

OBJECTIONS TO THE ADMISSION OF
MALE STUDENTS TO THE
BRITISH LYING-IN HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

Sir,—By chance taking up a late number of THE LANCET, I noticed a letter signed "A Junior Student," in which the writer laments in pathetic terms, that the swarms of male students from the "Borough, &c." should be prevented from being pupils at the City of London Lying-in Hospital, the instruction in which is at present exclusively devoted to female pupils. Surely "A Junior Student" must have thought but little on the subject which "*has often struck him,*" to suppose that regulations could be easily made which could allow both male and female pupils to be educated in the same Hospital. The march of intellect has certainly done much towards giving us new ideas of propriety; but I doubt if it has marched far enough to allow British females to practise in the same ward with a parcel of giddy boys. Perhaps he would say, let the governors appoint an accoucheur to the hospital to instruct the male pupils. But for what? Merely to save the junior student a walk to the west, where he admits he can receive instruction without disorganizing an institution established 81 years.

I believe I am not mistaken when I say, the female pupils are all resident in the hospital, and, consequently, at hand when wanted. This could not be the case with male pupils, and it must often occur that the labour would be over, even before the accoucheur himself could be there. How he could possibly beat up his recruits in time I cannot conceive; perhaps "A Junior Student" intends taking out a patent to compel the patients to be confined at a given hour, that the male pupils may be in at the "death."

I would ask any man possessed of a spark of kindness towards the distressed, whether he could conceive it proper, that a poor creature, merely because she is poor, and has not the means to defray the expenses of her confinement at home, should be a subject on which the inexperienced pupil should make his first essay in the obstetric act! I say nothing about the agonized feelings of the poor creature who is to be made, as it were, an exhibition of by the accoucheur while instructing his pupils, perhaps to the number of seventy.

Allow me to hope that so monstrous a proposal as "A Junior Student's" will not be entertained, and that as the exercise of a walk to the west may be conducive to the health of "A Junior Student," he will not so far lose sight of his own bodily advantage, as to endeavour by his letters to induce an alteration in the regulations of the hospital.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
A MARRIED MAN.