

The Navy Medical Board requires the same attendance of *eighteen months* in each of the hospitals, and *six months* attendance upon each of the courses of clinical lectures.

The East India Company Medical Service requires *six months* attendance upon lectures in clinical medicine.

By this statement it will be seen that clinical instruction is regarded so essential in Great Britain, that not a single institution grants a diploma to a candidate who has not availed himself of such advantages."

CORRESPONDENCE.

A STUDENT'S LETTERS.

No. V.

Edinburgh has been visited lately by a curiosity in a physiological point of view, in the shape of a German, who, by an arrest of development, is deficient of a sternum, and thus enables the movements of the heart and arteries to be very clearly seen. By some the sternum is said to be wanting, but Professor Goodsir says that it is merely a fissure in that bone. The case appears to be almost unique. I say almost, because he has travelled all over the Continent, and been at most medical schools, as Paris, Vienna, St. Petersburg, &c., as well as London, and no case similar to his own had been seen; but when he came to Edinburgh Professor Bennett showed him a preparation which was met with in the Pathological theatre, in which the sternum was deficient, there being a membrane merely between the anterior extremities of the ribs. He is a man of about 22 years of age, and at first sight does not appear to have anything the matter with him. He has a fair amount of muscular strength, and enjoys good health. He was never aware of any peculiarity in his conformation until a few years ago, when he was troubled with some slight thoracic affection, and went to an hospital to be relieved, when the deformity (so to speak) was first noticed.

I was present when Dr. Bennett gave a lecture on the case, and explained the motions which were visible. After first pointing out the relations of the heart with regard to its position, etc., he showed that the heart is in reality more in the medium line than we are generally inclined to consider it. When the parts are first exposed, you merely see a slight depression in the sternal locality, with a tumour pulsating in its middle, apparently only covered with integument. But as the individual has the power of increasing this space by taking a full