

**A reply to the charges made by Dr. Edward Smith, upon his dismissal from the offices of lecturer and demonstrator of anatomy at the Charing Cross Hospital Medical School / by a governor of the Hospital.**

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# A R E P L Y

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TO THE CHARGES MADE BY

DR. EDWARD SMITH,

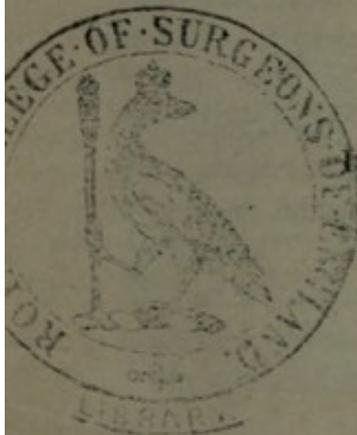
UPON

HIS DISMISSAL

FROM THE OFFICES OF LECTURER AND DEMONSTRATOR OF  
ANATOMY AT THE CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL  
MEDICAL SCHOOL.

BY

A GOVERNOR OF THE HOSPITAL.



— “Amphora cœpit  
Institui: currente rotâ, cur urceus exit?”

HOR.



LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY THOMAS SCOTT,  
WARWICK COURT, HOLBORN.

1853.

It would be a curious picture to contemplate—one that might well engage the brush of a pre-Raphaelite—of a lecturer on Anatomy in the nineteenth century, describing to his class the bone which he holds in one hand, whilst copious notes concerning it engage the other, and learning—teach. Surely it would have been better to have expended a little more midnight oil in endeavouring to avoid such a scene, better far to have secured attention and commanded respect than to create pity, or raise a smile; but no, the overweening confidence of the one is still proof against the sneers of the many, and “notes, errors, and homologies” are con-

“A grandiloquent opening is too often succeeded by a puerile conclusion. Parturient mountains have, ere now, produced muscipular abortions; and he who compares incipient grandeur with final insignificance is strongly reminded of the pious hawkers of Constantinople, who solemnly perambulate her streets exclaiming, ‘In the name of the Prophet—figs!’”

SMITH.—*Rejected Addresses.*

## A REPLY,

*&c.*

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It would be a curious picture to contemplate—one that might well engage the brush of a pre-Raphaelite—of a lecturer on Anatomy in the nineteenth century, describing to his class the bone which he holds in one hand, whilst copious notes concerning it engage the other, and learning—teach. Surely it would have been better to have expended a little more midnight oil in endeavouring to avoid such a scene: better far to have secured attention and commanded respect than to create pity, or, raise a smile: but no, the overweening confidence of the one is still proof against the sneers of the many, and “notes, errors, and homologies” are continued with in running commentary on the book of Nature.

St. Real has justly remarked “*Qui dit docteur, ne dit pas toujours un homme docte, mais un homme qui devrait être docte.*”

A strange subject for investigation would be the enquiry as to how far the efforts of students in anatomy have been seconded by a teacher, the osteological portion of whose course (including the homologies) had extended beyond the Christmas vacation: and who has been charged with the following items:—“passing irregularly from one subject to another,”—“who was in the habit of coming late to his lectures in the morning,”—who, “when a demonstration was given in the dissecting room, had given no lecture in the theatre,”—“whose attention in the dissecting room had been very deficient,” and “who made various anatomical errors.” What wonder then that such a teacher should have further charges submitted to him by an inquisitive Committee, that “no systematic course of anatomy had been given by him,” and that “several parts of importance had been omitted altogether.” These are serious allegations to be made in a school of even “fourth or fifth-rate position,” and it may have been deemed, perhaps, that a fourth or fifth portion of a regular course of descriptive and surgical Anatomy was sufficient for such a one; and, since the teacher joyfully attached himself to this minor establishment, from which he was so soon, however, to become eliminated, it is fair to pre-

sume that he judged the extent of his capabilities to be in strict accordance with the place in which they were to be displayed, and hoped, like a newly-hatched fledgling, to soar thence, when maturer days, in giving confidence and strength, would have fitted him for a loftier sphere of action. His first essay however, has exhibited the immaturity of the birth and proclaimed the abortive character of the effort.

The above are grave charges against Dr. Smith, and cannot be answered by his referring to the wages of underlings: describing the duties of a porter, or, enlarging on the diet of a nurse. Recrimination, he should remember, does not carry with it refutation. Sophistry is but a transparent mask for ignorance, and the *dissenting* voice of clamour will never impose upon the dispassionate judgment of Truth. Abuse, conceived in spleen,—nurtured by ignorance and matured by a dismissal, is a pointless and ill-tempered weapon of attack: *defensive* procedure has been looked for; but Dr. Smith has imagined *offensive* conduct more becoming. Well may the student call reproachfully to his recollection, in regretting the hasty retreat of his Demonstrator, that the School-prospectus had promised that his studies in the dissecting room shall be directed *for several hours daily*. Fully alive, however, to his dereliction of duty, Dr. Smith has endeavoured to make the *amende honorable*, and ignoring the title of Demonstrator as he has avoided the work incidental to it, boldly strikes his pen through the printed word “Demonstrator,” to which his signature should attach in all Schedules of the Royal College of Surgeons presented to him. This significant admission of his neglect is then a full acquiescence in the charge brought under his notice by the Medical Committee, *viz.*: “that, his attention in the dissecting room has been very deficient—from ten minutes to half an hour in the morning being the only time in the day he has attended in that room, assisting the students in their dissections.” Had Dr. Smith continued in this course of treatment towards his class, without being furnished with any hint, that would have induced him to improve upon his plan, he might have fancied that he had adopted a line of conduct which was tacitly acknowledged to be acceptable—but when the students, after considering the subject at a meeting held by them for that purpose, urgently appeal to him—their only Demonstrator—for instruction in the dissecting room, surely it may be said that this was a hint as broad as the most obtuse comprehension could require.

In the dissecting room, however, *homological* anatomy could not be tolerated: here, *practical* knowledge of the *human body* must be afforded: here, "copious notes" must be discarded: and here "various Anatomical errors" would be again met by detection: here too—but as Dr. Smith is absent for the day, having completed his half hour's attendance after lecture, we will refrain from further comment upon the unwholesome subject. But, when it is remembered that during the dynasty of Dr. Smith, the same number of subjects was received into the School, which was composed also of nearly the same number of students as in the preceding year, it is a fair inference that the supply had not fallen off, and this circumstance might have held out a reasonable inducement to Dr. Smith to make a purchase on his own account, and be less dependent upon his mortgages on the property of his pupils. Mr. Canton had been asked by students during the Session 1852-3, whether he was accustomed whilst he was lecturer on Anatomy to enforce the dissection of parts, which had been paid for, but which on their reception were much mutilated, and on replying in the negative, was surprised and grieved to learn that Dr. Smith was adopting an opposite course to the one he had pursued. This novel procedure of Dr. Smith's he refrained from remarking upon, but simply replied to the question asked; and we are sorry to be obliged to add that a remonstrance, even from the Director, produced no further impression on Dr. Smith than a determination on his part to carry out the plan he had started with; and accordingly the poor fellows, who had sought to ameliorate their hardships by complaint, had their mutilated parts duly enforced on them.

It certainly does appear surprising that after an experience of two years, as Lecturer on Botany, of the system of "favouritism, oppression and double-dealing, which not only may be, but is practised by the Medical Committee to the direct injury of their colleagues," Dr. Smith should have sought for and obtained the appointment of Lecturer on Anatomy; and moreover, that it was not until his peculiar mode of fulfilling the duties appertaining to that appointment attracted the notice of the Committee, Dr. Smith discovered the oppression under which he laboured, the degree of which may be now most fairly estimated by the lengthened period for which their colleagues—men of the highest attainments and honour—have continued to afford their invaluable services. How happens it that Dr. Smith—the

willing martyr of oppression—should speak of the School, after his experience of two years of it, as one with which it is “his *happiness* and *honour* to be connected,” and so soon would stigmatise it by every epithet that uncharitableness could suggest? Dr. Smith may reply by a word.—“*Fui.*” Is it not pitiful to find that vindictive feeling has so warped the better nature of the late lecturer, that he can *now* speak of the Director of the Hospital as one who is wanting in mercy; overbearing to inferiors; illiberal to his colleagues; parsimonious in his arrangements, &c., &c., when but a few months previously he had eulogised before the students, and publicly acknowledged the rare merits of the man whom he now regards with distrust and speaks of with disdain? Thus spoke Dr. Smith on the 1st of October, 1852:—“I need not remind those Students who have passed a Session here, that we are ever under the kind but vigilant inspection of one whom we are delighted to honour: of one, whose post of observation is above our heads, and whose varied excellencies well entitle him to that distinction: of one, to whom we owe this theatre, in which we are met to-day, and the foundation of the School with which it is our happiness and honour to be connected: of one, whose unceasing exertions have raised without incumbrance the noble building, of which this formed a part, and who is still adding to its extent and influence.\* Through the means which he originated, very many have passed from those benches to positions of distinction and usefulness in the world: hundreds of thousands have been the recipients of medical and surgical skill, which you well know is of the highest order: and these, from all the counties lying within a comprehensive circle, cherish the name of the Charing Cross Hospital with the deepest gratitude. We are still favoured with the presence of the same guiding mind, and it is fitting that you and I should open the Session with a hearty recognition of the virtues of our excellent Director, Dr. Golding.” Again, with regard to Dr. Chowne, at page 14, Dr. Smith remarks, “We have an excellent example presented us by your respected and talented teacher and physician, Dr. Chowne, who, at a very great personal inconvenience, has unweariedly prosecuted a long series of experiments, with

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\* This “noble building,” however, being now unhonoured by the presence of Dr. Smith, is found by him to have become, even in the short space of a few months, “black, dirty and dismal, and on the outside is apparently falling to pieces. The apartments set apart for the officers are utterly unworthy of a public institution.”

the happy result of having invented an instrument which bids fair to rank among the most philanthropic inventions of this eminently philanthropic day, and is calculated to remove impure air, and to supply pure air continuously, silently, surely, and economically. It is no little credit to this School that one of its professors should have evinced so great an amount of theoretical and practical acquaintance with the science of pneumatics; and I feel assured that the example will not be presented to you in vain." We will take another quotation from pages 16, 17, and 19: he there says,—“I would briefly advert to two series of operations which have been performed in this Hospital during the past year; the one for cleft palate, by your accomplished surgeon, Mr. Avery; the other for the excision of the upper and lower jaws, by my esteemed colleague, Mr. Hancock. You do not, perhaps, as yet fully know the great difficulty which attends the performance of those operations, and the many vital structures which it was necessary to divide; but you can have no difficulty in believing that the greatest manual dexterity would only suffice to destroy the victim, if unguided by a correct knowledge of that other science of which Mr. Hancock was formerly a professor. And even within the last few months your Lecturer on Surgery, aided by Mr. Hogg, a greatly-esteemed former pupil of this School, has contributed one of the most valuable discoveries of his time, in his description of a muscular coat investing the whole of the urethra down to its lips, and the *corpora spongiosa* and *cavernosa*, and which I shall describe in this course of lectures as Hancock's layer. This last discovery, at least, could never have been effected, had it not been for the aid afforded by the microscope in skilful hands.”\* At page 22, again speaking of the value of microscopic examinations

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\* Thus said and published Dr. Smith on the 1st of October, 1852, and in the following July, 1853, we find him so completely contradicting himself, that at page 26 of his last pamphlet, the following extraordinary statement is made with reference to Microscopic Anatomy. “*Attention to microscopic discoveries was so fully discarded, that after I had introduced the microscope in the exhibition of every kind of vegetable tissue, in my course on Botany, Mr. Hancock, openly in the theatre, informed the students that they ought not to touch the microscope until after they had left the School.*” It suited Dr. Smith to make this false statement, at the same time he well knew to the contrary, and that microscopic investigations with demonstration formed a considerable portion of Mr. Wharton Jones's course on Physiological Anatomy, while this latter gentleman filled the chair of Physiology for many years at the School, and that his reputation was European in the teaching of this and Comparative Anatomy.

and the discovery of fatty degeneration, he says, "And my accomplished colleague, Mr. Canton, has also demonstrated the existence of this disease in the opaque circle observed in the circumference of the corneæ of old persons, the *arcus senilis*. I call your particular attention to Mr. Canton's discovery, since we have reason to hope that it will supply a great desideratum, *viz.*, an external and readily-recognisable sign of a stealthy and important internal disease."

Had Dr. Smith as freely come forward with a refutation of the charges which were submitted to him by the Medical Committee as he has done with vituperation of all men and matters that once had so harmoniously surrounded him, then would he have shone out fairly from amidst the dark clouds of disgrace with which he has become self-environed: but, when he would rail against his colleagues, who but a few months before in his Introductory Address he lauded to the very echo, and upheld to the world in a published report of his sentiments as examples to be admired and followed—speaking of them from a satisfying experience of two years—and then suddenly turn round upon these same objects of emulation and find that they had become metamorphosed into the mean-spirited and contemptible beings the reflected glances from his own distorted imagination would make them,—surely we must believe that some strange, some passing-strange agency had been at work to effect this wondrous revolution. Surely, too, some mighty power must have been evoked to change the honied tones of the nascent Lecturer on Anatomy to words of bitterness and wrath: to convert the love of the turtle to the rage of the vulture: to take man boa-like in his embrace, first besmearing his victim with glib tongue, and now attempting to crush him. Are these contrarieties capable of explanation? Yes. A little secret will ooze out, through the muddy impurity which encumbers it, to wash away the mystery. *Tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis*. These whilom good men in combination constitute a Committee, which having discovered certain unacceptable peculiarities in the mode of conducting the Anatomical department, during the Session 1852-3—the memorable Session of their laudation—institute an enquiry, which results in the abstraction of that gentleman who had so lavishly heaped praises upon them, but who had so indifferently bestowed his attentions upon their pupils. Thus, disassociated, Dr. Smith is dissatisfied, and unallied, becomes unpleasant.

After such courteous conduct on the part of Dr. Smith, can we wonder at his meeting the assembled students at a public tavern, and there, without previous notice to those whom he would assail, and whose conduct he is about to condemn publicly, unlocking the flood-gates of his pent-up anger, and directing the full tide of unjust recrimination against his former colleagues. Will it be credited that he who could thus behave, would pen such words as these, when writing of the Medical Committee:—"They have no objection to receive and to act upon a letter highly and falsely damaging my professional reputation: but they do not think it expedient to place the accuser and the accused face to face? *Common honesty* demanded that they should have sent me a copy of this letter, and the name of my accuser," &c. At this tavern meeting, too, we find that Dr. Smith foregoes the opportunity of defending himself against the charges placed before him by the Committee, although expressly summoned by the students to state the reasons for his dismissal. He spoke lengthily, and his former pupils had *now* the opportunity of listening to an address for a complete hour! The numerous defects of living beings occupied his thoughts and swayed his words; would that his youthful auditory could have daily secured that hour's explanation of the manifold beauties of inanimate matter! The abnormal mind was now his theme,—the normal body had been his neglect. How truly ennobling must have been the thoughts of Dr. Smith when reflecting that his eloquence had been expended in dilating upon the evil doings of others, and in *demonstrating (for once)* the naked truthfulness of self; in descanting on the frailty of his neighbour, and pointing out how purified *he had himself been removed* from the blackening contact. Better far, however, would it have been for his reputation, had he placed the charges submitted to him by the Committee before his listeners, and then have endeavoured to refute them. But, as this was a line of conduct which would have brought conviction of the honesty of the Medical Committee to the mind of each, and roused a painful remembrance of the past Anatomical Session in the breast of all, it was studiously avoided. How striking the contrast, nevertheless, between the honourable and high-minded conduct of the ex-lecturer, and the "gross unjustifiable craftiness" of the Committee! How exemplary, noble, and manly the conduct of Dr. Smith, when viewed by the side of the "caution, suavity, and stealthiness" of others!

The Committee of the Charing Cross Hospital has, for

many years past, regularly admitted a few young men to the privileges of its Medical School, free of any expense; and it still continues to exercise this highly laudable kindness, where circumstances call upon it to hold out the hand of succour. Two of these gentlemen have deemed it advisable to urge complaints against Dr. Smith,—how well founded the resulting enquiry, followed by a diminution in the number of our lecturing staff, will testify; and may we hope that Dr. Smith will not *now* consider “the arrangements in respect of the School are most defective.” Surely his own involuntary retirement from it will add its mite of advantage—is one little step along the road to improvement. Certainly, Dr. Smith will never again pen such startling words as “the teaching in the School is radically defective,” when he can himself confidently assert that *he* was removed with the express view of improving it by his absence; and so far from the students being “treated with disdain,” a praiseworthy desire to attend to their reiterated complaints has been shown by *expunging*, at least one sad *mistake*, which had been unfortunately committed.

To return, however, to the free students, who are stigmatised by Dr. Smith as emissaries of the Committee, and are otherwise unkindly commented on by him.\* Dr. Smith stands out in the unenviable position of being the first teacher or officer of the Charing Cross Hospital who has ever attempted or wished to draw a public distinction between the free students, and their more fortunate brethren who can afford to pay the required fees for their instruction. It has always been the desire, not only of the Managers of

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\* It is painful to be compelled to make reference to such matters, but since Dr. Smith has thought proper to put the most unmerited construction upon the doings of some of our free students, and the motives of the Committee, with regard to the selection of them, this explanation becomes necessary. The Committee have not admitted the full complement, rarely more than four, and during Dr. Smith's connection with the School, the whole number did not exceed twelve, four of these passed their examinations most creditably at the end of the Winter Session, so that at the time Dr. Smith wrote and published his pamphlet, he knew that the number did not exceed eight,—his own brother being one. When Dr. Smith applied for his brother's admission, he wrote in most flattering terms of this part of our arrangements; and in writing to Dr. Golding to urge his brother's claims, he says,—My brother has been labouring very hard as a Wesleyan preacher, upon the very small sum of fifty pounds a year, and he now finds his health giving way, and he therefore wishes to abandon the *ministry*. He concludes by saying, “I take the liberty of soliciting your kindness also upon *personal* grounds, since if he fail in this application the burden of the matter will in a great measure devolve upon myself; and I make this request with greater confidence, since I think the case is one which fairly falls within your prescribed requirements.”

the School, but of the Lecturers generally, that the names of the free pupils should only be known to the authorities of the Hospital and to the Lecturers of the School; and it has been reserved for Dr. Smith to be the first to violate this custom, and to attempt to cast a slur upon gentlemen who may not be so fortunately circumstanced as others. Dr. Smith, with equal regard to truth as good feeling, states that these students "receive gratuitous education in the school, not as a reward for proficiency, but for certain purposes of the Medical Committee," and we feel that these assertions reflect but little credit upon Dr. Smith when we state the fact that *he applied for and obtained a free scholarship for his own brother*, who is attending the Hospital at the present time, and whose conduct has been marked with the greatest propriety throughout. This should also in common fairness be included by Dr. Smith in the emolument he received from his connection with the school.

The *veracity*, too, of Dr. Smith may be questioned, for after his stating that a complaining free student "had not attended six of his lectures," and "was not seen by him six times in the dissecting room;" the certificate of this gentleman is found to have been signed by Dr. Smith, with the words "diligently attended" to his lectures. Does this admit of explanation? Yes. Dr. Smith called upon this gentleman at his residence, on the 29th of last March, to make sundry enquiries of him respecting the dissatisfaction which had been so long rife in the School with regard to his teaching, and to ascertain whether the complainant before him had not been induced by *some one* to speak of this grievance, and at the same time he affixed his signature to the certificate, *par parenthèse*, and the diligent attendance was at the same time duly recorded; Dr. Smith at the moment being unaware that anybody could ever tax him with "stealthiness and craftiness" hereafter for this just deed. On the following 11th of April, however, Dr. Smith finds that he has made a mistake in March, by acknowledging to diligent attendance in one who had not been at his lectures six times, or was seen by him six times in the dissecting room. It is to be observed here that the continuation of an enquiry by a Medical Committee had rendered Dr. Smith's memory somewhat treacherous, and had caused him to overlook the fact too, of that complaining student "who *he is informed* could not select the knee-joint from a number of other joints," having dissected for Dr. Smith the muscles of the back and of the arm, and received due commendation from him for

the excellence of the work. Does not the above transaction look a little like that "double dealing," which is attempted to be charged upon others? \*

The subject of the *veracity* of Dr. Smith having thus fallen under consideration, reference must be made to another *statement* of that gentleman, which will strikingly illustrate the meaning he attaches to this word. He informs us that "Mr. Canton's receipts were between £80 and £90 for one course of lectures, besides his fee of twenty guineas as Curator." The *fact* is that he received £62 for that Session; but having vacated the office of Curator previous to the commencement of the Session, he could consequently have no emolument to receive from this source. Here then is a *slight error of forty-three pounds*: but as a sweeping statement happened to suit Dr. Smith better than truthful information, perhaps he may consider himself justified in imagining that *veracity* and *error* are mutually convertible terms. Again, we find it affirmed by Dr. Smith, that many defects exist in respect of the anatomical preparations in the Museum: such as no dis-articulated head—no injected preparations—no illustrations of comparative anatomy, &c. All these statements are equally destitute of foundation; in fact, had Dr. Smith but sought to illustrate his brief lectures in the manner it became him to do, he might have confidently appealed to the stores of the Museum for assistance, and have been thereby saved the necessity for an extended indulgence in the homological knowledge of the day wherewith to throw learned dust into the eyes of his auditory, and thus, sepia-like, endeavour to escape detection amidst the obscurity which he had purposely raised for self-preservation.

We will glance hastily at other equally reckless charges made in his pamphlet. He states that "having vainly endeavoured to obtain from the authorities of the School a withdrawal of their calumnious accusations," &c.—it would be difficult to find the accusation, even from the correspondence given by Dr. Smith himself—at page 33, he there proves that the Students called a Meeting on the 24th of March, telling him in plain terms, that he had neglected the duty he had undertaken, *viz.*: that of the *Demonstrator*. This he was the first to publish to the world, and at his

\* Dr. Smith having frequently asserted that the body of the Students are with him, it should be explained that only five or six of the whole number have taken any part in the discussions, and the letters written by *them* bear evidence of *his* dictation; that three at least of that number he has made his own personal friends; and holding the same religious opinions, it is, perhaps, pardonable that they should think as he wishes them.

request no doubt the whole proceedings were printed in the *Medical Times* of the 18th of June: can he then with any honesty of purpose say the Committee made these charges against him? The next charge is the "limited number of the governing body." Does Dr. E. Smith think for one moment that it but requires a man of "*greater mark!*" like unto himself to become a Governor in a public institution? Did it never strike him that he might have become a Governor by paying his forty guineas, as other men have done? (Dr. Smith has neither directly, or indirectly, contributed one shilling to the funds of the Hospital).

No doubt, to one so high-minded and self-important, "the governing body has performed its duties in a manner highly unsatisfactory," and therefore Dr. Smith considered himself justified in appealing to the College of Surgeons, and vilifying the School to such an extent, that he not only induced his friend Stanley to visit it, and find fault with all he saw in his own very peculiar serio-jocular sarcastic style, but he likewise the next day finds another friend to write to Mr. Belfour; this latter gentleman was equally ready to send such a reply as Dr. Smith could have wished to see carried into effect.

Mr. Belfour's reply, published in the Journals of the 23rd of July, was in itself an absurd contradiction; he says that the "*Examiners having thought a visitation necessary, have not come to any decision on the question of its continued recognition.*" Yet he thinks proper to conclude by stating, nevertheless, the "*Council have directed its removal from the list, &c., for the year commencing the 1st of August next.*" Is not this most inconsistent, and does it not look very like an attempt to injure the School? Can Mr. Belfour reconcile this letter with the one since received on the 11th of August? He therein says:—

"I am desired by the President to transmit to you a copy of the following resolution of the Court of Examiners of this College, on the 11th instant, *viz.*—

"That the recognition of the Medical School of Charing Cross Hospital be continued."

The Editor of the *Medical Circular*, in noticing this in his Journal on the 3rd of August, writes:—

"Mr. Belfour's letter is vague, and perhaps intended to be so: to withdraw a recognition without notice, would be unhandsome on the part of the College, and possibly fraudulent towards the students."

Mr. Stanley betrayed his prompter by actually requesting to see the anatomical *preparations* removed only a few weeks before by Dr. Edward Smith, and which he, Dr. Smith, has particularly alluded to in his pamphlet as

wanting. During Dr. Smith's time not a single preparation was added to the Museum. The ligaments with the viscera Mr. Canton always prepared fresh from the *subject* for the purpose of demonstration, and thus we had the best possible preparations for the use of the Students, and, as every one knows, of much greater value for purposes of instruction.

The conduct of the College authorities is highly reprehensible in this matter, for having visited us without giving one hour's previous notice, and at such a time of the year, the Museum of Anatomy was most likely to be in disorder; it must have been known to them at the same time, from the published statements which appeared in all the journals at the end of the year 1852, that we were about to add to the value of our School by increasing the size of the Hospital; and the minutes of the Board shew that all these improvements would have been completed before their visitation, but for the scarcity of labour and high price of materials. The following Report and Statement was well circulated and advertised at the time:—

“In the course of the last year 16,286 indigent sick persons were admitted on the books for relief, at a cost of £2,553 4s. 0½d.; of these, 1,282 were In-Patients, and 15,204 were Out-Patients (many of whom were visited at their own homes, and the greater part were restored to the blessings of health and to their occupations for the support of their families). These, with the cases reported in former Annual Statements, make a total of 221,144 sick and needy individuals who have partaken of the advantages of the Institution, from its commencement to the 31st December, 1852.

“The Committee have thankfully to acknowledge the very kind contributions to the Hospital during the past year, and also the liberal donations to the fund for the completion of the building, and the fitting up of four additional wards for children and the younger class of patients. They will then have the satisfaction of providing fifty additional beds, and the Hospital will be enabled to receive four or five hundred more In-Patients annually than heretofore.

“In their last statement, the Committee furnished a detail of the *Cases of Accidents and Sudden Injuries* which had been brought to the Hospital in the preceding year. These cases have, during the last year, amounted to 2,428; of which 324 were so dangerous as to require to be immediately admitted In-Patients.”

*All this was done at a cost of £2,553!!* What will the larger Hospitals say to this?

The above statement does not represent the amount of benefit dispensed to the poor and densely populated neighbourhood about us. We have a LYING-IN INSTITUTION, for the purpose of affording instruction in Obstetricy under Dr. Chowne, and about 500 poor women are delivered annually by the pupils and assistants.

Likewise, by the kindness and urbanity of Mr. Guthrie, we have the best field possible for our Students to acquire a

knowledge of all the diseases of the eye in the Ophthalmic Hospital at the other end of the street, with 30 beds for In-Patients and a very large number of Out-door Patients; and having two of our lecturers attached to it, an excellent opportunity is thus afforded for studying this important department of surgery.\*

The Editor of the *Lancet* has frequently expressed a high opinion of our Hospital: we need only refer to one, more especially, that appeared September 27th, 1850, page 307, he thus writes:—

“In making selection of an hospital, we would advise the student not to be guided by the magnitude of the establishment: for some of the most distinguished physicians and surgeons have been educated and have subsequently taught at the smaller hospitals, both at home and on the continent.

“An hospital, or school is not to be judged of as a preferable place of instruction by its size, or the number of beds it contains; these are but secondary considerations. Indeed in very large schools the student is liable to the great disadvantage of being entirely unknown to his teacher, or of being too far away from the anatomical or other demonstrations to derive any benefit from them.

“The *practical* part of our profession is demonstrative, and all crowded institutions labour under a disadvantage on account of the distance at which the students are placed from the subject under consideration. A few cases well observed or recorded, are more valuable to the future practitioner than myriads hastily passed by. The great SCARPA had but *fifteen beds* in his clinical hospital.”

“In some of our Metropolitan Hospitals the Governors have acted with a wise liberality, in affording aid to those young members of the profession whose prospects of advancement have been checked, perhaps by unavoidable misfortune on the part of their parents, or perhaps, even by the loss of a parent during their pupilage. For such acts as these the support of the profession is due, provided that proper circumspection be exercised in forwarding the interests of those only who by education and conduct are deserving of assistance; we allude to the establishment of free scholarships. This *excellent example of liberality was first set by the Governors of the Charing Cross Hospital*, who, now fourteen years ago, established six free scholarships annually, and they have had the satisfaction of witnessing the progress of some of the most rising members of our profession; some of whom have attained the highest distinctions in the learned Societies and Corporations of the Metropolis.”

We deny Dr. Smith's statements, that “our patients are not well and properly fed:” the dietary of this Hospital was taken from that of St. Thomas's, and somewhat improved by our medical officers. The late Mr. Nash, of St. Thomas's, visited us, and subsequently sent the following letter to Dr. Golding, which we append together with others received from gentlemen more competent to form an opinion of our hospital arrangements than Dr. Smith:—

“Upon instituting a comparison between the diet table of the Charing Cross and other Hospitals in London, I consider the allowances of the Charing Cross Hospital wholesome, good, and ample, particularly as there

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\* Here also Microscopic Demonstration upon the Structures of the Eye is given by Mr. Canton.

is a discretionary power to increase the quantity of meat, porter, &c. in urgent cases requiring such an addition to the ordinary full diet. The provisions I examined at the patients' dinner hour were of very good quality: the mutton and potatoes well dressed, the bread and butter unexceptionable: the domestic arrangements for the comfort of patients are commendable,—the wards spacious and airy, are kept clean and free from those impure effluvia so common in chambers where strict regulations as to cleanliness, ventilation, &c., are not enforced,—the bedding is clean, good, and sufficient, and ample space is allowed between each bed.

"It appears, upon the whole, that as much good is done in the Charing Cross Hospital, with a limited and uncertain income as can be expected.

(Signed) "WILLIAM NASH."

"I have had very great pleasure in going through and examining with attention the several wards and other parts of the Charing Cross Hospital. In my opinion the arrangements are most excellent and well calculated to ensure the comfort of the patients, and great credit is due to those gentlemen under whose management the institution is placed.

"JOHN TIDD PRATT,

"Justice of the Peace for Middlesex,  
"Kent and Westminster."

"Having lately visited the Charing Cross Hospital, I readily and with pleasure state my opinion, that in the general arrangements and economy of the Hospital,—the comfort of the sick appear to be consulted. I found the Hospital clean and in good order.

"JAMES McGRIGOR, M.D., F.R.S., &c.

"Fellow of the College of Physicians, and Director-General  
of the Army Medical Department."

"Having been requested to visit the Charing Cross Hospital, I have much pleasure in stating my decided approbation of the arrangements and general economy thereof, so far as the same came under my observation,—the wards were clean and well ventilated: such of the provisions as I saw were very good, and the dietary, with the privilege the Medical Officers enjoy of ordering "extras," appeared to me ample for promoting the comfort and recovery of the patients.

"W. BURNETT, M.D., F.R.S., &c.

"Physician-General to the Navy."

Many more might be given, if it were necessary, to prove that our Hospital arrangements equal any in London: and the Governors are fully satisfied that Dr. Smith's charges are groundless and malicious.

The various sub-officers, nurses, and porters are all as well paid here as at other Hospitals, in proof of which we have had them return to us, after making trial of other institutions. The *sister*, who recently died, had for eighteen years fulfilled her duties in this Hospital. The other sister has been here upwards of fifteen years; she came to us from Bartholomew's, and says "*that ours is a better place.*" The books will show that we have as many important cases treated successfully and skilfully in our wards as in any of the London Hospitals.

Mr. Newman has written a denial of Dr. Smith's assertions with regard to the fracture beds, and the patient said

to be "kept *three weeks* waiting for a pair of crutches." He waited *three days* only: from the unusual circumstance of his height, the maker of them had none on hand tall enough, and was consequently obliged to make a pair. We might, did we deem it necessary, continue our disapproval of the flimsy charges brought against the Hospital; but enough has been said to prove the utter worthlessness of the whole. We therefore content ourselves by taking the refutation of many other important matters published by Mr. Hancock in the *Medical Journals* of the 13th inst. :—

"Sir,—Dr. Edward Smith having, in his recent pamphlet, endeavoured, by making violent attacks upon others, to divert attention from the circumstances which induced the Medical Committee of the Charing Cross Hospital to annul his appointment as Teacher of Anatomy and Demonstrator, I feel it a duty which I owe to myself, as well as to my colleagues, to give a plain statement of those circumstances.

"During the latter part of last Session, complaints were continually reaching me of the manner in which Dr. Smith conducted the Anatomical Department of the School.

"That Dr. Smith, for the first three or four months of the Session, devoted the greater part of his time to Comparative Anatomy, instead of confining himself to Descriptive and Surgical Anatomy.

"That he was usually late at lecture.

"That he rarely attended above half an hour in the dissecting room.

"That, in describing parts at lectures, he was in the habit of doing so from notes.

"That he did not provide subjects for lectures, but lectured from the parts for which the students had paid.

"That, when he demonstrated in the dissecting-room, he did not give a lecture in the theatre, and *vice versa*.

"Two of the students, Mr. Clarke and Mr. Evans, complained to me that they had been made to take parts which had been rendered imperfect by *post-mortem* examination, they having paid for perfect parts. I was also informed, that, while the dissatisfaction was general among the students, some were so displeased that they openly expressed their determination to write to the public journals upon the subject, which determination, if I am correctly informed, more than one carried into effect.

"These complaints did not reach me from one source merely, not from the students alone, but from some of my colleagues, and likewise from gentlemen unconnected with the School, and having no communication with each other; some, indeed, residing in the country.

"Dr. Hassall, of Richmond; Mr. Woolcott, of Maidstone; Mr. Canton, Mr. Echlin, Mr. Hird, and Mr. Hogg, have all spoken to me of the complaints which have been made to them upon the subject, besides several gentlemen who have expressed their unwillingness to have their names published.

"Finding the complaints of so serious a character, so general, and so widely disseminated, I felt that if Dr. Smith continued to retain his appointment of Teacher of Anatomy, the character of the School would be seriously prejudiced; but, at the same time, from friendship towards him, and feeling that his previous pursuits, while incapacitating him for the rougher details of simple anatomy, might most probably have rendered him more competent to teach physiology, I was very anxious, if I could possibly do so, to effect a change in position between Dr. Smith and Mr. Canton, that is, for Dr. Smith to take the Chair of Physiology, Mr. Canton resuming that of Anatomy, which he had so efficiently filled

for some years. I therefore spoke (in my private capacity) to Mr. Canton upon the point, and, as he received the matter in a very liberal and generous spirit, I subsequently proposed it to my colleagues, Dr. Shearman, Dr. Golding, and Dr. Chowne. They concurred in my views, and I was in great hopes that I should have succeeded in the arrangement.

“ However, while the matter was under consideration, the Committee received a communication charging Dr. Smith (among other things,) with making mistakes at lecture, and lecturing from notes.

“ For obvious reasons I cannot give the letter itself here; *but, if Dr. Smith will give me permission in writing to do so, I hereby undertake to obtain a copy thereof, and to furnish the same to the public Journals.\**

“ The Committee considered it but fair, that they should make Dr. Smith acquainted with the substance of this communication, and invite him to any explanation with which he might be desirous of favouring them; and they accordingly addressed a letter to Dr. Smith, embodying the substance of this communication, but which, as Dr. Smith has already published it *verbatim* in No. 1 of his Correspondence, it will be unnecessary for me to insert here. The Committee, likewise, received a copy of a resolution, passed, it is stated, unanimously, at a meeting of the students, requesting Dr. Smith to use his influence with the Medical Committee, to obtain the appointment of a qualified Demonstrator.

“ Now, as Dr. Smith, by the terms upon which he held his appointment, was bound, if he did not attend in the dissecting-room himself, to appoint a qualified Demonstrator as his deputy; and as Dr. Smith stands published in the Prospectus of the School as follows:—‘*Descriptive and Surgical Anatomy—Dr. E. Smith.*’ ‘*Demonstrations and Dissections—Dr. E. Smith,*’ it must be very evident, that had Dr. Smith done his duty, there would have been no necessity for such a meeting of students; and the Committee could not but regard the resolution as a confirmation of one of the complaints which had previously reached me, and which was also contained in the letter to which I have already alluded.

“ I would add, that Dr. Smith held his appointment upon precisely the same terms as those which governed his predecessors—Mr. Hird, Mr. Canton, and myself for fifteen years. The Committee have never made charges against Dr. Smith; they have made him acquainted with the allegations brought against him in the letter in question, but they studiously avoided any comment either one way or the other. Whatever publicity has hitherto been given to the transaction, has been due entirely to Dr. Smith. It is true, that the Committee told Dr. Smith, in their letter of the 11th of April, ‘that they did not wish to entertain the subject of the lecturer’s anatomical errors, and his being obliged to lecture copiously from notes.’ This cannot, with any justice, be construed into a withdrawal of charges, but simply as it was intended and expressed, ‘that the Committee did not wish to entertain certain allegations made *to not by* them, but leaving those allegations unprejudiced.’ And so they remain to the present moment, since Dr. Smith throughout the whole of his correspondence has studiously avoided anything approaching to an explanation.

“ From the temper displayed by Dr. Smith, and the reckless charges made by him in his correspondence with the Committee, they felt that his colleagues could no longer work harmoniously with him, and they consequently acted upon the agreement entered into, and signed by every teacher upon his joining the School, which is equally binding upon the managers of the School as upon the teachers, and upon which both teachers and managers have acted to my own knowledge for the last fifteen years. And I would add, that the hesitation of the Committee to supply Dr. Smith with a copy of the Rules which he had signed, arose from his having, by implication, threatened the Committee with law proceedings; the Com-

\* Dr. Smith blinks this challenge: the truths contained in it would be most unpalatable to him.

mittee, therefore, deemed it more proper to refer Dr. Smith to their solicitors, Messrs. Fladgate and Co., whom, on the 12th July, they instructed to furnish Dr. Smith's solicitor with the information required, more than a fortnight before his pamphlet (in which he asserts he cannot obtain a copy of these Rules) appeared.

"In conclusion, I would here allude to certain assertions contained in Dr. Smith's pamphlet connected with the surgical department, which, if unnoticed, are calculated to mislead and create misapprehension as to the efficiency of the institution.

"Firstly.—That 'there is not an amputating knife in the place; so that if it were necessary to perform an amputation in the night the instrument-maker must be roused from his bed.'

"I make a rule of never using the same knife for operation more than once, without its being set to rights; and, to insure my instruments being always ready for use and in proper order, I keep them at Mr. Simpson's, the surgical instrument-maker, in the Strand, immediately opposite the end of the Hospital, not quite the length of the building from it. I have more than once had to amputate in the middle of the night, and, in all instances the instruments were ready before the patient could be prepared; and I have scarcely ever performed what is termed a capital operation without Mr. Simpson himself kindly attending and furnishing me with a supply of every instrument which might with any probability be required.

"Secondly.—That 'the house-surgeon was directed to make splints out of pieces of board, for the treatment of fractures—even of fractured thighs.'

"There is a large room especially appropriated for splints, etc.; it contains, at the present time, (and there have been no additions made to it for some weeks past),\* between 90 and 100 splints of various kinds for use, comprising iron and wooden arm and leg splints, Dessault's, Liston's, double-incline plane, and T splints, etc. In addition, thick leather, and boards about a quarter of an inch thick, purposely prepared, are kept, that the house-pupil should be able, at any time, to fit proper-sized splints to the broken arms of out-patients; and for which purpose also if the house-pupil does his duty, the necessary pads and bandages are in constant readiness. I have always approved of this procedure, as affording invaluable practice to the students, especially to those about to be located in the country, far away from instrument-makers. Cases are continually occurring, wherein the ordinary splints, even with all their valuable appliances, do not answer, and the surgeon is obliged to rely upon his own ingenuity.

¶ "There are other assertions contained in the pamphlet, of an equally groundless character, and which are unworthy the trouble of refuting.

"59, Harley-street.

"HENRY HANCOCK."

Dr. Smith having thought proper to call upon his "*confrères*" for support, we willingly give a letter from his former colleagues, sent to the Committee on the 5th of August, and which will doubtless answer his purpose.

"Dear Sirs,—We very much regret the occasion which demands this assurance to you, upon our part, of our unqualified dissent from the expression used in a pamphlet recently published, bearing reference to the manner in which we, the Lecturers in the School, are treated by the Committee. On the contrary, we beg to assure you, that we are fully sensible of the honourable conduct and urbanity we have ever experienced

\* We might add that for months past no additions have been made; and in the same room at least a dozen *cradles* are to be found always ready for use.

from the Director and the other members of the Committee, and that we entertain for them the highest esteem, both in their official and private capacities.

- " JOHN STEGGALL, M.D.,  
 " Fifteen Years a Lecturer in the School.  
 " RICHARD ROWLAND, M.D.,  
 " Ten Years a Lecturer in the School.  
 " EDWIN CANTON, F.R.C.S.,  
 " Thirteen Years a Lecturer and Demonstrator in the School.  
 " GEORGE BIRKETT, M.D.,  
 " Three Years a Lecturer in the School.  
 " W. HUGHES WILLSHIRE, M.D.,  
 " Fourteen Years a Lecturer in the School.  
 " FRANCIS HIRD, F.R.C.S.,  
 " Fifteen Years a Lecturer in the School.  
 " HARMAN H. LEWIS, A.M. Cantab.,  
 " Five Years a Lecturer in the School.

" *Note.*—Mr. Headland is on the Continent; and therefore his signature was not affixed."

The Editor of the *Medical Circular* in reviewing Dr. Smith's pamphlet on the 3rd inst., says:—

" We regret, that Dr. Smith should have published so energetic a pamphlet on the disputes that have recently taken place in Charing Cross Hospital, relative to his removal from the chair of anatomy in that school. A calmer attitude would have suited him better, and would have been a stronger recommendation of his claims. Passion is weakness, and, when it is substituted for evidence, a fault. Dr. Smith might have felt that he had been treated with injustice and disdain, and that he had a privilege to be angry, but he should also have remembered that his main object in the attempt to justify himself, should be to bring others round to the same opinion. This end could be attained only by a temperate and convincing refutation of the charges which had been brought against him; and such a refutation, we are constrained to say, we do not find in his pamphlet. The entire composition is a tangled web of personalities, recrimination, retort, and accusation abound, but a plain positive statement of fact is sedulously, and with the skill of a special pleader, avoided."

In conclusion, we would once more refer to the proceedings of the College of Surgeons in this affair, so far as regards their mode of granting or withholding their recognition to the smaller Schools of this Metropolis. There is something manifestly improper in the first place that the visitors to these Schools should be men who are examiners, councillors, surgeons of rival and larger Hospitals, and in fact judge and jury of a most un-English and offensive character. All this is radically wrong and we call upon the profession and the officers of the smaller Hospitals to take the matter in hand at once and represent the case to the Secretary of State. Take for instance the following case:—a small Hospital and its staff is found disagreeable to two or three officers of the larger Hospitals—a complaint is said to be made, and the next moment you receive a visit from these

gentlemen for the very *purpose of condemning and putting you down*: and forsooth the *recognition is published as withdrawn!* There is no appeal, and the School may be, as they wish it to be, *ruined*. This is no imaginary case, and it would indeed form a curious chapter in the history of the College if we could but call upon it to publish the number of times and cases they have *felt it their duty* to exercise this authority, and to *make public examples of rival Schools*;—and further to state, how many more students are rejected annually from the Schools unrepresented in the Council of the College in proportion to those from Schools having two or three examiners sitting at one and the same time at the examining *board*.\* Many other little prying questions might

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\* In support of our argument we may quote the Editor of the *Medical Circular* on this point, August 17th:—

“The *raid* which the Examiners of the College of Surgeons have been making on the medical schools, suggests a few thoughts on the expediency of confiding to such a body an authority so despotic and invidious as that they are now empowered to exercise. The Examiners of the College are good men, but they are also fallible, and though they should act with the prudence of a Solomon, or the justice of an Aristides, their deeds would not, under present circumstances, be above suspicion. The majority of these gentlemen, besides being Examiners at the College, are either hospital surgeons, or lecturers on surgery at some of the principal metropolitan charities, and have therefore a strong interest in maintaining the prosperity of their classes and the popularity of their schools. Whatever tends to injure the reputation of other schools, must necessarily prove an advantage to the institutions in which the Examiners have a pecuniary interest; and it is not too uncharitable therefore to surmise, that, when an ill-conducted school forfeits its privileges, the worthy Examiners at the College feel their bosoms glow with a lively satisfaction.

“Is it right, then, or becoming, that the Examiners at the College, themselves lecturers and principals of schools, should be permitted to exercise the power of shutting up any rival school, and thus depriving the hospital of its reputation, the teachers of their opportunities of credit and emolument, and the pupils of the prestige of a sound professional education? It is a power which the present Examiners at the College ought not to exercise—which must bring suspicion upon their motives, and disgust the objects of their rigour. It is a power liable to abuse in some instances, and, in others, to neglect. A school like Charing Cross, which is unrepresented at the Board, might be summarily closed, its pupils inconvenienced, and its officers harassed and stigmatised. The course which the Board of Examiners have been pursuing for some years past, has effected the closure of nearly all the private schools, and has constituted themselves, with rare exceptions, undisputed masters of the field. Their regulations have made it almost a necessity that a student should enter to one or the other of their classes, and thus they continue to enjoy the double emoluments of certificate-signers at the schools and certificate-receivers at the College.

“One of the cardinal reforms effected by a new Medical Bill should be the removal of this indecency. Powers under it should be given to a general council—none of whose members should be teachers of medicine, surgery, or midwifery—to appoint the curricula of study; to inspect, at due intervals, all the medical schools in the country, metropolitan and

be put at the same time, and a remedy seen upon reference to the Paris Hospitals and Schools, where no such jobbery can possibly occur.

The examiners of Paris are chosen by *Concours*, subject to the approval of the Minister of Public Instruction, and each receives a fixed salary from the Government of the country. They therefore care not where a student obtains his instruction so long as he can answer the questions put to him. They also select, by *Concours*, from thirty to forty students annually to attend the sick in the Hospitals of Paris for the purpose of practical instruction: these are called *Internes*, and remain for three years with a salary of 500 francs, besides residence provided by the examining body. Indeed the cost of a medical education in Paris is not to be compared with the extravagant charges of London. A student of the former, however lowly his origin and humble his worldly advantages in other respects, may yet rise to the summit of his profession by industry and talent alone, a fact which is strikingly illustrated by the career of most of the leading members of the profession in France.

With reference also to the Hospital management, all is conducted on a more liberal scale. Paris, with a much smaller population than we have, provides twelve large and commodious Hospitals containing 6,580 beds, whilst in London we have twelve Hospitals affording only half the number of beds for the treatment of diseases, and yet, remarkable enough, we have a greater number of severe accidents occurring and sent in to our Hospitals. For years past the Hospitals have more than kept pace with the other improvements of the city of Paris: on the contrary, in London it was only within the last twenty years, when the old Hospitals found they were in danger of being left behind by their younger rivals, that they then thought it necessary to bestir themselves; a stir was made, and they at last increased their internal accommodation for the poor, and eased their plethoric coffers by expending some of it upon external decorations at the same time. Up to the period mentioned above we had only half the number of Hospitals, with about half the number of beds.

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provincial, to order such alterations as may be required, and to license or close particular schools, as might seem expedient or necessary. The jealousies and imputations that now affect the honour of the inspectors and discredit their authority will not then exist; and we believe that the several schools would be more efficiently conducted, because more rigorously, if not more impartially, supervised."

It is absurd for men to tell us that we want no more hospitals; that those of the last century are still sufficient for the wants of a population more than doubled. The administration of the enormous wealth of our larger hospitals must be enquired into, and the surplus funds judiciously distributed amongst the smaller, so that they, too, may be enabled to increase the number of their beds, and enlarge their sphere of operation for the good of the poor and needy. This we most sincerely hope to see brought about by the aid of the very recent Act of Parliament passed to institute a proper court of enquiry into the disposal of "Charitable Trusts." In this wish we are supported by the Solicitor-General, who refused to exclude the London Hospitals from the operation of this excellent Bill: saying, "that of all institutions which he thought it desirable to subject to the provisions of this Bill, not from any doubt as to the mode of their administration, but on account of their great public importance, the London Hospitals appeared the most to require them. For in proportion as these institutions were opened to public view and examination, they would derive a greater proportion of public confidence, and would attract a greater measure than ever of public bounty and liberality."

Again, the *Times* in commenting upon this same Bill, says:—

"The inexorable inspector will ask, and must be answered. Locks fly open at his approach, and the long-hidden secrets of corruption and speculation shroud themselves in darkness in vain. The salutary strains of benevolence long stagnating in the marshes and quagmires into which they have been diverted resume their ancient channel. No longer slavishly bound to the will of the founder, charitable bequests are at length opened to the influence of the spirit of modern civilisation."

From such a visitation the Charing Cross Hospital has nothing to dread; an open and honest inspection, none connected with it will fear or shrink from at any time. But the prying, malicious *cross-examiner* of porters, nurses, and discarded servants, such as we have now had to deal with, no public institution in the country can possibly hope to escape the meshes of his net, and the calumnious misstatements put forth to serve particular purposes. Indeed, it is sad to reflect upon the power which any one of perverse ill-regulated mind, has to inflict discomfit and annoyance even upon those whom there can be no provocation whatever to molest.

