

## PROFESSIONAL QUARRELS.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.**"A plague on both your houses."*

SIR,—I am sure that many of your readers must be as heartily tired of the rancorous discussion carried on between Dr. Snow Beck and Dr. Robert Lee as I am. And I have been for some time expecting to see in your journal a remonstrance from some of my professional brethren on the subject.

If the thing be worth the trouble, the profession will soon decide whether Dr. Lee has discovered a set of nerves or not, and whether Dr. Beck has or has not improperly removed certain neurilemma.

It may be interesting to ascertain, once for all, if the nerves in question exist; but it can be little gratifying to the body of the profession to learn all these stories about unfairly acquired medals.

I say then, emphatically, let these gentlemen settle their squabbles somewhere else. Let them go and fight out their quarrels, either private or public, as they like, and where they like, provided we have no more of their personalities in THE LANCET.

It would be difficult to convey to you how refreshing it is to many of us to read your journal on the Friday evening, some after disappointment—many, after success in their day's treatment of disease—how instructing to note the treatment and remarks of some of the first men of the day on the different cases presented to them—to note how the different shades of symptoms are met by the appropriate variety of a general class of medicine—how encouraging to mark the noble and self-denying exertions of our hospital surgeons in the cause of their fellow-men! I say it would be difficult to convey to you all the pleasure and instruction we derive, in the silence of our evening retirement, from the perusal of your pages!

But is the character of THE LANCET to be changed? Is it to be made the arena for the cestus and the gauntlet? I hope not. Ours is a mission of peace. Let us pursue it in the spirit of science, encouraging, as far as human frailty may allow us, the feeling that "to do good," is better than to gain renown.

I am, &c.,

R. W., Cantab., Surgeon.

\* \* With a view to the final settlement of the scientific part of the question, it is our intention to publish a full account of Dr. Lee's discoveries in the forthcoming numbers of THE LANCET.