be allowed to be present at the examinations. The alteration, however, which has been made in the composition of the Council, seems to render it even more desirable than before, in order to obviate some possible jealousies and interferences between the different orders of the profession, that no one should have an absolute right to be present at the examinations, unless deputed by the Council for that purpose.

As regards the arrangements for General Registration, the College observes with satisfaction, that the Register is now expressly ordered to be received as evidence in Courts of Law. It does not seem, however, sufficiently clear, whether the Supplemental Register, provided by the amended Bill, is intended to contain the names of *all* persons now legally practising, as well those with general as those with only local privileges. Those also who are entered on the Supplemental Register, should be required to send in annually their names and places of abode, as ordered by a previous Clause with respect to the Register.

In some points the Bill has been amended to the satisfaction of the College. In particular the College approves of Physicians and Surgeons being compelled to enrol themselves in the College of the country in which they practise, under the penalty of being struck off the Register. Also of a penalty for false pretences of qualification being imposed by clause 38, not only on persons unregistered, but on those also who should use a name or title belonging to a class in the Registry to which they do not belong.

In conclusion, the College ventures to express a hope that Sir James Graham may find it possible to modify the Bill in accordance with the views which have now been respectfully offered. For thus, in the judgment of the College, it is likely to be productive of greater advantage to the profession and the public than can justly be expected from it under its present form.

FRANCIS HAWKINS, Registrar.

RETROSPECTIVE OPERATION OF THE MEDICAL BILL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND
SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

I am glad to find the Graduates of our Universities are beginning to see the degradation in store for them, in case the new Medical Bill, as it now stands, becomes law.

In your last number, a "Graduate, &c." asks, "Is it fair, is it right, to make *any* law retrospective?" He then goes on to state that graduates must either give up their *titles* or their *practice*, for if they dare to continue the prefix "doctor" to their names, they will be mulcted in a heavy penalty; and if they register as physicians they cannot recover by law the charges of an apothecary. And here, Sir, the grievance with a great number will not end, for how many general practitioners are there who have obtained the degree of M.D., in case of declining health or premature old age, consequent upon the exhausting and wearisome nature of unceasing mental, and bodily toil, the lot of all who would be eminent in our profession; and this very provision for retiring from the more active duties of a general practitioner to those of a physician, which are comparatively easy, is to be filched from us,

if we do not bestir ourselves and make known the obnoxious parts of the bill in the proper quarter. It may be said that the law cannot deprive us of a well-stored mind, the result of attentive observation and practice; but we also know, that titles in the estimation of the public gives us a particular standing, and that once legally acquired ought not to be cruelly and unjustly taken away, to be resumed only by re-examination and additional expense.

I think, Sir, there cannot be two opinions respecting the maintenance of existing rights in the forthcoming Medical Bill; and yet it is surprising that so much apathy has existed among the graduates of British Universities, as scarcely to have attracted attention towards, until very lately, the grievous injustice hanging over them.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

ANOTHER GRADUATE AND MEMBER OF
THE ASSOCIATION.

CASE OF POISONING: CORONER'S INQUEST.

VERDICT OF FELO DE SE.

We copy the following extraordinary case as it stands, together with a letter on the subject from Mr. Trevor, of Dulverton, from the *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette*. If the report be correct, it is evident not only that the case was not duly investigated, but that the verdict, whether in accordance with the evidence or otherwise, was not the finding of the jury, and consequently that any ulterior proceedings adopted upon it were illegal. We trust that the matter will not be allowed to rest, but that a due representation of the circumstances will be made to the proper judicial authorities, and also to the Home Secretary.

On Saturday, an inquest was held at the Slade Farm, West Anstey, before Mr. Partridge, a Coroner for Devon, on the body of Elizabeth Tapp, a single woman, lately living as servant at Slade Farm.

James Bucknell said he saw the deceased on Sunday come down stairs and put a glass upon the dresser. She then went out and lay upon a table in the court. Charlotte Simons and he followed her into the court, but she would not speak. She then went out in the field and lay down on the grass. She struggled and tore the grass from the ground, and kept vomiting very much. She lay there for a minute or two, went to the garden, and then came in and went up-stairs. I sent for Betty Quick, and she came and went up-stairs after her.

Elizabeth Quick said, on Sunday she saw Tapp on the bed vomiting very much. About a quarter of an hour after she said she did not know what she had taken, she had taken something, and that trouble made her do it. She picked up a bottle the next morning from under her bed, with something written upon it, like that now produced. The bottle was nearly empty. Tapp said that is the bottle the stuff came out of that I took. I said what is this upon it? She said I wrote poison upon it. She died during Thursday night.

Mr. Trevor, surgeon, of Dulverton, here informed the Coroner that the deceased had communicated to him what she had taken, and why she took it. The Coroner said that he should get at that without Mr. Trevor's help. Mr. Trevor then suggested that the Coroner should ask the last witness whether she believed the deceased to have been pregnant. The Coroner said that is not material. Mr. Trevor thought it material to inquire whether she had taken anything with a view of procuring abortion, or of destroying herself, or whether any other person had advised or persuaded her to take it. Upon which the Coroner, in the most peremptory manner, ordered Mr. Trevor to be silent, and called for the constable to turn him out of the room.

Betty Pearce said she had reason to believe that Tapp was pregnant, and taxed her with it, but she denied it. On the Sunday she refused to tell any one what she had taken until Mr. Trevor came, when I believe she told him. Here one of the jury said he supposed Mr. Trevor would be called; and a gentleman who came with the Coroner suggested to him that he should ask the jury whether they wished to have Mr. Trevor examined. Upon which the Coroner said "I will ask the jury nothing, I will conduct this investigation as I think proper, and according to the instructions of the magistrates."

Betty Pearce said she heard Tapp say, one day since she was ill, that on Sunday she saw her sweetheart walking in Waterford lane with another woman, and that trouble made her do it.

Maria Tapp, the mother, said she came to her daughter on Sunday, and did not leave her until she died on Friday morning; asked her what she had been taking, she said she could not tell what it was; asked her where she got it, she said on the shelf. John Cockram had promised her marriage, and she supposed his having slighted her was the cause of the act.

James Pearce said he kept corrosive sublimate, to use about his sheep—had some in house for nearly a year before this; it was in a paper upon the shelf. The word "poison" was upon the paper in which it was kept.

The Coroner then told the jury that three grains of corrosive sublimate would destroy any man, and that any one who did not know that must be a fool and a blockhead. He then asked the jury if they wanted any further evidence, said that nothing better than corrosive sublimate was known for sheep-wash, and that there was no blame to any one for keeping it about the house. He then briefly summed up, but did not read over the evidence to the jury. The room was cleared, and the jury left to deliberate. Upon returning into the room the following took place:—Foreman—"We find that the deceased died from poison, which she took herself." Coroner—"With the intention of destroying herself?" "Foreman—"Yes." Coroner—"That will do, gentlemen; you may now retire, while I prepare the inquisition." Mr. Trevor—"May I ask, Mr. Coroner, what the verdict is to be?" Coroner—"Felo de se." Mr. Trevor—"I don't think the jury understand what would be the consequence of their verdict; and they certainly had no evidence of the state of mind of the deceased." Coroner—"Leave the room, Sir. I will not have these interruptions; and further, I forbid you from pub-

lishing any account of this inquest in the newspapers." Mr. Trevor—"That, however, I most certainly shall do." Coroner—"Constable! constable! come here; turn this man out of the room." The constable did not do it.

To the Editor of the Exeter and Plymouth Gazette.

SIR,—In reference to the inquest held on Saturday at West Anstey, by Mr. Partridge, I request your permission to make a few observations.

The facts of the case are briefly these:—An unmarried young woman, living in service, is taken suddenly and violently ill, and it is immediately suspected that she has taken poison, which, however, she does not acknowledge. Medical assistance is called in; and upon the arrival of the surgeon, to him she for the first time confesses that she has taken poison. The existence of pregnancy is discovered. In the discharge of what he conceives to be his duty, the surgeon informs her that she is in imminent danger, and she then makes certain statements. After four days of severe suffering, during which this same surgeon is in frequent attendance, this unhappy creature dies; and at the inquiry which subsequently takes place as to the cause of her death, this surgeon is not only not called upon to give evidence, but is absolutely the only person who was about the deceased who is not permitted to do so. And why? Because if he was examined he would be entitled to a fee of one guinea! The learned Coroner said that he was acting "according to the instructions of the magistrates." It is impossible to believe but that this functionary has grossly misunderstood these instructions; and one object of my making this communication is to call the attention of the magistracy to this extraordinary statement.

The Jury returned a verdict which the Coroner pronounced to be one of *Felo de se*, and in conformity with the law, the body was interred the same night between eleven and twelve o'clock, without any funeral rites. To some this may appear to be a matter of little importance; but those who know anything of the feelings of the labouring classes, will be able to estimate the additional agony thus inflicted upon the wounded hearts of the distressed parents. And before these guiltless parties were thus tortured, was due and careful inquiry made into the state of mind of the lost one, at the moment of committing the fatal act? Is there one of your readers who will believe that, if a similar unhappy event had occurred in a family of the higher classes, such a verdict would have been recorded after so little inquiry? Who so likely to be able to speak to the state of mind of the deceased as the surgeon who first communicated to her the certainty of her approaching death, who received her confession, and to whom her fears and hopes were afterwards poured out? It was in evidence that she assigned, as the cause of the rash act, that she had just before seen her sweetheart and seducer in company with another woman. Ought not this man and woman to have been called before the jury, to explain whether anything, and what, passed between them? Who can tell that their evidence might not have satisfied the jury that the tumult of despair and jealousy excited by the hateful sight, had been sufficient to upset a mind not naturally strong, and to render the deceased irresponsible for her

actions? Moreover, there were actually in the house where the inquest was held, a man and a young woman, who had been for years fellow servants, and who had been brought by the father of the deceased several miles, in order to speak to her habitual state of mind, and to prove several acts of despondency. None of these persons were examined. This unusual verdict was returned in the absence of all evidence as to the state of mind of the deceased. The feelings of bereaved parents have been outraged, the inhabitants of a quiet and secluded village have been shocked by witnessing the stern administration of a barbarous law; but then the Coroner got home in time for a late dinner, and the county of Devon was saved twenty-one shillings! We have most of us heard good stories of "Crownor's 'quest law," but until Saturday last I believed them to be only "good stories."

I have purposely forbore from making any remarks upon the personal rudeness and vulgarity which the learned "judge (!) of his own Court" exhibited towards myself, because such conduct from that individual was more a matter of indifference than surprise.

I am, &c.,

WILLIAM TREVOR.

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

Among the names of those nominated as candidates to fill up the vacancies in the Foreign Associates of the Academie de Medicine, Paris, we observe those of Müller, Sir Benjamin Brodie, Burdach, Sir James Clark, Mr. Lawrence, and Dr. Marshall Hall.

Dr. Edward Wells has been elected one of the physicians of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, in the room of Dr. Smith, resigned.

M. Jobert, de Lamballe, surgeon to the Hôpital Saint Louis, Paris, has been appointed surgeon so the Hôtel Dieu, to fill up the vacancy caused by the death of M. Breschet.

DINNER TO MR. BOTHAM.—On Wednesday the 25th of June last, a dinner was given by the Medical Practitioners of Chesterfield, and the neighbouring towns, to R. C. Botham, Esq., as a testimony that, in the opinion of his professional colleagues, he had successfully vindicated his skill and character in his defence to the recent action, "*Osborne v. Botham*," which was tried at the last Derby Assizes. The dinner was held at the Commercial Hotel, Chesterfield, when Dr. Favell, of Sheffield, was chairman, John Walker, Esq., of Chesterfield, was vice-chairman, and Messrs. H. E. Walker and W. E. Boddington, were stewards. Among the practitioners present, were Dr. Favell; Messrs. J. Walker; D. Evans, Belper; John Wright, Senior Surgeon to the Infirmary, Derby; S. Evans and J. Johnson, Derby; H. Thomas, Sheffield; H. E. Walker, W. E. Boddington, T. Jones, J. Holland, Marshall, and R. T. Wyld, Chesterfield; E. Brown, Clay Cross; Thorpe and France, Staveley; McKersie, Crick; Cooper, Mansfield; Woollam, Mexborough; — Evans, Minster; Clarke, Dronfield; and Alsop, Bolsover.

BENEVOLENT MEDICAL SOCIETY.—The fifty-ninth annual meeting of the Norfolk and Norwich Benevolent Medical Society was held on Wednesday, July 2nd, at the Norfolk Hotel, when the Secretary, Mr. J. G. Johnson, gave a favourable account of its funds, and instanced their successful application by reading communications from the widows or orphans of medical men, one of whom in her dying moments attributed the many comforts experienced during a heavy affliction to the aid she received from this charitable Institution. The Society not only deserves the support of the prosperous, but the attention also of even the less fortunate members of the profession.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

The following gentlemen have been nominated Fellows of the College of Physicians:—Dr. Jenks, of Brighton; Dr. J. Latham; Dr. Golding Bird; Dr. Bence Jones; Dr. Seth Thompson; Dr. Pereira; Dr. Pittman; and Dr. Patrick Black.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Gentlemen admitted members on Monday, June 23, 1845:—C. E. G. Lamotte; W. Price; C. Mulholland; W. Ewing; W. Bainbridge; P. E. Downs; W. T. Black; D. McBride; J. Orred; J. Jones; J. E. Hamilton.

Admitted Friday, June 27:—W. A. Eves; W. Wilkinson; S. M. Frost; T. B. W. Buckler; J. W. Slight; J. H. Elliott; A. Haviland; W. W. Moore; W. Preston; F. J. Freeland; T. F. Dyball; J. H. Jerrard; M. Teevan.

Admitted Monday, June 30:—C. Goodwin; W. G. King; G. J. Langford; T. A. O'Flaherty; T. M. Parrott; R. Blackie; R. D. Blucke; H. S. Colston.

Admitted on Friday, July 4:—W. Arthur; N. H. Littleton; W. T. Wilson; H. A. Warburton; E. Warburton; W. Scott; L. Kerans; C. K. Webb; L. Leslie; J. Hay.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

Gentlemen admitted licentiates Thursday, June 19th:—W. H. Colborne, Chippenham; H. W. Laver, Essex; F. F. Kingdon, Barnstaple; E. C. Odling, Lincoln; O. S. Winstanley.

Thursday, June 26th:—A. Jowett, Holdsworth.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Retrospect of Practical Medicine and Surgery, &c. Edited by W. Braithwaite, Surgeon to the Leeds General Eye and Ear Infirmary; and Lecturer on Midwifery, and the Diseases of Women and Children, in the Leeds School of Medicine. Vol. XI., January—June, 1845. London: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co. 1845. 8vo., pp. 335.

On the Coagulation of the Blood and other Fibrinous Liquids. By Andrew Buchanan, M.D., Professor of the Institutes of Medicine in the University of Glasgow. 1845. pp. 6.