very high character, which I had counted upon, and which would, no doubt, have made considerable impression;—they give a melancholy account of the state of Paris, in consequence of the Cholera.]

XXX.

Museum d'Histoire Naturelle,
Paris, *May* 12. 1832.

My dear Sir,

I should have answered your last letter sooner, had I not been prevented from fulfilling your desires by the situation in which the Cholera has placed most people here —some leaving this for a better world—others absenting from their ordinary occupations or situations, as professors or administrators—others taken ill of a sudden, and not recovering as yet. The public lectures stopped short;—a general pre-occupation to self, as if some great catastrophe was impending society, thinned by the sickness, and the members of the same family scattered here and there—as if a thunderbolt had fallen in the midst of them all.

Under such circumstances, you will easily conceive the difficulty of procuring what you appear so anxious to get; and, rather than sending but one or two of less significancy, I think I am better to wait until Baron Cuvier's life is ensured; until three or four other Professors can return to the Museum, and another is named in lieu of M. Laugier, whose loss we lament.

I remain most truly,

My dear Sir,

Your friend

ROYER.

XXXI.

MUSEUM D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE,
May 26. 1832.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

YOUR first letter reached me when I was very unwell and unable to stir. It was not till some time after that I could make inquiries as to the certificates you want.

Baron Cuvier was then very poorly,—M. Laugier still worse. The death of them both soon happened, and put a stop to that part of the business which might have been to you most interesting.

The dreadful sickness we still lie under was raging with unspeakable violence, cutting short thousands every day, and had spread terror among those as yet untouched. The greatest part of the Members of our Museum took their flight, some in, some out, of the country. The lectures were everywhere stopped by order of Government, and even now little or no intercourse can be had, or access to such as you might have wished to get certificates from.

In that predicament, I was forced to delay an answer to your first letter, which, indeed, would have proved quite useless; hoping that I might somewhat later be able to send at least one, if not all, the certificates demanded.

I remain, MY DEAR FRIEND,

Ever yours truly,

ROYER.

XXXII.

INSTITUT DE FRANCE,

ACADEMIE ROYALE DES SCIENCES.

PARIS, *le* 4 *Mai* 1829.

Le Secrétaire Perpétuel de l'Academie à Monsieur DAVID JOHNSTON, *Membre du College Royal d'Edimbourg, &c.*

J'ai l'honneur, Monsieur, de vous offrir les remercimens de l'Académie et de vous temoigner, en son nom, le prix qu'elle attache à votre publication.

L'ouvrage a été deposé dans la Bibliotheque de l'Institut.

Agreez, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma consideration distinguée,

B. G. CUVIER.

A Monsieur,
Monsieur DAVID JOHNSTON,
Membre du Col. R^l. de Chirurgie d'Edimbourg, &c.
A Edimbourg.

XXXIII.

ADMINISTRATION GENERALE DES HOSPITAUX CIVILS DE PARIS.

PARIS, *le* 39 *Avril* 1829.

Le Secrétaire Général à Monsieur le Docteur DAVID JOHNSTON, *Médecin à Edimbourg.*

MONSIEUR,

IL ne vous a pas suffi, de recueillir pour votre compte des renseignemens sur le mode suivi par l'administration des

pauvres en France; vous avez encore voulu faire profiter vos compatriotes du fruit de vos observations et de vos recherches,—c'est une obligation que contractent envers vous les nationaux comme les etrangers.

Votre ouvrage, Monsieur, sera déposé dans la Bibliothéque du Conseil Général des Hospices.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, avec une haute considération,

MONSIEUR,

Votre trés humble et trés obeissant serviteur,

GAVEDEAU.

Extracts in favour of Dr Johnston's Works from the New Monthly Magazine (vol. xxi. 1827)—The Quarterly Review (vol. xxxvi. 1827)—The Caledonian Mercury (Feb. 12. 1829)—The Saturday Evening Post (Sept. 15. 1827, March 29. 1828, February 21. 1829)—The Révue Encyclopédique (vol. xxxix. p. 659.)

For farther accounts of these Works, see the Westminster Review, the Monthly Magazine, Gentleman's Magazine, Scotsman, Literary Chronicle, and other Periodicals, both British and Foreign.

Briefly to convey some farther idea of the most characteristic features and claims to public notice of this elaborate and well digested treatise—conferring a degree of public benefit at the present moment—it may be observed, that full of information and judicious remarks as it appears, nothing has been advanced that is not founded upon official documents and personal observation, during a residence, as we are informed, of considerable length in France.

It is at this period that Dr Johnston has commenced his investigations, and a more complete and valuable treatise on the present condition, management, and inmates of these establishments, cannot well be conceived. We have already had occasion to notice some of Dr Johnston's previous works very favourably, and in this instance we find no reason to retract our former approbation.

He is completely master of his subject, knows intimately the whole system of hospital-administration, and has sagacity enough to point out deficiencies and suggest improvements.

The nature of hospital property and revenue—their population—improved construction—diet—daily and annual expenditure—rules of admission—pensions--medical and surgical service—clinics—dissections—Hospices for indigent and incurable persons—asylums for the blind and for the deaf and dumb—lying-in hospitals—schools of midwifery—foundling and orphan hospitals—number of illegitimate children—condition of lunatics—mendicity—system for the maintenance of the poor—private associations for charitable purposes, &c. &c.;—these are some of the main topics which Dr Johnston discusses, and in all of them he

has brought forward such a mass of valuable information as no other foreigner, we believe, has ever attempted.

Having said thus much, we regret we cannot follow Dr JOHNSTON through the remainder of his interesting volume, every page of which abounds with valuable information.

From the admirable organization of the Parisian hospitals, many hints and points for improvement may be borrowed by our own country. We should have been glad to have abridged some of his expositions on the population and general mortality of hospitals—on the condition of lunatics and foundlings, and to have extracted some of his tables; but the quantity and conciseness of his details render it impossible to do the subject justice.

This is the second considerable work which Dr JOHNSTON has, within a short time, produced on the public Institutions of France. He has travelled and resided much in that country, and in other parts of the Continent,—he has pursued his researches on the topics connected with his own profession, as well as with education generally, with indefatigable perseverance and care, and in a judicious and philosophical spirit; and he is now communicating his results to the public in an instructive and useful shape.

We had not an opportunity, when it was published, of noticing his former book, containing a view of Public Education in France. But on consulting it afterwards, we were much gratified with the manner in which it was executed, and felt indebted to the author for the mass of valuable information it contained.

The present meritorious work on the Public Charities of France, is written on the same plan as the former. It appears to us to contain a distinct, and, as far as we can judge, a complete and rigidly accurate exposition of this interesting subject. It is characterized by one quality with which, we confess, we are pleased,—Dr J. is no theorist. He has not commenced his inquiries with the view of supporting any favourite system,—a purpose which cannot fail to warp the observations even of clear-sighted and conscientious men. He has not avoided giving his own opinions where the subject actually called for it; but it is manifest that he has not studied or written on these topics as an advocate, and that his object is rather to put others in possession of the materials necessary for arriving at a just conclusion, than to recommend by his own views, or promulgate his own sagacity.

The utility of a work of this kind is obvious. We have enough of speculators at home who can spin a cobweb system out of nothing but their own conceptions. The constant tendency has been, and will be, on subjects of public economy, to generalize too fast, and before we know all that ought to be taken into view. No one disputes, or probably ever disputed, that a practical science must be built upon facts; but the danger lies in supposing prematurely, from our natural impatience to reach a conclusion, that we have got all the facts from which our premises are to be formed.

Dr Johnston has furnished ample and sufficient information on these subjects, well calculated to correct such of our speculative conclusions as may be inaccurate, and to confirm such as are just.

He seems to have drawn from every source that could be of use to him, and has not only made us aware generally

of the differences between the state of things in France and England, but from the precision of his statements, will enable us at once, if it should be advisable, to adopt in all its minutiæ any improvements that may in this way be suggested.

To the reader for mere amusement, it may appear that the work enters into too much detail. But to others this will be a recommendation. To us there seems to be in it just enough of philosophy and speculation to relieve and give interest to the author's facts, and not so much as to interfere with the weight and credit of its testimony. The different tables and calculations which he has given on so many multifarious and important points, appear to us to be a very valuable part of the work.

If we were to mention those parts of this interesting and useful book, with which, upon the whole, we were most pleased, we should point out what relates to the following subjects,—Clinical Lectures,—Mortality,—the chances of Life at its different stages,—Foundlings,—Lunatic Establishments,—the Poor Laws,—and the Education of the Poor.

We much regret that our limits will not permit us to enter upon an exposition of the more important particulars which must challenge attention at the present period, and confer most importance as connected with existing institutions described in this general view, and so well calculated to direct us in similar plans.

These descriptions consist of the regular courses of scien-

tific and classical education in France at different periods, elucidated by tables and explanations which bring the whole subject more perspicuously and palpably under review.

Finally, a large portion of its interest is derived from the wide field of comparison it opens with existing institutions, and the chances for improvement it affords.

From the introduction to this very comprehensive, ably arranged, and as ably detailed account of Public Education in France, it is gratifying to learn that we are indebted for its publication to the recent appointment to inquire into the state of the Scottish Universities. * * * * * * * * We consider an historical exposition of the kind before us a valuable addition to the stock of information so important for the remodelling of former systems of education, and in the formation of those to come.

To those of our readers who wish more ample information on the subject, we can confidently recommend the volume of Dr Johnston. It is written with clearness, method, and a thorough knowledge of the subject acquired from official documents and personal observation during a residence of considerable length on the spot.

The author also mentions in his preface, that the present volume forms only a part of a more extensive work intended for publication, in which it is meant to give a particular view of institutions and establishments connected with general continental literature and education. From the specimen already before us, we have no doubt but Dr Johnston will treat what remains of his subject, and a most important and

highly interesting subject it is, with the same judgment and patient research which characterize every page of the present volume.

Our readers will recollect that, a few months ago, we gave a condensed view of Dr JOHNSTON's work on the present state of public education in France; a work replete with information, and written with great taste and perspicuity, evincing a thorough knowledge of the subject, which the author acquired from official documents, as well as from personal observation, during his residence on the Continent.

He appears again before us on a subject equally interesting in itself, and much more important, in as far as it may suggest improvements, and assist in clearing away abuses, in a department of medical practice which, it appears, has hitherto been allowed to remain in a state of shameful neglect and mismanagement.

It was these disclosures, and this expectation of a legal remedy, that encouraged Dr JOHNSTON to address Mr PEEL on the actual condition of the existing institutions in France for the reception and treatment of persons labouring under mental alienation.

This letter is well written and well timed, bearing marks of the same judgment and accurate research which characterized the pages of his former volume. It clearly demonstrates his intimacy with continental science and education in all their branches. It does more, it shews his patriotic regard for the benevolent character of British law, and it ranks him among the true friends of humanity in thus vo-

lunteering his services for the amelioration of a numerous and unfortunate class of sufferers, who, in many cases, have been treated with a barbarity that would have disgraced the code of Indian savages, and in almost all with a want of care and discrimination that must have aggravated, instead of removing or alleviating, their malady.

On the whole, this excellent letter will be found to throw out many useful and valuable hints, as to reforming disorders and suggesting improvements on this interesting subject now under the consideration of the Legislature.

For an account of the qualifications required in France for the degree of Bachelor, Licentiate, and Doctor of Law, we refer our readers to Dr JOHNSTON's newly published work on the present system of Education in France. A concise and able statement is there given of the actual organization and discipline of the University, and all the schools of the country; and it presents a more favourable picture of the state of things than the generality of our readers would perhaps have anticipated from that quarter.

The volume before us forms part of a more extensive work, intended for publication, in which Mr JOHNSTON proposes to give a particular view of Institutions and Establishments connected with general Continental Literature and Education.

This preliminary portion of an extended and important

task has been executed with considerable ability, with laborious research, and in a clear and unpretending manner. To this praise we may add the author's assertion that nothing has been advanced that is not founded upon official documents and personal observation, during a residence of considerable length in France; and we can safely recommend the volume to all who feel interested in the subjects of which it treats.

Au moment on l'on s'occupe avec tant d'ardeur en France de l'éducation publique, cet ouvrage n'y sera point sans utilité.

M. Johnston commence par tracer un aperçu rapide de l'etat de l'Université de France, depuis son origine, qu'il fait remonter au siècle de Charlemagne, jusqu'á l'epoque de la Revolution. Aussi ne connaissons nous rien de plus complet sur ce sujet que le précis historique qu'il a placé en tête de son ouvrage et qui en remplit les quatre-vingts-huit prémiéres pages. La seconde partie fait connaitre quelles reformes a subies l'éducation publique depuis la Revolution. * * * * *

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* Il compare notre systéme d'Education avec celui qui est suivi en Angleterre et laisse aperçevoir partout un esprit éclairé et une grande rectitude de jugement. Il blame le mode suivi en France de donner dans les ecoles de droit les chaires au concours. Les raisons qu'il produit contre ce mode d'election ne manquent pas de force; pourtant elles seraient—nous le pensons—facilement combattues. Laisser au pouvoir le soin de nommer les Professeurs, c'est ouvrir la porte á d'innombrables abus.

30. Abercromby Place, 19th May, 1832.

My Lord Provost and Gentlemen,

I beg leave to offer myself as a Candidate for the Professorship of Materia Medica, now vacant in this University. My opportunities of acquiring professional knowledge have been very ample. As an Apprentice in a Surgeons Shop, I have been trained to the mechanical details of practical Pharmacy. Both at home and abroad, under very favourable circumstances, I have seen Medical practice conducted on very different principles, so as to be able to estimate the advantages of each. For several years I have been a Practitioner in this City, and during the last Winter, I was engaged in giving Public Lectures on Materia Medica.

It is not my intention to trouble the honourable Patrons with any certificates of General character. With the exception of three years, during which I prosecuted my professional Studies in the Schools of the most celebrated Capitals in Europe, I have chiefly been amongst my fellow Citizens. Any character, therefore, which, as a young man I may be supposed to have acquired, must be generally known in those

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