With the compliments of the Author.
Stewart (F.C.)

ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS

Dr Hays

TO THE

NEW YORK MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SOCIETY,

Box 14.

Dr Hays

BY

F. CAMPBELL STEWART, M.D.

DELIVERED JANUARY 3, 1846.

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ADDRESS.

THE ACTUAL CONDITION OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN THIS COUNTRY; WITH A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF SOME OF THE CAUSES WHICH TEND TO IMPEDE ITS PROGRESS, &c., &c.

Gentlemen of the Medical and Surgical Society :—At a period when the attention of the profession has been called to the subject, by a recommendation from our State Medical Society, that a convention of representatives from all the medical corporations throughout the country, should assemble in this city in the month of May, for the purpose of considering its wants and endeavoring to remedy the evils by which our profession is surrounded, I conceive that I cannot better fulfil the duty with which you have honored me than by asking your attention to this matter, and endeavoring to lay before you an exposition of what I believe to be the actual condition of the medical profession in this country, and the causes which tend to impede its progress, or interfere with its honors and interests.

But before proceeding to discuss this subject, I wish distinctly to state, least some of the remarks that I may have occasion to make may be misinterpreted, that it is not my aim nor my desire to attack individual associations; occupying a strictly neutral position ; bound by no alliance with cliques or parties; and feeling that I am influenced by none other than the purest motives, I shall, whilst disclaiming all feelings of prejudice or partiality, consider myself at liberty to discuss the question that I have raised in all its bearings—in a frank and free spirit, and without fear or hindrance.

First then, what is the actual condition of the profession in this country ? and what is its relative position here as compared with that which it occupies in other countries ?

In considering this subject we must draw a distinction between the

social standing of the profession—the position which its members are allow to occupy in society—and that which is accorded to it as a profession, and in consideration of its claims and intrinsic merits.

In its social relations to the community, I am proud to declare that the medical profession of the United States, occupies a more elevated and lofty station than that enjoyed in any other country of the world. Here, owing to the nature and tenor of our institutions, members of the learned professions occupy the first rank in general society; and in the absence of all hereditary distinctions, physicians, with lawyers, hold an enviable position, and are regarded by the community in so favorable a light as to be second only in its estimation to the pious and educated divine. The road to honors and distinction in every department of the public service, and in every station in life is open to us as well as to others; and we often see members of our profession occupying distinguished political situations of emolument and trust, from which, in the older countries of Europe, they are, for the most part, from the simple fact of their being medical men, almost wholly excluded.

Here, in all parts of the country, we are individually honored and esteemed; in the smaller towns and settlements, we are looked up to on important occasions for assistance and counsel, and our opinions and advice ever command the most respectful attention and consideration. Our society is everywhere courted by the intelligent and honest citizen; and we are always regarded in the light of honored family friends by those who employ us, and place a degree of confidence and reliance in our honor and integrity, which, whilst most flattering and grateful, should lead us to contemplate seriously the nature and extent of the obligations which it forces us to incur, and which it should be our duty and pleasure to render ourselves capable of discharging in a becoming and proper manner.

In some parts of the old world, so low is the condition of our profession in its relation to the general community, that physicians are considered rather in the light of hired menials, than as gentlemen and scholars, entitled by education to be regarded as on a footing of perfect equality with the most accomplished members of every civilized and refined society. Abroad, the medical man belongs to a caste which is considered comparatively low, and, although sometimes tolerated by his supposed superiors belonging to the higher circles, he is but rarely received either in England or France on a footing of acknowledged equality by the higher aristocracy, and in some parts of Italy and other portions of the Continent, he occupies a position almost degrading.

Here, on the contrary, we claim and receive from the community the high consideration to which we conceive ourselves to be entitled, and which, notwithstanding occasional attempts to injure us collectively, we always find freely accorded to us in our individual capacities.

It is this flattering and honorable social position which we occupy that contributes materially to excite the ambition of many of the thousand applicants for admission to our ranks, some of whom thus see a road opened for access to a society which it might be much more difficult for them to reach by other more laborious and circuitous routes.

Such then is the relation of medical men individually, to general society; but what is the relation that they bear to it collectively? How is the *profession* regarded by the public at large?

That there is a great want of respect and regard for what is called the

regular profession, is, I think, abundantly manifested by the unconcealed and open efforts to injure it, as evinced both by the encouragement of quackery in all its multiplied forms and varieties, and by a constant endeavor to find fault with, condemn, and ridicule the art, and those who practise it.

The action of the representatives of the people in the legislatures of some of our States, proves likewise that our profession is not held in high estimation; these gentlemen seem, by their course of action, to desire to cast down and destroy every barrier of protection which had been raised by their predecessors, and considered by them to be quite as essential to the welfare of the people generally, as to our interests. In some instances they have succeeded in throwing the practice of medicine open, and making it free to all who choose to engage in it, without requiring from them any guarantee of their capability to treat disease, or affording to the people the slightest protection from impostors, who, by arrogating the title of physician, may with impunity pursue a course of chance practice, calculated to produce the most serious consequences to their health, and endanger the lives of those who submit themselves to their care.

The evils resulting, not to us, but to the public, from the application of the principles of free-trade to the practice of medicine, are numerous and most serious, but it is not my intention to indicate them at present, and I will only reiterate the assertion, that as a *profession* we are not held in high estimation in this country. If required, other proofs in support of the declaration may be found in the instances which I shall cite, when I come to speak of the causes which tend to operate against our united interests.

Let us now examine the question, whether we are really entitled by our intrinsic merits to the same scientific consideration as our professional brethren in other parts of the world! In a word, is our standard of learning and acquirement as high as it should be, to entitle us to consider ourselves as on a footing of scientific equality with the physicians of other countries, and such as to justify us in demanding, as a matter of right, an unbounded confidence from those who employ us, and place faith in our professions of capability?

This is a most delicate question, and demands a careful and attentive examination. We are all, for the most part, unwilling to admit our inferiority in anything to which we have devoted a special attention, and in which we desire to be considered proficients; it is only natural and to be expected, that we should hold ourselves equal to others of the same calling; and it is but very rarely that we can bring ourselves to admit, particularly in the cases of professional men, that we have superiors.

At the threshold of this investigation, I am bound to acknowledge that, in science at least, the profession in this country is far behind the medical communities of other countries, and this I think is wholly owing to the wrong and faulty system of medical education established amongst us; a system so defective as not only to have attracted the attention of foreigners, but to have led to a loud call from the disinterested and well-informed portion of our own Faculty, for a thorough remodelling.

With the exception of some few attempts to support the present system, originating with parties whose position is such as to warrant the conclusion that they must be more or less influenced by personal interest in advocating it, I believe that the feeling may be considered as almost

universal in favor of the adoption of a more extensive course of general and professional instruction, and the establishment of a higher standard of medical acquirement.

To aid us in investigating this subject, I will present a statement of what is required by our Medical Colleges of their students, before they will allow them to apply for an examination, or accord them the honors of a Degree, and by comparing these with the requirements exacted by the medical boards of other countries, we shall be able to see in what the difference consists, and why it is that our physicians, at least at the period when they first become such, are not entitled to be considered on an equal scientific footing with those of other parts of the world.*

At most, if not all the chief Medical Schools of the United States, it is exacted from Students who apply for Degrees, that they shall produce evidence,

1st. Of their having studied in the office of a Practitioner.

2d. Of their having attended during two courses of lectures at a Medical College.

3d. That they shall have composed a Thesis; and

4th. That they shall have complied with some minor general regulations.

There is no preliminary examination, and no means are resorted to for ascertaining whether a young man is capable, by previous preparation, of profiting by the lessons of his instructors, or likely to make hereafter a competent and useful Physician. He may be thoroughly well grounded in the various branches of science, and his general knowledge may be most extensive; or he may be, as I have known, so ignorant and illiterate as to be unable to write his own language, or translate the Latin of the Diploma which he is striving to obtain. He is not put to the proof, and no evidence is exacted of his having complied even with these few rules, other than his simple assertion, or at most the exhibition of his tickets, which is rather required as a proof of his having paid for them, than as any evidence that he has attended the lectures to which they give him admission.

Having fulfilled these obligations, he is admitted to an examination, and receives his Degree, or is rejected.

The character of this examination is generally such, that a student who cannot undergo it must be wofully ignorant indeed. Hence, the rejection of candidates is, with us, a matter of exceedingly rare occurrence, and almost all who have complied with the most essential requisite of paying their teachers, are sure to be honored with the title to which they aspire.

At all the principal Universities and Colleges in Great Britain, Ireland, and on the Continent, where medicine is taught, the courses of instruction are much more complete and perfect than with us. At London, Edinburgh, Paris, Dublin, and other seats of Medical schools, students are afforded many more, and much greater facilities for acquiring a thorough medical education, and the period of study is not only much longer, and the subjects taught more numerous, but the preliminary and final

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* For a detailed statement of the regulations established by the principal colleges in this country and in Europe, in reference to the Degree of M.D., see Appendix to this address.

examinations are of a character to render it certain, that the candidate who obtains their Diploma must be a qualified and thoroughly well-educated physician.

The courses of instruction at our Colleges embrace, for the most part, six subjects, which are professed to be taught in two years, or rather in two periods of less than four months each, so that with a moderate degree of attention, and a fair share of common sense, any one, with us, may acquire the knowledge considered as necessary for a physician, and obtain a license to practise, after about *eight months'* college study! And this too under circumstances in every respect unfavorable; such as a continual and irksome attendance on lectures on different subjects, during a great part of every day, leaving neither time for study and preparation, nor for relaxation or dissection. More time is devoted in other countries to the study of the fundamental science of anatomy alone, than is allowed to our students for perfecting themselves in all the branches of a medical education.

Whilst for the most part, then, seven or eight months' attendance on lectures is required by the regulations of our Medical Colleges, in Europe four years are considered as scarcely sufficient; and that too after a preparatory course of study calculated to enlarge and strengthen the mind, and render it fit for receiving the more difficult and important professional knowledge which is to be subsequently imparted.

All the more important subjects, and especially practical anatomy, and clinical medicine and surgery, are there thoroughly taught. The student is not only required to dissect, but is examined on Dissection, whereas, here a very irregular attendance on the Dissecting-room, probably during a few evenings only in each session, is all that is expected of our pupils, and indeed, in some cases, they are notified publicly, beforehand, that though advised to do so, they will not be required to dissect at all. Whilst it is considered of paramount importance abroad, and is so in reality, little or no attention to Hospital practice is required from the student here. Some of our colleges exact from him that he shall purchase a ticket of admission to a hospital, when one is convenient, but there the matter rests. And this even is not always required; and if not obligatory on them to do so, how can it be expected that students, when they have so much else to attend to, will go to the expense of procuring a ticket, or after getting it, will take the trouble to attend the practice of these institutions? That they do not do so, is, I think, very evident, from the fact that out of upwards of six hundred in attendance at the New York Colleges during the present session, only about one in eight have applied for the privilege of visiting our City Hospital! And yet this is known to be the only one here to which they can obtain access. The all important branch of clinical instruction then is not taught to students here, at all events in a satisfactory manner; for the cliniques attached to the schools in this city, in Philadelphia, and elsewhere, though useful, can never present to them the advantages that they would derive from examining patients, and following their treatment, in a regular and well organized hospital, and under the direction of qualified teachers.

Botany, Medical Jurisprudence, Practical Chemistry and Pharmacy, Pathology, and some other subjects considered essential to a medical education abroad, are nowhere taught properly, or as separate branches, in the medical schools of our country; and the student's knowledge of them,

if obtained at all, must be gained by close study and application at home, after he has gotten his diploma, and left college.

It is the want of a thorough and efficient course of education here, that induces so many of our young graduates to go abroad for the purpose of gaining knowledge which they ought to be able to obtain at home; and I may venture to assert, that if proper use was made of the advantages possessed by our large cities for affording medical instruction in all its departments, and if our schools would at once adopt a high standard of professional acquirement, Paris and London would soon cease to present the superior attractions which they now do, and our young men would seek at home the information which it now costs them so much trouble and expense to obtain in foreign countries.

It is most humiliating to us to know that none of our colleges are recognized by European schools as on a footing of full equality, and that alumni here are not thought entitled to be held as equals with students there. And yet such is the fact, and most keenly do some of our spirited and high-minded young men feel it to be so. I have known them ashamed to acknowledge that they were graduates, and the M.D., so coveted, and so ostentatiously displayed at home, at least whilst it is new, I have seen erased from their cards when abroad.

So satisfied are some of them that they are not prepared to defend the title with which they have been inconsiderately honored, that they prefer to appear simply as students, from whom much less is to be expected than might be looked for in persons bearing the full and highest honors of the profession. It is for the want of a thorough education here, that our young physicians are compelled to enter themselves as the students of students when they go abroad, and thus to admit, that though graduates, they are wanting in the knowledge possessed by under-graduates.

It is a gross error to suppose that the high standard of medical education established in Europe is the result of wealth, and that it is impracticable to introduce it into this country, as has been asserted by a venerable author here, whose lecture on the subject, and in defence of our present system, has been so severely criticised, that I shall make no other commentary on it, than to point to the bright examples to be found amongst the most eminent and renowned physicians of Paris and London, many of whom have had to encounter a degree of abject poverty unknown in our country, and who have, nevertheless, gradually risen to fill the proud positions which they now occupy.*

Besides the estimate in which it is held abroad, in what light is this subject considered at home? The editors of many of our medical journals admit frankly that our whole plan of education is most faulty; and numerous recent writers, in advocating the call for a general convention, declare that the defects of the present system are so glaring, that a change is absolutely required. One of them makes use of the following strong language in reference to the subject:

"We have always advocated a higher standard of medical attainment for graduating in medicine, and a sufficient preparatory education to place physicians on

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* The celebrated Velpeau, one of the most distinguished men in our profession, was so poor when a student, that he was forced to live on coarse ammunition bread and water. For a long period his daily expenses were limited to *nine cents*, and he supported himself for three months, in Paris, on *twenty dollars*.

a par with the other learned professions; but we have seen so much of the levelling system; so much pandering to popularity; such audacious promises on the part of medical schools, to gull pupils; such pretensions to cheapness in board; such mock examinations for degrees; such drumming up of students; and such underbidding in the price of tickets; in short, such artifices, and tricks, and manœuvres, for the sake of putting a few dollars in the pocket, that we have almost lost our early faith in the practicability of medical reform, at least to that extent to which it ought to be carried in order to accomplish the desired end."

There is no school here, whose certificate our army and navy examiners can take as a sufficient guarantee of the qualifications of candidates for admission as medical officers into either of these branches of the public service; they are obliged to form a standard of their own, and the numerous rejections of young men, mostly graduates, whom they examine, show conclusively that it is higher than that of the colleges generally.*

The possessors of them do not always appreciate the diplomas which are so easily obtained, and which they in many instances know and feel that they do not deserve. A young man applied to me a short time since to take him as a pupil, and on my asking if he had yet undergone his examination, he answered me "yes, he was a graduate of such a college;" but with great naïveté added, "that he did not think he ought to have a diploma, or that it could be worth much."

A gentleman, likewise a graduate, in indicating to another, in my presence, some of the numerous advantages which he might derive from visiting Paris, stated that "he had, on obtaining his diploma here, considered himself to be a good anatomist, a good chemist, and a good surgeon; that he thought he was a competent physician, and quite as well informed in his profession as any one else. He had gone abroad, however, and he had been but a short time in France when he was ashamed to find how ignorant he was, even in the branches in which he had supposed himself accomplished. He soon ascertained that his whole course of stndy was to be gone over again, and that he literally knew nothing, and was far behindhand with junior colleagues with whom he was brought into contact."

A system then, which is so universally admitted to be defective, must stand in need of amendment, and it appears to me that a period has now arrived when a bold step may be advantageously taken in favor of reform, and the introduction of, if not a European, at least a higher standard of medical education amongst us; and the school or schools that shall adopt it, though they may for a time experience a loss in the diminished number of their pupils, will eventually, and certainly, find their reward in the increased value that will attach to their diplomas.

We can most of us recollect the time when the Edinburgh or London Degree was almost necessary for the physician who expected success in his profession;† it is now almost equally necessary for those who would

* "A medical board for the examination of applicants for appointment to the medical staff of the army, was convened in the city of New York, on the 1st of July last. Before this board 15 candidates were invited to present themselves, 10 of whom only appeared and were examined; and of these last but 2 were approved and recommended for appointment."—*Report of the Surgeon General U. S. Army.*

† There are, however, numerous exceptions to this general rule, for we have amongst us some fully qualified and highly accomplished physicians who are self-made men, and who never enjoyed the advantages afforded to those who study in Europe.

succeed, to have enjoyed the advantages of Paris. The public, having no other sure guide, formerly esteemed a physician in proportion as the university from which he received his degree was estimated; and now that we have so many schools, and so many incompetent physicians, and are so surrounded by quacks—renegade doctors—or those who arrogate to themselves the title, people will begin to look about them again, and make inquiries as to the relative standing of the various colleges, with the view of employing those physicians who shall bear the diploma of that institution which is known to give the most full and perfect course of instruction.

It would almost seem from the course pursued by them, that many of our colleges are disposed to offer bounties to young men, and entice them away from honest mechanic trades, to engage in the study of medicine.* So easy and cheap do they make it appear, is the effort necessary for gaining a license, that numbers are induced to study, who would never for a moment think of doing so, if moderate restrictions were imposed, and they were required to devote a reasonable proportion of time to attendance on lectures.

The result of this is, that hundreds gain entrance to the profession who are wholly unfitted for fulfilling the high duties devolving upon practitioners; and this evil must continue so long as the efforts of our medical schools are directed to the end of obtaining the largest classes, and sending forth the greatest number of graduates. So long as they trust for reputation on the number, rather than the character, of their alumni, our country will be annually flooded with imperfectly and half-educated physicians, many of whom must, from absolute necessity, be forced to resort to means for gaining a livelihood, calculated to degrade them in their own and in the public estimation, and to produce a ruinous influence on the profession.

I regret that time does not permit me to enter more fully into the examination of this important subject, which is worthy of the closest consideration, and demands the earnest attention of medical men. I have said as much, however, as the occasion warrants, and I will now proceed to indicate some of the causes, which, in my opinion, tend to interfere materially with the honor and interests of our profession.

These are of two kinds: such as are produced by the acts of the profession itself, and such as are caused by the acts of the community generally, or those not belonging to our society. Of these, the first, it appears to me, are by far the most important, and productive of incalculable injury; and I think that we might find, if we examined carefully, that many of the evils of which we have cause to complain, are the direct consequence of the suicidal course pursued by the profession itself; and that in fact most of the difficulties by which we are surrounded are occasioned by ourselves.

Can all members of our faculty conscientiously assert that they have ever acted with the view, and in a manner to promote the interests of the profession to which they belong? And are all guiltless of having at times pursued indirectly, if not directly, a course calculated both to impair the

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* At some of our country medical schools, students are allowed to pay their professors with due-bills, or notes, to be redeemed at some future period, when the young men shall have accumulated enough money to enable them to cancel the obligation.

credit of the general body, and lessen the estimation in which it should be held by the public at large? It cannot be expected of any one that he should admit the charge openly, and yet we all know that there are numbers who feel, and who are obliged to admit to themselves, that they have too often pursued a course in furtherance of their own individual interests, which was calculated to impair that of the body generally.

The professional and social intercourse of medical men, in this city especially, is on a wrong and improper footing; there is to as great, if not to a greater extent here, than elsewhere, a degree of jealousy and unkind feeling which ought nowhere to exist.

It would appear that many of our body fall into the gross error of considering that their individual success depends on decrying their professional rivals, and indirectly leading patients to conclude, that they alone, of all others, are able and capable of rendering effectual assistance. This has been everywhere noted as a common and general fault of the Faculty, and those who indulge in the practice are most wofully mistaken in the result which they hope it may produce. I have yet to learn that a single instance can be found in our annals, in which eventual or lasting success has attended the exertions of individuals who have endeavored to gain a position by so unfair and dishonorable a course. The public is generally sufficiently versed in these matters to be able to distinguish between genuine merit, and boastful pretension, and it rarely or ever accords confidence, to those whom it cannot esteem. All who are in the habit of indulging in this very censurable and disloyal course, would do well to bear in mind the established truism "That every physician who decries another, injures himself by depreciating the general estimation in which his profession should be held." Or in the words of Mr. Percival:—

"A physician should (from motives of interest) cautiously guard against whatever may injure the general respectability of his profession; and should avoid all contumelious representations of the faculty at large, or of individuals; all general charges against their selfishness or probity; and the indulgence of an affected jocularity or scepticism concerning the efficacy and utility of the healing art."

That this evil exists to a deplorable extent amongst us cannot be denied; and it is the more to be regretted, because it is so generally unjust, from the circumstance of its being almost impossible to ascertain the real qualifications of medical men (after graduation), and from depreciating language being frequently used in reference to individuals with whom the party has no personal acquaintance, and whose impressions are often formed from hearsay, or are the result of some pique, or supposed cause of complaint, for real or imaginary injuries, and rivalry.

A part of this evil results from the fact that social meetings of medical men are not of sufficiently frequent occurrence amongst us.* The advan-

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* It is, I am sorry to say, a very rare circumstance for the physicians of New York to meet together sociably at each other's houses, or indulge in an interchange of friendly civilities. Here, there are no convivial assemblings of those whose tastes and occupation should draw them frequently together; and although some laudable efforts have been made to break through the icy circle that surrounds us, they have not been responded to in a proper manner, and consequently have failed to accomplish the desired end.

tages of this kind of intercourse are most manifest, and it should be heartily encouraged, as it always serves the purpose, by bringing individuals together in a friendly way, of engendering kindly sentiments, and exciting mutual regard and esteem, which will ever be accompanied by courteousness of demeanor and general respect.

The Faculty has been injured by the course pursued by some of its members, in reference to their intercourse with those, who are debarred by their own acts from being entitled to be considered on a footing of equality with honorable and respected members of our society. It is sometimes very difficult to draw the line of distinction between those members of the profession who retain a right, as honest members of it, to enjoy all its privileges and honors, and those who, by their acts, have forfeited all claim to its countenance and support. The moment, however, that it shall be proven satisfactorily, that a medical man has departed from a strict line of professional conduct, and pursued a course calculated to impose on the public, and degrade his calling, he should cease to be regarded as an equal by high-minded physicians, and it becomes their duty to expose him, and to refuse to lend him their aid and assistance in consultation.

I am happy to add, that I believe the evil resulting from this source is now at an end—at all events in our own city ; for I do not know of any practitioner of respectability, who will now consent to consult with, or meet on a footing of equality, any one who is openly known to pursue a course at variance with the honor and interests of his colleagues.

Conscientious and highly honorable members of the Faculty have at times lent them the influence of their names, and given certificates to vendors of quack medicines, thereby contributing, probably, without intending it, or indeed, without considering that such must be the result, to favor imposture and weaken the bonds by which the profession should be united to the public. Such a course is sometimes pursued even now, and I believe it to be a most fertile source of mischief and injury to us. When the signature of a regularly graduated physician is appended to these notices of drugs, the valuable qualities of which are certified to by him, how can it be expected that the public shall refrain from purchasing them? We have had some striking examples of the evils ensuing from the practice, and we should unite in our efforts to put a stop to it.

By our charges we sometimes excite in the public mind a feeling of doubt and distrust ; in some instances by demanding more for our services than they are really worth, and in other instances so far undervaluing them, or rather allowing them to be undervalued, as to lead people to think that, when thus tacitly acknowledged to be worth so little, they may in reality be worth nothing. This is one of the great difficulties with which we have to contend, and unfortunately it would scarcely seem capable of being remedied. No fixed and satisfactory tariff, applicable to all cases, can be established, and it is a matter which had probably better be left to the judgment and discretion of each individual. A just medium in charges, however, should always be observed, and we should never be so unreasonable as to ask $100 for a single and inactive consultation visit in the city, nor yet condescend to allow our services to be estimated at the value of ten cents a visit, or one shilling for vaccination or venesection. When persons are really able to do so, they are, for the most part, both ready and willing to grant a fair and adequate remuneration for professional services, and when too poor to pay more than the

paltry sums last indicated, we should refer them to the public charitable institutions provided for them, or, at all events, a feeling of pride should lead us to reject all compensation, and find our reward in the conscious pleasure of doing a good action.

Feuds amongst ourselves are of too frequent occurrence ; they should always be condemned and avoided, as they are the means of retarding the progress of the profession, and frequently throw impediments in the way of science. These, however, when strictly confined within professional limits, cannot produce the great and serious evils which must ever result from their being made public. All of our faults and errors should be kept within our own bounds, and on no account should medical men allow their feelings to get the better of their judgments, so far as to lead them to commit a positive and irreparable injury on the profession, the evil consequences of which they are sure to experience themselves, in the depreciation of public respect and confidence in their profession. They should recollect the advice given by the venerable Hufeland, and bear in mind his declarations on this subject, to the effect that :—

" In proportion as the public is made acquainted with the faults and defects of physicians, and as they are made to appear suspected and contemptible in its eyes, so is the estimation in which medicine is held, lowered ; and as this diminished confidence is extended from the science to those who practise it, the censurer soon experiences the consequences of it himself. Public malice against physicians would certainly be less indulged in, and their faults would much less frequently furnish food for general conversation, if they never themselves set the example."

Our intercourse in consultation is not regulated by any well-understood or generally approved rules, and hence there are occasionally serious difficulties occurring in instances in which they would not occur, if good and established forms were universally known and rigidly adhered to. That advantage is sometimes taken, by those called on for consultation advice, to supplant the regular or family attendant, is well known ; and hence, that degree of confidence so necessary for the interests, both of the patient and the profession, cannot exist where such a result may even be apprehended. It is impossible to conceive that a more degrading and baneful influence could be brought to bear against our body, than a practice of this kind, and I cannot, for my life, see how an honorable and liberal-minded man could for a moment indulge in so disreputable a habit. With those who profess the feelings of gentlemen, the compliment conveyed in the simple fact of confidence being reposed by a brother practitioner, to the extent of leading him to seek for friendly advice and assistance, from a source from which he thinks that he may obtain both, is more than enough to outweigh any feeling of sordid interest which might arise in his breast. The simple fact of his being called to a family or patient, with the consent, and generally at the solicitation of the ordinary attendant, renders it impossible for him, at any future period, to attend such family or patient, without a full and honest understanding with the other, unless in cases of emergency, and then only as a *locum tenens*, until the regular attendant can be found.

It is much the practice with us to entrust our patients to the care of some friend during temporary absences from business, or in case of sickness, and any undue attempt to supplant those for whom we act, is as unjust as it is dishonorable, and I regret ever to have learned, what I

did with shame, that a distinguished physician of our city had urged to one in a neighboring town, as an excuse for not prolonging a visit that he had made, "that he was afraid that if he did not return home, those left in charge would steal his patients from him."

I have now alluded, but very cursorily however, to some of the faults of the faculty itself, which are, I think, positive causes operating injuriously on our general interests. The remarks that I have made, though applying in full force to the condition of things amongst us, are by no means confined exclusively to the profession in this country; the evils to which I have called attention, are most of them acknowledged to exist elsewhere; they are not for this reason, however, the less serious, or the less to be regretted; it behoves us all to unite in endeavoring to remedy them; and I feel confident that, as far as its influence and power extends, this Society will, whilst pursuing its course of general usefulness, strive to inculcate sound and wholesome doctrines in Medical Ethics.

I will now proceed to point out some of the non-professional causes which tend to produce an injurious effect on the interests of the faculty.

The influence of the Press is severely felt by our profession as being frequently exerted to its prejudice and discredit.

The most prominent and striking manner in which this injury is experienced, is through the facility afforded to Quack advertisers, for inserting in popular and extensively circulated papers, notices of their secret remedies, and astonishingly successful modes of treatment. To such an extent has this evil grown, that whole columns of our most respectable newspapers are filled with them. A recent writer declares that he had counted eleven out of twenty columns comprised in one paper, filled with these quack notices.

It is wholly impossible to calculate the amount of injury that accrues to the community, as well as to us, from this pernicious and degrading practice. For, besides lending to impostors, facilities for puffing and making themselves known, these advertisements are frequently of a character both indelicate and criminal, producing a baneful influence on public morality, and often leading to the commission of offences against the laws both of God and the State.

I am aware that the space occupied in newspapers in the manner indicated, is well paid for, and that it may appear unfair and unreasonable to expect their proprietors to deprive themselves of so fertile a source of revenue. But have these gentlemen no other object than pecuniary gain? Are they not bound, as directors of public opinion, and as guardians of the public interests, to abstain from pursuing a course calculated not only to injure us, but directly prejudicial to the public weal? Is it so clear that they would necessarily incur a loss by refusing to promulgate information such as is usually contained in these notices? If they could be induced to devote the space occupied in this disreputable manner to miscellaneous information of a general character, they would soon find their subscribers to increase in a proportion amply sufficient to compensate them. The experiment has already been tried abroad, and we hear of no complaints of loss from those interested in such journals as have refused to serve as a medium for imposition.

The opinion of the publisher of one of these papers on the evils resulting from the course generally pursued, is expressed in such strong and forcible language, that I cannot resist the temptation to quote it. He says,—

"We fell into the current and followed the bad example of pre-existing periodicals; but reflection has led us to see our mistake, and we hasten to repair it, assured that we shall give satisfaction to all our readers, who properly estimate the true character of modern quackery, which is one of the vilest and foulest of all foul and vile vocations, and is sustained to an incredible extent by fraud, forgery, and falsehood, and fraught with delusion, disease, and death. To publish their nostrums is to partake of their deeds. To receive their money is to share their spoils and aid them in making war upon mankind."

May we not hope that the example set by this Editor may be speedily and generally followed on this side of the Atlantic, and that editors here may likewise be found—

"Cheerfully to abandon the publication of all advertisements of quack medicines, which will be an act of homage to their own taste and judgment, no less than a concession to the strongly expressed opinions of some of their best friends, who, with ourselves, deeply deplore the disease and mortality occasioned by the nostrums of medical quacks, published daily in this great metropolis."

By following so independent and wise an example, this foul blot on the body of our Press will soon be entirely and permanently erased.

But this is not the only complaint that we have to make against publishers and editors in this country. We have to find fault with many of them for their editorial encouragement of new systems, and innovations on our established methods of practice, by which, if possible, more than by inserting advertisements, they injure us, and make dupes of the public. The frequent, and often well written articles which appear in the editorial columns of our newspapers, in praise of various quack systems of medical practice, and urging upon the community their value and importance, do much harm. For, besides being more generally read, they carry with them a great degree of weight, as emanating from individuals supposed to be impartial, disinterested, and capable of forming a correct judgment.

The Press is likewise guilty of injustice towards us in sometimes publishing garbled or incorrect reports of the acts of medical men, or bodies of medical men, which are calculated to cast ridicule on them and on the profession to which they belong. The professional transactions of Medical societies, and the reports of medical lectures, are not proper or fit subjects for insertion in other than medical journals. But, at all events, when they are published, it is but a matter of common justice to report them correctly and with accuracy.

The remarks sometimes made by the Press in reference to dissection, are often injudicious, and calculated to maintain feelings of prejudice against it, and against those who are obliged to resort to it. Practical anatomy is one of the branches of our profession, with which every medical man should be familiar, and as it is impossible that a proper and correct knowledge of it can be obtained otherwise than by the actual dissection of dead bodies, it appears to me that the intelligent writers for newspapers would be doing a positive good, if, in place of exciting their feelings by using harsh language in reference to this subject when it is spoken of, they would endeavor to bring people to view it as indispensable for their own interests; as, without it, it is wholly impossible for us to qualify ourselves to make good physicians or skilful surgeons, the influence

of the press should be exerted to lead the public to look upon it as a matter of course, and our authorities should be induced to make suitable legal provisions for furnishing students with the means of prosecuting their studies in this department of science.*

I think we have fair grounds for making complaint against the legal profession, for interference with our interests, in the manner in which charges are sometimes given to juries, and examinations sometimes conducted in cases of a medico-legal character.

I need not remind you that, in their endeavors to get evidence from medical witnesses, lawyers often travel out of their way, and go far beyond the record, in order to endeavor if possible—not to shake the testimony of those whom they may be examining, or cross-questioning; for this they have a perfect and undeniable right to do if they can; it is their duty to get all the facts of a case, and elicit the truth from every source—but to impair the confidence of a jury, in medical testimony, as such. They are often satisfied if they can make it appear that a physician falters, or is unable to answer at once, and without a moment's hesitation and reflection, all and every question that they may choose to put to him; forgetting that whilst theirs is an exact science, ours is as yet far from being such, and that an apparently trifling question may involve so much, and be capable of so many various interpretations, that every honest and upright man will naturally pause and hesitate, before pronouncing an opinion on which much may depend, and which it is often requisite for him to study well, before he can come to a conclusion that shall be satisfactory even to himself. Does a lawyer make up his mind, and pronounce an opinion directly, when a legal question is submitted to him? Undoubtedly not; he demands and takes time to consult his books and the various authorities on the subject, and after due reflection and study, and a repeated and calm examination of all the facts and bearings of the case, he decides, and returns an answer to his client. How then ought it to be expected of us, that we should be able to reply, without timely consideration, to the many futile and irrelevant questions that are often put to us by counsel? Have we no authorities to consult, and no examinations to make before we can come to a correct conclusion? Assuredly we have; and from their great number, and the want of established standards to go by, as a general rule, we should have much more time even allowed us, than would be accorded to the lawyer, in which to make up our minds.

Though an excuse may sometimes be found for the course pursued towards us, by examining attorneys, whose task, I am ready to admit, is occasionally a difficult one, I conceive that none whatever can be urged in favor of judges, who, in summing up evidence, and giving charges to juries, occasionally make use of language calculated to produce an unfavorable impression against medical testimony, and thus indirectly against the profession.

We have two striking examples of the existence of the evil of which I complain, recorded in the *New York Journal of Medicine;* the one

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* It is but just to state that, since this address was delivered, an editorial article has appeared in one of our most popular city journals, noticing and advocating the call for a National Medical Convention, and admitting the existence of some of the evils here complained of.

as occurring in a case of trial for malpractice, in vaccinating on the arm, but not exactly at that portion of it usually selected for this operation; and the other, very recently, in a trial for murder and arson.

In the first instance, the Judge, one of the most eminent in a neighboring State, after listening to the positive testimony of most intelligent and competent medical witnesses, which testimony tended to exonerate the operator from all blame in the case, is reported to have charged to his jury, "that in performing the operation of vaccination or inoculation, the physician is liable for all consequences if he neglects the usual precautions, or fails to insert the virus in that part of the arm usually selected for the purpose; notwithstanding many other parts of the body might be proven to be equally proper, and even more suitable localities;" and he is reported to have gone on to illustrate his position, by likening us to common carriers, who would be liable to damages, if, in the transportation of public or private property, they departed from the usual route.

As might well be supposed, the jury, under these directions, brought in their verdict against the physician, and awarded heavy damages, besides the costs. Let us hope that this very learned gentleman may never require the services of a surgeon, who, in order to save his life, might have to modify an operation, or depart from a usual course; for in such case, he might fear the consequences, and hold himself justified in refusing to interfere.

The other instance to which I have alluded, occurred in the trial of "Polly Bodine;" it is, if possible, more serious than the one which I have just briefly narrated. It may be recollected that, in this case, physicians were called upon to institute a post-mortem examination of the remains of a female and child, who were supposed to have been murdered, and afterwards burned. These physicians discharged their duties with credit to themselves, and in a manner which should have given general satisfaction, as far as they and their evidence went. But what acknowledgment did they receive for their performance of the unpleasant task imposed upon them—one for which I may venture to say they were allowed a very inadequate, if any pecuniary compensation at all?—why, the presiding Judge took occasion, in his summing up to the jury, to make these uncalled for and unjust remarks:—

"Was the death here by violence? Unfortunately very much of the difficulty which we now encounter, at this stage of the case, arises from the very inadequate manner in which the physicians discharged their duty. Had they made a judicious, active, and scientific post-mortem examination, they could have increased, in a great extent, the evidence of the guilt or of the innocence of the prisoner; and it is greatly to be regretted that this was not the case. They did not even make a memorandum of the examination, such as it was. They made no inquiry whether there had been strangulation or suffocation, whether poison, or some narcotic drug, had been administered; even their examination with respect to the marks of violence was imperfect and unsatisfactory. They have left us, therefore, in that state of uncertainty, in regard to the cause of death, which is very much to be regretted both by you and me."

When the acumen of judges and lawyers is insufficient to detect whether a prisoner is guilty or innocent, it seems rather hard to throw the blame upon the unfortunate doctors whom they may have called upon for assistance, particularly in a case where, from the testimony of the medical gentlemen alluded to, it appears that the bodies submitted to their ex-

amination were so much charred and altered, that it was impossible to derive from their inspection more satisfactory or accurate information than that which they obtained and communicated to the court. I would partake with these gentlemen of the gratification which would be afforded to us all, if the learned judge would inform us by what means we could be able to obtain the information which he charges them with carelessness in not obtaining. I fear it would puzzle that prototype of wisdom—as he is always referred to as an ultimate resource—the Philadelphia lawyer—or even their honors themselves, to do more or better, than was done by the respectable medical gentlemen implicated in the cases to which I have alluded; and I can but think that they would act more wisely, and more in conformity with the ends of justice, by augmenting, rather than depreciating the value of medical testimony.

Gentlemen, we are entitled to a little more courtesy in these matters from our brothers of the bar; and as the most important results follow from it, and the greatest stress should be laid upon the evidence of physicians, it would appear to be the soundest policy, and a public duty, so to conduct the examination of medical witnesses as to get at the positive truth, and elicit all the facts of a case, without endeavoring to make an impression against their evidence, which must affect a class, the object of all whose scientific researches is the elucidation of truth, and whose collective aim and desire is to be useful to their fellow-men.

Besides the manner in which I have indicated, it is asserted that members of the legal profession are frequently active propagators of new theories and quack notions, all of which tend more or less to the positive injury of our profession. A late writer says, in relation to this subject:

"The lawyer himself, though he sees his own profession hemmed in by the strict limits of a prescribed education, and by a formidable array of antiquated technicalities, thus opposing to the intrusion of quackery a firm, though time-worn and moss-covered wall that it cannot scale—even he is often seen encouraging in our profession empiricism of the grossest kind, and perhaps cheers on and assists an ignorant populace in pulling down our modern wall, which has been so recently built that its uniting cement is yet hardly dry."

These remarks were appropriately introduced into the address from which they are quoted (Dr. Hooker's Dissertation), and although I do not think that lawyers are as often given to the encouragement of quackery as many other members of the community, I do consider that, being highly educated and accomplished scholars and gentlemen—fully capable of appreciating the difference between what is absurd and what is rational—between ignorance and intelligence—they should *always* discountenance the former, and on all occasions lend their influence to the furtherance of science.

We feel severely the influence of the clergy, as operating against our collective interests, and through their countenance of empiricism, to the positive detriment of the public at large.

Let me speak with reverence of the ministers of God, whom we are all taught from our earliest youth to honor and respect, and for whose holy calling I entertain feelings of the greatest veneration; and let us consider the course that is pursued towards us by many of that body, as the result of thoughtlessness and want of consideration, rather than as an evidence of ill will, or intentional desire to injure us, and deceive such as confide themselves to their spiritual charge, and place unbounded confi-

dence in assertions supported by the testimony of pastors whom they revere and esteem.

I would on no account lay myself open to the imputation of making an unjust or harsh attack on ministers of the Gospel; and yet when their influence is sought, and their credit obtained, to defraud the public by recommending persons wholly unworthy of regard, it becomes a duty to indicate in plain terms the evil consequences that ensue from such patronage being extended to such individuals, and likewise to show how detrimental is such a course to the interests of a profession with which they are so closely allied, and the object of which is, as well as that of their own, to do good, and to heal and succor such as stand in need of assistance. No class of men have a better opportunity of witnessing the untiring devotion of physicians to their sick charges than clergymen, who are so frequently brought into contact with them in the abodes of sickness and misery, and in the hour of death; none are better informed than clergymen of the innumerable sacrifices made by medical men in ministering relief to that unfortunate class of the community, whose want of means and poverty, render it impossible for them to proffer or afford any remuneration to those who have assisted them in their sufferings, and relieved their wants. Clergymen are, or ought to be, aware that the services rendered by medical men to all our public non-political charitable institutions are entirely gratuitous, and that in most instances they do not receive, directly or indirectly, any consideration whatever for their loss of time, anxiety of mind, and the numerous inconveniencies to which they are subjected. Do they not know that our hospitals, asylums, and dispensaries are regularly visited and carefully attended by honest, honorable, and competent members of that profession whose credit and usefulness they should endeavor to extend, and not to impair?

Again, are not the clergy held in the highest respect and esteem by our profession at large? Do we not tender them our professional services gratuitously, and with free cordiality? Are not theological students, and the children of divines, permitted to attend the lectures of our medical colleges without the usual fees being required from them? For these and numerous other reasons—not urged in a boastful spirit, for it would but ill become us to ask credit for charitable acts which carry with them their own reward, and for which we desire no remuneration other than that afforded by a satisfied conscience, and the pleasure derived from the knowledge that we are fulfilling a great Christian duty—for these, then, and for many other reasons, I conceive that our profession has strong and peculiar claims on the preachers of religion for their countenance and support, and it appears to me that they should be the last men in the world to lend the influence of their sacred characters and position to those who are ever so ready to avail themselves publicly of both.

It is a notorious fact, that the venders of quack medicines, and what are usually called "advertising doctors," exert themselves to the utmost —and too often with success,—to obtain the signatures of clergymen, or certificates from them attesting to the high virtues of their medicines, or the superior skill and knowledge which they possess. In proportion to the number and influence of the clergymen whose interest they can thus bring to bear, is their success. So far is this system in some instances carried, that the fortunate individuals in whose favor they operate, succeed, in a comparatively short space of time, in amassing large fortunes. I do not pretend to assert that the success of these persons is to be at-

tributed to the influence of clergymen's certificates alone, for without a certain degree of practical knowledge in the other arts of gulling, and an abundant stock of assurance and cool impudence, their exertions could not be crowned with entire success. I am only maintaining that this is one of the most sought for and valuable adjuvants that the charlatan can obtain, as through its means he may, at least, hope to gain notoriety and consideration from congregations whose ministers recommend him and his drugs in terms of high praise and commendation.

In support of this assertion, and to illustrate how much importance is attached to a clergyman's name, I will allude to an advertisement which has long been a standing one in an extensively circulated daily paper. It is headed, appropriately enough, "Remarkable Cures," and after describing, very briefly, some three or four desperate cases, all of which were, of course, speedily and perfectly relieved, and which are well calculated to strike the minds of non-professional persons as being truly wonderful proofs of the dexterity and skill of the advertiser, it concludes with a certificate from no less than six reverend gentlemen, to the effect that they have witnessed his astonishing performances, and highly recommend him as "safe and skilful" in the treatment of the diseases which he professes to cure.

I attach more importance to an advertisement of this kind than I should probably do, were it not that the names of the reverend endorsers are known to the public, and considered by it as occupying respectable positions, in which they can command a certain degree of influence. I would ask the eloquent Baptist clergymen; the learned Catholic priest; and their reverend co-signers, what they conceive to be the object and aim of a notice of this kind? Whether they have thoughtlessly appended their names as an act of charity, and with the view of lending the assistance of their influence, to an individual whom they conscientiously believe to be worthy of their confidence and esteem? Whether it is from the desire of seeing their names daily circulating in print? Or whether it is that they truly think, that they are conferring a benefit on the public, in recommending to its notice and consideration, a person whom they *in their hearts* believe to be *better* instructed, and *better* able to afford relief in the class of diseases which he treats, than others? Are they sufficiently versed in the knowledge of our science to be able to vouch for the learning and skill of an operator? Or do they infer from the advertiser's diploma, which they have doubtless inspected, and which is presumed to have been obtained after a careful and sufficient examination, by those competent to judge of his capabilities, that they are at liberty to recommend him as both "safe and skilful?"

I might adduce numerous other instances, in support of the assertion, that the influence of the clergy is often used to further the objects of those who seek for notoriety and patronage through advertisements in the public prints, and to the positive detriment of the medical profession. The one instance, however, already cited, is amply sufficient to illustrate the fact, and there is no further necessity for particularizing.

It would scarcely be believed that clergymen, though they might be willing to sign certificates, and vouch for impostures, would so far forget their duties, and the sacred character of the religion which they profess, as to permit the churches over which they preside, and which are dedicated to the worship of God, to be used as theatres for the exhibition of shows and juggleries; and yet, that this is occasionally done, may be

easily proved, and I now hold an advertisement announcing, that, "by request," a *lecture on "Animal Magnetism"* will be delivered, on an evening indicated, in a certain church, belonging to a sect held to be one of the most devout amongst us; and this advertisement goes on to state that persons will be magnetized; and closes with the very significant notice that "twenty-five cents will be charged for admission."

The question may be asked, how can such a use of a holy temple, though admitted to be wrong, tend to the injury of the medical profession? I reply, is it not well known that these pretended clairvoyant magnetizers assume, unquestioned and unlicensed, the high duties of the Physician, and pretend, with the aid of something like supernatural lights, to be able to elucidate the most intricate pathological states, and suggest remedies to repair evils, the existence of which they are alone acquainted with? Do they not sometimes assume, or have awarded to them, besides his duties, the honored *title* of the Physician, and thus not only defraud the public, but do a positive injury to the profession of which they are supposed to be members? It is for these reasons, then, and because it is a profanation of the house of God, that we should call upon the clergy to pause, before they allow the temples committed to their charge to be violated in the manner that I have pointed out.

But in the remarks that I make on this subject, let it not be for a moment supposed, that I condemn or censure the whole mass of clergymen for the faults or errors of a few; I am well aware that the most respectable and worthy portion of the members of the holy order of religious instructors very rarely accord their influence to unworthy objects, or intentionally sanction measures calculated to degrade the standard of public morality, or act injuriously on the welfare of the general community. Still, as the evils of which I complain are no chimera of the imagination, and do in reality exist to an extensive degree, I have thought it both opportune and proper to point them out. By directing attention to the subject, we may lead educated and respectable clergymen, of extensive influence, to discountenance openly such irregular and overt acts on the part of their religious associates, which tend as well to the degradation of their own order, as they are calculated to act injuriously upon the interests of our Profession.

Of the influence of Quackery as operating to the injury of our profession here, I shall have but little to say. That it occasions a large pecuniary loss to us cannot be denied; but when practised openly, and by persons not *bonâ fide* members of the faculty, I do not conceive that it acts in a manner otherwise hurtful to our interests or reputation.

It is only when degenerate members of our own body condescend, from the desire of pecuniary gain, to embrace the trade of the charlatan, that they are capable for a time of influencing public opinion, and may, until found out, which they invariably have been, and always will be, sooner or later, produce an impression injurious to our general character and interests.

I consider it bad policy, as well as bad taste, to indulge in abusive language against this class of persons, who should always be left to the upbraidings of their own consciences, and that severe and most keenly felt punishment which consists in an entire exclusion from their society, and from all association with their professional contemporaries. They may succeed for a time, and accumulate money, but what shall repay them for loss of caste, and that inward feeling of shame and degradation

which they must experience on finding themselves despised and rejected by their fellows, and eventually sinking to an oblivion from which they may never again hope to emerge—leaving behind them when they die, as an inheritance to their children, a patrimony which, though it may be rich in the blessings of the world, can never be disconnected from the recollection of the manner in which it was obtained?

These persons are most truly to be pitied; and their bowed head, and downcast look, evincing shame and inward suffering, should rather excite in our breasts feelings of commiseration than of ire; and although we can never permit ourselves to regard them in the light of fit associates, we should charitably hope that they have been led astray, and that their minds are so constituted as to render them incapable of experiencing, in its full force, that acute sense of degradation which would be so severely felt by honorable men of cultivated intellect.

That some few of them honestly believe in the virtues and superior advantages of a system that they may have adopted, is most certain; but that numbers of them profess what they cannot believe, and do not practise, is equally certain, and may be easily proved; it is the latter class to whom I would have these remarks apply—those who make use of a novelty as a stepping stone to success, and cheat the public by promising to pursue a course which they know to be wrong, and which they rarely, if ever, in reality follow.

There can be no harm in it, nor can a physician be justly blamed for practising according to any method that he may conclude, after proper study and inquiry, to be best; it is his duty to follow the course that he conscientiously believes will prove most conducive to the interests of his patients; but, then, he should do so quietly and unostentatiously—as a man who is entitled to the privilege of judging and acting independently—and scorn to call himself, or allow others to call him, the blind follower of a master, or of a particular and exclusive system, for the purpose of attracting attention, and gaining notoriety; thus acting the part of an impostor, whose province and aim is to deceive. The answer of a friend of mine to a lady, when questioned by her as to what "*class* of doctors" he belonged, will illustrate what I desire to say better, probably, than I have explained. "Madam," said he, "I am a physician who has studied his profession in all its branches and departments; I have examined, and continue to examine, every new theory and everything proposed as useful, and I practise in all instances for the good of my patients."

I would congratulate the Society upon the gradual declension from public favor and sympathy which Animal Magnetism, Homœopathy, and similar delusions are now daily experiencing, as it evinces a return of the sound common sense of the people, which has been for a time diverted by plausible theories and amusing practical exhibitions.

All that might in any way be gleaned of useful or interesting, from these innovations, has long since been adopted by the regular profession, and incorporated into our system of treatment. As was our duty, we have examined and studied thoroughly, as it has ever been our interest to do, everything that has been supposed to be calculated to extend our field of knowledge, or enable us to render ourselves more useful to our fellow creatures; what little wheat has been met with, has been most cautiously and industriously separated from the mass of chaff with which it was encumbered, and although the grains are found to be both small

and imperfect, they may possibly produce, if properly cultivated, some little fruit.

No sooner, however, is one method of imposture on the wane, than we find another brought forward to supply its place; so it has ever been, and so it must and will be always. Homœopathy, lately so fashionable amongst us, finding no resting place in Europe, at least out of Germany —scouted in France, where its absurdities were fully demonstrated by positive and actual experiment—rejected in Italy—discountenanced in England—some few years since took its flight across the Atlantic, and implanted itself in our soil. Here it took root, and after supplanting Thomsonianism, and making sad inroads in the fertile fields of the "Herb Doctors," it flourished for a time. Its day, however, is now nearly at an end, and it is rapidly retiring before the enterprising and successful rivalry of Hydrosudopathy, and the Crono-Thermal system, which, likewise, will have their turn, and flourish until novelties of more recent date, such as the Russian "Mud Baths," or perhaps a revival of the old "Water Casting," come to usurp their places and their profits.

All the endeavors of the profession can never accomplish much against new and plausible medical theories, and by far the most prudent and the wisest course is to abstain from all abuse against them. When asked his opinion of their merits, it is the duty of the upright and conscientious physician to express it frankly, and if in disapprobation, let it be done in courteous language, devoid of all abusive epithets. By such a course we are sure to obtain a fair hearing; and our friends will be ever ready to acknowledge the force of remarks and reasoning directed to their understanding, and which shall be unaccompanied by evidences of personal pique, or the expression of feelings of dislike and hatred, evincing undue prejudice, or a desire to condemn unheard.

Having indicated, in a very imperfect manner however, some few of the many evils that exist in our profession, and endeavored to convey a just impression of its present condition, and of some of the causes which operate to injure it, I shall not trespass longer on your time by offering suggestions as to the best and most proper means for remedying them. The most important, and perhaps the only subject entirely within the control of the profession, is that of education. But I leave this very difficult and embarrassing question to the united wisdom of the gentlemen who will, I hope, shortly assemble in our city for the special purpose of investigating it. Amongst them there will doubtless be found competent and able representatives of this Society.

APPENDIX.

Regulations of the Principal Medical Schools in the United States and in Europe, in Relation to the Degree of M.D.

I.—UNITED STATES.*

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.—"The following are the Rules in force in relation to the Degree of Doctor of Medicine.

"I. The candidate must have attained the age of twenty-one years, have applied himself to the study of Medicine for three years, and have been, during that time, the private pupil, for two years at least, of a respectable practitioner of Medicine.

"2. The candidate must have attended two complete courses of the following lectures in this Institution:—Anatomy; Theory and Practice of Medicine; Materia Medica and Pharmacy; Chemistry; Surgery; Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children; Institutes of Medicine.

"3. The candidate must also have attended one course of Clinical Instruction in the Philadelphia Hospital (*Blockley*), or the Pennsylvania Hospital, or some other Institution approved of by the Faculty of Medicine.

"4. Medical students who have attended one complete course in a respectable Medical School, where the attendance on two complete courses is necessary to a degree, where the same branches are taught as in this, and which is placed upon the *ad Eundem* of this school, are permitted to become candidates by an attendance here upon one full course. They are also exempted from the payment of fees upon attending here a second term.

"5. When a candidate applies to the Dean for admission, he must exhibit his tickets to prove that the above Rules have been complied with.

"6. The candidate, at the time of his application, must deliver to the Dean of the Medical Faculty a Thesis, composed by himself, on some medical subject. This thesis is referred to one of the Professors, who shall examine the candidate upon it, and make his report thereon to the Medical Faculty.

"7. When a candidate is rejected, his essay will be retained by the Medical Faculty.

"8. When a candidate withdraws his essay before examination, he will, upon re-application, be placed at the foot of the list.

"9. The essay must be in the candidate's own hand-writing, and must be written uniformly on letter paper of the same size, the alternate pages being left blank.

"10. General bad spelling in a Thesis, or general inattention to the rules of grammar, will preclude a candidate from examination for a degree.

"11. A Thesis may be published by the candidate if he desire it, the permission of the Professor by whom he was examined thereon being first obtained; but no alteration shall be afterwards made in such thesis without the consent of the said Professor.

"12. The voting on the case of each candidate is by private ballot, and three negative votes shall reject him.

"13. The candidate shall pay the fees of graduation, at the time of his examination, or before receiving notice of his success; and before his name can be entered on the Register of passed candidates, for the purpose of being reported to the Board of Trustees and included in the mandamus for a Degree.

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* It will be perceived that the oldest and the most flourishing of our Schools have been selected as standards; their course of instruction and requirements are believed to be quite as extensive as those of any Colleges in the country.

"14. Candidates who have passed their examination, and in other respects complied with the regulations, are to be reported by the Dean to the Provost, who will communicate such report to the Board of Trustees, in order that, if approved of by them, their mandamus be issued for conferring the Degree.

"15. The Degree will not be conferred upon a candidate, who absents himself from the public Commencement, except by special permission of the Medical Faculty.

"16. Graduates of Medical Schools, on the ad Eundem list, by attending, on a full set of Tickets, one complete course in this Institution, are put upon the same footing with students who have attended two complete courses here.

Rules of Examination for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine.

"The names and essays of the candidates are to be presented to the Dean on or before the first day of February in each year. The candidates are then to be divided, either by their own arrangement or by that of the Dean, into classes of eight persons each.

"These classes will be designated numerically by lot, and then formed into groups of seven each.

"The examinations will begin regularly on the last Monday of the Session.

"No person's name will be received on a class unless his essay be in possession of the Dean; nor is his name to be attached to a class by any other than the Dean, unless he shall have signified his desire to that effect.

"The classes are to call at the houses of the several Professors, or at some other place designated by the latter; and when in attendance, each of the individuals composing a class is to be examined separately, and in the order of his name on the list of his class.

"Each Professor is to keep a list of those examined by him, and opposite to the name of each candidate is to note the result of his examination, with the view to vote in the affirmative or negative, as to his qualifications for the Degree.

"As the examination of each group of classes shall be completed, the Faculty will meet; the names of the candidates examined are to be read by the Dean; and as each name is called, the Professors are to consult their memoranda, and if no remarks be made, are to proceed to vote by ballot. If there should not be three negative votes, the candidate is to be considered as having passed, and is to be entitled to his Degree. Should three black balls be cast, the candidate is not to be considered as definitively rejected, but is to have the privilege of another examination before the whole Faculty in joint session.

"A candidate who may not have succeeded in the first ballot shall, upon declining an examination before the Faculty in joint session, have the privilege of withdrawing his Thesis, without being considered as rejected.

"If, upon the name of a candidate being called out, one or more of the Faculty have remarks to make in relation to his qualifications, they are to be heard before the vote is taken.

"The candidates in classes being thus disposed of, the Faculty will then proceed with those who may prefer an examination before the Faculty in joint session, and afterwards with those who, having received three negative votes, may still choose to avail themselves of the opportunity of a final examination offered by the Faculty.

"Formal notice of a successful examination will be delivered upon the fees of graduation being paid, after which the candidate will insert his own name with the title of his Essay, upon the Register of Graduates. No diploma will be made out, or passed candidate reported to the Board of Trustees, except from an entry upon the Register.

"If a Thesis be found remarkable for any good quality, the fact is to be reported by the Professor having charge of the Thesis, to the Faculty at their meeting, who may take upon it such action as they may deem advisable."—*Extract from the Report to the Alumni of the School*, 1845.

College of Physicians and Surgeons of the City of New York.—"*Graduation.*—Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine must have attended two full Courses of Lectures, the last in this College; they must also have studied Medicine three years under the direction of a regular physician, and have attained the age of twenty-one. Each candidate is required to write a Thesis on some subject connected with the Science of Medicine, and to deposit it with the Secretary of the Faculty. Previous to his examination, full and formal certificates of time and age must be furnished.

"The examination of candidates takes place semi-annually. That for graduation in March, on or before the first of March; and that for graduation in the fall, on the second Tuesday in September."—*Extracted from Catalogue of* 1845–46.

There are six Professors attached to this school, besides the President; the subjects taught are the same as at the University of Pennsylvania; the Lectures commence on the 1st November, and are continued until 1st March. There are likewise fall and spring courses of lectures, to which students are admitted free of charge.

Medical Department of the University of New York.—"*VI. Regulations for the Terms of Lectures, &c. Requisites for Graduation.* The lectures commence on the last Monday of October, and are continued until the last day of February following.

"The examination for degrees will commence about the 1st of March, and will be continued daily, until all the candidates shall have been examined.

"The following are the requisitions for the Diploma:

"1st. The Candidate must be 21 years of age.

"2d. He must have attended two Courses of Medical Lectures; one of which must have been delivered in the Medical Department of the University of New York.

"3d. The Candidate must have studied Medicine for three years (the terms of attending Lectures being included in these), under the direction of a respectable Medical Practitioner.

"4th. He must write a Medical Thesis, either in the English, Latin, or French language.

"Two Commencements take place annually in the University, at either of which Candidates who have complied with the above requisitions may graduate.

"The first takes place early in the month of March, and the other about the middle of the month of July. The great body of the Candidates will, no doubt, graduate at the Spring Commencement; but those who wish to postpone it will have the opportunity of coming forward in July.

"The examination for Degrees is conducted in private by the Professors individually."—*Extract from Annual Announcement of Lectures, &c.*, 1844–5.

There are six Professors attached to this school; subjects taught, same as in the two above-mentioned institutions.

Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia.—"*Regulations, &c.*—The regular courses of lectures commence on the first of November, and end on the last day of February.

"During the month of October, the anatomical rooms are open, and the Professor of Anatomy and the Demonstrator give their personal attendance thereto. Clinical instruction on Medicine and Surgery is likewise given at the Dispensary of the College.

"The examination of candidates for graduation commences on the first of March.

"The candidate must be of good moral character, and at least twenty-one years of age.

"He must have attended two full courses of lectures in some respectable Medical School, one of which, at the least, shall have been in this College, and must exhibit his tickets, or other adequate evidence thereof, to the Dean.

"He must have studied medicine for not less than three years, and have attended at least one course of clinical instruction in an Institution approved by the Faculty.

"He must present to the Dean of the Faculty a thesis of his own composition, correctly written, and in his own handwriting, on some medical subject, and exhibit to the Faculty, at his examination, satisfactory evidence of his professional attainments.

"If, after examination for a degree, the candidate, on ballot, shall be found to have received three negative votes, he shall be entitled to a fresh examination. Should he decline this, he may withdraw his thesis, and shall not be considered as rejected.

"The degree will not be conferred upon any candidate who absents himself from the public commencement, except by special permission of the Faculty."—*Extract from Catalogue of Jefferson Medical College*, 1845.

This College has seven Professors, and the subjects taught by them are the same as at the University of Pennsylvania.

II. GREAT BRITAIN.

[The following regulations are extracted from the last circular of the Edinburgh University, and from the "Student's Guide," published in Edinburgh and London.]

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.—"*Statutes of the University of Edinburgh relative to the Degree of M. D.*—Sect. I. No one shall be admitted to the examinations for the degree of doctor of medicine who has not been engaged in medical study for four years, during at least six months of each, either in the University of Edinburgh, or in some other University where the degree of M.D. is given; unless, in addition to three Anni Medici in an University, he has attended, during at least six winter months, the medical or surgical practice of a general hospital, which accommodates at least eighty patients, and during the same period, a course of practical anatomy; in which case three years of University study will be admitted.

"Sect. II. No one shall be admitted to the examinations for the degree of Doctor who has not given sufficient evidence,—

"1. That he has studied, once at least, each of the following departments of medical science, under professors of medicine in this or in some other university, as already defined, viz.:—Anatomy; chemistry; materia medica and pharmacy; institutes of medicine; practice of medicine; surgery; midwifery, and the diseases peculiar to women and children; general pathology; practical anatomy (unless it has been attended in the year of extra-academical study allowed by Sect. I.)—during courses of six months. Clinical medicine, that is, the treatment of patients in a public hospital, under a professor of medicine, by whom lectures on the cases are given—during a course of six months, or two courses of three months. Clinical surgery; medical jurisprudence; botany; natural history, including zoology—during a course of at least three months.

"2. That in each year of his academical studies in medicine, he has attended at least two of the six months' courses of lectures above specified, or one of these and two of the three months' courses.

"3. That, besides the course of clinical medicine already prescribed, he has attended, for at least six months of another year, the medical or surgical practice of a general hospital, either at Edinburgh or elsewhere, which accommodates not fewer than eighty patients.

"4. That he has attended for at least six months, by apprenticeship or otherwise, the art of compounding and dispensing drugs at the laboratory of a hospital, dispensary, member of a surgical college or faculty, licentiate of the London or Dublin Society of Apothecaries, or a professional chemist and druggist.

"5. That he has attended for at least six months, by apprenticeship or otherwise, the out-practice of a hospital, or the practice of a dispensary, or that of a physician, surgeon, or member of the London or Dublin Society of Apothecaries.

"Sect. III. No one shall obtain the degree of doctor who has not studied, in the manner already prescribed, for at least one year previous to his graduation in the University of Edinburgh.

"Sect. IV. Every candidate for the degree in medicine must deliver, before the 24th of March of the year in which he proposes to graduate, to the dean of the faculty of medicine,—

"*First.* A declaration, in his own hand-writing, that he is twenty-one years of age, or will be so before the day of graduation; and that he will not be then under articles of apprenticeship to any surgeon or other master.

"*Secondly.* A statement of his studies, as well in literature and philosophy as in medicine, accompanied with proper certificates.

"*Thirdly.* A medical dissertation composed by himself, in Latin or English; to be perused by a professor, and subject to his approval.

"Sect. V. Before a candidate be examined in medicine, the medical faculty shall ascertain, by examination, that he possesses a competent knowledge of the Latin language.

"Sect. VI. If the faculty be satisfied on this point, they shall proceed to examine him, either *vivâ voce*, or in writing; *first*, on anatomy, chemistry, botany, institutes of medicine, and *natural history* bearing chiefly on zoology; and, *secondly*, on materia medica, pathology, practice of medicine, surgery, midwifery, and medical jurisprudence.

"Sect. VII. Students who profess themselves ready to submit to an examination on the first division of these subjects, at the end of the third year of their studies, shall be admitted to it at that time.

"Sect. VIII. If any one, at these private examinations, be found unqualified for

the degree, he must study for another year two of the subjects prescribed in Sect. II., under professors of medicine, in this or in some other university, as above defined, before he can be admitted to another examination.

"Sect. IX. Should he be approved of, he will be allowed, but not required, to print his thesis; and if printed, forty copies of it must be delivered before the 25th day of July to the Dean of the medical faculty.

"Sect. X. If the candidate have satisfied the medical faculty, the Dean shall lay the proceedings before the Senatus Academicus, by whose authority the candidate shall be summoned, on the 31st of July, to defend his thesis; and, finally, if the Senate think fit, he shall be admitted, on the first lawful day of August, to the degree of doctor.

"Sect. XI. The Senatus Academicus, on the day here appointed, shall assemble at ten o'clock, A.M., for the purpose of conferring the degree; and no candidate, unless a sufficient reason be assigned, shall absent himself, on pain of being refused his degree for that year."

Royal College of Surgeons, London.—"I. Candidates will be required to bring proof: 1. Of being twenty-two years of age. 2. Of having been engaged six years in the acquirement of professional knowledge. 3. Of having studied Anatomy and Physiology, by attendance on lectures and demonstrations, and by dissections, during two anatomical seasons. 4. Of having attended at least two courses of lectures on Surgery, delivered in two distinct periods or seasons, each course to comprise not less than sixty lectures. 5. Of having attended lectures on the Practice of Physic, on Chemistry, and on Midwifery, during six months; and on Botany and Materia Medica during three months. 6. Of having attended during twelve months the Surgical Practice of a recognized hospital in London, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, or Aberdeen; or for six months in any one such hospital, and twelve months in any recognized provincial hospital.

"II. Members and Licentiates in Surgery of any legally constituted College of Surgeons in the United Kingdom, and Graduates in Surgery of any University requiring residence to obtain degrees, will be admitted for examination, on producing their diploma, license, or degree, together with proofs of being twenty-two years of age, and of having been occupied five years in the acquirement of professional knowledge.

"N.B. Certificates will not be recognized from any hospital, unless the Surgeons thereto, or a majority of them, be members of one of the legally constituted Colleges of Surgeons in the United Kingdom; nor from any School of Anatomy, Physiology, Surgery, or Midwifery, unless the respective teachers be members of some legally constituted College of Physicians or Surgeons in the United Kingdom.

"Certificates will not be received on more than two branches of science from one and the same lecturer, but Anatomy and Physiology, Demonstrations and Dissections, Materia Medica and Botany, will be respectively considered as one branch of science.

"In the certificates of attendance on Hospital Practice, and on Lectures, the dates of commencement and termination are to be inserted in words at full length.

"All the required certificates are to be delivered at the College ten days before the candidates can be admitted to examination."

III.—IRELAND.

University of Dublin.—*For the Bachelor's Degree.*—"The candidate must present to the Registrar of Trinity College certificates of having attended lectures on the following branches, viz., Anatomy, Surgery, Chemistry, Botany, Institutes of Medicine, Practice of Medicine, Materia Medica, and two courses of Clinical Lectures, given in immediate succession. These certificates must all be taken from the Professors in Trinity College, and the King's Professors, appointed by the Act for establishing a complete School of Physic in Ireland, unless some three certificates for the same courses in the University of Edinburgh be produced, which are admitted by the Board: but the certificates from any other university or college, or from any private school, are not received as qualifications.

"The Statutes, after stating generally, that three years must elapse after taking the degree of A.B. before that of M.D. can be obtained, provide that it may be taken in three different ways:—

"1. If any one commence his *medical* studies immediately on his entrance or matriculation, then he may seek the degree of M.B. after twenty-four terms—(*that is, six years*).

"2. If he begins after taking the degree of A.B., then after three years.

"3. If he begins after taking the degree of A.M., then after two years.

"On the production of the above certificates by the Registrar, the Board grant permission to the candidate to be examined by the four Medical Professors of the University, viz., the Regius Professor of Physic, the Professor of Anatomy, the Professor of Chemistry, and the Professor of Botany, provided the proper time, according to the statutes, has elapsed from the period of his graduating as a Bachelor of Arts, which examination is conducted in the Latin language. If the candidate be found qualified, the Professors individually certify the same, on which he is permitted to perform the exercises mentioned in the statutes, and at the next half-yearly commencement, the degree of Bachelor of Medicine is conferred on him by the Vice-Chancellor of the University.

"If the degree of Master of Arts be taken previously to that of Bachelor of Medicine, the degree of M.B. can be obtained in either the University of Oxford or Cambridge, which qualifies the person for being elected a Fellow of the College of Physicians of London, to whom several privileges and advantages belong.

"*Doctor of Medicine.*—The degree of M.D. may be taken in three different ways, as was stated of the degree of M.B. :—

"1. Those who obtain the degree of M.B. after twenty-four terms, or six years, from matriculation, must complete six other years before they can obtain the degree of M.D.

"2. Those who have previously taken the degree of A.B. may obtain M.D. in five years after taking the degree of M.B.

"3. Those who have previously taken the degree of A.M may obtain M.D. in four years after taking the degree of M.B.

"The candidate for the degree of Doctor of Medicine is required to dispute in the Hall, and to write and print a thesis.

"The degrees of Bachelor and Doctor of Medicine from Trinity College, rank with the degrees of M.B. and M.D. of Oxford and Cambridge."

IV.—FRANCE.

Paris School of Medicine.—There are eighteen distinct chairs established in the Paris School of Medicine, and twenty-six regularly appointed Professors, who are aided in the discharge of their duties by a number of Agrégés or assistant Professors.

"*Courses.*—The instruction is at present embraced in eighteen courses of lectures, which are divided into a winter and summer session. The former commences with the month of November and terminates in March; the latter begins on the first Monday in April, and is continued until the end of July; August, September and October are a vacation. The winter course comprises lectures on Anatomy, Medical Chemistry, Legal Medicine, Surgical Pathology, Medical Pathology, General Pathology and Therapeutics, Clinical Surgery, Clinical Medicine, and Clinical Midwifery.

"The summer session embraces courses on Medical Physics, Hygiene, Medical Natural History, Accouchements, Physiology, Surgical Pathology, Medical Pathology, Pharmacy and Organic Chemistry, Therapeutics, Pathological Anatomy, Operative Surgery, Clinical Surgery, Clinical Medicine, and Clinical Midwifery.

"The clinical lectures are delivered at the hospitals during five mornings of the week, and usually commence about nine o'clock, or immediately after the visit to the wards. All the other lectures are delivered at the School of Medicine, and between the hours of ten and four o'clock.

"*Inscriptions and Qualifications required from Students.*—An inscription means the registering one's name in a register kept for the purpose. This has to be repeated every three months, and on each occasion the student will receive a card certifying to the fact of his having inscribed. When a young man, whose intention it is to study medicine, presents himself at the bureau of the faculty to take out his first inscription (which, as well as in the case of all subsequent ones, must be done in person), he is required to deposit with the secretary the following documents:

"1st. His certificate of birth.

"2d. His parent's or guardian's consent for him to study medicine, should he be a minor.

"3d. A certificate of his morality.

"4th. His diploma of Bachelor of Letters.*

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* In lieu of the diploma of Bachelor of Letters, the student may submit to an examination, of one hour's duration, on the French, Greek, and Latin languages, general history, and geography.

† For the degree of Bachelor of Sciences, the examination is made on Mathematics, Chemistry, Zoology, Botany, Physics, and Mineralogy.

" A diploma of Bachelor of Sciences† is required after the fourth inscription and prior to the first examination.

" If the father or guardian of a student does not reside in Paris, he must introduce some known and respectable citizen, who is willing to become responsible for his good conduct.

" The full term of study comprises four years, or sixteen quarterly terms.

" *Examinations.*—Every pupil, before he can gain a diploma from the Paris faculty of medicine, must submit to five examinations, one of which takes place at the end of his first year of study, and the rest at stated intervals after.

" The first examination is on the subject of Chemistry, Physics, and Medical Natural History.

" The second embraces Anatomy and Physiology.

" The third, Internal and External Pathology.

" The fourth, Hygiene, Legal Medicine, Pharmacy, Materia Medica, and Therapeutics.

" The fifth and last is a practical one, and is conducted at the hospital of the faculty (*hôpital des cliniques*); it consists in selecting two patients from the wards of the hospital, and examining and prescribing for them in the presence of a committee of three professors.

" The first four examinations are conducted by two professors and one assistant professor, and three candidates are examined at the same time; for the fifth examination only two candidates at a time are admitted.

" Physicians and surgeons, graduates of foreign schools, who may be desirous of obtaining a diploma from the Paris faculty, must submit to all the examinations required from students; they must likewise exhibit their diplomas of Bachelor of Letters and Bachelor of Sciences If they can show, by proper certificates, that they have studied in a foreign university during two years longer than is required in the Paris faculty, they are entitled to an immediate examination, on the payment of all charges exacted for the five separately. If they cannot produce proof of having been six years engaged in study, then such time as they have studied will be allowed them, in the proportion of two-thirds; for instance, proof of three years study abroad is admitted as equivalent to two years in the Paris school, and hence attendance on lectures will be required for two years only, and so on. The King has the privilege of granting unconditional licenses to foreigners to practise in France.

" The examinations are conducted in French, and by the professors themselves, or by the assistant professors (agrégés). A student is always notified, four days beforehand, of the time appointed for an examination; and if he does not present himself at the hour indicated, he is not allowed to apply for another examination until after the expiration of three months, which are thus lost to him.

" *Theses.*—By an order of the Council Royal of Public Instruction (1838), the theses of all candidates for medical degrees are to consist of written answers to four questions, which are to be drawn for by lot. The questions embrace the subjects of the physical sciences, anatomy and physiology, surgery and medicine. A number of questions on each of these branches are proposed by the Council Royal, and those relating to the different subjects are deposited in separate urns, from each of which the candidate draws one in the presence of the Dean of the faculty, and after having undergone his second examination. The thesis is to be deposited in the hands of the Dean when the student offers himself for his final examination, and it is referred to some member of the faculty to examine, prior to its being supported in public by the author.

" All theses must be printed at the expense of the student."—*Hospitals and Surgeons of Paris.*

Notwithstanding the severe restrictions that are now imposed in France, the national medical congress which lately met at Paris, has recommended to the government, that additional requirements shall be made of candidates for the M.D. degree, and that the courses of instruction shall be still further enlarged.