

**Report on the increase in the teaching and examining work of the professors of the medical faculty and on the justice and expediency of increased remuneration by fees or otherwise. May, 1874.**

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" report in Edinburgh, and the man would not be independent in any sense."

What we have recommended, and what has been submitted to the Treasury for approval, is the appointment of a Keeper with the salary of 350*l.* rising to 400*l.* per annum.

Professor Thomson said in his second report, see page 46, that there ought to be an "Assistant Keeper of known character and acquirements attached to the Natural History Department of the Edinburgh Museum." . . . .  
 "He should be, in fact, in the position of an 'Assistant Keeper' in the British Museum, and should have that name." Now the salary of an Assistant Keeper of the British Museum is 450*l.*

The assistant with this salary was to be Professor Thomson's assistant. I am at loss to understand how it becomes unnecessary to have a naturalist of the class indicated—I take it the best man who offered would be appointed in either case—when he is to be in charge of the Museum and not to be merely an assistant.

I need not comment on the following sentences of Professor Thomson's letter. They have been sufficiently answered before. It is not proposed to deprive the University students of the use of the Museum in any legitimate way. It is only intended that the Museum shall not be worked purely for the benefit of one class of students.

J. F. D. DONNELLY,  
 Major, R.E.  
 5th July 1873.

[*Proof.*]

*University of Edinburgh.*

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# REPORT

ON THE INCREASE

IN THE

TEACHING AND EXAMINING WORK

OF THE PROFESSORS OF THE MEDICAL FACULTY

AND ON THE

JUSTICE AND EXPEDIENCY OF INCREASED REMUNERATION  
BY FEES OR OTHERWISE.

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MAY, 1874.

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EDINBURGH:  
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## REPORT.

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THE attention of the Medical Faculty having been called to the great increase in the teaching and examining work of the Medical Professors, and the question of the justice and expediency of a corresponding increase of remuneration having been raised, the Faculty submits the following Report on the subject to the Senatus.

I. Since 1812, when the fees were fixed at their present rate, the teaching and examining work of the Professors in the Medical Faculty has very considerably increased. This increase is due—

1st, To the institution of new classes.

2d, To the increased amount of labour and time devoted to the teaching of Clinical Medicine and Surgery.

3d, To the development of a demonstrative system of teaching in all branches of medical education.

4th, To the institution of written class examinations.

5th, To the institution of written examinations and of clinical and practical examinations for degrees.

1. Most of the Professors in the Faculty have now, in addition to the regular course of lectures, a practical class or classes. Some of these classes have been recently instituted, and are voluntary, both as regards the Professor and the student. Such are—Practical Physiology, Bandaging and Surgical Appliances, Demonstrations in Obstetrical Operations, Practical Pathology, Garden Demonstrations in Botany,



Vegetable Histology, Practical Zoology. Some have been long established, and may be considered as belonging to the regular work of the chair to which they are attached. Such are Practical Chemistry, including the Chemical Laboratory, and Practical Anatomy, including Anatomical Demonstrations. Besides these practical classes, some of the Professors have instituted courses on special departments of their subjects. Thus the Professor of Anatomy has frequently lectured on special departments of Anatomy; the Professor of Chemistry has a course of lectures for advanced students; the Professor of the Practice of Medicine gives a special course on Medical Psychology and Mental Diseases, with practical instruction at an asylum; the Professor of Midwifery has a special course of clinical lectures on Diseases of Women; and the Professor of Medical Jurisprudence has given supplemental lectures on Public Health.

These additional courses are obviously of great advantage to medical students, and without them the medical school of the University would be incomplete, and could not continue to hold the position which it does.

2. The time devoted to the teaching of Clinical Medicine has not only been doubled, but the labour greatly increased, in consequence of practical instruction at the bedside being given in addition to the ordinary visit.

3. While in the classes of Anatomy, Chemistry, Botany, and Natural History, the teaching has necessarily been always demonstrative, it has not been so in all the other classes till a comparatively recent date.

The introduction, wherever it is practicable, of this method adds very much to the work of the Professor, and demands from him much additional time for lecture preparation, inasmuch as methods of demonstration have often to be devised and tested. This is, perhaps, even more the case in the voluntary and supplementary courses than in the ordinary courses of lectures. It need hardly be said that the introduction of the demonstrative method is a great improvement in teaching, adding much to the interest and usefulness of the lectures.

4. Periodical written class examinations have been voluntarily instituted by the Professors; these also demand addi-



tional time, and involve much work of a very irksome kind. They are undoubtedly of great value to the students.

Part of the work included under these four heads is shared to a certain extent by the class assistants,—without such assistance it could not be done at all; but in every case a great part of it, and the whole responsibility, fall upon the Professor.

The four sources of additional work just mentioned are connected with the duty of the Professors as *teachers*. But their work as University *examiners* has also increased. This is due mainly to—

5. The institution of written examinations, and, more recently, of clinical and practical examinations for degrees, in addition to the oral examination, formerly the sole test of the candidate. Such examinations are now imperatively demanded in the interests of the public, but are most laborious, occupying much time each day for a considerable period. The non-professorial examiners take their share of this duty, but, notwithstanding this assistance, by far the larger share falls to the Professors. It should also be stated that the pecuniary outlay, not always inconsiderable, of the practical examinations, is defrayed by the Professors themselves.

It must be further stated here, that those Professors who teach Clinical Medicine conduct the clinical examinations, in addition to their other duties as examiners. Similarly, great additional labour has been thrown upon the Dean of the Faculty in connection with the preliminary examination in Arts.

II. Before considering how far it is just and expedient to provide increased remuneration for the Medical Professors, it will be well to inquire what changes have taken place in the amount and value of the professorial incomes since the present fees were fixed.

The changes have resulted from three causes—

1st, The number of medical students attending the University is considerably less than it was in the early part of the century.\* This diminution is accounted for by the establishment of new medical schools, and by the general improvement

\* See Appendix II.



of the teaching in the already existing schools. Thus in 1828 the London University (now University College, London) was opened with a medical school similar to that of Edinburgh; and in 1830 King's College, London, was opened also with a medical school of the same kind. The recent establishment of a complete medical school in connection with the Owens College, Manchester, may be mentioned as a further example. Schools have also been established in connection with the principal provincial hospitals in England, so that Edinburgh does not now enjoy that almost exclusive possession of the field of medical teaching which it did at the time referred to; and although the medical teaching in this University has kept pace with the advances made in medicine and in the sciences bearing upon it, the number of students has diminished. It is gratifying to observe that within the last few years there has been some increase in the number of medical students in the University; but it is unreasonable to expect it to equal that of former years, when there were few competing schools, and the Professors had a monopoly of teaching.

It may be here stated that the Professors, with the exception of the Professor of Anatomy, have since 1858 received a small fixed salary, in compensation for the graduation fees, formerly divided amongst them, but which are now paid to the general fund of the University, so that any increase in the number of students would not increase their emoluments as examiners.

2*d*, The fees of additional classes. Probably there may be a slight increase of income upon the whole from this source, but some additional classes are gratuitous, and most of them do not much more than pay their own expenses.

3*d*, It is almost unnecessary to state that the great rise in household expenses has seriously diminished the purchasing power of the incomes of Professors. It was on account of a similar depreciation of the value of fixed incomes that at the commencement of the winter session 1812-13, the class fees were raised from three to four guineas.

4*th*, But there has been, and is, a special though indirect cause of diminution of income in the case of the Medical Professors engaged in practice. It has been usually held that the



advantages derived from practice in some degree compensate for deficiencies in the emoluments of the chairs, and, consequently, such Professors are not expected or required to devote more than a part of their time to University work. We must therefore consider how much time is necessarily occupied by University work. This is certainly much greater than it was even a few years ago, owing partly to the increase of work already explained, and partly to the great expansion of every branch of medical knowledge, and of each of the sciences bearing on medical and surgical practice. It is every Professor's duty not only to keep himself acquainted with the discoveries made in his subject by others, so that he may teach it fully, but to advance it himself by original researches.

The time available for medical practice is thus very seriously diminished, and with it, of course, the income derivable from such practice. This particularly affects the Professors teaching Clinical Medicine.

These facts will serve to elucidate the question of the justice and expediency of increasing the remuneration of the Professors, which may be considered from two points of view—1st, in reference to the present Professors; and, 2d, in reference to the future prospects of the medical school.

1st, It certainly seems *just* that any official who has additional work imposed upon him beyond that contemplated at the time of his accepting office, should receive a suitable increase of remuneration by salary or otherwise. The Professors in the Medical Faculty (with the exception of the Professor of Anatomy) receive salaries, which were given them in commutation of their shares of graduation fees, and which may, therefore, be held to be paid to them as examiners for degrees. Until 1868 there were no Clinical examinations, and when these were instituted some provision should have been made for paying the examiners.

2d, But a consideration of the future prospects of the medical school furnishes a safer means of deciding the question. If matters remain as they are, is it likely that the best men will become candidates for strictly Medical and Surgical Chairs? There seems no reason to fear, at all events in the immediate future, that there will be a failure of eligible



candidates for these chairs—they will always be objects of ambition to medical practitioners in Edinburgh, and their proper duties do not so interfere with practice as to deter such practitioners from accepting them. It is, however, undesirable that the University should be thus restricted in its choice, as must be the case if the emoluments of an Edinburgh chair be not sufficient to attract eminent men from elsewhere, except in special cases.

Moreover, as already pointed out, a medical Professor can only devote a portion of his time to practice, and it is probable that this will become smaller and smaller; his necessary presence at the University at certain hours, limits further the extent and nature of his practice; and besides all this, it is undoubtedly desirable that he should confine his practice to that branch of the profession (Medicine, Surgery, or Midwifery) to which the subject of his chair is more directly related. In view of these considerations, the emoluments of the medical chairs should be such as to render their incumbents less dependent upon medical practice than they are at present. But while, even as matters now stand, the medical chairs might continue to be filled by good (although perhaps not the very best) teachers, great difficulty will probably occur in providing for the teaching of Clinical Medicine. For although the Faculty is bound to provide such teaching, no Professor is bound to give it; and a man who could very well afford sufficient time for the proper duties of a medical chair, might reasonably hesitate to sacrifice a large part of a remunerative practice in order to find time for hospital teaching in addition to these duties.

Either, then, special provision must be made for teaching Clinical Medicine, or the remuneration of those Professors who undertake it must be increased. The first alternative need not be discussed here; it involves difficulties of its own, and would obviously be at least as expensive as the other.

The last point to be discussed is, How is this additional remuneration to be obtained?

The most obvious source from which increased remuneration might be derived is an increase of the fees. There is no doubt that, owing to the diminished value of gold, the fees



payable by students represent a smaller sum now than they did when the fees were fixed sixty years ago, and that students or their parents could now afford to pay a larger fee than their predecessors. Further, the University offers to students advantages and opportunities of study greater than formerly, the additional and increased advantages arising from the additional work done by the Professors and assistants. It therefore seems reasonable that the fees should be raised. This question, however, cannot be fully discussed without entering upon the question of a general rise of fees in the University, and would involve an extensive inquiry into the probable effect of such an increase upon the number of students. Some data for the solution of these questions will be found in the Appendix.

## APPENDIX.

### I.—*Fees of Medical Classes in various Universities and Hospital Schools.*

	University of Edn- burgh.	St Bartholomew's Hospital.	Guy's Hospital.	University College, London.	King's College, London.	St George's Hos- pital.	University of Glas- gow.	Dublin Schools.	Queen's Colleges, Ireland.
	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.		£ s.
Anatomy, . . .	4 4	7 7	5 5	7 7	7 7	6 6	3 3	} £3, 3s. for each class.	3 0
Physiology, . .	4 4	7 7	5 5	7 7	7 7	6 6	3 3		2 0
Chemistry, . . .	4 4	5 5	5 5	7 7	7 7	6 6	3 3		2 0
Practice of Me- dicine, . . . }	4 4	5 5	5 5	6 6	7 7	6 6	3 3		2 0
Surgery, . . .	4 4	5 5	5 5	5 5	6 6	6 6	3 3		2 0
Materia Medica,	4 4	5 5*	4 4*	4 4*	4 4*	4 4*	3 3		2 0
Midwifery, . .	4 4	5 5*	5 5*	4 4*	4 4*	5 5*	3 3		2 0
Botany, . . .	4 4*	3 3*	4 4*	3 3*	4 4*	3 3*	3 3*	} £3, 3s. for each class.	2 0†
Medical Juris- prudence, . . }	4 4*	3 3*	4 4*	3 3*	4 4*	4 4*	3 3*		...
Anatomical De- monstrations, }	2 2	3 3	5 5	...	...	...	..		...
Practical Che- mistry, . . . }	3 3*	...	4 4*	4 4*	5 5*	...	3 3*		3 0

\* Three months' courses.

† Botany and Zoology.



II.—*Average number of Students in a Medical Class for each quinquennium since 1794. This average is obtained by taking the average number in each of the five classes, Botany, Chemistry, Institutes of Medicine, Materia Medica, and Practice of Physic\* for the five years, adding these five numbers, and dividing by five.*

Years.	Average.	Years.	Average.	Years.	Average.
1794-1798	136	1824-1828	281	1849-1853	149
1799-1803	169	1829-1833	259	1854-1858	141
1804-1808	189	1834-1838	170	1859-1863	150
1809-1813	263	1839-1843	110	1864-1868	128
1814-1818	291	1844-1848	130	1869-1873	169
1819-1823	287				

\* These five classes have been selected as being the only classes the returns of which are sufficiently complete for the whole period.

III.—*Number of Students enrolled in various classes for five years before and five years after the change of Fees from £3, 3s. to £4, 4s.*

Year.	Anatomy.	Chemistry.	Institutes.	Materia Medica.	Practice of Physic.	Botany.
1807-8	272	386	86	147	286	115
1808-9	270	382	145	154	305	127
1809-10	240	412	145	166	294	111
1810-11	228	422	165	197	311	132
1811-12	226	473	169	184	306	123
1812-13	230	441	179	242	368	136
1813-14	216	515	205	252	398	131
1814-15	220	477	205	283	520	140
1815-16	230	508	150	255	386	157
1816-17	235	522	154	266	350	180







