

In the Royal Bavarian Library of the University of the State  
at Munich of Sciences from the author.  
To the Gentlemen who composed Dr. Elliotson's late Class of  
the Practice of Medicine, in University College. M. med. 118/9.

GENTLEMEN,

When the conduct of the Council compelled me abruptly to resign my appointments in the College and Hospital, I deeply regretted that prudence forbade me to address you. Satisfied of your unwillingness to lose me, and of your condemnation of the proceedings of my adversaries, I resolved that any demonstration which you might give of your opinions should not arise, either in whole or in part, from any instigation of mine; and I therefore determined, however cold-hearted it might appear, to wait till my successors in the College and Hospital had ample time to settle comfortably, if this were possible, in their new situations: and I may here state that it is perfectly untrue that I have had a party of students at my house any time this session. The matter of the fees I found would sooner or later require a communication from me, since the Council took no notice of the wish expressed in my letter of resignation that my share of the fees of this season should be returned to those who desired it, and as those students who applied for the fulfilment of my wish were refused. I waited, therefore, on this account also. I have, at length, received a letter from the secretary of the College, stating that the Council can be no party to the return of fees to the students, and offering me half of the Professor's portion of the fees paid up to Christmas. Since there was no prospect of my fees being returned to you, unless I first received them, I have received the portion offered, in order to transmit it to you.

From the moment of becoming a teacher in the school, I acted on the principle that it was instituted for the dissemination and discovery of truth. I considered myself bound to learn what was the truth on every point of the subjects which I taught, and to promulgate it: and my office at the Hospital I considered myself bound to make a constant field of careful enquiry. I had no idea of any other success for the school than the success of imparting knowledge: and for this I laboured indefatigably and disinterestedly. I lowered my perpetual fee from £9. to £7., and my sessional, from £6. to £5.; and it was not till after thus losing a considerable sum during a few years, and finding that the other Professors, though they had cheerfully assented to the reduction of my fees, would never follow my example, that I gradually brought them up to their original amount, so that my successor might receive the office unimpaired. I gave clinical lectures regularly once a week, and, during one summer, three times a week: I gave them, consequently, in far greater number than my colleagues. I lectured upon all my cases, detailing every thing faithfully; never fabricating histories, treatment, or results; never giving occasion for an editor to discontinue the publication of them on account of letters incessantly arriving to say they were made up and at variance with the facts; never declaring that an organic disease was cured, when it was in the same state as at the patient's admission, nor assuring the world that it was put down in the book as relieved only when it was actually put down as cured. I endeavoured to act in the kindest manner by every student, and was always ready to communicate what information I possessed, and to perform the part of a friend. My happiness in the Institution was unalloyed till an unhappy spirit gained admittance; and from that time there has been no more peace than there had been in the place where he formerly sojourned. Totally unprovoked, nay, receiving invariable civility from me, and actuated, as far as I can judge, by envy only, he very soon spoke behind my back so inaccurately and injuriously, according to the firm assertion of note-takers, that he was compelled partly to deny his words and partly to apologize in public. A few ill-conditioned young men will always exist among your numbers, but such were unable to become conspicuous before his arrival. Him they found a rallying point; and the conduct of nearly every one connected with him I have seen reason deeply to deplore and have found hostile to myself; even of those to whom I had shown nothing but the greatest attentions. However, I quietly continued my course of industry and duty.

At length, in 1837, my attention became directed to a subject which, though utterly neglected in this country, was receiving great attention on the continent. Certain wonderful phenomena, and certain modes of producing these phenomena and of curing diseases ill-understood

and difficult to cure, were vouched for by men of the highest information and the soundest judgment; and I felt it my duty to investigate the matter. I soon found that there was a fund of truth in what I had heard and read,—that an agent or agency existed which had been overlooked; and my enquiries were soon attended with such results that a large number of medical men, most distinguished Noblemen, nay Royalty itself, Members of the House of Commons, some of the first men of science in the country, Professors of Oxford, Cambridge, King's College, and Edinburgh, the Presidents of the Royal and Linnæan Societies, and Teachers of the various Hospitals, flocked to witness my facts. Some of these gentlemen made handsome donations to the Hospital in consequence, and others expressed their intention to do the same, but have declined in consequence of my resignation. This soon excited envy, and this excited a commotion; and the late Dean advised me to desist. He urged that, whether the wonderful facts were true or not, and whether great benefit in the treatment of diseases would result or not, we ought to consider the interests of the School;—not of science and humanity, observe—but of the School: that, if the public did not regard the matter as true and the benefits as real, we ought not to persevere and risk the loss of public favour to the school; that I was rich, and could afford to lose my practice for what I believed the truth, but that others were not:—in short, his argument was "*rem-rem*;" and "*virtus post nummos*." I replied that the Institution was established for the dissemination and discovery of truth; that all other considerations were secondary to this; that, if the public were ignorant, we should enlighten them; that we should lead the public, and not the public us; and that the sole question was, whether the matter were a truth or not. I laughed at the idea of injury to the pecuniary interests of the school.

The commotion increased. My demonstrations were debated upon at meetings of the Faculty, and discussions went on between members of the Council, and Professors, an exquisite Secretary, and other more humble holders of office. At one meeting of the medical faculty, a Professor boasted that he had seen none of my experiments and should have considered himself disgraced if he had; that animal magnetism had been proved above forty years ago to be a perfect humbug and imposture; and that it was now in as bad repute with the public as Christianity had been at its first promulgation. Another Professor boasted that he had seen none of the facts, and, though invited by my clinical clerk to observe them while visiting his own patients in the ward, that he had declined the invitation. One Professor declared that he never could procure a vacant bed because I detained my patients so long in order to Mesmerise them: and another reported that patients would not apply for admission, lest they should be Mesmerised, and that others left the Hospital to avoid Mesmeric treatment. But, when I enquired of the officer whom I understood to have furnished these absurdities, he assured me that he was blameless and made the general scape-goat of the place; and he entreated me to accept his denial without an enquiry which would embroil him with the Professors. Not conceiving that any thing but reputation could accrue to the Hospital from the demonstration of physiological and pathological facts to crowds of the first men in the country, among whom were characters totally opposed in politics to the place and who otherwise never would have entered it, I persevered. The President of the College—Lord Brougham and five other members of the Council did not refuse to attend the demonstrations; nor did the Professors of the Faculty of Arts; nor Dr. Grant, Dr. Lindley, nor Mr. Graham. But, with the exception of these three last gentlemen, whose conduct throughout has commanded my respect, I never saw any of the medical faculty: if any ever were present, it could have been only to reconnoitre unobserved by me. The Irish, the Welsh, and four of the six Scotch medical Professors, held meeting after meeting of the faculty or of the Hospital committee, which my disgust prevented me from attending. At these meetings I know that the most bitter feelings against me were manifested and matters discussed which were perfectly irrelevant, but the introduction of which showed the hostility of certain parties. I have always acted in

the most honourable and correct manner; and dare any examination of my conduct. I had, however, given great offence by urging, with the senate of the London University, the hardship and inutility of compelling attendance upon particular courses of lectures, and especially upon lectures on morbid anatomy because of the morbid anatomy of a disease is as much a part of the disease, and as much to be explained at length in lectures on the practice of medicine, surgery, and midwifery, as the symptoms and history; and, indeed, cannot be taught with advantage separately from the symptoms. Distinct lectures on morbid anatomy must be superfluous, if professors of the practice of medicine, surgery, and midwifery perform their duty: and the London University has at last yielded to the opinion I defended. I found that I also had given great offence by declaring in public that the College was founded, not for the Professors, but for the diffusion of knowledge, and that the fees of the Professors were but a secondary consideration and established solely to induce them to diffuse knowledge.

Among the puerilities talked by the Professors, both at these meetings and out of them, it was predicted that the number of medical students would be seriously reduced the ensuing winter, that not one would come from Bristol, and that I should have scarcely any class at all.

At length Dr. Lindley and Mr. Cooper waited upon me in the name of the Medical Committee of the Hospital. They brought the following acknowledgment of my right to practise Mesmerism in the Hospital:—

Resolved—“That the (Medical) Committee fully recognize Dr. Elliotson's undoubted right to employ animal magnetism as a remedial agent in the wards of the Hospital, when he considers it necessary to do so. But that the Committee are anxious to know whether Dr. Elliotson has been correctly understood as not intending to continue in the Hospital the exhibition of the experiments on that subject.”

Dr. Lindley and Mr. Cooper confessed to me that they could not imagine that my demonstrations would hurt the hospital; and Dr. Lindley, in his own noble and honest manner, declared that he thought the facts which he had witnessed were very curious and deserved investigation. The feeling, however, for what reason they could not tell, was so strong, that they conceived my best course was to give up the demonstrations. Mr. Cooper suggested, as indeed Dr. Davis had done, that I should show the patients in my own house, or some house in the neighbourhood. One Professor recommended a public-house. But I declined to exhibit hospital patients to a number of persons anywhere but in the hospital. For the sake of peace, therefore, I consented never to show the phenomena again in the theatre of the Hospital, unless my colleagues approved of the list of those to whom I wished to demonstrate them: and both gentlemen agreed that this ought to content the party. It, however, did not content them. They still refused to come and examine into the phenomena; and, when I sent to the Medical Committee a list of many of the highest names in and out of the profession, who had applied for permission to witness my facts, they absolutely refused to read it. The following are the words of the official answer of the Secretary:—

“July 5, 1838.

“Your letter, addressed to the Medical Committee yesterday, was forthwith laid before the meeting specially summoned for its consideration. The Committee determined not to read the list of names appended thereto.”

I had proposed that a Committee should be formed to investigate my observations. It was to consist of gentlemen from different schools, and I requested Drs. Grant, Lindley and Sharpey, and Mr. Graham, to be upon it. Mr. Graham declined on the score of his great engagements, but Drs. Grant and Lindley consented. From Dr. Sharpey I received the following letter:—

68, Torrington Square,  
Monday Morning, 14th May.

“My dear Sir,—I was all yesterday in the country, and arrived in town at a very late hour, otherwise I would have sooner replied to your note.

“From what I have read and seen of the so-called Mesmeric Phenomena, I am convinced that some of these phenomena really are what they seem to be, and possess a very high degree of physiological interest; moreover, I know that there are other effects supposed to be produced by Mesmeric operation, of a much more extraordinary character, the reality of which, though I frankly own I do not believe in it, is admitted by physicians of intelligence and experience, and which, on that account, are entitled to a fair examination. These being my sentiments, which I have never hesitated to express, you can-

not suppose me indifferent to the subject, or disposed to treat with neglect or disregard your experiments in the Hospital. but I have refrained from participating in or witnessing these experiments, for two reasons. First, from what I have heard of these exhibitions, (I use the word respectfully) I am inclined to think that, however different may be your intention, they are calculated rather to minister to the popular love of the marvellous than to afford an advantageous opportunity of testing the reality of the effects produced as the alleged efficacy of Mesmerism as a remedial agent; and secondly, in the present state of opinion among the public and the profession, respecting animal magnetism, the frequent repetition of such exhibitions in the Hospital has appeared to me not altogether judicious.

“Of course, I am far from finding fault with you for entertaining different opinions, but as these exhibitions still continue, and my own sentiments regarding them remain unaltered, I trust you will pardon me for declining your invitation, however flattering it may be, as I wish to avoid connecting myself, even indirectly, with proceedings which seem to me objectionable.

“I am, my dear Sir,  
very truly yours.

“Dr. Elliotson, &c. &c.”

“W. SHARPEY.

The public exhibitions, however, as they were termed, were discontinued; but Dr. Sharpey still never thought proper to witness the facts, which it surely was his duty, as a teacher of physiology, to go and witness, that he might treat the subject properly in his lectures. Entreated on all sides to exhibit the phenomena, I requested of the Council permission to demonstrate them in one of the theatres of the College, when this was not in use. But I was refused. One of the Council, whose goodness and liberality render him an ornament to the Jewish nation and to England, moved the reconsideration of the refusal or made a motion for permission, but in vain. I hear that he entreated the Council to witness the phenomena and judge for themselves as he had done, but in vain. Yes, the majority of the Council, perfectly ignorant of the subject, refused to go to learn anything of it before they passed judgment upon it; and among these were legislators, barristers, and one physician. Yet this same Council gave permission for the exhibition of a boy with a strong memory, to the public, at so much a head, and tickets were purchased by any one, as for a concert.\*

I persevered in the daily study of the subject, deriving the most exquisite intellectual pleasure that I had ever experienced. In an evil hour, I consented to show some experiments to the Editor of the *Lancet*, after repeated entreaties conveyed by his assistant, Mr. Mills, who had witnessed the phenomena at the hospital, reported many in the *Lancet*, been enraptured with them, and declared them over and over again to be so satisfactory that to doubt or to suspect the two Okeys of imposition would be the height of absurdity. I exhibited to the Editor the production of the singular delirium, and a variety of the most beautiful and satisfactory experiments which he has entirely suppressed. But I presently feared what would be the result. He said he was pestered with letters upon the subject; but that nineteen out of twenty were unfavourable. Nineteen persons, of course, purchase more *Lancets* than one; and I fancied I already saw his rejection of the evidence. The mental phenomena were such as no person capable of sound and refined observation, and fitted for philosophical investigation, could for an instant have imagined to be feigned. The physical phenomena with the hand, the eye, metals, and water, were as striking and conclusive, with the exception of some with lead and nickel; and those I have since proved to large numbers of able judges to be equally conclusive. Mesmerised nickel produces upon the elder sister the most violent effects, which none but a very ignorant person could consider pretended. Now, when this, or gold or silver, has been rubbed upon a part, and the friction has been desisted from before the effects come, or the effects have come and have ceased, they may be at once excited in the former case, or re-excited in the latter, by friction of the part with anything—a piece of wood or a

\* Ticket of Admission  
to the  
Exhibition  
of the  
Calculating Powers  
of the  
Sicilian Boy,  
Mangiamele!  
in the  
Theatre of the University College,  
On Monday, August 13th, 1838.

Admission 10s. ”

piece of lead; and this excitement may be produced again and again. Friction was performed with lead upon parts to which nickel had been applied either with or without effect as it might be, and the effects took place violently. This explanation I gave to the Editor, but he was either too dull to understand, or had his reasons for not understanding. In another set of experiments lead produced effects, though nickel had not been applied to the parts; and yet I never had been able to Mesmerise lead by holding it in my hand and to produce effects by then applying it. Those effects I candidly said I could not explain, since I had not commenced experiments with lead or nickel for more than two or three days: but, as there was no more deception in the cases, nor less certainty of the various facts which I had observed, than in chemistry or any other natural science, I added that these results shewed only that they required farther investigation, and that I had no doubt I should, by perseverance, discover their cause. The Editor knew that I was about to leave London that same day for an absence of six weeks on the continent, and yet he could not wait for my return and give me an opportunity of farther research, but, with that gentlemanly delicacy for which he and his friends are so remarkable, published, almost immediately, what professed to be an account of what he had seen,—a most imperfect and worthless account, however; in his plenitude of scientific importance, he declared that not one more experiment on magnetism would ever be required; and answers which were sent he never published. He omitted to state a circumstance in his experiments with lead, which had never been allowed to happen in mine, but which, when reflecting upon them on my tour, I thought might have influenced the results. In employing the lead, I had noticed that he applied it against a piece of nickel held in his other hand, before he applied it to the patient. On my return, I applied lead to her as before, and, indeed, copper also; yet never obtained an effect. I then applied the lead or the copper, as it might be, against a piece of mesmerized nickel or gold, before applying it to her; and its application to her was then always productive of effects. I discovered that the surface of the lead or copper had become nickelized or aurified by the contact; and thus the difficulty was solved. These experiments I have repeated again and again before numbers of gentlemen, taking the greatest care that the patient should not know when I applied lead or copper which had not been in contact with nickel or gold, and when I applied lead or copper which had been in contact with either of them; and the results have been uniform. I was obliged to leave the poor little girl in an intense coma, with occasional violent tetanic spasms, at the editor's house, little imagining that any farther experiments would be attempted, especially in my absence, by a person ignorant of the subject and altogether incapable of making experiments. I had seen sufficient of the extreme carelessness, and want of information and philosophic power, of the editor, during the experiments conducted by myself and which he frequently altogether deranged, not to be convinced that in my absence no experiment could be made in a manner to justify conclusions. In his ignorance, he acted as though mesmeric susceptibility is always present and always the same: whereas the reverse is the fact; and experiments with water and metals frequently repeated so derange the susceptibility that we are often obliged to desist.

During the five months which have elapsed since my return, I have repeated all my experiments and continued my observations, not only on the two Okeys, but on other patients; and all the results of my former enquiries have been confirmed and all difficulties solved. For nearly two months I continued my enquiry into Elizabeth Okey's case in the Hospital. She and her sister had been both entirely cured of their epilepsy by Mesmerism, after all other remedies had failed: but she was suffering in October from an agonizing pain in her loins and frequent ischuria; and I therefore re-admitted her, after an absence of nearly two months. I did not attempt to remove these symptoms by Mesmerism, but I frequently threw her into a mesmeric state, partly for the purpose of ascertaining facts, and partly because in it her sufferings were less. I admitted three lads with epilepsy, and a man with paroxysms of imbecility, whom all four I treated with Mesmerism and it only; my clinical clerks sat before each, waving their hands, for half an hour daily: the immediate result was drowsiness, or sleep, and the ultimate great alleviation of the diseases

and every prospect of cure. To my great astonishment, I received a summons to attend the House Committee of the Hospital, on account of a Mr. Cope, a clerk, I believe, in some public office and one of the Committee, having directed attention to the fact, that Elizabeth Okey, after having been sixteen months in the Hospital, and discharged in August, had been re-admitted in October. Dr. Thomson had a patient at the very time who had been fourteen months in the Hospital, and has now been there nearly seventeen; and yet no notice was taken of this. I explained that the little girl was now in the house for another complaint, and presumed that, if a patient, who had been an inmate of the hospital for several months on account of a broken leg, were to break his arm the very day after his discharge, he would be re-admissible: and to this the chairman assented. I was then questioned respecting Elizabeth Okey's power of predicting death. Now, you are aware, gentlemen, that some persons have an idiosyncrasy to be affected by emanations which have no perceptible effect on mankind at large. Some have catarrh and asthma when near certain grasses in flower: some, when near a hare, dead or alive: some have an indescribable sensation of a most distressing kind when near a cat. Elizabeth Okey has a sense of great oppression, sickness, and misery, when within a certain distance of persons whose frame is sinking. The emanations which are constantly proceeding from us all are so altered in their composition, I presume, in extreme debility, that a high susceptibility may suffer from them. Whenever the effect upon her has been of a certain intensity, I understand that the patient who produced it has died. The phenomenon had been known to the nurse, and invariably verified by her for a long period before I heard of it: and Elizabeth Okey only by chance communicated it to me in November during her delirium. When not in a mesmeric state, that is, when not delirious nor somnambulist, she has not this idiosyncrasy, and is perfectly ignorant that she ever has it. In her somnambulism she has it simply; but, in her delirium, it is attended by an illusion that she sees a figure, something like the representations of death, wrapped in a white robe. The more intense the oppression from the emanations, the taller the figure; the stronger, therefore, are the emanations, and the nearer the person to his end. This is perfectly in accordance with the phenomena of dreams, which are a sort of delirium. If we have an inflammation of the foot, the heat of this is very likely, in our dreams, to make us fancy the part is roasting on the bars of a grate: if we have the rheumatism, we may dream that some one is giving us the bastinado: in oppression of the breath, we may dream that we see a demon sitting upon us—in short, have the night-mare, and it is very conceivable that, the more distressing the oppression, the larger might the figure be imagined. Thus, the sensation, which she knows to arise from the influence of a person hurrying to the grave, gives her a fancy that she sees the figure, when in her delirium; but, if she is near a sinking person when in a state of somnambulism, in which her reason is sound, she not only has the sensation merely,—sees no figure, but tells you that the idea of the figure in her delirium, is a delusion—the product of delirium. On learning this wonderful fact, I examined carefully into it and ascertained its reality. But, having had, among a few of the students who have signalized themselves, some by scribbling and some by talking, experience of the falsehoods and absurd objections to which all the mesmeric phenomena of my patients were exposed, I resolved to conduct her into my other ward, in which she was unacquainted with the diseases of the patients and with the patients themselves, and to conduct her there at the close of the day when she could not see the patients. Accordingly, about five o'clock, in December, I begged the nurse of the ward to accompany us. I enjoined the little girl not to utter a word, and I led her, not to the bedside of patients, but up one side of the ward and down the other, without stopping; and no one knew the object I had in view. I felt her shudder as she passed the foot of two beds; and, after leaving the ward, she told me that she had felt the sensation, and seen the figure, which she in her delirium, but in her delirium only, calls Jack, at two of the beds. The nurse informs me that, in passing one bed, she heard her whisper, "there's Jack," while she shuddered: but I did not, although I had hold of her hand the whole time. This patient, who was then in a state of perfect insensibility, soon died; the other, I hear, is still alive, but his disease will be, from its nature, ne-

cessarily fatal. I considered it my duty to inquire into this interesting fact. There was nothing in it contrary to established physiological and pathological truths; but it was an unusual modification; and, had I not enquired into it, I should have been devoid of all spirit of professional enquiry, and, moreover, should have exposed the innocent and excellent little girl to another false and base accusation of imposture. But how did the House Committee act? They detained me the best part of an hour, waiting about the building, while they examined different nurses, as to whether I had ever led Elizabeth Okey into the wards to predict the death of patients; and then they sent for me: instead of treating me as a professor, as senior physician, as a gentleman, as an honourable person, and making their enquiries of me in the first instance. I did not notice this; but the explanations, which I have now given, I gave then, and the Committee seemed satisfied. The subject, which is one of the highest philosophical interest, has been disgracefully misrepresented. I have been said to employ Elizabeth Okey to prophecy: and one student, whose conduct towards me, in return for invariable kindness, has covered him with lasting shame before all good men and causes him to be the laughing-stock in private of those to whom he has been weak enough to become a tool, shamelessly declared in public that I led Elizabeth Okey to the bedside of patients to prophecy their death, and that afterwards, of course, they died. I ought to add that I mentioned the idiosyncrasy of Elizabeth Okey to no one in the Hospital but Mr. Wood: not to my clinical clerks, nor to the apothecary; who, however, I find, had surmised it from something I had said to him in private, and had gossiped about it as he went about giving his characteristic opinion, that the Professors were justified in preferring their pecuniary interests to the consideration of the truth and remedial powers of Mesmerism. The Committee appeared satisfied, and I was assured that my explanations had made a great impression. All went on comfortably, as far as I knew. My four male patients, who were mesmerised, improved rapidly. The man's fits of imbecility had ceased, and he thought of leaving, full of gratitude for his cure. Two of the boys had experienced no fit for above two months; and the frequency of the fits of the other boy had diminished, when, on December 27, I received a resolution of council, from the Hospital Committee,—

"That they be instructed to take steps, forthwith, for the discharge of Elizabeth Okey from the Hospital."

I immediately showed the paper to the apothecary, who said that he had known of the resolution several days before, as well as of another, which I had not yet received from the house committee, viz. that the practice of Mesmerism should be immediately discontinued. I proceeded to the house of the Treasurer of the College and Hospital, and he informed me that the second resolution had also been passed. I, therefore, at once wrote the following letter to the secretary of the Council.

"SIR,—I have just received information, that the Council, without any interview or communication with me, has ordered my patient, Elizabeth Okey, to be instantly discharged, and forbidden me to cure my patients with Mesmerism. I *only* am the proper person to judge when my patients are in a fit state to be discharged, and what treatment is proper for their cases.

As a gentleman in the first place, and as a physician in the next, I feel myself compelled at once to resign my office of Professor of the principles and practice of medicine and of clinical medicine in the College, and of Physician to the Hospital; and hereby resign them all, and shall *never enter either building again*.

When I was made Professor, I received a class of 90,—the class is now 197,—13 more than at Christmas last year; and, as there were 24 entries after Christmas then, the whole number of the present session would, no doubt, have been above 220.

I have not received my fees this session. It is my wish that they be all refunded to the young gentlemen, who are perfectly welcome to the lectures which I have already delivered.

"I have the honour, &c.

"JOHN ELLIOTSON."

"Conduit Street, 27th December, 1838.

You will agree with me, gentlemen, that, to hold office one moment on such terms, and under men capable of acting in a manner at once insulting and irrational, would have been impossible. If I was unfit to determine when my patients were in a state to be discharged, and how they were to be treated, I ought to have been dismissed. But, while I held office, I was to be considered fit to judge of these points. Had my colleagues in the hospital possessed a becoming spirit, and felt what was due to themselves and the profession,

they would have resisted this infringement of their general rights, whatever their opinion of Mesmerism even if they had attended to it sufficiently to justify an opinion. Indeed they were bound to act thus, since they had resolved months before in committee, that they acknowledged "*my undoubted right*" to practice Mesmerism in the Hospital. But this I could hardly expect, since they were so forgetful of academic propriety, that, in their lectures one designated my patient Okey "an impostor," and another, the bosom friend of the editor of *The Lancet*, called Mesmerism "the most impudent of modern humbugs," and indeed pronounced me to be "a tom-fool." The insult was the greater, as I was senior physician, was thought to have greatly raised the reputation and numbers of the school, and had been the main cause of the establishment of the Hospital, although I gave great offence at the time to some of the Professors for honestly pointing out that the Medical School was inefficient without an Hospital. The conduct of the Council was irrational, since the majority refused to witness the experiments upon a subject of which they were utterly ignorant, and to have an interview with me for the purpose of enquiring into the business. They suspended a practice which was perfectly innocent, simple, and devoid of expense, and had worked, and was working many most remarkable cures, even in cases which had resisted all other treatment and had been sent out of other Hospitals as incurable, which they well knew. The College was thriving this winter as much as last; my class was larger than ever it had been at this period of the season; and the Hospital was crowded with patients and pupils. The Council, completely unknown in science or literature, as they all are, with two or three exceptions, proved themselves totally unfit to conduct a place of education, and more especially one which boasted to be founded on the most liberal principles and to be free from the prejudices of old Universities. They put a blot upon the Institution which will never be erased.

I am happy to say that, though two of the most absurd and obstinate were men, I hear, from whom, one being a great legislative medical reformer, and the other a Physician, better things might have been expected, the noble President, Lord Brougham, does not hesitate in society strongly to condemn their proceedings. And well he may. Mesmerism is not only true and of the highest interest in a psychological, physiological, and curative point of view, but is now proceeding at a very rapid rate. Most interesting English works upon it, especially one by a Clergyman named Townsend, will soon be published. Hundreds of able men have been converted to a conviction of its truth within these few weeks, and a large number of medical men now not only believe, but practise it. I have lately met with and shewn to the profession wonderful cases and cures; and other gentlemen are equally successful.

The sum sent to me by the Council, after deducting one-third for the Institution and half of the remainder for my successor, amounts to £255. Those gentlemen who have not intended to continue pupils of my successor and have certificates of him, shall, out of this sum, receive back, on sending me their names, the whole amount of their admission fee—not only my third, but an equivalent to the third retained by the Council and to the third appropriated to my successor. Any surplus that may remain I will not keep, but beg to deposit with a Committee of you, and appointed by you, to dispose of in any manner that you may think proper, unconnected with the College or Hospital, to which I had intended all my fortune ultimately to go, though I cannot now allow a sixpence of mine to pass to an institution thus degraded. I would take the liberty of suggesting that Mr. Penny, whose indignation led him to return all his tickets, be first entirely reimbursed out of it.

With great regret, Gentlemen, at being compelled to part from you; with every kind wish; and with the hope that you will always consider the pursuit of truth, and the practice of what leads to the greatest happiness of the greatest number, the best occupation of your existence,

I remain,

Your late faithful and affectionate teacher,

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

Conduit Street, 4th March, 1839.

cessarily fatal. I considered it my duty to inquire into this interesting fact. There was nothing in it contrary to established physiological and pathological truths; but it was an unusual modification; and, had I not enquired into it, I should have been devoid of all spirit of professional enquiry, and, moreover, should have exposed the innocent and excellent little girl to another false and base accusation of imposture. But how did the House Committee act? They detained me the best part of an hour, waiting about the building, while they examined different nurses, as to whether I had ever led Elizabeth Okey into the wards to predict the death of patients; and then they sent for me: instead of treating me as a professor, as senior physician, as a gentleman, as an honourable person, and making their enquiries of me in the first instance. I did not notice this; but the explanations, which I have now given, I gave then, and the Committee seemed satisfied. The subject, which is one of the highest philosophical interest, has been disgracefully misrepresented. I have been said to employ Elizabeth Okey to prophecy: and one student, whose conduct towards me, in return for invariable kindness, has covered him with lasting shame before all good men and causes him to be the laughing-stock in private of those to whom he has been weak enough to become a tool, shamelessly declared in public that I led Elizabeth Okey to the bedside of patients to prophecy their death, and that afterwards, of course, they died. I ought to add that I mentioned the idiosyncrasy of Elizabeth Okey to no one in the Hospital but Mr. Wood: not to my clinical clerks, nor to the apothecary; who, however, I find, had surmised it from something I had said to him in private, and had gossiped about it as he went about giving his characteristic opinion, that the Professors were justified in preferring their pecuniary interests to the consideration of the truth and remedial powers of Mesmerism. The Committee appeared satisfied, and I was assured that my explanations had made a great impression. All went on comfortably, as far as I knew. My four male patients, who were mesmerised, improved rapidly. The man's fits of imbecility had ceased, and he thought of leaving, full of gratitude for his cure. Two of the boys had experienced no fit for above two months; and the frequency of the fits of the other boy had diminished, when, on December 27, I received a resolution of council, from the Hospital Committee,—

"That they be instructed to take steps, forthwith, for the discharge of Elizabeth Okey from the Hospital."

I immediately showed the paper to the apothecary, who said that he had known of the resolution several days before, as well as of another, which I had not yet received from the house committee, viz. that the practice of Mesmerism should be immediately discontinued. I proceeded to the house of the Treasurer of the College and Hospital, and he informed me that the second resolution had also been passed. I, therefore, at once wrote the following letter to the secretary of the Council.

"SIR,—I have just received information, that the Council, without any interview or communication with me, has ordered my patient, Elizabeth Okey, to be instantly discharged, and forbidden me to cure my patients with Mesmerism. I only am the proper person to judge when my patients are in a fit state to be discharged, and what treatment is proper for their cases.

As a gentleman in the first place, and as a physician in the next, I feel myself compelled at once to resign my office of Professor of the principles and practice of medicine and of clinical medicine in the College, and of Physician to the Hospital; and hereby resign them all, and shall never enter either building again.

When I was made Professor, I received a class of 90,—the class is now 197,—13 more than at Christmas last year; and, as there were 24 entries after Christmas then, the whole number of the present session would, no doubt, have been above 220.

I have not received my fees this session. It is my wish that they be all refunded to the young gentlemen, who are perfectly welcome to the lectures which I have already delivered.

"I have the honour, &c.

"JOHN ELLIOTSON."

"Conduit Street, 27th December, 1838.

You will agree with me, gentlemen, that, to hold office one moment on such terms, and under men capable of acting in a manner at once insulting and irrational, would have been impossible. If I was unfit to determine when my patients were in a state to be discharged, and how they were to be treated, I ought to have been dismissed. But, while I held office, I was to be considered fit to judge of these points. Had my colleagues in the hospital possessed a becoming spirit, and felt what was due to themselves and the profession,

they would have resisted this infringement of their general rights, whatever their opinion of Mesmerism even if they had attended to it sufficiently to justify an opinion. Indeed they were bound to act thus, since they had resolved months before in committee, that they acknowledged "*my undoubted right*" to practice Mesmerism in the Hospital. But this I could hardly expect, since they were so forgetful of academic propriety, that, in their lectures one designated my patient Okey "an impostor," and another, the bosom friend of the editor of *The Lancet*, called Mesmerism "the most impudent of modern humbugs," and indeed pronounced me to be "a tom-fool." The insult was the greater, as I was senior physician, was thought to have greatly raised the reputation and numbers of the school, and had been the main cause of the establishment of the Hospital, although I gave great offence at the time to some of the Professors for honestly pointing out that the Medical School was inefficient without an Hospital. The conduct of the Council was irrational, since the majority refused to witness the experiments upon a subject of which they were utterly ignorant, and to have an interview with me for the purpose of enquiring into the business. They suspended a practice which was perfectly innocent, simple, and devoid of expense, and had worked, and was working many most remarkable cures, even in cases which had resisted all other treatment and had been sent out of other Hospitals as incurable, which they well knew. The College was thriving this winter as much as last; my class was larger than ever it had been at this period of the season; and the Hospital was crowded with patients and pupils. The Council, completely unknown in science or literature, as they all are, with two or three exceptions, proved themselves totally unfit to conduct a place of education, and more especially one which boasted to be founded on the most liberal principles and to be free from the prejudices of old Universities. They put a blot upon the Institution which will never be erased.

I am happy to say that, though two of the most absurd and obstinate were men, I hear, from whom, one being a great legislative medical reformer, and the other a Physician, better things might have been expected, the noble President, Lord Brougham, does not hesitate in society strongly to condemn their proceedings. And well he may. Mesmerism is not only true and of the highest interest in a psychological, physiological, and curative point of view, but is now proceeding at a very rapid rate. Most interesting English works upon it, especially one by a Clergyman named Townsend, will soon be published. Hundreds of able men have been converted to a conviction of its truth within these few weeks, and a large number of medical men now not only believe, but practise it. I have lately met with and shewn to the profession wonderful cases and cures; and other gentlemen are equally successful.

The sum sent to me by the Council, after deducting one-third for the Institution and half of the remainder for my successor, amounts to £255. Those gentlemen who have not intended to continue pupils of my successor and have certificates of him, shall, out of this sum, receive back, on sending me their names, the whole amount of their admission fee—not only my third, but an equivalent to the third retained by the Council and to the third appropriated to my successor. Any surplus that may remain I will not keep, but beg to deposit with a Committee of you, and appointed by you, to dispose of in any manner that you may think proper, unconnected with the College or Hospital, to which I had intended all my fortune ultimately to go, though I cannot now allow a sixpence of mine to pass to an institution thus degraded. I would take the liberty of suggesting that Mr. Penny, whose indignation led him to return all his tickets, be first entirely reimbursed out of it.

With great regret, Gentlemen, at being compelled to part from you; with every kind wish; and with the hope that you will always consider the pursuit of truth, and the practice of what leads to the greatest happiness of the greatest number, the best occupation of your existence,

I remain,

Your late faithful and affectionate teacher,

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

Conduit Street, 4th March, 1839.

cessarily fatal. I considered it my duty to inquire into this interesting fact. There was nothing in it contrary to established physiological and pathological truths; but it was an unusual modification; and, had I not enquired into it, I should have been devoid of all spirit of professional enquiry, and, moreover, should have exposed the innocent and excellent little girl to another false and base accusation of imposture. But how did the House Committee act? They detained me the best part of an hour, waiting about the building, while they examined different nurses, as to whether I had ever led Elizabeth Okey into the wards to predict the death of patients; and then they sent for me: instead of treating me as a professor, as senior physician, as a gentleman, as an honourable person, and making their enquiries of me in the first instance. I did not notice this; but the explanations, which I have now given, I gave then, and the Committee seemed satisfied. The subject, which is one of the highest philosophical interest, has been disgracefully misrepresented. I have been said to employ Elizabeth Okey to prophecy: and one student, whose conduct towards me, in return for invariable kindness, has covered him with lasting shame before all good men and causes him to be the laughing-stock in private of those to whom he has been weak enough to become a tool, shamelessly declared in public that I led Elizabeth Okey to the bedside of patients to prophecy their death, and that afterwards, of course, they died. I ought to add that I mentioned the idiosyncrasy of Elizabeth Okey to no one in the Hospital but Mr. Wood: not to my clinical clerks, nor to the apothecary; who, however, I find, had surmised it from something I had said to him in private, and had gossiped about it as he went about giving his characteristic opinion, that the Professors were justified in preferring their pecuniary interests to the consideration of the truth and remedial powers of Mesmerism. The Committee appeared satisfied, and I was assured that my explanations had made a great impression. All went on comfortably, as far as I knew. My four male patients, who were mesmerised, improved rapidly. The man's fits of imbecility had ceased, and he thought of leaving, full of gratitude for his cure. Two of the boys had experienced no fit for above two months; and the frequency of the fits of the other boy had diminished, when, on December 27, I received a resolution of council, from the Hospital Committee,—

"That they be instructed to take steps, forthwith, for the discharge of Elizabeth Okey from the Hospital."

I immediately showed the paper to the apothecary, who said that he had known of the resolution several days before, as well as of another, which I had not yet received from the house committee, viz. that the practice of Mesmerism should be immediately discontinued. I proceeded to the house of the Treasurer of the College and Hospital, and he informed me that the second resolution had also been passed. I, therefore, at once wrote the following letter to the secretary of the Council.

"SIR,—I have just received information, that the Council, without any interview or communication with me, has ordered my patient, Elizabeth Okey, to be instantly discharged, and forbidden me to cure my patients with Mesmerism. I *only* am the proper person to judge when my patients are in a fit state to be discharged, and what treatment is proper for their cases.

As a gentleman in the first place, and as a physician in the next, I feel myself compelled at once to resign my office of Professor of the principles and practice of medicine and of clinical medicine in the College, and of Physician to the Hospital; and hereby resign them all, and shall *never enter either building again*.

When I was made Professor, I received a class of 90,—the class is now 197,—13 more than at Christmas last year; and, as there were 24 entries after Christmas then, the whole number of the present session would, no doubt, have been above 220.

I have not received my fees this session. It is my wish that they be all refunded to the young gentlemen, who are perfectly welcome to the lectures which I have already delivered.

"I have the honour, &c.

"JOHN ELLIOTSON."

"Conduit Street, 27th December, 1838.

You will agree with me, gentlemen, that, to hold office one moment on such terms, and under men capable of acting in a manner at once insulting and irrational, would have been impossible. If I was unfit to determine when my patients were in a state to be discharged, and how they were to be treated, I ought to have been dismissed. But, while I held office, I was to be considered fit to judge of these points. Had my colleagues in the hospital possessed a becoming spirit, and felt what was due to themselves and the profession,

they would have resisted this infringement of their general rights, whatever their opinion of Mesmerism even if they had attended to it sufficiently to justify an opinion. Indeed they were bound to act thus, since they had resolved months before in committee, that they acknowledged "*my undoubted right*" to practice Mesmerism in the Hospital. But this I could hardly expect, since they were so forgetful of academic propriety, that, in their lectures one designated my patient Okey "an impostor," and another, the bosom friend of the editor of *The Lancet*, called Mesmerism "the most impudent of modern humbugs," and indeed pronounced me to be "a tom-fool." The insult was the greater, as I was senior physician, was thought to have greatly raised the reputation and numbers of the school, and had been the main cause of the establishment of the Hospital, although I gave great offence at the time to some of the Professors for honestly pointing out that the Medical School was inefficient without an Hospital. The conduct of the Council was irrational, since the majority refused to witness the experiments upon a subject of which they were utterly ignorant, and to have an interview with me for the purpose of enquiring into the business. They suspended a practice which was perfectly innocent, simple, and devoid of expense, and had worked, and was working many most remarkable cures, even in cases which had resisted all other treatment and had been sent out of other Hospitals as incurable, which they well knew. The College was thriving this winter as much as last; my class was larger than ever it had been at this period of the season; and the Hospital was crowded with patients and pupils. The Council, completely unknown in science or literature, as they all are, with two or three exceptions, proved themselves totally unfit to conduct a place of education, and more especially one which boasted to be founded on the most liberal principles and to be free from the prejudices of old Universities. They put a blot upon the Institution which will never be erased.

I am happy to say that, though two of the most absurd and obstinate were men, I hear, from whom, one being a great legislative medical reformer, and the other a Physician, better things might have been expected, the noble President, Lord Brougham, does not hesitate in society strongly to condemn their proceedings. And well he may. Mesmerism is not only true and of the highest interest in a psychological, physiological, and curative point of view, but is now proceeding at a very rapid rate. Most interesting English works upon it, especially one by a Clergyman named Townsend, will soon be published. Hundreds of able men have been converted to a conviction of its truth within these few weeks, and a large number of medical men now not only believe, but practise it. I have lately met with and shewn to the profession wonderful cases and cures; and other gentlemen are equally successful.

The sum sent to me by the Council, after deducting one-third for the Institution and half of the remainder for my successor, amounts to £255. Those gentlemen who have not intended to continue pupils of my successor and have certificates of him, shall, out of this sum, receive back, on sending me their names, the whole amount of their admission fee—not only my third, but an equivalent to the third retained by the Council and to the third appropriated to my successor. Any surplus that may remain I will not keep, but beg to deposit with a Committee of you, and appointed by you, to dispose of in any manner that you may think proper, unconnected with the College or Hospital, to which I had intended all my fortune ultimately to go, though I cannot now allow a sixpence of mine to pass to an institution thus degraded. I would take the liberty of suggesting that Mr. Penny, whose indignation led him to return all his tickets, be first entirely reimbursed out of it.

With great regret, Gentlemen, at being compelled to part from you; with every kind wish; and with the hope that you will always consider the pursuit of truth, and the practice of what leads to the greatest happiness of the greatest number, the best occupation of your existence,

I remain,

Your late faithful and affectionate teacher,

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

Conduit Street, 4th March, 1839.

cessarily fatal. I considered it my duty to inquire into this interesting fact. There was nothing in it contrary to established physiological and pathological truths; but it was an unusual modification; and, had I not enquired into it, I should have been devoid of all spirit of professional enquiry, and, moreover, should have exposed the innocent and excellent little girl to another false and base accusation of imposture. But how did the House Committee act? They detained me the best part of an hour, waiting about the building, while they examined different nurses, as to whether I had ever led Elizabeth Okey into the wards to predict the death of patients; and then they sent for me: instead of treating me as a professor, as senior physician, as a gentleman, as an honourable person, and making their enquiries of me in the first instance. I did not notice this; but the explanations, which I have now given, I gave then, and the Committee seemed satisfied. The subject, which is one of the highest philosophical interest, has been disgracefully misrepresented. I have been said to employ Elizabeth Okey to prophecy: and one student, whose conduct towards me, in return for invariable kindness, has covered him with lasting shame before all good men and causes him to be the laughing-stock in private of those to whom he has been weak enough to become a tool, shamelessly declared in public that I led Elizabeth Okey to the bedside of patients to prophecy their death, and that afterwards, of course, they died. I ought to add that I mentioned the idiosyncrasy of Elizabeth Okey to no one in the Hospital but Mr. Wood: not to my clinical clerks, nor to the apothecary; who, however, I find, had surmised it from something I had said to him in private, and had gossiped about it as he went about giving his characteristic opinion, that the Professors were justified in preferring their pecuniary interests to the consideration of the truth and remedial powers of Mesmerism. The Committee appeared satisfied, and I was assured that my explanations had made a great impression. All went on comfortably, as far as I knew. My four male patients, who were mesmerised, improved rapidly. The man's fits of imbecility had ceased, and he thought of leaving, full of gratitude for his cure. Two of the boys had experienced no fit for above two months; and the frequency of the fits of the other boy had diminished, when, on December 27, I received a resolution of council, from the Hospital Committee,—

"That they be instructed to take steps, forthwith, for the discharge of Elizabeth Okey from the Hospital."

I immediately showed the paper to the apothecary, who said that he had known of the resolution several days before, as well as of another, which I had not yet received from the house committee, viz. that the practice of Mesmerism should be immediately discontinued. I proceeded to the house of the Treasurer of the College and Hospital, and he informed me that the second resolution had also been passed. I, therefore, at once wrote the following letter to the secretary of the Council.

"SIR,—I have just received information, that the Council, without any interview or communication with me, has ordered my patient, Elizabeth Okey, to be instantly discharged, and forbidden me to cure my patients with Mesmerism. I *only* am the proper person to judge when my patients are in a fit state to be discharged, and what treatment is proper for their cases.

As a gentleman in the first place, and as a physician in the next, I feel myself compelled at once to resign my office of Professor of the principles and practice of medicine and of clinical medicine in the College, and of Physician to the Hospital; and hereby resign them all, and shall *never enter either building again*.

When I was made Professor, I received a class of 90,—the class is now 197,—13 more than at Christmas last year; and, as there were 24 entries after Christmas then, the whole number of the present session would, no doubt, have been above 220.

I have not received my fees this session. It is my wish that they be all refunded to the young gentlemen, who are perfectly welcome to the lectures which I have already delivered.

"I have the honour, &c.

"JOHN ELLIOTSON."

"Conduit Street, 27th December, 1838.

You will agree with me, gentlemen, that, to hold office one moment on such terms, and under men capable of acting in a manner at once insulting and irrational, would have been impossible. If I was unfit to determine when my patients were in a state to be discharged, and how they were to be treated, I ought to have been dismissed. But, while I held office, I was to be considered fit to judge of these points. Had my colleagues in the hospital possessed a becoming spirit, and felt what was due to themselves and the profession,

they would have resisted this infringement of their general rights, whatever their opinion of Mesmerism even if they had attended to it sufficiently to justify an opinion. Indeed they were bound to act thus, since they had resolved months before in committee, that they acknowledged "*my undoubted right*" to practice Mesmerism in the Hospital. But this I could hardly expect, since they were so forgetful of academic propriety, that, in their lectures one designated my patient Okey "an impostor," and another, the bosom friend of the editor of *The Lancet*, called Mesmerism "the most impudent of modern humbugs," and indeed pronounced me to be "a tom-fool." The insult was the greater, as I was senior physician, was thought to have greatly raised the reputation and numbers of the school, and had been the main cause of the establishment of the Hospital, although I gave great offence at the time to some of the Professors for honestly pointing out that the Medical School was inefficient without an Hospital. The conduct of the Council was irrational, since the majority refused to witness the experiments upon a subject of which they were utterly ignorant, and to have an interview with me for the purpose of enquiring into the business. They suspended a practice which was perfectly innocent, simple, and devoid of expense, and had worked, and was working many most remarkable cures, even in cases which had resisted all other treatment and had been sent out of other Hospitals as incurable, which they well knew. The College was thriving this winter as much as last; my class was larger than ever it had been at this period of the season; and the Hospital was crowded with patients and pupils. The Council, completely unknown in science or literature, as they all are, with two or three exceptions, proved themselves totally unfit to conduct a place of education, and more especially one which boasted to be founded on the most liberal principles and to be free from the prejudices of old Universities. They put a blot upon the Institution which will never be erased.

I am happy to say that, though two of the most absurd and obstinate were men, I hear, from whom, one being a great legislative medical reformer, and the other a Physician, better things might have been expected, the noble President, Lord Brougham, does not hesitate in society strongly to condemn their proceedings. And well he may. Mesmerism is not only true and of the highest interest in a psychological, physiological, and curative point of view, but is now proceeding at a very rapid rate. Most interesting English works upon it, especially one by a Clergyman named Townsend, will soon be published. Hundreds of able men have been converted to a conviction of its truth within these few weeks, and a large number of medical men now not only believe, but practise it. I have lately met with and shewn to the profession wonderful cases and cures; and other gentlemen are equally successful.

The sum sent to me by the Council, after deducting one-third for the Institution and half of the remainder for my successor, amounts to £255. Those gentlemen who have not intended to continue pupils of my successor and have certificates of him, shall, out of this sum, receive back, on sending me their names, the whole amount of their admission fee—not only my third, but an equivalent to the third retained by the Council and to the third appropriated to my successor. Any surplus that may remain I will not keep, but beg to deposit with a Committee of you, and appointed by you, to dispose of in any manner that you may think proper, unconnected with the College or Hospital, to which I had intended all my fortune ultimately to go, though I cannot now allow a sixpence of mine to pass to an institution thus degraded. I would take the liberty of suggesting that Mr. Penny, whose indignation led him to return all his tickets, be first entirely reimbursed out of it.

With great regret, Gentlemen, at being compelled to part from you; with every kind wish; and with the hope that you will always consider the pursuit of truth, and the practice of what leads to the greatest happiness of the greatest number, the best occupation of your existence,

I remain,

Your late faithful and affectionate teacher,

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

Conduit Street, 4th March, 1839.

cessarily fatal. I considered it my duty to inquire into this interesting fact. There was nothing in it contrary to established physiological and pathological truths; but it was an unusual modification; and, had I not enquired into it, I should have been devoid of all spirit of professional enquiry, and, moreover, should have exposed the innocent and excellent little girl to another false and base accusation of imposture. But how did the House Committee act? They detained me the best part of an hour, waiting about the building, while they examined different nurses, as to whether I had ever led Elizabeth Okey into the wards to predict the death of patients; and then they sent for me: instead of treating me as a professor, as senior physician, as a gentleman, as an honourable person, and making their enquiries of me in the first instance. I did not notice this; but the explanations, which I have now given, I gave then, and the Committee seemed satisfied. The subject, which is one of the highest philosophical interest, has been disgracefully misrepresented. I have been said to employ Elizabeth Okey to prophecy: and one student, whose conduct towards me, in return for invariable kindness, has covered him with lasting shame before all good men and causes him to be the laughing-stock in private of those to whom he has been weak enough to become a tool, shamelessly declared in public that I led Elizabeth Okey to the bedside of patients to prophecy their death, and that afterwards, of course, they died. I ought to add that I mentioned the idiosyncrasy of Elizabeth Okey to no one in the Hospital but Mr. Wood: not to my clinical clerks, nor to the apothecary; who, however, I find, had surmised it from something I had said to him in private, and had gossiped about it as he went about giving his characteristic opinion, that the Professors were justified in preferring their pecuniary interests to the consideration of the truth and remedial powers of Mesmerism. The Committee appeared satisfied, and I was assured that my explanations had made a great impression. All went on comfortably, as far as I knew. My four male patients, who were mesmerised, improved rapidly. The man's fits of imbecility had ceased, and he thought of leaving, full of gratitude for his cure. Two of the boys had experienced no fit for above two months; and the frequency of the fits of the other boy had diminished, when, on December 27, I received a resolution of council, from the Hospital Committee,—

"That they be instructed to take steps, forthwith, for the discharge of Elizabeth Okey from the Hospital."

I immediately showed the paper to the apothecary, who said that he had known of the resolution several days before, as well as of another, which I had not yet received from the house committee, viz. that the practice of Mesmerism should be immediately discontinued. I proceeded to the house of the Treasurer of the College and Hospital, and he informed me that the second resolution had also been passed. I, therefore, at once wrote the following letter to the secretary of the Council.

"SIR,—I have just received information, that the Council, without any interview or communication with me, has ordered my patient, Elizabeth Okey, to be instantly discharged, and forbidden me to cure my patients with Mesmerism. I only am the proper person to judge when my patients are in a fit state to be discharged, and what treatment is proper for their cases.

As a gentleman in the first place, and as a physician in the next, I feel myself compelled at once to resign my office of Professor of the principles and practice of medicine and of clinical medicine in the College, and of Physician to the Hospital; and hereby resign them all, and shall never enter either building again.

When I was made Professor, I received a class of 90,—the class is now 197,—13 more than at Christmas last year; and, as there were 24 entries after Christmas then, the whole number of the present session would, no doubt, have been above 220.

I have not received my fees this session. It is my wish that they be all refunded to the young gentlemen, who are perfectly welcome to the lectures which I have already delivered.

"I have the honour, &c.

"JOHN ELLIOTSON."

"Conduit Street, 27th December, 1838.

You will agree with me, gentlemen, that, to hold office one moment on such terms, and under men capable of acting in a manner at once insulting and irrational, would have been impossible. If I was unfit to determine when my patients were in a state to be discharged, and how they were to be treated, I ought to have been dismissed. But, while I held office, I was to be considered fit to judge of these points. Had my colleagues in the hospital possessed a becoming spirit, and felt what was due to themselves and the profession,

they would have resisted this infringement of their general rights, whatever their opinion of Mesmerism even if they had attended to it sufficiently to justify an opinion. Indeed they were bound to act thus, since they had resolved months before in committee, that they acknowledged "*my undoubted right*" to practice Mesmerism in the Hospital. But this I could hardly expect, since they were so forgetful of academic propriety, that, in their lectures one designated my patient Okey "an impostor," and another, the bosom friend of the editor of *The Lancet*, called Mesmerism "the most impudent of modern humbugs," and indeed pronounced me to be "a tom-fool." The insult was the greater, as I was senior physician, was thought to have greatly raised the reputation and numbers of the school, and had been the main cause of the establishment of the Hospital, although I gave great offence at the time to some of the Professors for honestly pointing out that the Medical School was inefficient without an Hospital. The conduct of the Council was irrational, since the majority refused to witness the experiments upon a subject of which they were utterly ignorant, and to have an interview with me for the purpose of enquiring into the business. They suspended a practice which was perfectly innocent, simple, and devoid of expense, and had worked, and was working many most remarkable cures, even in cases which had resisted all other treatment and had been sent out of other Hospitals as incurable, which they well knew. The College was thriving this winter as much as last; my class was larger than ever it had been at this period of the season; and the Hospital was crowded with patients and pupils. The Council, completely unknown in science or literature, as they all are, with two or three exceptions, proved themselves totally unfit to conduct a place of education, and more especially one which boasted to be founded on the most liberal principles and to be free from the prejudices of old Universities. They put a blot upon the Institution which will never be erased.

I am happy to say that, though two of the most absurd and obstinate were men, I hear, from whom, one being a great legislative medical reformer, and the other a Physician, better things might have been expected, the noble President, Lord Brougham, does not hesitate in society strongly to condemn their proceedings. And well he may. Mesmerism is not only true and of the highest interest in a psychological, physiological, and curative point of view, but is now proceeding at a very rapid rate. Most interesting English works upon it, especially one by a Clergyman named Townsend, will soon be published. Hundreds of able men have been converted to a conviction of its truth within these few weeks, and a large number of medical men now not only believe, but practise it. I have lately met with and shewn to the profession wonderful cases and cures; and other gentlemen are equally successful.

The sum sent to me by the Council, after deducting one-third for the Institution and half of the remainder for my successor, amounts to £255. Those gentlemen who have not intended to continue pupils of my successor and have certificates of him, shall, out of this sum, receive back, on sending me their names, the whole amount of their admission fee—not only my third, but an equivalent to the third retained by the Council and to the third appropriated to my successor. Any surplus that may remain I will not keep, but beg to deposit with a Committee of you, and appointed by you, to dispose of in any manner that you may think proper, unconnected with the College or Hospital, to which I had intended all my fortune ultimately to go, though I cannot now allow a sixpence of mine to pass to an institution thus degraded. I would take the liberty of suggesting that Mr. Penny, whose indignation led him to return all his tickets, be first entirely reimbursed out of it.

With great regret, Gentlemen, at being compelled to part from you; with every kind wish; and with the hope that you will always consider the pursuit of truth, and the practice of what leads to the greatest happiness of the greatest number, the best occupation of your existence,

I remain,

Your late faithful and affectionate teacher,

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

Conduit Street, 4th March, 1839.

cessarily fatal. I considered it my duty to inquire into this interesting fact. There was nothing in it contrary to established physiological and pathological truths; but it was an unusual modification; and, had I not enquired into it, I should have been devoid of all spirit of professional enquiry, and, moreover, should have exposed the innocent and excellent little girl to another false and base accusation of imposture. But how did the House Committee act? They detained me the best part of an hour, waiting about the building, while they examined different nurses, as to whether I had ever led Elizabeth Okey into the wards to predict the death of patients; and then they sent for me: instead of treating me as a professor, as senior physician, as a gentleman, as an honourable person, and making their enquiries of me in the first instance. I did not notice this; but the explanations, which I have now given, I gave then, and the Committee seemed satisfied. The subject, which is one of the highest philosophical interest, has been disgracefully misrepresented. I have been said to employ Elizabeth Okey to prophecy: and one student, whose conduct towards me, in return for invariable kindness, has covered him with lasting shame before all good men and causes him to be the laughing-stock in private of those to whom he has been weak enough to become a tool, shamelessly declared in public that I led Elizabeth Okey to the bedside of patients to prophecy their death, and that afterwards, of course, they died. I ought to add that I mentioned the idiosyncrasy of Elizabeth Okey to no one in the Hospital but Mr. Wood: not to my clinical clerks, nor to the apothecary; who, however, I find, had surmised it from something I had said to him in private, and had gossiped about it as he went about giving his characteristic opinion, that the Professors were justified in preferring their pecuniary interests to the consideration of the truth and remedial powers of Mesmerism. The Committee appeared satisfied, and I was assured that my explanations had made a great impression. All went on comfortably, as far as I knew. My four male patients, who were mesmerised, improved rapidly. The man's fits of imbecility had ceased, and he thought of leaving, full of gratitude for his cure. Two of the boys had experienced no fit for above two months; and the frequency of the fits of the other boy had diminished, when, on December 27, I received a resolution of council, from the Hospital Committee,—

"That they be instructed to take steps, forthwith, for the discharge of Elizabeth Okey from the Hospital."

I immediately showed the paper to the apothecary, who said that he had known of the resolution several days before, as well as of another, which I had not yet received from the house committee, viz. that the practice of Mesmerism should be immediately discontinued. I proceeded to the house of the Treasurer of the College and Hospital, and he informed me that the second resolution had also been passed. I, therefore, at once wrote the following letter to the secretary of the Council.

"SIR,—I have just received information, that the Council, without any interview or communication with me, has ordered my patient, Elizabeth Okey, to be instantly discharged, and forbidden me to cure my patients with Mesmerism. I only am the proper person to judge when my patients are in a fit state to be discharged, and what treatment is proper for their cases.

As a gentleman in the first place, and as a physician in the next, I feel myself compelled at once to resign my office of Professor of the principles and practice of medicine and of clinical medicine in the College, and of Physician to the Hospital; and hereby resign them all, and shall never enter either building again.

When I was made Professor, I received a class of 90,—the class is now 197,—13 more than at Christmas last year; and, as there were 24 entries after Christmas then, the whole number of the present session would, no doubt, have been above 220.

I have not received my fees this session. It is my wish that they be all refunded to the young gentlemen, who are perfectly welcome to the lectures which I have already delivered.

"I have the honour, &c.

"JOHN ELLIOTSON."

"Conduit Street, 27th December, 1838.

You will agree with me, gentlemen, that, to hold office one moment on such terms, and under men capable of acting in a manner at once insulting and irrational, would have been impossible. If I was unfit to determine when my patients were in a state to be discharged, and how they were to be treated, I ought to have been dismissed. But, while I held office, I was to be considered fit to judge of these points. Had my colleagues in the hospital possessed a becoming spirit, and felt what was due to themselves and the profession,

they would have resisted this infringement of their general rights, whatever their opinion of Mesmerism even if they had attended to it sufficiently to justify an opinion. Indeed they were bound to act thus, since they had resolved months before in committee, that they acknowledged "*my undoubted right*" to practice Mesmerism in the Hospital. But this I could hardly expect, since they were so forgetful of academic propriety, that, in their lectures one designated my patient Okey "an impostor," and another, the bosom friend of the editor of *The Lancet*, called Mesmerism "the most impudent of modern humbugs," and indeed pronounced me to be "a tom-fool." The insult was the greater, as I was senior physician, was thought to have greatly raised the reputation and numbers of the school, and had been the main cause of the establishment of the Hospital, although I gave great offence at the time to some of the Professors for honestly pointing out that the Medical School was inefficient without an Hospital. The conduct of the Council was irrational, since the majority refused to witness the experiments upon a subject of which they were utterly ignorant, and to have an interview with me for the purpose of enquiring into the business. They suspended a practice which was perfectly innocent, simple, and devoid of expense, and had worked, and was working many most remarkable cures, even in cases which had resisted all other treatment and had been sent out of other Hospitals as incurable, which they well knew. The College was thriving this winter as much as last; my class was larger than ever it had been at this period of the season; and the Hospital was crowded with patients and pupils. The Council, completely unknown in science or literature, as they all are, with two or three exceptions, proved themselves totally unfit to conduct a place of education, and more especially one which boasted to be founded on the most liberal principles and to be free from the prejudices of old Universities. They put a blot upon the Institution which will never be erased.

I am happy to say that, though two of the most absurd and obstinate were men, I hear, from whom, one being a great legislative medical reformer, and the other a Physician, better things might have been expected, the noble President, Lord Brougham, does not hesitate in society strongly to condemn their proceedings. And well he may. Mesmerism is not only true and of the highest interest in a psychological, physiological, and curative point of view, but is now proceeding at a very rapid rate. Most interesting English works upon it, especially one by a Clergyman named Townsend, will soon be published. Hundreds of able men have been converted to a conviction of its truth within these few weeks, and a large number of medical men now not only believe, but practise it. I have lately met with and shewn to the profession wonderful cases and cures; and other gentlemen are equally successful.

The sum sent to me by the Council, after deducting one-third for the Institution and half of the remainder for my successor, amounts to £255. Those gentlemen who have not intended to continue pupils of my successor and have certificates of him, shall, out of this sum, receive back, on sending me their names, the whole amount of their admission fee—not only my third, but an equivalent to the third retained by the Council and to the third appropriated to my successor. Any surplus that may remain I will not keep, but beg to deposit with a Committee of you, and appointed by you, to dispose of in any manner that you may think proper, unconnected with the College or Hospital, to which I had intended all my fortune ultimately to go, though I cannot now allow a sixpence of mine to pass to an institution thus degraded. I would take the liberty of suggesting that Mr. Penny, whose indignation led him to return all his tickets, be first entirely reimbursed out of it.

With great regret, Gentlemen, at being compelled to part from you; with every kind wish; and with the hope that you will always consider the pursuit of truth, and the practice of what leads to the greatest happiness of the greatest number, the best occupation of your existence,

I remain,

Your late faithful and affectionate teacher,

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

Conduit Street, 4th March, 1839.

cessarily fatal. I considered it my duty to inquire into this interesting fact. There was nothing in it contrary to established physiological and pathological truths; but it was an unusual modification; and, had I not enquired into it, I should have been devoid of all spirit of professional enquiry, and, moreover, should have exposed the innocent and excellent little girl to another false and base accusation of imposture. But how did the House Committee act? They detained me the best part of an hour, waiting about the building, while they examined different nurses, as to whether I had ever led Elizabeth Okey into the wards to predict the death of patients; and then they sent for me: instead of treating me as a professor, as senior physician, as a gentleman, as an honourable person, and making their enquiries of me in the first instance. I did not notice this; but the explanations, which I have now given, I gave then, and the Committee seemed satisfied. The subject, which is one of the highest philosophical interest, has been disgracefully misrepresented. I have been said to employ Elizabeth Okey to prophecy: and one student, whose conduct towards me, in return for invariable kindness, has covered him with lasting shame before all good men and causes him to be the laughing-stock in private of those to whom he has been weak enough to become a tool, shamelessly declared in public that I led Elizabeth Okey to the bedside of patients to prophecy their death, and that afterwards, of course, they died. I ought to add that I mentioned the idiosyncrasy of Elizabeth Okey to no one in the Hospital but Mr. Wood: not to my clinical clerks, nor to the apothecary; who, however, I find, had surmised it from something I had said to him in private, and had gossiped about it as he went about giving his characteristic opinion, that the Professors were justified in preferring their pecuniary interests to the consideration of the truth and remedial powers of Mesmerism. The Committee appeared satisfied, and I was assured that my explanations had made a great impression. All went on comfortably, as far as I knew. My four male patients, who were mesmerised, improved rapidly. The man's fits of imbecility had ceased, and he thought of leaving, full of gratitude for his cure. Two of the boys had experienced no fit for above two months; and the frequency of the fits of the other boy had diminished, when, on December 27, I received a resolution of council, from the Hospital Committee,—

"That they be instructed to take steps, forthwith, for the discharge of Elizabeth Okey from the Hospital."

I immediately showed the paper to the apothecary, who said that he had known of the resolution several days before, as well as of another, which I had not yet received from the house committee, viz. that the practice of Mesmerism should be immediately discontinued. I proceeded to the house of the Treasurer of the College and Hospital, and he informed me that the second resolution had also been passed. I, therefore, at once wrote the following letter to the secretary of the Council.

"SIR,—I have just received information, that the Council, without any interview or communication with me, has ordered my patient, Elizabeth Okey, to be instantly discharged, and forbidden me to cure my patients with Mesmerism. I only am the proper person to judge when my patients are in a fit state to be discharged, and what treatment is proper for their cases.

As a gentleman in the first place, and as a physician in the next, I feel myself compelled at once to resign my office of Professor of the principles and practice of medicine and of clinical medicine in the College, and of Physician to the Hospital; and hereby resign them all, and shall never enter either building again.

When I was made Professor, I received a class of 90,—the class is now 197,—13 more than at Christmas last year; and, as there were 24 entries after Christmas then, the whole number of the present session would, no doubt, have been above 220.

I have not received my fees this session. It is my wish that they be all refunded to the young gentlemen, who are perfectly welcome to the lectures which I have already delivered.

"I have the honour, &c.

"JOHN ELLIOTSON."

"Conduit Street, 27th December, 1838.

You will agree with me, gentlemen, that, to hold office one moment on such terms, and under men capable of acting in a manner at once insulting and irrational, would have been impossible. If I was unfit to determine when my patients were in a state to be discharged, and how they were to be treated, I ought to have been dismissed. But, while I held office, I was to be considered fit to judge of these points. Had my colleagues in the hospital possessed a becoming spirit, and felt what was due to themselves and the profession,

they would have resisted this infringement of their general rights, whatever their opinion of Mesmerism even if they had attended to it sufficiently to justify an opinion. Indeed they were bound to act thus, since they had resolved months before in committee, that they acknowledged "*my undoubted right*" to practice Mesmerism in the Hospital. But this I could hardly expect, since they were so forgetful of academic propriety, that, in their lectures one designated my patient Okey "an impostor," and another, the bosom friend of the editor of *The Lancet*, called Mesmerism "the most impudent of modern humbugs," and indeed pronounced me to be "a tom-fool." The insult was the greater, as I was senior physician, was thought to have greatly raised the reputation and numbers of the school, and had been the main cause of the establishment of the Hospital, although I gave great offence at the time to some of the Professors for honestly pointing out that the Medical School was inefficient without an Hospital. The conduct of the Council was irrational, since the majority refused to witness the experiments upon a subject of which they were utterly ignorant, and to have an interview with me for the purpose of enquiring into the business. They suspended a practice which was perfectly innocent, simple, and devoid of expense, and had worked, and was working many most remarkable cures, even in cases which had resisted all other treatment and had been sent out of other Hospitals as incurable, which they well knew. The College was thriving this winter as much as last; my class was larger than ever it had been at this period of the season; and the Hospital was crowded with patients and pupils. The Council, completely unknown in science or literature, as they all are, with two or three exceptions, proved themselves totally unfit to conduct a place of education, and more especially one which boasted to be founded on the most liberal principles and to be free from the prejudices of old Universities. They put a blot upon the Institution which will never be erased.

I am happy to say that, though two of the most absurd and obstinate were men, I hear, from whom, one being a great legislative medical reformer, and the other a Physician, better things might have been expected, the noble President, Lord Brougham, does not hesitate in society strongly to condemn their proceedings. And well he may. Mesmerism is not only true and of the highest interest in a psychological, physiological, and curative point of view, but is now proceeding at a very rapid rate. Most interesting English works upon it, especially one by a Clergyman named Townsend, will soon be published. Hundreds of able men have been converted to a conviction of its truth within these few weeks, and a large number of medical men now not only believe, but practise it. I have lately met with and shewn to the profession wonderful cases and cures; and other gentlemen are equally successful.

The sum sent to me by the Council, after deducting one-third for the Institution and half of the remainder for my successor, amounts to £255. Those gentlemen who have not intended to continue pupils of my successor and have certificates of him, shall, out of this sum, receive back, on sending me their names, the whole amount of their admission fee—not only my third, but an equivalent to the third retained by the Council and to the third appropriated to my successor. Any surplus that may remain I will not keep, but beg to deposit with a Committee of you, and appointed by you, to dispose of in any manner that you may think proper, unconnected with the College or Hospital, to which I had intended all my fortune ultimately to go, though I cannot now allow a sixpence of mine to pass to an institution thus degraded. I would take the liberty of suggesting that Mr. Penny, whose indignation led him to return all his tickets, be first entirely reimbursed out of it.

With great regret, Gentlemen, at being compelled to part from you; with every kind wish; and with the hope that you will always consider the pursuit of truth, and the practice of what leads to the greatest happiness of the greatest number, the best occupation of your existence,

I remain,

Your late faithful and affectionate teacher,

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

Conduit Street, 4th March, 1839.

cessarily fatal. I considered it my duty to inquire into this interesting fact. There was nothing in it contrary to established physiological and pathological truths; but it was an unusual modification; and, had I not enquired into it, I should have been devoid of all spirit of professional enquiry, and, moreover, should have exposed the innocent and excellent little girl to another false and base accusation of imposture. But how did the House Committee act? They detained me the best part of an hour, waiting about the building, while they examined different nurses, as to whether I had ever led Elizabeth Okey into the wards to predict the death of patients; and then they sent for me: instead of treating me as a professor, as senior physician, as a gentleman, as an honourable person, and making their enquiries of me in the first instance. I did not notice this; but the explanations, which I have now given, I gave then, and the Committee seemed satisfied. The subject, which is one of the highest philosophical interest, has been disgracefully misrepresented. I have been said to employ Elizabeth Okey to prophecy: and one student, whose conduct towards me, in return for invariable kindness, has covered him with lasting shame before all good men and causes him to be the laughing-stock in private of those to whom he has been weak enough to become a tool, shamelessly declared in public that I led Elizabeth Okey to the bedside of patients to prophecy their death, and that afterwards, of course, they died. I ought to add that I mentioned the idiosyncrasy of Elizabeth Okey to no one in the Hospital but Mr. Wood: not to my clinical clerks, nor to the apothecary; who, however, I find, had surmised it from something I had said to him in private, and had gossiped about it as he went about giving his characteristic opinion, that the Professors were justified in preferring their pecuniary interests to the consideration of the truth and remedial powers of Mesmerism. The Committee appeared satisfied, and I was assured that my explanations had made a great impression. All went on comfortably, as far as I knew. My four male patients, who were mesmerised, improved rapidly. The man's fits of imbecility had ceased, and he thought of leaving, full of gratitude for his cure. Two of the boys had experienced no fit for above two months; and the frequency of the fits of the other boy had diminished, when, on December 27, I received a resolution of council, from the Hospital Committee,—

"That they be instructed to take steps, forthwith, for the discharge of Elizabeth Okey from the Hospital."

I immediately showed the paper to the apothecary, who said that he had known of the resolution several days before, as well as of another, which I had not yet received from the house committee, viz. that the practice of Mesmerism should be immediately discontinued. I proceeded to the house of the Treasurer of the College and Hospital, and he informed me that the second resolution had also been passed. I, therefore, at once wrote the following letter to the secretary of the Council.

"SIR,—I have just received information, that the Council, without any interview or communication with me, has ordered my patient, Elizabeth Okey, to be instantly discharged, and forbidden me to cure my patients with Mesmerism. I only am the proper person to judge when my patients are in a fit state to be discharged, and what treatment is proper for their cases.

As a gentleman in the first place, and as a physician in the next, I feel myself compelled at once to resign my office of Professor of the principles and practice of medicine and of clinical medicine in the College, and of Physician to the Hospital; and hereby resign them all, and shall never enter either building again.

When I was made Professor, I received a class of 90,—the class is now 197,—13 more than at Christmas last year; and, as there were 24 entries after Christmas then, the whole number of the present session would, no doubt, have been above 220.

I have not received my fees this session. It is my wish that they be all refunded to the young gentlemen, who are perfectly welcome to the lectures which I have already delivered.

"I have the honour, &c.

"JOHN ELLIOTSON."

"Conduit Street, 27th December, 1838.

You will agree with me, gentlemen, that, to hold office one moment on such terms, and under men capable of acting in a manner at once insulting and irrational, would have been impossible. If I was unfit to determine when my patients were in a state to be discharged, and how they were to be treated, I ought to have been dismissed. But, while I held office, I was to be considered fit to judge of these points. Had my colleagues in the hospital possessed a becoming spirit, and felt what was due to themselves and the profession,

they would have resisted this infringement of their general rights, whatever their opinion of Mesmerism even if they had attended to it sufficiently to justify an opinion. Indeed they were bound to act thus, since they had resolved months before in committee, that they acknowledged "*my undoubted right*" to practice Mesmerism in the Hospital. But this I could hardly expect, since they were so forgetful of academic propriety, that, in their lectures one designated my patient Okey "an impostor," and another, the bosom friend of the editor of *The Lancet*, called Mesmerism "the most impudent of modern humbugs," and indeed pronounced me to be "a tom-fool." The insult was the greater, as I was senior physician, was thought to have greatly raised the reputation and numbers of the school, and had been the main cause of the establishment of the Hospital, although I gave great offence at the time to some of the Professors for honestly pointing out that the Medical School was inefficient without an Hospital. The conduct of the Council was irrational, since the majority refused to witness the experiments upon a subject of which they were utterly ignorant, and to have an interview with me for the purpose of enquiring into the business. They suspended a practice which was perfectly innocent, simple, and devoid of expense, and had worked, and was working many most remarkable cures, even in cases which had resisted all other treatment and had been sent out of other Hospitals as incurable, which they well knew. The College was thriving this winter as much as last; my class was larger than ever it had been at this period of the season; and the Hospital was crowded with patients and pupils. The Council, completely unknown in science or literature, as they all are, with two or three exceptions, proved themselves totally unfit to conduct a place of education, and more especially one which boasted to be founded on the most liberal principles and to be free from the prejudices of old Universities. They put a blot upon the Institution which will never be erased.

I am happy to say that, though two of the most absurd and obstinate were men, I hear, from whom, one being a great legislative medical reformer, and the other a Physician, better things might have been expected, the noble President, Lord Brougham, does not hesitate in society strongly to condemn their proceedings. And well he may. Mesmerism is not only true and of the highest interest in a psychological, physiological, and curative point of view, but is now proceeding at a very rapid rate. Most interesting English works upon it, especially one by a Clergyman named Townsend, will soon be published. Hundreds of able men have been converted to a conviction of its truth within these few weeks, and a large number of medical men now not only believe, but practise it. I have lately met with and shewn to the profession wonderful cases and cures; and other gentlemen are equally successful.

The sum sent to me by the Council, after deducting one-third for the Institution and half of the remainder for my successor, amounts to £255. Those gentlemen who have not intended to continue pupils of my successor and have certificates of him, shall, out of this sum, receive back, on sending me their names, the whole amount of their admission fee—not only my third, but an equivalent to the third retained by the Council and to the third appropriated to my successor. Any surplus that may remain I will not keep, but beg to deposit with a Committee of you, and appointed by you, to dispose of in any manner that you may think proper, unconnected with the College or Hospital, to which I had intended all my fortune ultimately to go, though I cannot now allow a sixpence of mine to pass to an institution thus degraded. I would take the liberty of suggesting that Mr. Penny, whose indignation led him to return all his tickets, be first entirely reimbursed out of it.

With great regret, Gentlemen, at being compelled to part from you; with every kind wish; and with the hope that you will always consider the pursuit of truth, and the practice of what leads to the greatest happiness of the greatest number, the best occupation of your existence,

I remain,

Your late faithful and affectionate teacher,

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

Conduit Street, 4th March, 1839.