

theory, is inexperienced in the use of apparatus. Put such a man into the laboratory and, however cautious he may be, broken bottles and beakers and retorts will evidence his lack of skill in manipulation; and with the young doctor and his patients, it will be assuredly a miracle of grace if broken constitutions and funerals do not evidence *his* lack of practical skill.

"The young chemist should be instructed in manipulation under the immediate supervision of his teacher; and the young doctor should be instructed in the practical handling of drugs and patients under the direct supervision of competent teachers in hospitals.

"Increase somewhat the number of *internes* in our public hospitals; make all appointments *only* after a competitive examination; limit the term of residency to six months, or, if necessary in order to keep up the supply of doctors, to even three months; require every candidate for a degree to have served his term in hospital, and the thing is accomplished. With such requirements, most of the poorly qualified would not enter the lists at all, the balance could not pass the competitive examination, the best men only would enter the hospitals, and graduates would have had from three to six months *experience* before entering practice. We think we would be willing to trust both ourselves and our neighbours in the hands of such graduates."—Let us then not be satisfied with having done well, but make *Excelsior* our motto, and one and all join in perfecting our system by encouragement and advice, and when, as in the present case, the occasion offers, by judicious criticism and even reproof. *Appropos* of the latter, we may quote the following from the *London Lancet* of February 9th, "It is to no purpose to create costly bodies for examining medical men, and another costly body for supervising these bodies—all, by the way, supported solely, and most unjustly, by the medical profession—and then to connive at unqualified practice. The penal clauses of the Medical Act are the complement of those clauses which empower the examining bodies to enact high degrees of knowledge as a condition of qualification and registration, and they should be efficient, as they are not now."

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HOSPITAL APPOINTMENTS.

We clip the following "Annotation" from the *London Lancet* of December last, which, we think, contains some very pertinent remarks upon this subject and might, very properly receive the favourable consideration of those having the management of hospitals here and elsewhere. The writer says:—"The occurrence of a resignation by one of the surgeons of the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital has given occasion for the discussion of a very important question—that of the desirable duration of hospital appointments. We congratulate the public of Plymouth on having both sides of this question well stated to them in newspaper letters, and a very able judgment in the columns of the *Western Daily Mercury*. Our contemporary goes in decidedly for the limited duration of appointments without the right of re-election, arguing that the tenure of hospital appointments is one of the most valuable means by which the efficiency of practitioners can be promoted, and consequently, that this advantage should be shared as largely as possible by the medical men of a hospital town. We concur fully in this view, which is also forcibly and candidly expressed by Dr. Mures and Mr. Iago to the *Mercury*. While we think that, as a rule, appointments should cease at the end of, say, ten or fifteen years, and that the rule should not be broken without good reason, we think that the rule should not be absolute. Every now and again there rises up in a town a man of conspicuous genius and merit to whom a longer tenure of office should be accorded in the interest both of the public and the profession. But, with this qualification, we are in favour of a far more extensive distribution of the privilege of hospital appointments than at present obtains, for this among other reasons, that we are persuaded that the qualities which make a good hospital physician and surgeon are far more extensively diffused than is generally believed, and are by no means confined to the two or three men in a town who happen to be the sons of retiring officers or the personal friends of members of the Hospital Committee."

The above article places this question in so reasonable a light before the public that we