

points upon which we have since been publicly at variance. I could never discover that by reason of difference of opinion there was anything likely to destroy our friendship. But at a meeting of the Obstetrical Section of the International Medical Congress, in London, in a public discussion of the question of the removal of diseased uterine appendages, Mr. Spencer Wells uttered this sentence: "That he had only seen one case which justified such an operation, and it was a very remarkable thing that so many were reported; he supposed that they must all go to Birmingham." My reply to him was that there was probably more truth in his suggestion, that the cases went to Birmingham, than he had any idea of, and from that time, and apparently from that reply of mine, all association between us has ended. It has been repeated frequently to me that insinuations have been made in London concerning my practice of an extremely objectionable kind, and these I have traced in several instances to the lips of Mr. Spencer Wells.

During the past three years, as in many instances before that time, it has been considered advisable by patients and their friends that they should have the opinion of Mr. Wells as well as mine, or that they should have my opinion in addition to that of Mr. Wells; and in all such cases I have acted upon the rule of my profession, and have communicated by letter or by telegram with Mr. Wells. On his part, he has persistently subjected me to the most humiliating treatment which one practitioner can apply to another—that of entirely ignoring my communications—and in public he has deliberately turned his back upon me. Under such circumstances as these it will not be a difficult matter for your readers to understand that I am not much inclined to modify language which in any case would be strong, nor to pick and choose my expressions in order to couch them with greater delicacy. I have received at the hands of Sir Spencer Wells treatment which I think anyone would resent; but, in spite of that, I had no intention of saying one word which could be regarded as being intended for purposes of castigation. I would further point out that what I have said has been chiefly in defence of another whose positions have been assailed,

whose accuracy and honesty have been called in question—I mean Dr. Keith, and I have said very little indeed on my own behalf. I also think I am justified in saying that what little I have said for myself was in reply to repeated attempts at castigation which have been made upon me by Sir Spencer Wells.

In conclusion, I can only say concerning Sir Spencer's conduct towards myself, that it is not what we expect from an English gentleman; still less is it in harmony with the position to which, by the grace of his Sovereign, he has been recently raised.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

LAWSON TAIT.

Birmingham, Oct. 5th, 1884.

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To the Editors of the PRACTITIONER.

DEAR SIR,—Would you kindly allow me space in your columns to say a few words about post-graduate medical instruction in this city. I need not mention what can be found in the announcements of the colleges, but would speak of one leading idea, of practitioners being able to gain a thorough practical knowledge of "specialties." I am attending the Polyclinic, in which the sessions are divided into terms of six weeks each, the different branches being taught by a large staff of professors and assistants, with an abundant supply of clinical material. For instance, in diseases of women, in the school building numerous cases are brought before the class, and examinations, digitally and by means of instruments, fitting of pessaries, and minor operations are taught by demonstration. For major operations the members of the class have tickets to the Women's and other hospitals. In the diseases of the eye, cases are presented for examination and treatment, fitting of glasses—each member of the class, with his ophthalmoscope, being also given cases to examine and so to learn the use of the ophthalmoscope. Surgery, orthopædic surgery, diseases of nervous system, throat and nose are taught similarly by clinical demonstration. The professors are among the most eminent in the city. In this plan of instruction and division of the sessions a physician can, without leaving