patents, which are indiscriminately affixed to any *nostra* which the most ignorant may see fit to compound, and which are now freely circulated under government authority, without the slightest examination of their value, or the slightest limitation of the statements with which the projector may see fit to accompany them. The public necessarily attach importance to these symbols of protecting power, and are naturally inclined to suppose that government would not allow or sanction anything which they believe to be consistent with the public good. Against this open patronage of quackery we have a right and are bound to protest.

As a legally constituted profession, and as guardians of the public health, we have also a right to demand that no individuals be allowed to practise medicine without a legal qualification to do so; and that no nostrum be advertised or recommended to the public, unless its value and safety be previously ascertained by competent authority. Also, that all institutions established for the cure or relief of disease, be declared illegal, unless conducted or inspected by legally qualified medical men.

As protectors of the national health, as members of various corporate bodies, expressly constituted to provide an efficient medical education, and for restricting the unqualified, we are morally bound to petition for, and on public grounds to urge strongly the enforcement of the above regulations; and there is no doubt, that were we firmly and unitedly to express our opinions upon the subject, we should succeed in obtaining more efficient protection for the public and ourselves than has ever yet been afforded.

That the above measures would materially diminish the extent and fatality of medical quackery, that they would greatly curtail the number of guilty speculators, and, if properly enforced, annually save the loss of much health and many lives, no one at all practically acquainted with the question can hesitate to admit; and whether we succeed in obtaining their enactment or not, it is equally our duty fearlessly to expose the evils of the system, to suggest the remedy, and to urge redress.

To place empiricism under the ban of illegality, to withdraw it from the limits of legal sanction and protection, to deprive it of the powerful assistance of the press, are objects simple and practical in their nature, and no less certain in their results.

Let us, therefore, steadily seek their attainment, and whether pursued in connexion with more general measures, or singly advocated, let us think no reform to be sufficient in which they are not fully included.

Whatever professional grievances and abuses may exist within our ranks, and they are many, nothing can justify the continuance of those now more particularly alluded to; and we believe that both the usefulness and respectability of the medical profession would be materially increased by firm and consistent legislation against whatever violated either its privileges or its interests.

Destroying quackery without would doubly degrade its promoters in our own ranks, exposing them to penalties from which they are now exempt, and ensuring the contempt and reprobation of every upright and reasonable mind.

Professional quackery is of all others the most culpable and disgusting, and we feel that one element of its destruction is the moral consciousness of our collective honour, which associations like our own tend to engender and encourage.

If such be our influence, may we long flourish and continue, hostile to abuses wherever they may exist, and sensitively alive to our individual and corporate purification.

CAMBRIDGE ANATOMICAL MUSEUM.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—In the account published by you, of the proceedings at the dinner of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, it is reported that Dr. Fisher, in his reply to the toast of “the Universities of the United Kingdom,” described the Anatomical Museum of Cambridge as having “lately risen up,” by which most people would understand that the preparations were *lately* made within the walls of the university.

I confess I was much surprised that a medical graduate and fellow of Cambridge should appear to be so ill informed with respect to the anatomical collection belonging to the school in which he must at least have been partly educated. I thought that every person connected with the University of Cambridge knew that the late great accession to the anatomical collection was the transfer of my museum from Dublin, which was called, in all the acts of the senate respecting it, *the Macartney Museum*. It is also pretty generally known, that I have spontaneously made valuable donations to the collection since it was purchased, and for which I repeatedly received the thanks of the vice-chancellor. These donations, as also any I might make in future, could only be intended to increase the value of that part of the collection which was distinguished as mine, and thereby add to my own reputation.

I entirely, however, agree with Dr. Fisher respecting Professor Clarke's talents and zeal, for which I have the highest esteem, and am ready to testify that the preparations he has himself produced are fine examples of skill, patience, and delicacy of hand; but, from all my intercourse with him, I have every assurance that he would be the last person who would omit my name, in speaking of the present anatomical collection in the University of Cambridge.

Perhaps there is no person who has laboured so long and so earnestly in the public service as I have, who cares so little for public opinion; but when mistakes are made, it is as much justice to others as to ourselves to rectify them.

Your giving the preceding a place in your Journal will oblige

Your faithful servant,

JAMES MACARTNEY.

Merrion Street, Dublin,
Aug. 24, 1841.