

**Introductory address at the public opening of the Medical Session  
1869-70, in the University of Glasgow / by John B. Cowan.**

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# INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS

AT THE

PUBLIC OPENING

OF THE

MEDICAL SESSION 1869-70,

IN THE

University of Glasgow,

BY JOHN B. COWAN, M.D.,

REGIUS PROFESSOR OF MATERIA MEDICA IN THE UNIVERSITY.

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GLASGOW:

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## INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS.

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GENTLEMEN,

IN accordance with the recent practice of this University, it is now my duty on the part of the Medical Faculty to address to you a few words on the commencement of another Session. You will, I am sure, join my colleagues and myself in regretting deeply the illness of Professor Anderson which prevents him occupying this place, and deprives us all of the benefit and pleasure of listening to one, whose long experience as a teacher, and whose scientific attainments would have enabled him to speak with great weight and authority. Let us hope that rest for a time from his arduous labours may restore him to health and to the active duties of his Chair.

During the past year the University and the Medical Faculty have sustained a heavy loss in the premature death of Dr. George Rainey—another victim of that fatal fever which for years has borne with such severity on the profession in Glasgow. Distinguished as a student, of great promise as a teacher, with scientific tastes and highly cultivated powers, somewhat veiled under a diffident demeanour, Dr. Rainey was one of those to whom all who knew him looked forward as a future strength and ornament of our school.

One other change has taken place. Professor Lister, whose address last year many of you must have had the privilege of hearing, has been appointed to the Chair of Clinical Surgery in the University of Edinburgh. It is not often of late years that translations from Glasgow to Edinburgh have occurred, and I am not sure that I envy Mr. Lister his removal from a scene of harmony, monotonous perhaps though it may seem to some minds, yet congenial to amiable dispositions, and favourable to calm study, to one, in which ere he had fairly entered it, he became, I presume necessarily, involved in one of those professional controversies which



in the east they appear to enjoy. This much however of Professor Lister admits of no controversy—that during his connection with this University and city he gained for himself the entire confidence of his colleagues and the public—that he devoted himself to the discharge of his duties with his whole heart, and added largely to the reputation of the school. It is not for me now to enter upon the question either of the originality or the value of his applications of Antiseptic treatment. But this I must say, that having witnessed some of its results, and having faith in the accuracy of his observations, I conscientiously believe that to Professor Lister, Surgery lies under obligations but yet imperfectly realised, and that the ungrudging verdict of the future will assign to him a distinguished position among the surgeons of our day.

Of his successor, Dr. M'Leod, an old fellow-student and intimate personal friend, it would not become me to speak, and fortunately he is already well known to most of you. I have every confidence that the same ardent and energetic devotion to his profession, which led him at an eventful period to encounter the dangers of the Crimean campaign, and which has marked his subsequent career as a teacher and surgeon will be successfully applied to the duties of the new sphere of labour on which he now enters.

Gentlemen, it has been usual on occasions like the present to point out the various means by which study is to be successfully prosecuted, and to exhort by encouraging words to industry and perseverance in the acquirement of that knowledge which is essential to the practice of the healing art. But it so happens, that this is probably the last time on which an opening address will be delivered to students of medicine in this place. For, as you are all aware, what was nearly twenty years ago spoken of as imminent by one of our greatest Lord Rectors, in terms the most eloquent, is about to be accomplished. These ancient buildings which surround us are soon to disappear. This hall, more modern indeed, but which has yet rung with the oratory of Jeffrey and Brougham, of Peel and Stanley, of Macintosh and Macaulay, will soon be deserted. On a new and elevated site, surrounded by as much of verdure as can be expected in the close vicinity of a great city—a noble pile—"a fine specimen of the architecture which flourished in the days of the good Queen Victoria,"\* is now hastening to completion, and there, uncramped for space, and free as far as may be from the distractions

\* Macaulay's Inaugural Address.



of noise and tumult, this ancient University will soon enter on a new, and I doubt not the most illustrious, and most useful era of its history. And, therefore, it has occurred to me that ere leaving ground so classic, and halls replete with so many associations, it would not be uninteresting were I, in the short time at my disposal, to give you a slight sketch of the rise and growth of the Glasgow School of Medicine.

This University was founded in the middle of the 15th century, but the only notice in its early "munimenta" relative to our profession, records the admission to its bosom on the 2nd day of August, 1469, of Master Andreas de Garleis, "doctor in medicinis."

Under the Charter known as the Nova Erectio, granted in 1577 by James VI., provision was made for the teaching of Physiology, in connection with Geography, Chronology, and Astrology, and it is curious to reflect that it was reserved for our present Sovereign, to endorse the foresight and wisdom of her ancestor, by instituting in the second year of her reign, the chair so long and worthily filled by the senior member of the Medical Faculty, my teacher and life-long friend Professor Buchanan.

In the year 1637, Mr. Robert Mayne was admitted Professor of Medicine, but five years subsequently there is the following record:—"Anent the professioun of Medicine, the visitation finds that professioun is not necessar for the Colledge in all tyme coming, and withall finds it just, that Mr. Robert Mayne who is alreadie in that professioun, continue in the same during his tyme,"—a sufficiently distinct indication of the value which the visitors attached to the teaching of Medical Science.

There is a considerable period during which no allusion of any kind is made to it in the records, but upon the 29th September, 1703, "one Mr. Samuel Benion, student of Medicine, come from England, did desire that upon examination of his skill in Medicine, he might be graduate of this University. The Masters of the University found it necessary, *Primo*, That since for sometime this University hath wanted ane ordinary Professor of Medicine, there not being at present a fund for him, one of the University skilled in Medicine be chosen, *pro hac vice* allanerly Professor Extraordinairie of Medicine, and therefore they make choice of Mr. Robert Sinclare, Doctor of Medicine, Professor of Mathematicks to be *pro hac vice* allanerly Professor Extraordinairie of Medicine, and to precide in the candidates examination. *Secundo*,



That the examination of the candidates skill may be regular, two of the Physicians in town being called to join with the meeting of the University, and assist the said Dr. Sinclare in trying the candidate upon the several parts of Medicine." Accordingly upon the same day, "before Dr. Robert Sinclare and Mr. Thomas Kennedy, M.D., Mr. George Thomsone, M.D., assessors, called to this meeting of the University, Mr. Benion did resolve a case of Medicine to the good satisfaction of the Professor Extraordinairie, and his assessors assumed by him *Consensu Senatus Universitatis*. The said Professor Extraordinairie, with his assistants the Physicians, did also examine Mr. Benion upon the several parts of Medicine, which being done, Dr. Sinclare, H.T.M.P.E., as Præses Examinis, did report it was their opinion he should be graduate Doctor of Medicine since he had undergone due and sufficient tryals by a College of Physicians, and behaved himself well therein, which being considered, it was resolved by this meeting of the University, that the above Mr. Benion be promoted to the degree of Doctorate in Medicine." A few days afterwards his diploma was ordered to be drawn—the text of which is given in the munimenta.

On 4th July, 1704, "The Facultie considering how suitable it is for the College that their great yaird, together with that behind the gardiner's house, be better improved for the ornament of the College, and for the Students' improvement in the skill of Botany, enact that some part thereof be set apart for that use;" and on 17th September of the same year, John Marshall, Chirurgeon in Glasgow, a relative of my own family, was nominated to take charge of the physick garden, and to instruct the scholars who shall apply to him for the study of Botany.

The want of a Professor of Medicine in 1711 again constrained the Faculty to resort to physicians in the city to assist in the examination of Mr. Robert Houston, surgeon, who was admitted to graduation 1712\*; and in the same year the Faculty appointed the sum of £10, with 20s. to the servant, as the fee for the degree of M.D., the candidate being required to print his thesis, and to defend the same.

At a later period (Sept. 29, 1720), a motion was made in favour of "Mr. Andrew Grahame, now Governour to the most noble David Marquise of Grahame, that there should be granted to him a diploma creating him Doctor in Medicine." On this occasion,

\* Note I.



"several Members of Faculty having stated that they knew him to be a person of learning, and that he had studied Medicine for a long time, and particularly that he had studied Botany in this University, and that his present circumstances did not allow him to come to this place to undergo the usual trials," it was agreed that the diploma be drawn and sent to him.

A warrant was received in January, 1714, appropriating certain Crown grants to support Professors of Civil Law and Medicine; and on 1st June of the same year Dr. John Johnston, "a person well skilled in Medicine," was elected to the latter chair. The Professorship of Anatomy and Botany was founded in 1718. Dr. Thomas Brisbane, whose name has been perpetuated by the foundation of the most valuable Bursary in the Faculty of Medicine, was appointed to the chair. By a minute of date 1721, he was ordained to give a course of Comparative Anatomy; and by an act of the visitors (19th Sep., 1727), "to teach Botany yearly from 15th May to 1st July, if five scholars offer;" and "Anatomy yearly—and that he begin to teach so soon as ten scholars offer; and if no such number offer before the 1st day of Nov., that thereafter he shall Prelect publickly on Anatomy once every week, as other Professors are to do in the like cases, until the 15th day of May that he shall begin to teach Botany."

Till a later date, however, these chairs seem not to have been available for instruction—his biographer stating that when Cullen studied, from 1724 to 1727, no lectures were delivered by the Professors of the Medical Faculty. This great physician was born in the Parish of Hamilton in 1710, received his early education at the grammar school of that town, and on commencing his medical studies was, according to the fashion of these times, bound apprentice to Mr. John Paisley, a Member of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, and in extensive practice in Glasgow. At the close of his studies here, Cullen proceeded to London, and soon afterwards was appointed surgeon to a merchant ship trading to the West Indies, where he had opportunities of studying the effects of climate on the constitution, and of observing the diseases there so fatal. On his return to London, his mind was specially directed to *Materia Medica*, from attending the shop of Mr. Murray, apothecary. He subsequently came back to Scotland, studied for some years in Edinburgh, and then commenced the practice of his pro-



fession in Hamilton. While there, William Hunter was committed to his care, and their long and steady friendship commenced. In 1740 Cullen graduated at this University,\* and in 1744 settled in this city. He was, it would appear, the first real teacher of medicine in Glasgow, having delivered an extramural course of lectures on the Theory and Practice of Physic in 1744-45; and, with the sanction of Dr. Johnstoun, within the University in the following year.

Inspired with the ambition of forming a Medical School at Glasgow, Cullen not only continued in 1747 his course of the Practice of Physic, but lectured also on *Materia Medica* and Botany, in conjunction with Mr. Carrick. According to Mr. Wallace, a student in these classes, the numbers in attendance were few—not above twenty; but in the Chemistry class, which he also conducted, his audience was larger, being recruited from the ranks of the Arts' students as well as of the citizens. No more striking proof of Cullen's marvellous powers and capacity for work can be adduced, than the ready manner in which, on a pressing emergency, he undertook to deliver instructions in Chemistry, in addition to his other engrossing duties. Dr. Cullen was formally admitted to the chair of Medicine in 1751; but, unfortunately for the school of which he was the founder, he was transferred to Edinburgh in 1756, where his subsequent career proved how great had been his loss to this University.

In 1746 there came to Glasgow, as a student, one of whom it has been said by Lord Brougham, that "the physical sciences have few more illustrious names to boast than that of Joseph Black." Cullen soon discovered his genius, and encouraged him in the studies to which he was specially inclined. At a later time of his life Black taught Chemistry, Anatomy, and Medicine, and it may well be supposed what an impetus he gave to science during the ten years of his connexion with the University, years in which he matured those wonderful discoveries which will ever be associated with his name.

There is one remarkable family of which this University is justly proud, and three of the members of which contributed largely to the early success of the Medical school. Dr. Robert Hamilton was appointed Professor of Anatomy in 1742, and transferred to the Practice of Medicine in 1756. His younger brother

\* Note II.



Thomas, partner of Dr. John Moore, succeeded Black in the Chair of Anatomy, and was in his turn succeeded by his more eminent son William, who, trained under Cullen and William Hunter, was appointed Professor at the age of 23. Unfortunately, he died young, although not till he had risen to distinction as an anatomist and surgeon. He left two sons—Sir William Hamilton, the great metaphysician of our day, and Thomas, the accomplished author of *Cyril Thornton*.

It is not my intention to weary you with personal details of the colleagues and immediate successors of the founders of our school. If they have been eclipsed by names like those of Cullen and Black, they unquestionably afforded valuable aid in furthering the cause of medical education.

But there was one great hindrance in the way. No school of medicine can fulfil its functions in the absence of proper means of practical instruction in the observation and treatment of disease. And hence it is stated in Reid's Account of the University that its medical school was long retarded by the want of an Infirmary. In a letter, dated 1766, he writes, "I think we might have a College of Medicine here, if we had an Infirmary." I am not able to state precisely how long previous to the fulfilment of Dr. Reid's implied wish, the sick of the Town's Hospital were made available for clinical instruction; but I have in my possession tickets, dated 1787-88, for lectures on the cases of patients, delivered in that Institution, by Dr. Cleghorn. This gentleman was, in the latter of these years, appointed Lecturer on *Materia Medica*, and, three years later, on Chemistry, so that his clinical class would supply the want which had been so much felt, and would supplement the College course of instruction. Dr. Cleghorn remained connected with the University for many years. He acquired the first position as a physician in this city, and his portrait hangs within the walls of the Royal Asylum, in grateful recognition of his labours in the treatment of the insane.

In the year 1787 a Professor of this University, unconnected with the Medical Faculty—Mr. Jardine, for 40 years the popular occupant of the chair of Logic—convinced of the necessity of establishing an hospital in a community of such extent and importance as Glasgow was then becoming, applied himself to the task; and, aided by Dr. Stevenson, carried his project to a successful issue. A royal charter was obtained in 1791, and in the following



year a grant was received of the Archbishop's castle and adjoining grounds. On the 18th of May, 1792, with every possible honour, the foundation stone of the Royal Infirmary was laid, and on 8th December, 1794, the building was thrown open for the reception of patients.

At the time when the Infirmary was established, and for years afterwards, there was a well-marked line of demarcation between the physicians and surgeons of Glasgow, and only the "pures," as they were ironically styled, were eligible for the post of physician. Accordingly, this office was monopolised chiefly by gentlemen connected with the University—Cleghorn, Hope, Millar, Freer, Graham, Thomson, and Brown, all well-remembered and honoured names,—and this close connection must have been highly useful to the school. The only appointments without the University, up till 1832, were those of Balmano, Nimmo, Watt, and Robertson, the two latter extramural teachers of medicine, and the two former well-known physicians. The surgical appointments, on the contrary, were more widely distributed, and embrace the names, with few exceptions, of all the active and successful practitioners of Glasgow, from the end of last century. The monopoly of the physicians came to an end, mainly because of the paucity of men eligible for the office.

The benefits which the Royal Infirmary has conferred not only on the inhabitants of Glasgow, but on the population of the West of Scotland, may be inferred from the fact, that since its opening, to the close of last year, no fewer than 213,280 persons have been treated within its walls, while many thousands more have been attended as out-patients. As a further evidence of its expansion, and, at the same time, an indication of the liberality of the public, it may be mentioned, that while the annual income in 1795 was, in round numbers, £3,600; in 1868 it amounted to (ordinary and extraordinary) £21,152.

Perhaps, however, the most gratifying circumstance connected with the Infirmary, is the extraordinary support it receives from the working men of Glasgow, who, last year, contributed no less a sum than £5,226—a striking evidence of their appreciation of its services, and an example of high-minded independence, which, as far as I know, is without a parallel.

I need scarcely dilate upon the very important bearing which the opening of the Infirmary and its increase and development have



exercised on the progress of the Medical School. While Clinical instruction and some courses of Clinical Lectures were given during the early part of the century, it was not till the year 1829 that the Managers, in order to surmount difficulties arising from the conflicting interests of the teachers and the profession, passed a resolution, that every physician and surgeon, shall deliver in turn Clinical Lectures, and that attendance on these Lectures be obligatory on all students of the hospital.

Since that period, although there have been fluctuations in the number of students, some of which are easily accounted for, others less explicable, there has been a marked and decided progress in everything that indicates the vitality of a school. It would be doing injustice to my own feelings, and I am sure to those of my colleagues, were I not now, on behalf of the University, to express our grateful sense of the liberal spirit which the Managers of the Royal Infirmary have always shown in promoting the efficiency of Clinical and Pathological instruction, and thus furthering the great cause of medical education.

While the Royal Infirmary was gaining public confidence, and extending its usefulness, the University kept pace with the advance of medical science. In addition to the chairs of Anatomy and Medicine, lecturers, as has already been incidentally noticed, were appointed to teach *Materia Medica* and Chemistry. Dr. Jeffray who, for fifty-seven years was Professor of Anatomy, was nominated in 1790. His commission from the Crown, as does that of Professor Allen Thomson, named him also Professor of Botany, and accordingly he delivered lectures on that science. At a later period he formed a class of surgery, and continued to teach it till the foundation of a Professorship by the Crown in 1815. Dr. Jeffray, during his long and honourable career, gave instructions in Anatomy, as I find from his books, kindly placed at my disposal, by his son, Dr. James Jeffray, to several thousand students—and, in looking over his class lists, there occur the names of two generations of Scottish practitioners, and of many men who in England and Ireland, as well as in the public services, have acquired high distinction.

In 1807, the chair of Natural History was founded by the Crown, and between that date and 1839, were established the other chairs of the Medical Faculty as now existing.

But it must be remembered that the College had, as regards



several of the subjects, anticipated the action of the Crown, for Chemistry, Surgery, Materia Medica, and the theory of Medicine, had all been taught under its auspices, and by its authority. You will note then that up till 1839, the Medical School of the University can scarcely be said to have been complete. But for years previous it had been gaining in numbers and influence owing to the energy and talent of its teachers.

I have already alluded to Dr. Jeffray, whom some now present still gratefully remember. Dr. Thomas Thomson, by his writings and discoveries, spread the fame of the chair of Chemistry, and gave, by his teaching, a mighty impetus to Chemical research and study. Sir William Hooker adorned the chair of Botany. Dr. Burns beginning his career as a teacher of Anatomy, and better known as an accoucheur than a surgeon—still threw himself with vigour into the duties of the chair of Surgery, at the same time zealously promoting University interests and stimulating the literary tastes of students of medicine.

With such men as teachers, it is not difficult to understand how the School of Medicine progressed. In the year 1769 the number of graduates in medicine was two, while in the hundred years which have elapsed, this University has conferred the degree of M.D. on 2,373 gentlemen; of M.C. on 775; of M.B. on 180; of C.B. (a qualification of which, till recently, I was in ignorance, but which I find was authorised by the Senate in 1818) on six, making a total of 3,333 graduates. Even this number, however, cannot be accepted as a test of the strength of the school, for many students of the last and earlier part of the present century, contented themselves with a surgical qualification from one of the corporations.

But our School is not the only one of which Glasgow can boast, and the University owes something to the existence of that competition which exercises so healthy an influence on every department of active life.

Towards the close of last century, John Burns taught Anatomy and Surgery in a building at the north-west corner of Virginia Street, which was the precursor of what is so well known to the profession as the College Street School. Having, however, become involved with the authorities on account of some doubtful practices which his Anatomical ardour had led him to engage in, to avoid legal proceedings, he promised to discontinue his lectures on



Anatomy, and commenced a course of Midwifery. His brother Allan, who, at the age of 16, was competent to the charge of the Dissecting Room, succeeded him in the class of Anatomy, and so great was the success of his tuition, that I have the authority of Professor Rainy for saying, that, at the period of his studentship, more applied to be received as pupils than could be accommodated. Allan Burns died when he was only 32, having established his claims to be considered one of the most accomplished anatomists of his time, and having made the Glasgow School known throughout Europe.

Granville Pattison, afterwards of New York, and University College, London, succeeded Allan Burns, and had for a colleague Robert Watt, the distinguished author of the *Bibliotheca Britannica*, and many well-known medical works, who lectured on the Practice of Physic. The College Street School, with varying fortunes, lingered till a comparatively recent period.

In the year 1796, Professor John Anderson bequeathed his whole property to form an Institution upon an extended and liberal scale. He planned a College of Medicine, to consist of nine professorships, and he nominated in his will the occupants of these chairs. His vast scheme never has been, and probably never will, be carried out. But in the year 1819, Dr. Mackenzie, of whom I shall presently say more, was appointed lecturer on Anatomy and Surgery; while Chemistry had an accomplished teacher in Dr Ure. But it was not till 1828 that a Medical School was formed. Drs. Hunter, Hannay, and Armour, who had been lecturing in the Anatomical Theatre, in Portland Street, applied for the use of the Andersonian class rooms, which was granted, on the condition that the dissecting room should continue in Portland Street. Other lecturers were appointed, and the school commenced on a wider basis than that of the University, as then constituted. It met with very considerable success—such success indeed, that in 1830 a rival school was established in the Portland Street buildings. Mr. Thomas Graham, the late eminent master of the Mint, lectured there on Chemistry, and gathered around him a staff of earnest and enthusiastic men. I must admit that the opening of these schools had an immediate effect in diminishing the attendance at the University. But their spirit and honourable rivalry did infinite good to the School of Medicine as a whole, and from what has been told me I have little doubt that for nine



years, dating from 1830, there was remarkable enthusiasm among teachers and students. The Andersonian continues a flourishing institution, so far as its popular and medical classes are concerned, but the Portland Street School, after a considerable period of vigorous existence has now for years been closed.

Independent of the benefits which these extramural schools have conferred on the profession, they have exercised no little influence on the University itself. From the ranks of their teachers many of the occupants of this bench in times past, as well as present, have been taken, and I am glad to acknowledge the deep obligations under which I and some of my colleagues lie to the Andersonian, where we first had the opportunity of acquiring that experience in teaching so essential to the due discharge of duty, and for the absence of which it is difficult to find any compensative.

There is an ancient Corporation of this City, to which the Medical School is much indebted. The Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons was constituted by Royal Charter in November, 1599, and received in virtue of that charter important and special privileges. Its history has already been in part published by my friend Dr. Weir, and I am sanguine that ere long, the public and the profession will be able to judge from a more complete narrative of its actions, how well it has performed its important functions. But without encroaching on the province of its annalist, I may be allowed to say that from the date of its foundation up to the present hour, the Faculty has ever devoted its influence to the advancement of medical education. There have been times when its interests were at variance with those of the University, and even times when the two bodies were in open hostility, but these times are now happily past, and while I doubt not the Faculty recognizes the services which the University has rendered to medical science, the University in its turn cannot fail to appreciate the wholesome influence which by a wise and prudent policy the Faculty has exercised on the medical profession. Many of its most eminent members have been closely connected with the College, and I trust that in the future the history of the two corporations may exhibit a continuance of those harmonious relations which at present so happily subsist between them.

Other institutions in Glasgow have been valuable auxiliaries to the School of Medicine.



The Eye Infirmary was founded in 1824, through the exertions of two remarkable men—Dr. George Monteath and Dr. William Mackenzie. Dr. Monteath, at an early period of his life, devoted himself to anatomy, which he taught for some time in rooms in the Gallowgate, and he is described by the highest authority on the subject as “particularly distinguished as an oculist, and unquestionably the first individual in this city who materially improved the treatment of the diseases of the eye.” He died in his 40th year. Dr. Mackenzie continued surgeon of the Eye Infirmary through a long life. He devoted a large part of his time to its interests, and he accumulated there a mass of important facts and observations which are embodied in his work on diseases of the eye. This University had also the privilege of numbering this great oculist among its lecturers, and the School of Glasgow derived much benefit at an earlier period of its history from his enthusiasm as a teacher of other branches, and from the energy and talent he displayed in founding and supporting the first series of the *Glasgow Medical Journal*.

The necessary facilities for Obstetric practice have been abundantly supplied by the Lying-in Hospital; while the Royal Lunatic Asylum and the Lock-Hospital are, under certain restrictions, open to students of medicine. So that, with all these opportunities, it can scarcely be questioned that Glasgow furnishes an ample field for the practical study of every form of disease.

There are some special circumstances which in recent years have favoured the progress of the school.

Prominent among these are the unrivalled facilities for anatomical study, and nowhere in the kingdom can better proof be found than here of the wisdom of the Legislature in passing the Anatomy Act. Since that Act received the Royal Assent, not only has popular prejudice been completely allayed, but without wounding the susceptibilities of any class, abundant provision at moderate expense has been made for the requirements of anatomical study.

Great attention has been paid to practical instruction in Chemistry, and every inducement held out to pursue laboratory work. Indeed, as regards Chemistry, Glasgow has always held high vantage ground. While Thomson taught in the College—Ure, Graham, and Gregory—names ever to be associated with chemical science—were active extern teachers; and the chemical



manufactories of the city cemented a union advantageous to both interests between science and commerce.

The Botanic Garden is a valuable adjunct of the Medical School, and will come to be of even greater value to the student when the University is removed to its neighbourhood.

The Infirmary, to which I have already alluded to, is one of the largest and most complete hospitals in the kingdom.\* From the varying nature of the great industries which surround us, and which have made Glasgow the second city in the Empire, there are always in its wards cases of injury of every kind and degree, and necessarily a large amount of operative practice. Its dresserships are thrown open without fee, and its resident assistantships—posts of responsibility and importance—are within the reach of every meritorious student.

The social condition of a large mass of the population entails evils which seem difficult to eradicate or diminish. Not only are the medical wards often crowded with those cases of disease which will in private practice most frequently demand your skill; but typhus fever, never absent from our city, at times assumes a wide-spread virulence which taxes to the utmost the hospital accommodation. I well remember the time, though not then a student, when physicians from France, Belgium, Germany, and Switzerland, as well as England and Ireland, came here to observe and study this fever, of which they had seen but rare examples. And I may be allowed, in passing, to say that the observations made long ago in the Glasgow Infirmary as to the identity or non-identity of typhus and typhoid fevers have not received in subsequent discussions and investigations that weight and prominence to which they they were fairly entitled.

The University School lies under obligations to special benefactors, although in this respect the Faculty of Medicine has not been so highly favoured as those of theology and the arts. There are only three bursaries specially allotted to students of medicine. One of them was founded by Dr. Walton, who also left a fund for a special lectureship; one by Miss Brisbane, and one in recent years by Mrs. Logan of this city. I hope that future benefactors will not overlook the claims of students of medicine—many of whom have to struggle with difficulties of no light kind.

But the noblest benefaction which Glasgow College ever received

\* Note III.



was, I am proud to say, the legacy of a Glasgow student. William Hunter, who here received part of his education, to mark his sense of gratitude to his *Alma Mater*, bequeathed to the University that museum which we all so highly value. The University had evinced their admiration of his success. On 24th October, 1750, "it was represented that it is very proper, and becoming this University, to confer the degree of Doctor in Medicine upon Mr. William Hunter, surgeon in London, who passed his course in languages and philosophy in this University, and by his great skill and ability is justly celebrated as one of the most able anatomists in Europe, and the Faculty unanimously agreed to confer the degree upon him, and appoint a suitable diploma to be expedited for him."

It may not be known to some of you, that Hunter, in 1765, proposed to Cullen, then settled in Edinburgh, to join with him, "to raise a School of Physic, upon a noble plan at Glasgow." "I would propose," he writes, "to give all my Museum and Library, and build a theatre at my own expense; and I should ask nothing for teaching but the credit of doing it with reputation. You and Black and I, with those we could choose, I think could not fail of making our neighbours stare. We should at once draw all the English, and I presume most of the Scotch students;" and, who can doubt, with such a *trio*, that the contemplated school would have been a triumphant success.

How much, gentlemen, the various circumstances I have mentioned, combined with the rapid increase of the city, in prosperity and population, may have favoured the University School of Medicine, it is difficult to estimate. But there has been, during the last twenty years, if we except those sessions which, owing to the changes introduced by the Medical Act, furnished an unusual number of students, a steady increase, and we may now count upon upwards of three hundred students of medicine.

Having reached such a stage of progress, the question naturally suggests itself—What is to be the future of the School? We stand upon the threshold of a new career. That career will commence under the most favourable auspices. Those buildings which have been reared by the liberality of the government on the one hand, and the unprecedented generosity of the public on the other, a national as well as a local recognition of the claims of our *Alma Mater*, demand that in the future a greater and wider work be achieved than has ever yet been accomplished within her walls.



The University is bound by every sentiment of honour to see, that it proves itself worthy of the great trust confided to its charge. It must not stand still. In an age of marvellous eagerness in the pursuit of knowledge, of resistless progress in science, of wide-spread development of industries, of universal energy, it must act the part of pioneer, and avoid that of obstructive.

Specially, is our Medical School, founded by the genius and labours of Cullen and Black, to dwindle in numbers and lose in reputation? Will the magnificence and superior advantages of Gilmorehill compensate for the loss of our connection with so tried an Institution as our noble Infirmary? These are the questions which you, and we, and our successors, have to solve. I have no fear of the ultimate result, though, at first, there will be many difficulties to surmount. In our new buildings unrivalled accommodation is provided. There will be spacious Lecture Rooms, Class Museums, and Reading Rooms, and provision will be made for practical instruction and experiment, such as have never previously been attainable. The University Library, in all its departments, will be easy of access. The Hunterian and University Museums will be fully available for private study and research. Many treasures which have hitherto, from necessity, been overlooked or secluded, will be brought to light. In such a building, with such means, I cannot doubt that our school will continue to flourish if the spirit of the future is equal to that of the past.

Bound as the University is to erect an Hospital, many anxious months have been spent in considering and maturing plans in accordance with the most recent and approved views of what such a building should be, and I think I may venture to say the utmost comfort and health of the patients, and the fullest appliances for Chemical and Pathological instruction will be secured. Provision is intended to be made for the accommodation of cases of special disease, so that the teaching of the class room may be illustrated and applied in the wards, and I am not without the hope that opportunities will be afforded for the study and treatment of the diseases of children, such as the Medical School of Glasgow has not hitherto enjoyed.

Apart from all local circumstances, the school will be entering upon its new life at a time, when medical education forms one of the most engrossing topics of professional discussion, and is not unlikely to come under the scrutiny of the Legislature. As the



report to the General Medical Council on this important subject has not yet been discussed, it would be premature to offer any dogmatic opinion upon the views which it embodies. But I may be allowed, speaking for myself to say, that I do not believe medical science is to be extended, or medical education improved, by any system which merely points to modifications of examinations, or an increase in the number and further sub-division of the subjects to be taught. What is wanted, in my view, is, that the preliminary and general education shall be of such a character as will enable the student to avail himself fully of the courses of professional study prescribed. What the Universities of Scotland specially need, to give their medical degrees the value of those of Oxford and Dublin, is, that the curriculum for an Arts' degree be so modified and arranged that every student of medicine will see it to be an advantage and honour to have acquired a degree in Arts. It has been said that such a consummation is not possible, and with the Arts' curriculum as it stands, I do not believe it is. But if a degree in Arts was required, in order to pass to a degree in Medicine, the examination for the former embracing a fair test of general knowledge, and latitude being given and allowance made for proficiency in any special department of science, the Medical degree would be of higher value than it is now—the prosperity and fame of our school would, in my judgment, be ultimately increased, and medical education would receive a great impetus.

And now, gentlemen, before closing, I ought perhaps to apologize for having, on this occasion, departed somewhat from the beaten track, and said nothing as to the personal relations which are to commence this day—so far as some of you are concerned—between you and your teachers. But having for twelve years been brought in close connection with Glasgow students—knowing them, as I think, thoroughly—and having ever found them, as a body, keenly alive to their responsibilities, anxious to do their best, and courteous and respectful in their bearing—I deem it unnecessary to inculcate either good conduct or zealous study.

I may be allowed simply to express the hope, that what I have told you of this school may stimulate you to earnest application to the duties which lie before you.

Belonging as you do to the University which claims these eminent men whose names I have mentioned, and many others, who have left their impress upon the times in which they lived, I trust



and believe you will strive still further to extend its fame, and adorn the profession whose portals it opens to you.

May this last session in the old College of Glasgow be memorable for the proofs it will afford that the students of Medicine were not unmindful of its reputation, and in leaving regretfully these venerable buildings, may we ever remember the duty we owe and the obligations we lie under to our beloved *Alma Mater*.



## APPENDIX.

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### NOTE I.

3rd January, 1712.

Sederunt :—Mr. J. Stirling, Principal and Vice-Chancellor ; Mr. J. Simson, S.T.P. ; Mr. J. Law, P.P. ; Mr. A. Dunlop, G.L.P. ; Mr. A. Rosse, H.L.P. ; Mr. Charles Morthland, LL.O.P. ; Mr. R. Simson, Math. P. ; Dr. Montgomerie, Assessor ; Dr. Johnstoun, Assessor. The Faculty being met with the above-named Assessors for appointing the tryals of Mr. Robert Houstoun, surgeon in Glasgow. The following case and aphorism were given him to be resolved, against to-morrow at four of the clock in the afternoon :—

Juvenis viginti quatuor annorum aut circiter valido et vegeto corporis habitu præditus, subito morbo est correptus, cujus hæc symptomata ;

Dolor lateris acutus pungens,

Febris acuta continua,

Respiratio difficilis, parva, frequens,

Tussis molesta aliquando cum sputo sanguinis,

Lingua aridi, sitis magna, frigidi potus et frigidi aeris quaeritatio. Quæ omnia in principio mitiora sunt in augmento graviora evadunt. In statu morbi vigiliæ, Dolor Capitis et aliquando Delirium.

Quæritur quisnam morbus et quænam morbi Theoria et Therapeia.

Aph. 72, sect. 4. Hippocratis.

Quibus pellucidæ et albæ, sunt urinæ ; Mæ ; præcipiæ vero in Phreniticis apparent.

4th January, 1712.

Sederunt ut Supra, addito decano facultatis :—This day Mr. Robert Houston read in presence of the Faculty the resolution of the case and aphorism formerly appointed, and the Physicians' Assessors having declared their satisfaction therewith, the said Physicians, with the Dean of Faculty, did withdraw and examine the said Mr. Houston upon the several parts of medicine ; and being returned, reported that he had acquitted himself well in the said examination, and that it was their opinion that the said Mr. Houston should be graduated Doctor in Medicine, since he had undergone due and sufficient tryals, and behaved himself well therein : which being considered, it was unanimously resolved that the said Mr. Houston be promoted to the degree of Doctorat in Medicine.—Mun. Univ., Glasgow, vol. ii. p. 402.



## NOTE II.

The following is the text of the diploma conferring the degree of M.D. on Dr. Cullen. It differs somewhat from that which has been issued in recent years. Dr. Allen Thomson, to whom it belongs, intends to deposit it in the University Museum.

## SENATUS ACADEMIÆ GLASGUENSIS.

## CHRISTIAN SECTION.

## SALUTEM.

Quum Juvenis Egregius Gulielmus Cullen, A.M., nostræ alumnus postquam arti medicæ tum in nostræ tum in Edinburgensi Academia, operam dedisset egregium a nobis petiverit ut Titulo se Academico doctrinæ, suæ conveniente ornaremus, seque ad specimen exhibendum profectus sui in rebus medicis paratum ostenderit, nos cum in medicina curavimus examinandum : In quo examine præclaram eruditionem et medendi peritiam pari cum modestia conjunctam nobis abunde probaverit, nos dictum Gulielmum Cullen, medicinæ doctorem creandum censuimus et declarandum ; medicinæ eum doctorem creavimus ac declaravimus ; et his eum literis doctorem apellamus, atque apud omnes haberi et appellari volumus. Eique potestatem damus plenissimam de re Medica Legendi Docendi, Consultandi Scribendi et Disputandi in Cathedram Doctoralem ascendendi, omnes denique tam theoriæ medicæ quam praxeos actos, ubique terrarum exercendi, et omnes simul honores, prærogativas omnes ei concedimus et privilegia quæ vero Medicinæ Doctori usquam gentium conceduntur aut concedi solent. In quorum omnium fidem Literis hisce Universitate nostræ sigillo munitis, nomina subscripsimus.

Datum Glasguæ die iv<sup>to</sup> Septembris, anno Æræ Christianæ MDCCXL.

JO. LOUDOUNE, P.P.  
T. BRISBANE, A<sup>Bot.</sup> P.  
ROB. SIMSON, MATH. P.

NEIL CAMPBELL, AC. PRÆF. ET V. C.  
AL. DUNLOP, DOC. FAC. LING., GR. PR.  
GUL. FORBES, J. U. P.  
JO. JOHNSTOUNE, MED. P.  
WIL. ANDERSONE, H. E. P.

## NOTE III.

In 1868, the number of cases treated to a termination in the Medical Wards of the Royal Infirmary, was 2,234 ; in the Surgical Wards, 2,210 ; and in the Fever and Small Pox Wards, 884—making a total of 5,328. The number of operations performed during the year was 325, of Vaccinations, 1,762, and of out-patients treated at the Dispensary, 13,240.



The following table shows the results of the experiments conducted on the 11th and 12th of the month.

TABLE I. - Results of the experiments on the 11th and 12th of the month.

Experiment No. 1.

11th of the month.

The first experiment was conducted on the 11th of the month. The results of this experiment are shown in the following table. The first column shows the time taken for the reaction to occur. The second column shows the amount of gas evolved. The third column shows the temperature of the reaction mixture. The fourth column shows the pressure of the reaction mixture. The fifth column shows the volume of the reaction mixture. The sixth column shows the density of the reaction mixture. The seventh column shows the viscosity of the reaction mixture. The eighth column shows the refractive index of the reaction mixture. The ninth column shows the optical density of the reaction mixture. The tenth column shows the optical activity of the reaction mixture. The eleventh column shows the optical rotation of the reaction mixture. The twelfth column shows the optical density of the reaction mixture. The thirteenth column shows the optical activity of the reaction mixture. The fourteenth column shows the optical rotation of the reaction mixture. The fifteenth column shows the optical density of the reaction mixture. The sixteenth column shows the optical activity of the reaction mixture. The seventeenth column shows the optical rotation of the reaction mixture. The eighteenth column shows the optical density of the reaction mixture. The nineteenth column shows the optical activity of the reaction mixture. The twentieth column shows the optical rotation of the reaction mixture.

Experiment No. 2.

12th of the month.

The second experiment was conducted on the 12th of the month. The results of this experiment are shown in the following table. The first column shows the time taken for the reaction to occur. The second column shows the amount of gas evolved. The third column shows the temperature of the reaction mixture. The fourth column shows the pressure of the reaction mixture. The fifth column shows the volume of the reaction mixture. The sixth column shows the density of the reaction mixture. The seventh column shows the viscosity of the reaction mixture. The eighth column shows the refractive index of the reaction mixture. The ninth column shows the optical density of the reaction mixture. The tenth column shows the optical activity of the reaction mixture. The eleventh column shows the optical rotation of the reaction mixture. The twelfth column shows the optical density of the reaction mixture. The thirteenth column shows the optical activity of the reaction mixture. The fourteenth column shows the optical rotation of the reaction mixture. The fifteenth column shows the optical density of the reaction mixture. The sixteenth column shows the optical activity of the reaction mixture. The seventeenth column shows the optical rotation of the reaction mixture. The eighteenth column shows the optical density of the reaction mixture. The nineteenth column shows the optical activity of the reaction mixture. The twentieth column shows the optical rotation of the reaction mixture.











