

## **Sir William Jenner concerning constitution of Army Medical School**

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Please write to me at <sup>IP. 44/1</sup>  
63 Brook ~~St~~  
Return to London on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. London

Coburg  
April 15<sup>th</sup>  
1876.

Dear Mr Longmore.

The President of the College of  
Physicians has asked me to read the  
Harveian oration which our friend  
J. Parkes had undertaken to deliver -  
Although the oration is unfinished it is  
yet in such a state that it can be  
read to the College but I should  
like to supplement it by a few words  
in reference to Parkes himself - ~~the~~  
his character & the value of his labours.  
I should be very much obliged if you  
could give me a few lines ~~expressing~~ <sup>expressing</sup> what  
you think of the influence he exerted ~~on~~  
the

future Surgeons of the Army by ~~the~~ his  
teaching at Kettering - & also how much  
the school is indebted to him for its  
existence & organization -

Believe me to be

Yours very truly  
W. Sumner

Copy

LP. 44/2

Army Medical School.

Royal Victoria Hospital.

Private

Woolston, Netley, Hants, 2<sup>d</sup> Aug<sup>th</sup> 1878

Dear Sir William Jenner,

I am writing to you on a subject which I regard as one of public as well as professional importance, but with which I should <sup>hardly dare to</sup> trouble you were it not that our mutual friend Dr Parker just before his death requested me to write to you if at any time the constitution of the Army Medical School were threatened. ~~Had~~ <sup>Had</sup> its constitution is now seriously threatened I feel bound to fulfil <sup>the</sup> my promise to him <sup>to</sup> ~~that I should~~ write to you under such circumstances - whatever may be the result.

Briefly, it is ~~strongly~~ recommended by a very influential War Office Committee, to do away with the <sup>present</sup> system of only admitting <sup>young men</sup> into the Army Medical Department through competitive examination by the London Board of Ex<sup>rs</sup> - to do away with the

... examination & classification of  
candidates in <sup>the</sup> special subjects of the Army Medical  
School. — I intend to reintroduce a system of  
filling up vacancies by  
private recommendation of candidates, subject  
to the <sup>sole</sup> ~~sole~~ <sup>approval</sup> decision of the Director General at  
Whitehall Yard, similar to ~~the~~ the custom in  
France before the time of the Royal Commission  
what is <sup>now</sup> the Army Medical Depart<sup>ment</sup> in 1854.

It is proposed to do this not by halves at  
first — to have half <sup>the number of candidates</sup> ~~filled~~ by nomination  
— & half by <sup>open</sup> competition. It is evident however  
that 2 systems so antagonistic to each other cannot  
continue to coexist, & as it will be comparatively  
easy to get medical officers <sup>enough</sup> by simple nomination,  
the system of competitive exam<sup>ination</sup> will disappear,  
& the Army Medical School will remain only  
in name — if in name — with its existing  
constitution & <sup>relative</sup> ~~comparative~~ independence gone.  
I have been shown the printed report in which

These proposals are embodied privately,  
& under such circumstances that I am unable to  
mention them even to my colleagues. I must beg  
you therefore to keep <sup>the fact of</sup> your writing to me quite private.

What is expected is that after  
Parliament is prorogued, a new Royal Warrant  
will appear <sup>in the next Report</sup> which will contain the  
changes I have referred to. If any of those  
who <sup>in</sup> ~~constituted~~ the present arrangements,  
or the existing Professors of the School, could  
get a fair hearing before the publication of  
such a warrant, the threatened danger might  
be averted. ~~The attempt would have~~  
~~happened~~ The attempt ~~would have~~  
to introduce such a retrograde change  
would never have been made had Sir James  
Clark or our dear friend Parker still been  
alive.

I have to be in London on Wednesday  
next, 7<sup>th</sup> inst., on my way to Paris — with

Will you be so kind as to see me if I call on  
you in the afternoon of that day?

Believe me to be

Very truly yours

Thos Longmore

LP. 44/3

63. BROOK STREET.  
GROSVENOR SQUARE.

August 5<sup>th</sup>  
1898

Dear Mr. Longman,

If I get back on  
Wednesday with suit  
some arrangements, I shall  
be happy to see you  
there.

(written over)  
Yours very truly  
H. J. L. L.

GEORGE BROWN  
1875

I called on Sir Wm Jenner at the  
time ~~and~~ named by him. Told me  
he was just called away by telegram  
& could only give me five minutes.

Found him really caring & knowing  
very little of anything about the school  
- hardly willing to hear about it -

I asked him if he would give me back  
or tear up my letter but this he would  
not agree to do - saying he would keep  
it as a Mem<sup>o</sup> in case of further  
reference to the subject. I felt  
sorry I had written to Sir Wm &  
regretted with myself at having gone out  
of my way to call on him.

