

**A lecture, introductory to the business of the Original School of Medicine,  
Peter-Street / delivered by G.T. Hayden.**

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A

# LECTURE,

INTRODUCTORY TO THE BUSINESS

OF THE

ORIGINAL

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE,

PETER-STREET;

DELIVERED BY

G. T. HAYDEN, A.B. M.R.C.S.I.

SURGEON TO THE ANGLESEY LYING-IN HOSPITAL, ST. PETER'S HOSPITAL, AND OPHTHALMIC INFIRMARY, AND LECTURER ON ANATOMY AND SURGERY.

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DUBLIN:

FANNIN & CO., MEDICAL LITERARY INSTITUTION  
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# A LECTURE,

&c. &c.

GENTLEMEN,

We Lecturers are fully aware of the difficulties which we have to encounter in the delivery of an Introductory Address—not at all, indeed, from the want of subject matter,—but from the utter impossibility of condensing as much as we could wish into a single Lecture.

Then comes the *selection* of materials ; we must endeavour to cater for all parts of the house—our brother practitioners that give us the light of their countenances—the senior and junior students—the *raal* boys—the delight of our eyes, the lads that make our tongues wag—perchance some of our amateur lay friends—others haunted by inveterate dyspepsia, who have read themselves into besetting hypochondriasm, and cling with fond fidelity to every thing professional, for their stomach's sake.

Moreover, we have the *non-descript* who is about to enter upon professional studies, and lastly those of the public that may please to honor us with their company.

The race of intellect of the present day has rendered our very youths Philosophers ; I therefore may assume, that in



this, the nineteenth century, it would be superfluous to dwell at any length upon the usefulness of the *Healing Art*; that which restores health to the diseased—comfort to the afflicted—removes the cup of bitterness from pining affluence—gives the wealthy the power of enjoying and relishing those blessings, which without health are but tantalising mockeries. This is not all—owing to the reciprocal influence of matter on mind, the diseased condition of the body produces a moral effect which renders the unhappy individual morose, irritable and desponding.

The preservation of health; the removal of disease; the prolongation of life; are objects of such paramount, of such absorbing importance, that these, the mere abstract definition of the “*Healing Art*,” needs but enunciation to gain our hearty assent to the magnitude of its usefulness.

That it bears the stamp of imperfection we do admit, but this defect belongs to all things human, in common with medicine. It is ungenerous, as some have attempted to effect, to decry and depreciate the value of this science, because its useful labours are not *always* crowned with success; and to attribute to coincidence what has been the result (under Providence) of medical means, judiciously employed.

I shall, with your permission, illustrate by reference to two cases, what *cannot*, and what *can* be done by the “*Healing Art*.”

GENTLEMEN,

I regret to state that it is the recital of the effects of inebriation, of whiskey, the curse of Ireland, the ruthless destroyer of soul and body, the legalized engine of the foul fiend, by whose maddening influence he incites to deeds of deepest dye, casting upon a cold and un pitying world, the homeless, houseless, heart broken widowed mother and her destitute offspring.



About eighteen years ago, a man in a fainting condition was borne on a door into Jervis-street Hospital, on removing his clothes which were steeped in blood, a large and gaping wound of the side was disclosed, through which a portion of collapsed intestine had protruded.

This injury was inflicted by a fellow tradesman, a Shoe-maker, in an adjoining *public house*, while both were in a state of intoxication, and with a long and sharp pointed knife which is used in their craft.

The inflammation that supervened baffled all attempts—the patient sunk after a few days. The post mortem examination disclosed wounds of the liver, intestine and gall bladder, followed by such extravasation of the contents of the latter, as rendered the case hopeless or without the pale of our art—I shall never forget the impression which that scene left upon my recollection, then a tyro at my profession. The wife stood at the bedside of the wounded husband “with anxious eye and aching ear,” while the attendants removed the clothes saturated with gore: *there* the woman stood literally rivetted to the spot—she spoke not—her hands clasped with convulsive agony upon her breast—her head drooped—“with the paleness of death upon her cheek, and more than its agonies in her heart.”

How the victim of drunkenness and treachery must have felt during that sad scene of sorrow! The struggle with mute and passive grief was of short duration. The energies of woman were roused—his ministering angel was at hand: never did I behold such devoted and tender attention as was bestowed upon this unfortunate patient, by his kind and attached wife;—not a single reproach escaped her lips—night and day she never once left his bedside, except to minister to his wants.

But two days had elapsed after the death of the ill-fated



shoe-maker when his unfortunate widow was borne into the hospital screaming with agony. Gentlemen, the history of the interval is brief. The poor woman, and her five helpless children, had been driven from their comfortless room—named *home*, by an inexorable brute of a landlord, and were forced to seek a shelter in a wretched and damp cellar, on a bed of straw. The cup of misery was filled—human nature had endured its uttermost, and at length was overcome.—Death, destitution, and despair had felled its almost devoted victim to the earth.—Peritonitis—inflammation of the membrane surrounding the abdominal viscera—had supervened in its most acute and intense character.

To form an adequate idea of the sufferings of a patient in this disease, you must witness their agonies.

I was directed by my respected friend, Dr. O'Bierne, with whose name science is so familiar, to bleed this patient immediately from both arms. Upwards of *forty* ounces of blood were abstracted in a few minutes: the relief obtained was instantaneous; it was like the work of magic.

Perspiration and sleep suddenly and simultaneously supervened; this secretion actually rolled in a palpable stream off the skin: never have I beheld a more copious diaphoresis, or a more complete removal of agonising suffering, than was afforded in this case, which I now cite as one of the most striking triumphs of the "Healing Art" over disease.

No other remedy was used or required to remove this poor woman's sufferings but the lancet. Its judicious employment was followed by relief and recovery as rapid as it was remarkable.

Now, gentlemen, should those who have reflected upon, and compared, these two cases of Peritonitis, condemn our Art, abundantly successful in the case of the wife, but unsuccessful in that of the husband, obviously because, the



nature of the injury inflicted in *his* case, was of *itself fatal*?

I think you will be out of all patience with *one* Dr. Dickson, of Imperial Square, Cheltenham, who lately in defence of his "Principles of Practice of Physic," states in the "*Lancet*"—a very unsuitable vehicle I should think for such *stuff*—"It is now some years since I first repudiated the *Lancet* as a therapeutic agent; an instrument invented in an age of barbarism; the first and only resource of ignorant pretension in almost every case and country."

There, gentlemen is an unlimited and sweeping exclusion of one of our most useful remedies! No wonder the public should be sceptical, when such trash is published by one *yclept a Doctor*!

It was justly observed, that true religion has been at all times, and in all ages, greatly injured by *pretenders*. The same remark holds good in reference to the practice of physic.

Berkely, the celebrated immaterialist (one who says there is no such thing as matter in the world) the bishop of tar-water notoriety, one day knocked loudly at Swift's hall-door—the witty dean ordered his servants not to open the door; thrust his head out of the window, and cried out to Berkely, "why don't you come in out of the rain?—can't you come through the door; sure there's no such thing in nature as matter!

God between this Cheltenham *Doctor* and all harm, (as we say in Ireland, but I should like to be at his elbow if it so happened that he was seized with an attack of Peritonitis, such as invaded the poor shoe-maker's wife; although from the sample we have of his brains, *phrenitis* might be a more probable event.

Suppose, gentlemen, the Doctor on his back, his legs drawn up, and I, an obstinate Irish fellow, *alone and only* at



hand. The agonised patient should faithfully promise to burn all the unsold copies of HIS Practice of Physic, and make a handsome and suitable public apology to the "*repu- diated lancet*." before the much-maligned instrument should afford him the relief to be obtained from it, and IT ONLY. Let us dismiss the Doctor with, *requiescat in pace*.

GENTLEMEN,

The choice of a profession is almost as important as that of a wife, you take it for better for worse, for rich or for poor, in days of sickness, or in days of health.

You should ask yourself do I go to it *con amore*, this is more essential in the medical profession; have you well weighed the labours, the difficulties, the weighty responsibilities of the "Healing Art." It is not to be chosen because a father, or an uncle, or a friend is at the profession, and will afford facilities by his position and patronage to the acquisition of, and advancement in the contemplated calling.

Remember that the elevation caused by your boot-maker may escape observation, but that effected by *stilts* is too obvious, both as regards the position and the means of attaining it, to be regarded in any other point of view, than as rendering the height ridiculous, unsafe, uncertain, and therefore unenviable.

In our profession *you* must be the architect of your *own* reputation. What has been called a lucky tide of events has suddenly, but *undeservedly* raised individuals in every profession.

It has been truly said, that in the most elevated position there is the least liberty, because that very elevation invites observation and excites *envy*. That merit and that ability which would have carried a man successfully through the crowd, will be found insufficient for him, who is the object of general scrutiny.

"Quippe secundæ res sapientium animos fatigant."



This has been truly said by that pithy writer, Sallust; you should therefore recollect, gentlemen, that even the position won by merit and ability, may be lost by a want of that continued energy and persevering struggle which overcame all the obstacles opposed to your pioneering ascent. The champion in our profession, like in that of Christianity, must be ever under arms, must be ever progressing. A fall from an eminence is always perilous—in the medical sphere, *fatal to fame*. The world, in respect to our calling, may be esteemed as a school; the boy that has obtained head place must labour assiduously to *retain* his position against his less fortunate competitors. Remember that sympathy is enlisted for the swimmer to the shore, against the buffeting billows—rather than for the individual who had encountered the same obstacles, the same dangers, and the same difficulties, but, who has now, apparently, surmounted and escaped all.

GENTLEMEN,

I would recommend you to obtain a classical education preparatory to entering upon your professional studies, if it were only for the reason expressed in the following proposition: every gentleman gets a classical education, every medical practitioner ought to be a gentleman, therefore, every medical practitioner should get a classical education.

The College of Surgeons in Ireland *only* has the credit of requiring a classical education, equivalent to that necessary for entrance into our learned University of Trinity.

The modern nomenclature in chemistry is calculated to lead to the components of the substance named, and thus a most useful association is established between names and things; for example, sulphate of magnesia, which indicates that the components are sulphuric acid and magnesia—and again, when we find by analysis that another substance consists of sulphuric acid and soda, we are at no loss to give its appropriate name, viz:—sulphate of soda. You



may at once, from these familiar examples, perceive that by being acquainted with the name, you are led to the knowledge of the substance, and *visa versa*.

Pray, who could know any thing of the ingredients or constituents of the last mentioned substance from its old name?

“Sal mirabile Glauberi.”

But why do I allude to the nomenclature of chemistry? It was with the view of indicating the importance of names; now in anatomy, phisiology, pathology, surgery, and medicine, not to mention other subjects, the names are purely classical; that is, derived from the Greek and Latin languages. Anastamosis, Synchondrosus, Hydrocephalus, Paracentesis Thoracis, Neuralgia, appear an unmeaning jargon to the pupil without classical knowledge; but to him possessed of this necessary acquirement, the whole appears as scientific and as useful as the nomenclature of chemistry. Again, the scholar who has proceeded successfully through Latin and Greek, has also obtained the key to a knowledge of the modern languages. The useful labors, and brilliant discoveries, of our Continental neighbours, can only be had *second-hand* through the medium of translators.

I should not have dwelt upon the necessity of classical knowledge, had not the editor of the Medical Gazette (in a late number) thought proper to depreciate its cultivation. “How, I would ask, are we to consult the writings of the ancients—how to understand the moderns—how translate—or how write prescriptions, without a knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages?” This to be obtained does not require so much devotion of time or labor. To keep pace with the modern race of intellect, we should get upon a rail-road of literature; Mathematics, Natural Philosophy; the Art of Drawing, will be almost indispensable, and above all, Logic, in order to teach you how to reason, and examine precisely



the reasoning of others : all these give precision in language and in writing.

Since we cannot change the opinions of the multitude, we must go with the tide. People in general almost invariably argue from particulars to universals, or what logicians call a *particulare ad universale*. Suppose a medical man in society manifests a good knowledge of ordinary subjects, and delivers his sentiments with judgment and accuracy, the world argue, by analogy, that he is equally clever in his profession, and in fact in every thing else. They can judge of his qualifications in what they do know, namely the ordinary affairs of life, and hence they venture to form a judgment about what they cannot know, that is, his professional ability and skill. A man that knows nothing but what is *strictly* his profession, is ignorant even of that; so many things are preparatory and collateral, that without a good general education, the practitioner rarely takes abstract or extended views, which in my opinion tend to ennoble the mind, and give an air of philosophic greatness to our pursuits.

Take liberality as your guide in your studies, in your intercourse with mankind, in short, in every thing in life, lay as well as professional, and if you be in doubt, err on the side of liberality, rather than on the opposite.

The foregoing I think is equally applicable to institutions and to individuals.

I will give you a specimen.—The universities do not recognise the certificates of teachers that are not university professors, lecture they ever so well, the university of Glasgow *only* excepted. This liberality on the part of that school has been known very generally since 1831, and mark you, the degree therefrom confers an equal privilege with that from the proud university of Edinburgh.

A memorial has been lately presented by the Provost and and Magistrates of Edinburgh, the patrons of their univer-



sity, to request that government would abolish the professorship of pathology; and why you would naturally enquire? I will let the memorial speak for itself.

"It appears that since November 1831, the *decrease* in attendance at the university of Edinburgh has been from 842 to 623, or 26, per cent, while, during the same period, the *increase* in the number of graduations in the university of Glasgow, has been from 35 to 101, or nearly 200 per cent."

These worthies "cannot see the wood for trees," they forsooth imagine that the institution by government of a professorship of general pathology, by which each graduate in medicine of Edinburgh university, had to pay four guineas additional acts as a scare-crow to fright away candidates, although they acknowledge the great eminence of the professor, Dr. Thomson.

The true cause is simply this, those that enter the profession now, and have entered it for the last six years and upwards, have seen the impropriety of adhering to the distinction without a difference between the man who treats diseases on the surface of the body, and he who prescribes for those of its internal parts; or in other words, the office of the surgeon and the physician.

It would indeed be monstrous after all that has been said and sung on this threadbare subject, to inflict a fasciculus of truisms upon my patient auditory, until they cried out "Ohe jam satis," in order to prove the foregoing position.

Well, the public thought it very absurd,—after all we must allow them to be the best judges.

What was and is the consequence? Students are now desirous of being legitimately prepared with both hands, and being of the Scotch Bishop's opinion that "*Baith* is best," they accordingly in the majority of instances, qualify as physicians and surgeons. Take an example.—



Supposing one of our pupils, or one of those at the College of Surgeons, attends the necessary lectures in order to obtain a diploma from any of the Colleges of Surgeons, Dublin, London or Edinburgh: well, he presents the required certificates of having pursued a certain course of professional education, is examined, obtains his diploma, so far so good: he now says, "Here goes for the medical degree. Let me see, I must for that, have attended courses of lectures upon anatomy, physiology, surgery, chemistry, practice of physic, materia medica, botany, midwifery and hospital practice, besides." Fancy the exultation of the young surgeon, who still continues his soliloquy thus, "Eh! why I have attended *all* these already, and have the necessary certificates which were required from me before I could present myself for the diploma in surgery. I have no further expenditure of time or money, but to submit to another examination by the university professors, while all is fresh in my memory, pay for, and obtain the medical degree."

But what do all the universities with the exception of that of Glasgow, virtually say.

It is true you have attended all the required courses of lectures, but then, they have not been delivered in a "university," and although the teachers are very clever and eminent men, yet, still they are *non nostrum*.

I do say and insist, that the admission of certificates from non-university teachers, is the true cause, why, during the last six years, the graduates in Glasgow University, have increased at a ratio equal to 200 per cent.

It is not the four guinea course of general pathology by the eminent professor, Inflammation Thomson, which scared the pupils from *alma mater*, Edinburgh; because four guineas are a small sum, and I am quite sure the lectures were excellent and worth the money.



Students naturally preferred, and will prefer, graduating at that university which throws overboard the odious distinction between university and private teachers; and by which they save so much time, and avoid so much expense, for they do not require two sets of certificates on the same subjects.

I will venture to give you my notions upon this subject, and upon these matters,—they are of a latitudinarian character.

I would educate physician and surgeon alike, for they have confessedly the same object; cause the examination at universities and colleges of surgeons to be alike, and the qualifications or required course of preparatory education to be the same, no invidious distinction is then made. Let each practitioner follow medicine or surgery exclusively, or both together, as he chooses. Let any that pleases, lecture in each department of medicine or surgery. This would give a clear stage, fair play, and no favor; all would be educated alike, all examined alike, and all qualified to practice and teach alike.

Rest assuredly, neither the public or pupils would be slow in discovering who were the best practitioners, who the best teachers.

A grudge and jealousy must always exist, no matter what profession or what department of life you select, if one party enjoys rights and privileges which the other is excluded from, although, equally deserving.

Gentlemen, if you look at human nature from the cradle to the grave, you must be struck with the truth of this position.

Prudence should therefore as much as possible be mingled with wisdom in wholesome legislation—prevention is better than remedy.

This principle of assimilation and equalization would cut the ground from under the feet of envy, jealousy and sel-



fishness.—It would go to effect, as regards lectures and practice in our moral nature, what Jenner by vaccination has already effected in our physical nature. It would neutralize the deforming evil, and although it might not prove an unexceptionable preventive, yet like the means used by that great benefactor of mankind, it would exercise an antidotal influence, which would favorably modify, although it had not neutralized the hateful virus.

This gentleman is, rest assuredly, no Utopian scheme, it is exceedingly practicable; for it is based upon the physiology of man, nay, rather upon his moral pathology, learned by observation in the school of experience.

Gentlemen, it has been said, that the certificate system of education is a bad one. It is, I admit, like all things human, far short of perfection.

Let us dispassionately examine the subject in reference both to teachers and students: now this department has been canvassed and mooted very lately, by an able writer, it has been actually designated as plunder and robbery. I would therefore be slow to enter the list as its champion, were I not convinced that truth lay at the affirmative side. It may be said that I am an interested party, as being a “recognised teacher,” but I will give *facts* and these will speak for themselves.

I shall beg to reduce the brief observations I will make upon this subject, to the following heads, viz:—

1st, Is teaching a monopoly?

2nd, Is a curriculum better than no certain line of education? or what should be substituted?

3rd, Is the curriculum at present enjoined more than the profession of medicine requires for its attainment?

4th, Are the charges for the foregoing qualifications too much?



In the first place, then, as regards teachers, the exercise of the functions of a "recognised teacher," is at all events (with the exception of universities,) as open as day, equally to the lecturer, in a private and a chartered school. The certificates as far as recognition goes, are of equal value, for the day has gone by when the obnoxious regulation was adopted, of admitting the certificates of certain teachers *only*. Well then, as respects teachers, the certificate system gives a "clear stage and fair play," as all the non-university lecturers are put on the same footing. If perchance the certificate from a chartered school should bear the royal arms, we can in our turn erect an imposing front, and deal in pretty pictures. I think you will grant that our frontispiece without, and its representation, are no mean specimens of our taste for architecture and the fine arts.

Gentlemen, now to the student and to the subject of a certain line of education. I think it comes to the plain matter of fact, are we to be at sea during our preparatory studies for diploma, or are we not?

Pray, what is the curriculum of each college and university? Is it not advice given by the heads of these departments, as to the line of study to be pursued, and what they think to be indispensable, and therefore, render imperative. Is it not reasonable to be guided by those that have won their way through all difficulties to the heights of the profession, and who from personal experience and from their present position, are enabled to take a comprehensive and practical view of the whole.

Who so capable of leading through the mazes and labyrinths which encompass us, as those who had previously encountered similar obstacles, and surmounted them.

A certain line of study gives respectability and weight to the profession in public estimation. It has the effect of



restraining the hasty and precipitate ; controuling the overweening pride of one class of students, while it acts as a useful stimulus to the tardy, who should profit in a given time by the opportunities afforded in the preparatory course.

Gentlemen, there is no royal road to geometry ; nor is there any rail-road to the knowledge of our profession ; and if there was, we should see the objects but imperfectly on the way.

It has been said that the child of genius needs not delay ; that he may mark out his own way—and that a short one. But this is mere sophistry, and betrays a lamentable ignorance of what the student's road really is. Now in mathematics, and such precise sciences, a student of great industry and acumen may attain a knowledge of his subject in a tithe of the time required by the less gifted ; but there is no analogy between the steps of a proposition in Euclid or logic and the stages of disease.

The latter must be seen in very many instances ; the modifications produced by season, age, temperament, habits, and a host of other circumstances, must be duly and carefully observed, over and over again, before we can draw anything like useful, certain, or general conclusions. In fact, the rapid or, *per saltem* course, will never do in our profession.

Locke says, there are two sources of knowledge ; sensation and reflection. The impressions made on our senses by outward objects, during preparatory course, must be repeated over and over again, in all their normal and abnormal varieties, before reflection, or the action of the mind, in comparing, compounding, separating, and associating, can be judiciously effected. This is the work of time ; of often-repeated observation, alternated and aided by reflection. It



is announced in the common, true, and trite aphorisms, that "Practice makes perfect,"—"Experience teaches."

I would ask you, my young friends, if there is reason to complain, should you be kept back from being practitioners by some four or five years preparatory study?

Let us look at a very common age for the student to go to the profession—say sixteen or eighteen—after the lapse of the above period he will, at from about twenty to twenty three, be ready for those who might employ him, but who will? "with all his blushing honors thick upon him."

The family apothecary is preferred by many degrees, because he is said to have had *more experience*—he is a more practical man—he is older, and his judgment riper. Here time and experience are at once an over-match in *public estimation* for *Education* and youth.

A youthful appearance at our profession is decidedly injurious. Grey hairs, and even a bald pate, are not without their advantages, now that the gold-headed cane and bob wig are out of fashion.

Gentlemen, it may not be out of place to state, that the most important interval in a professional man's life is that, between being dubbed a practitioner and his obtaining practice. It is his probationary course—his state of trial—when the eye of his friends and of the public is vigilantly upon him. The transition is rapid—he is this day a pupil, the next a practitioner. Should means and opportunity permit, this is a most suitable time for visiting the Continental schools. It effects three grand objects. First, it is a species of literary relaxation. Secondly, it makes a decided period of absence from your friends, during which time you are supposed to be profiting by all the foreign improvements; and thirdly, you come back with a marked interval between the time of being a pupil and becoming a practitioner.

Should you not feel disposed for, or unable to follow this



plan of proceeding, now is your time for profitting by hospital practice. Take also to teaching—

“Docere alios docet Doctores.”

After I passed, I was too poor to go abroad—I put Surgeon Hayden (by special permission of my landlady) on the hall-door of my *lodging*—became a *grinder* next week, *i. e.* commenced instructing one of my former class-fellows, who ventured to select me as a lady does her husband, for better for worse.

Should the young practitioner indulge in dress—street-walking, seduced by the charms of Grafton-street, (not those of the Medical Literary Institution), and be a worshipper of Venus instead of Minerva, loiter away his time at balls and parties, heedless of the propriety and gravity of demeanour which his profession requires. The world, ever hasty in doing the sensorious and ill-natured act, stamps you as an individual so much devoted to “outward shew elaborate, that you are sure to have the inside less exact,” and consequently they will not entrust their health and lives to your care.

Gentlemen, in making regulations for professional studies we are to take the happy medium, to consult the capacities of the many, not of the few. It would be contrary to all experience to make general rules, which aimed at being applicable to extremes. The child of Genius and the *Dolt*, a maximum and minimum, would be equally wrong as regards time and qualification, and in this respect it is far better to err on the side of the latter: more especially as I have already attempted to prove, that time and experience will be required by the most towering genius, in order to acquire a competent knowledge of his profession; he will find that the public, and even his friends are of the same opinion.

Gentlemen, it is a very easy thing to find fault with any



system, for what is unexceptionable, what is faultless, what is perfect, what even complete; but the great difficulty consists in devising and substituting a plan of education instead of the imperfect one complained of. Surely, that of requiring no other certificate save that of moral character and of age, in order to qualify for examination, is meagre in the extreme, and calculated to depreciate the profession in the eyes of the public.

You are no doubt aware that the system of *grinding* is well known to effect wonders, even in a College proverbial for the strictness of its examination. In the short space of twenty-two days I prepared a gentleman for examination who now holds a county infirmary, and for which he was then a candidate. We can, I think, dismiss the third consideration with brief notice.

As the curriculum at present enjoined, is not more than the profession of medicine requires for its attainment; for it is plain from all that has been stated that the period of education, four or five years, is not too long, and that the lectures and hospital practice required during that time, are but the fitting preparatory course before entering upon the practice of a profession, the duties and responsibilities of which are of such paramount importance, both to ourselves and the public.

One would think from the outcry raised, that the student were obliged to attend lectures on Arabic and Astronomy, to take an ærial voyage in a balloon—to bring “recognised certificates” of being let down therefrom by a parachute into the sea, and being borne to land on the back of a whale or a dolphin. Again, if the pupil were constrained to fee and attend the prosing lectures of a dosing teacher, instead of the lively discourses of such an one as myself; this would be a sad infliction, both for him and me; but he is, as regards



non-University teachers, perfectly at liberty to consult his judgment and inclination upon this subject, and decide accordingly.

A most salutary competition is exercised, as you all well know, that savours not at all of the hideous monster—Monopoly, which would wither and scath modest and persevering genius with its very frown. Now what is the fact? when five years are spent, bona fide, by apprenticeship, preparatory to becoming a surgeon of the Irish College, very few indeed go in for examination immediately on being out their time. They actually educate themselves to a higher standard than that required by the College, and for a longer period.

A pupil of this standing, feels satisfied that when Lectures are demonstrative, practical, and experimental, he derives information in this way which he cannot otherwise obtain, with the same facility. Rest assuredly he will tenaciously recollect the subject matter of such discourses. The colloquial lecturer gives an extrinsic value to his discourse;—witness the effect produced by the familiar style of an Abernethy, a Cooper, and a Colles. There is undoubtedly a great deal in the manner, as well as in the matter of a lecturer.

Gentlemen, I would next enquire, do you think the charges for the attainment of the necessary preparatory qualifications and diploma too much? I would answer, decidedly *not*. I think that the pecuniary requisite must be esteemed very small, when to obtain a diploma from the Royal College of Surgeons, London, and also a midwifery diploma, *all* the qualifications, including ten guineas for grinding or private preparatory examinations, amount to but *seventy guineas*; going to London and returning, with incidental expenses, we will say fifteen guineas, so that the whole expense is co-



vered by eighty-five guineas; you will say, it is not so as regards the letters testimonial from the Irish College. Gentlemen, I have made the calculation, and what is the result? Any one of you that pleases shall have a full engagement from me to bear all your expenses, including Registry fees, and that for letters testimonial, for one hundred guineas. This includes all lectures—all demonstrations—all dissections, general hospital for five years, midwifery hospital, and diploma. And if you wish to engage for preparatory examinations for the above period, you shall be free to my classes for twenty guineas. The actual difference of expense between a Dublin and London graduation in surgery is but fifteen guineas !!!

Allow me to compare the charges in London and Dublin, for medical and surgical lectures, and hospital practice.

CLASS.	LONDON.	DUBLIN.
Botany . . . . .	£4 0 0	£2 2 0
Midwifery . . . . .	5 0 0	2 2 0
Demonstrations . . . .	6 0 0	3 3 0
Chemistry . . . . .	6 0 0	2 2 0
Anatomy & Physiology	6 0 0	2 2 0
Materia Medica . . . .	6 0 0	2 2 0
Surgery . . . . .	4 10 0	2 2 0
Practice of Medicine	6 0 0	2 2 0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£43 10 0	£17 17 0

The cheapest hospital in that city is £30 or £21 for one year's attendance; the smaller sum being paid by the pupils attending the school in connexion with the hospital, while the attendance here for the same period is as low as £9.

You may say the necessary books cost a considerable sum; here, too, the student is answered. He need purchase very few; because he may, at that unique establishment,



the Medical Literary Institution, Grafton-street, obtain access, for a small sum, to all the necessary Works, either at the Reading Rooms, or by becoming a member of the Lending Library. This establishment is now so well known to the profession and pupils, that it would be unnecessary to say more than to remind both, of the strong claims such a professional magazine has upon us all:—comprising books, plates, Weiss's surgical and dissecting instruments—in short every thing the student or practitioner may require. More especially when we superadd to all these, the kind and accommodating dispositions of the proprietary and their assistants. It is a curious fact that London, the centre of Arts, has no such establishment for pupils, as that of Mr. Fannin in Grafton-street.

Come, Mr. Student, there is no excuse left. You have cheap hospitals, cheap lectures, cheap subjects, books on cheap terms, and cheap living to boot—and above all, you have each and every one not only *cheap* but *good* also.

Gentlemen, when I had the honor of opening the last Winter Session, I indulged at some length in allusions to my respected and learned colleagues. You have since had an opportunity of judging for yourselves. If the number of each class, and the regularity in attendance of the pupils, should be esteemed an evidence of success, my friends have had ample opportunity to congratulate themselves.

I have, as student and as teacher, been strongly impressed with this conviction,—that Dublin owes its great celebrity as a school to Anatomy. This science has been well taught—cheaply taught—the facilities of obtaining subjects have been, and are, greater than in any city in Britain.

The teachers in this department have determined to afford every opportunity to our pupils of learning in the dissecting rooms—where it is best learned, practical anatomy. We



have pledged ourselves, not by any general or vague promise, of giving constant attendance in this department, but in order that the amount of duties discharged in the anatomical department be clearly understood, the teachers have adopted the following arrangements, which will be *rigidly adhered to* during the session:—

1. Anatomical lecture daily, weekly . . . . .	6 hours
2. Demonstration in Theatre, ditto . . . . .	6 do.
3. <i>Two</i> Demonstrators in Dissecting Room from 9 to 11 o'Clock A. M. weekly . . . . .	24 do.
4. <i>Two</i> do. do. from 2 to 4 o'Clock P. M. weekly . . . . .	24 do.
5. A Demonstrator do. (5 nights in the week) from 7 to 9 o'Clock P. M. . . . .	10
	—

Total of Anatomical Instruction, weekly 70 hours

We would request of you to visit the dissecting rooms before you leave the school, and judge, from the evidence of your own senses, whether every thing does not conspire for your comfort as well as your information, both by day and by night.

We have already alluded to the Dublin hospitals—their cheapness, and the ability of their attendants, is another attractive item presented in this city.

There are three means of instruction which *all* students are disposed to cultivate without much persuasion, viz.—*Anatomy—hospital practice—preparatory examinations*, popularly designated *grinding*.

Now if there is such a thing as an idle or thoughtless pupil, when he does become industrious and considerate, which he no doubt will, he is led, by an almost instinctive feeling, to those fountains of instruction: the diseased in the hospital, the dead in the dissecting room, and that almost divine fellow, the *Grinder* in the *third* heaven, in order



to store his mind from those three grand essentials, which are to the now industrious pupil, what action is to the orator—the first, second, and third requisite. Nothing can be more obvious than this; for he cannot learn how to treat disease but from the sick; he can learn practical anatomy from the subject only; and finally, how can he ascertain whether he has profitted sufficiently by his converse with the diseased and the dead, unless he be tested by the skillful grinder, who too often discloses the fearful nakedness of the land, but, fortunately, in sufficient time to prevent the disgrace that would result from a rejection at head quarters. To work they both go—the grinder and the grindee. Co-operation does wonders: It builds walls into the sea; it lays rail-roads upon them; in short, it effects any and every object. The pupil revisits the hospital in the morning; the dissecting room in the day; his grinder in the evening; and perchance by night he may favor us with a call to pursue his dissections by gas light:—affairs are changed *toto cælo*; new light has broken in upon him—he reflects it—he illumines the class-room, who before made only “darkness visible.” In fact, he is invulnerable at all points, and exhibits most wonderful adroitness and skill in offensive as well as defensive warfare. Now, *factus ad unguem*, he submits to his final examination, and is complimented by his examiners, on the facility, clearness, and precision, with which he answered their searching interrogatories. Talking of signs reminds one of the Zodiac. It was a pleasing sight to visit our dissecting rooms last season, and see, for the first time in this city, forty or fifty industrious pupils, engaged in realising anatomical knowledge.

An article appeared in one of the London journals last winter session, headed “News from Dublin:” amongst other



things, it dwelt on the demoralising influence of nightly dissections, and that by gas. Our triumph has been complete; not a single pane of glass was cracked; not a single row; no students' heads broken; and what is still more singular, the watchman said they were "*mighty* quiet gentlemen." In fact, the lads were absorbed in their business—"as silent as the fishes." In truth, we looked so chaste and divine, that the ladies, in several instances, had mistaken our institution for the chapel of the Molyneux Asylum, and were actually on their way to hear a lecture upon poor mortality, until arrested by our prudent porter.

But this is not all; the demoralising agent, gas, has been introduced into the very school in which the Editor of the aforesaid journal is engaged as a teacher, without acknowledging the source that has enlightened them on the occasion.

But, gentlemen, I feel I have trespassed at a considerable length upon your patience. In reference to the School, I will only beg to say, that our great and illustrious predecessor, Mr. Kirby, has set us a bright example, which my colleagues and myself shall endeavour to follow and emulate, in the very theatre in which so much has been already profoundly taught—so many have been thoroughly instructed.

Gentlemen, when I was lately in London, Dr. Addison, of Guy's hospital, told me, I "knew nothing of the Irish character,"—I stared—"Yes," said he, "you cannot see the wood for trees. An Irishman knows no medium—is never lukewarm; is your deadly foe, or your sworn friend." "But, Doctor, are we not spirited fellows, and generous fellows too?" I replied. "Yes," said the Doctor, with all the calmness of an Englishman. Now, gentlemen, I trust you will excuse my egotism, when I select myself as the means of proving this position, by the spirit, chivalrous generosity, and warm-heartedness evinced by pupils in my



own case. This brings me to speak of the Anglesey Lying-in Hospital, of which I have been the medical founder, and concerning which I made the following statement in an introductory lecture, (1832) viz :—

The *Medical Establishment* attached and *auxiliary* to the institution, for the sale of medicines and the compounding of prescriptions, has been undertaken by order of the Managing Committee, owing to the disallowance of the usual grant from the grand jury, and the consequent inadequacy of the funds for the support of the charity.

The following are the grounds upon which the Committee rest their claims for support :—

1st. The profits of the establishment will be *exclusively* devoted to the funds of the Hospital, which has relieved 16,285 of the sick poor during the last three years, ending in 1832.

2d. The medicines dispensed are of the best kind.

3d. The compounding department presents the great and *rare* advantage of being *exclusively* conducted by a licentiate apothecary of considerable experience.

4th. The prices are more moderate than any other house in Dublin.

The foregoing measures, in aid of the funds of the Hospital, were adopted at the suggestion of one of the members of the committee, to whom, for his indefatigable and valuable exertions, the institution owes a deep and lasting debt of gratitude. I understand that *some* apothecaries have complained of the injury that this establishment was calculated to do them. As regards this matter, I am not aware that the apothecary's shop is liable to objections which do not equally apply to any apothecary who may set up business in a situation contiguous to the complainants' establishments. In either case, competition exerts its salutary influence; and the public must acknowledge that rivalry in this department, with the magic wand of opposition, has converted the formerly loathsome and disgusting shops, in which every assailable sense was outraged, into medical halls, or rather medical palaces, teeming with the fragrance of the East, and dazzling with the gilded splendour of a fairy land. But I must descend to realities. If the committee are to be blamed for endeavouring to support, by an ordinary and legitimate opposition, a charitable institution, they have at least a right to say, that here "the end sanctifies the means." But, "even the story ran" that I had *aspired* to the station of a *mere* pharmacopolist—*O tempora! O mores!* This is almost as good a story as "*progressing backwards*," to which the foregoing detail is, I think, a full reply. But, in downright sober earnest, I must tell you that I court not the smile, nor deprecate the frown, of the apothecary. My motto is, *prava ambitione procul*—"Get on by fair means;" and I also remember that of the Heathen, "The gods assist those who assist themselves."



Gentlemen, in consequence of the *hardihood* I manifested in being thus connected with an institution, which it was feared would make a most formidable precedent, I was pointed at as a "*marked man*" for the \* pharmacopolist to aim at; a poor weak creature of this class became the awkward tool of a party—an unparalleled case of persecution was the consequence. The facts connected with which, I shall briefly detail, as affording a most useful and instructive lesson, both to the student and to the practitioner. I was called to attend a female in the humbler ranks of life, in 1835, who had been in labour for five days: the patient was attended by an exceedingly intelligent midwife, Mrs. Goolding, step-daughter of the late surgeon Adrian, a celebrated accoucheur. The state of the woman will best appear from the evidence of Mrs. Goolding, given at the coroner's inquest.

"Mrs. Harriet Goolding, 4, Gordon Place, sworn—Attended Mrs. Finn during her late confinement; labour commenced, with slight pains, on Sunday night; corrected Finn's statement, that he did not recollect whether delivery was effected on Thursday or Wednesday following; the former was the day, about 5 o'clock in the afternoon; labour-pains had nearly ceased on Thursday morning, at two o'clock, A.M.; abdomen tender on the slightest pressure; pulse exceedingly quick; considers the pelvis a deformed one; patient was now exhausted; would not take any nourishment for the last two days; head of the child presented, and was at the upper opening of the pelvis; opening the head in order to diminish its size, by the evacuation of the brain, was indispensably necessary, as the head was too large to pass without this operation; the forceps had been tried; delirium had set in; Dr. Hayden required a consultation; mentioned Dr. Ireland,

\* I by no means include in this charge, those I esteem very highly—the RESPECTABLE members of the apothecary profession.



but said he would meet any medical man Finn might please to call in; has often seen the operation of opening the head performed; during a practice of fifteen years never saw so difficult a case.

“Cross-examined by Mr. M'Donough.—Has a regular diploma in midwifery; is step-daughter to the late Surgeon Adrian; this Mrs. Finn was in labour from Sunday to Thursday. Her pulse were upwards of 130; had great tenderness of the abdomen; case most difficult; the patient was sinking when the operation was performed; thinks the woman was so low she might have died in ten minutes; operation postponed for an hour and a half, but Finn at length told her he would consent to any thing would save his wife's life; operation was performed with skill and dexterity, at about 5 o'clock, P.M.; thinks the child was dead before the operation was performed, owing to the long continued pressure, and to her having been in labour four days before doctor saw her; Surgeon Hayden said to me, on his first visit, he was of opinion that delivery could not be effected without opening the head. Witness requested that Surgeon Hayden would give the husband some hopes of the child being saved at first, and afterwards to state the necessities of the case.

Surgeon Hayden said, he directed the ergot of rye in order that all means should get a fair trial, and as instrumental delivery was indispensable, the renewed uterine action would assist in the delivery of the child, the head being lessened in the first trial by the compression of the forceps, and in the dernier resort by the evacuation of the brain of the foetus. Finn in his arguments for making a trial of the second mixture of ergot of rye, indicated the favorable result that might ensue from the “little instrument,” being assisted by labour pains; but the small dose which was taken of the second mixture did not excite uterine action; the ex-



traction of the child was effected by means of the craniotomy forceps, which took away several pieces of bone.

“Question from Mr. M'Carthy—Never saw a case where there was so much sinking, rally; so that the child would be born by the natural efforts.

“Surgeon Custis, (a practitioner in midwifery,) sworn.—Examined the body of the child, the subject of the inquest; it was the largest infant he ever saw; the bones contained in the coffin were those of the same child.

“Mr. M'Carthy said he saw one case where the patient *rose after sinking*. Mrs. Goolding never did. In reply, Mr. Hayden learned from Mr. M'Carthy, that he did not feel the pulse of this patient!!! Mr. Hayden observed that one swallow did not make a summer, even *admitting* this to be a *sinking case*. Dr. Ireland, when appealed to, said the case was *barely possible*, but in thirty years' practice he never observed such a case; he (Dr. Ireland) would have acted in precisely a similar way as Mr. Hayden had done. Mr. Hayden demonstrated the necessity of the operation, to the full satisfaction of the jury, by a reference to a female pelvis, and to the skull of an infant. Mr. Hayden also read, from several works on midwifery, the opinions of the best authors, recommending that the head of the child should be opened long before the period when this operation was performed in Mrs. Finn's case. Dr. Blundel, the celebrated professor of midwifery in London, states—‘That when the labour is suffered to continue beyond a certain time, *even though no danger has yet appeared*, of a sudden sometimes, when all seems fair and smooth, the vessel strikes and founders; the pulse rises to 130 or 140 in a minute—the countenance falls, and speedily, or in a few hours afterwards, the woman dies. In these cases there are usually extensive bruises, and now and then very extensive lacerations of the womb.’



“Mr Hayden begged the indulgence of the jury while he pointed out to them the opportunities he enjoyed of considerable experience in the obstetric branch of surgery: seventy-nine females had been attended during confinement at their own homes, and in the Anglesey Lying-in Hospital during last month (March); on referring to Saunders’ Paper for an advertisement of a charity sermon for this hospital and dispensary, in order to point out that upwards of 34,000 patients had been relieved by this institution during the last six years, Mr. Hayden said he was rejoiced to have this public opportunity of recommending to their benevolent consideration the interests of this extremely useful institution. He added, in conclusion, that this Hospital depended for support on voluntary contributions, an annual charity sermon, and the profits of a *medical establishment* auxiliary to the institution—“*Hinc illæ Lachrymæ!!!*” A tremendous cheer followed, which Mr. M’Carthy vainly attempted to subdue; Mr. Hayden hoped he had not spoken *bad Latin*; if he required a *translation*, it ran thus—“That on this account the invidious and diabolical inquiry now before the jury, was instituted.”

“Mr. Hayden’s counsel was about to call Mr. Hayden’s pupil, who was present at the operation, when the jury unanimously stated that they were perfectly satisfied, and after a short consultation found the following verdict.

#### VERDICT OF TWENTY-THREE JURORS.

We find, that the Child, in relation to which our inquiry has been held, was in all probability dead before the operation was performed by Surgeon Hayden; and we further find that even if the fact were otherwise, then, that the operation performed by Surgeon Hayden, was both well judged and well executed, and the result of which has been the saving



of the life of the mother; which would, as it appeared in evidence, have been sacrificed by the delay or omission of such operation—and we feel it our bounden duty to give expression to these sentiments, lest any, the slightest, imputation might be thoughtlessly attached to Surgeon Hayden.”

Gentlemen, it is plain that a conspiracy *dark, deep, and deadly*, was hatched against my professional character, and fair fame. A signal triumph was achieved; the enemy was prostrated and made to lick the dust.

The very individual who was exulting in the fancied ruin and destruction of the devoted institution, from which he had drawn, as a student, so much practical instruction, was made to crawl, to succumb, to publish to the world the most humiliating *apology* and concession, and further more to contribute £25 to the funds of the Anglesey Hospital, which was the amount of costs incurred by me in consequence of an action at law, that had been instituted against this apothecary.

It is as lamentable as it is true, that all institutions are not alike fortunate in this respect, for we but too often find that “the noblest tree of the forest is not scathed by the winter’s blast; it perishes, ignobly perishes, from the very vermin that take shelter at its root.”

My pupils, to whose uplifting influence I owe my present position in society, stood in the breach, they rallied around me, presented me with the kindest, most considerate and warm hearted address that was ever penned, together with the piece of plate you see before you; they shall both be preserved by me and my children, as the dearest testimonials of their valued friendship and regard.

Gentlemen, I esteem the present a befitting and valuable



occasion for the exposure of monopoly and the unfounded assumption of autocratic authority, more especially when corporate bodies proceed to bolster up an establishment of their own creation, *per fas et nefas*.

I shall feel it my duty to trouble you at some length, in reference to this matter:—

Before the passing of the apothecaries' act for Ireland, the practice of pharmacy and the sale of drugs, were very commonly exercised by those who were utterly ignorant, and consequently unqualified for this important calling.

The pharmacopolist of those days took up the trade as an amateur, and in very many instances dealt out from the same shop, groceries, provisions, hardware, drugs and medicines, under the appropriate *cognomen* of a "general shop keeper," or "*one of all sorts*."

Indeed, in very many instances, the *wives and widows* of those learned worthies, practised the art and mystery of not only apothecaries, but of physicians *too*, and this has occurred even in modern times. Such a state of things called loudly for legislative interference.

The act which I hold in my hand, was accordingly passed in the 31st year of the reign of George the 3rd.

It was obvious that the safety of his Majesty's liege subjects required the foregoing enactment, but, the legislature it is plain, never contemplated that apothecaries were, in pursuance of *this act*, to become practitioners in *medicine or surgery*.

The sum of the qualifications required, being, 1st, the enrollment as apprentice; 2dly, the service of *seven years*!! to learn the art and mystery of an apothecary; and 3dly, An examination touching "his knowledge of the business, before he could obtain a certificate to open shop."

The leaven of monopoly was contained in the charter, for



it permitted only \*sixty apothecaries, and those resident in Dublin, or its liberties, to constitute the company to the exclusion of all others.

It is not my intention to trespass upon your valuable time by the recital of the scenes of "bloodshed and battery" that were perpetrated at the hall. This has already been before the public, and also in evidence before the parliamentary committee. Gentlemen, it was the unsuccessful struggle of the liberal and independent portion of the apothecary profession, against the monopoly of the directors of the hall. Nor will I enter into detail respecting the paradox, that the relicts of the worshipful directors became, in many instances, the sage representatives of their husbands; so that by a figure of rhetoric, it was sometimes named the old woman's hall, although the ladies did not exercise the functions of the "fair Benign."

In process of time, two lecturers on chemistry, materia medica, pharmacy, and botany, were appointed by the Apothecaries' Hall, and a theatre built at the rear of the establishment. A professor of practice of physic was next appointed,—certificates of attendance upon courses of lectures in these departments were required from candidates for certificates to open shop, or previously to being granted an examination. Lately (in June last) professors in anatomy, surgery, forensic medicine, and midwifery, have been added, together with a demand for *half* a year's hospital attendance.

So far as these professorships are connected with the cultivation of the objects of *pharmacy only*, they are, in my opinion, although not sanctioned by the charter, praise-

\* The number at present is not thirty. Two are as deaf as posts, another is a lawyer, and a fourth resides in England; the consequence is, that there are not sufficient to hold a Court of Appeal, and in some instances a majority of the Court that *rejected* constitute the Court of Appeal!!!



worthy, and in perfect keeping with the profession. But when I read of the institution of a full and complete school of medicine and surgery by the apothecaries' hall, I must see that the apothecaries are about to erect themselves into the office of *general practitioners*, and bolster up their claims to public confidence and public favour, by a *shew* of medical and surgical education.

It is high-time for physicians and surgeons to look to themselves, and *fearlessly* repel the innovators of their just rights.

I have now to inform you of a most important fact, not simply on my own authority, but on the authority and deliberate opinions of four eminent lawyers, two of whom are *now* judges of the court of Queen's Bench, that apothecaries' hall have no legal authority to institute professorships, and consequently any bye-law requiring certificates of attendance upon such lectures, is nugatory, inasmuch as it is not in conformity with their charter, which states, that it was given simply for the purpose of preventing unqualified and ignorant persons from practising the art and mystery of an *apothecary*, and that physicians should have their prescriptions properly compounded.

Now comes the *causa Belli* between the college of surgeons and apothecaries' hall. It is plain from the book I hold in my hand, and which I published in 1827, *ten years ago*, that lectures on chemistry, materia medica and pharmacy, delivered by Mr. Donovan, and lectures on medical botany, by Dr. Clinton, were *then* given at the apothecaries' hall by these gentlemen, as the professors of that institution. Now, again, gentlemen, did the royal college of surgeons in Ireland step forward "eager for the fray," and interdict the giving of lectures at the hall? No such thing. Both the college of physicians and the college of surgeons remained



purely passive—nay, I would say, supine; tolerance and courtesy were strikingly evinced by these learned bodies. How came the rupture between the college of surgeons and apothecaries' hall? Simply thus: this company after *five* years' unmolested serenity, during which lectures continued to be delivered, called the college of surgeons *out*, as I may say; for not content with being allowed to educate their own apprentices as they pleased, they forsooth, would achieve the education of the pupils of the college of surgeons in Ireland, and, lo! a communication arrives from apothecaries' hall to that effect, and to which I will now beg to direct your particular attention:

*Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.*

“At a meeting of the college, held on the 5th of November, 1832, a letter from the secretary of the apothecaries' hall having been read, in which he requests to be informed, whether a certificate of attendance on a course of lectures delivered in the apothecaries' hall, will be received as a part of the course of education required by the college; and as a qualification from candidates for letters testimonial—the college unanimously adopted the following resolutions:—

“RESOLVED—That it appears to the college, that the apothecaries' hall was established by the act of the 31st of Geo. III. c. 34, for the purpose, as the preamble declares, of ‘obviating the great inconveniencies which have arisen from the want of a hall supplied with medicine of the purest quality, prepared under the inspection of persons well skilled in the art or mystery of such preparations;’ and also because ‘frequent frauds and abuses have been imposed and practised on many of his Majesty's subjects by the ignorance and unskilfulness of persons pretending to the art and mystery of an apothecary, to the injury of the fair trader, the disappointment of the physician, and the imminent hazard of his Majesty's subjects; and also for the purpose of ‘enabling the corporation of apothecaries to raise a fund for the purpose of erecting such hall, with authority to prevent such abuses and frauds, and thereby tend to preserve the health of his Majesty's subjects:’ and likewise, as the 22d section of said act sets forth, ‘to prevent any person from opening a shop, or acting



in the art or mystery of an apothecary, until he shall be examined as to his qualification and knowledge of the business."

"RESOLVED—That the college having been advised by counsel, that the directors of the apothecaries' hall are not authorised by the act above noticed, to establish a school of medicine or surgery, or to appoint professors for instructing students in those branches, and being satisfied that the application of the funds of the company, or the appropriation of the apothecaries' hall to such a purpose, is a departure from, and a perversion of the objects contemplated in that act, which was constructed as much for the advantage of the physician and surgeon, and the safety of the public, as for the regulation and maintenance of the corporation of apothecaries; the college will not receive as qualification from candidates for letters testimonial, any certificate granted after this date from teachers lecturing in, or appointed by the apothecaries' hall; but on the contrary, will use its utmost efforts to prevent the apothecaries' hall from being converted to purposes which the legislature never contemplated."

This occurred in 1832. Another five years pass by. The school of apothecaries' hall has now become medical and surgical to the full. A fresh application is made. What was left for the college? Merely to send back the same reply as before. The circumstances were not altered; apothecaries' hall had not obtained a new charter, conferring the power of demanding any curriculum of education. Surely, these worthies could not for a moment suppose the court of censors and the whole college so *stultified*, as to act contrary to the deliberate opinions of four of the most eminent lawyers, two of whom have, since their opinions were given, become judges of the Court of Queen's Bench. I maintain, that no reflecting man, woman, or child, would tell the royal college of surgeons in Ireland to act *illegally* to oblige apothecaries' hall. In consequence of two of the members of the college of surgeons having joined the school of apothecaries' hall, *in despite of the foregoing legal opinions*, I perceived that the worshipful company of Mary-street had again called the college of



surgeons *out*, by placing them in a most embarrassing dilemma. I felt it my duty, as a member of that college, and as a teacher, to move, that the court of censors would bring up a report, as the guardians of education in Ireland, to determine the question, whether the professors of anatomy and surgery of apothecaries' hall were recognised teachers or not. The conclusion in the negative is *inevitable*, for if this body have no right to establish a school of medicine, of course, any one or more of *its* professors must, in that capacity, be disallowed recognition. I will prove to you, that this should be esteemed as not at all unfriendly on my part: what would be the position of these "professors," had they taken pupils that were to present themselves for examination by the court of censors in May next, and who would also tender their certificates as qualification? The court should come to the same conclusion *then* as *now*; consequently, such pupils would have just grounds for an action at law, for the non-fulfilment of the conditions of the prospectus, issued by the school. It is obvious, from this shewing, that the apothecaries' hall has as much right to establish professorships in the foregoing departments, as they have to institute lectureships in astronomy or divinity, and require that candidates for examination, should bring certificates of attendance upon these teachers.

In France, Germany, and the Brazils, should the apothecary prescribe for a patient, he incurs the risk of suffering a heavy penalty. A quondam pupil of mine, who practised for some time at Boulogne, told me that the young medical man got employment owing to two causes, the fee was small, and his peculiar province was not invaded by the apothecary.

I was informed by one of the witnesses summoned before the medical parliamentary committee, that it was Mr.



Wharburton's desire to make a *general practitioner* in this country.—“It was for the surgeons of the Dublin college to determine at once, whether they or the apothecaries should supply the public wants.” It is an obvious fact, that the mass of the community must have a general practitioner; they do not recognise the arbitrary distinctions of the profession, and what is a still more cogent argument, a vast proportion of the population of this city, are bound by the law of necessity to study economy.

Look to the directory and you will find that our body, the college of surgeons, consists of 128 members, and 399 licentiates, making a grand total of 527, not taking into account the number that passed this year, or since the list was published—The great majority of them are in Ireland. What is to be done? Gentlemen, the limits of an introductory lecture prevent me from discanting more fully on this subject, which is one vitally important to us all: let it suffice for the present to mention one of the most leading causes which has operated in turning the great proportion of practice from its legitimate channel. It is the *regulations of the respective colleges which prevent the physicians and surgeons of this city from supplying their patients with medicines.*

All must admit, that the *general practitioner* of Dublin is the apothecary. Do I censure his acceptance of this public favour? Surely not, for the error lies with *those* who *employ him*, in conceiving that, because he is qualified to practice pharmacy, he is *consequently* eligible for the practice of *all* the branches of the profession.

Gentlemen, I said this in an introductory lecture, published in 1832, and I also said that it is an obvious truth, that the man who practises every branch of the healing art, should bring something more than bare assumption as proof of his varied capabilities: ere long you will find that the apotheca-



ries will supply this public want, on legitimate grounds, and take such degrees as will entitle them to practice in the fourfold capacity of physician, surgeon, accoucheur, and apothecary. Now, several gentlemen that I know and am proud to call my friends, aye, and who also are not afraid to call me their friend, in despite of apothecaries' hall, are thus qualified, these are in my mind, the men the public want, and they have gone the right way to obtain favour and support.

I would maintain that the education required by the Royal College of surgeons in Ireland, renders its members and licentiates most eligible for the public, as *general practitioners*.

It is the only college that requires a collegiate classical course, preparatory to undertaking professional pursuits. The only college that requires three courses of lectures on anatomy and surgery; three courses of demonstrations and dissections, and above all, it demands *three* years hospital attendance.

The candidate for letters testimonial from the Dublin college, must produce a certificate that he has been engaged in the study of his profession, in some hospital or school of medicine or surgery for five years, during which he must bring documentary evidence of having undergone a public examination in the junior and senior classes in the first two years, after his third year, of having passed the public examination by the court of examiners, in chemistry, materia medica, and pharmacy; and also a certificate of his having passed the public examination in midwifery, and diseases of women and children; lastly, at the end of five years, he undergoes, on two several days, a searching examination in the practice of medicine and surgery, for upwards of an hour each time. In short, the education preparatory to obtaining letters testimonial is medical, surgical, pharmaceutical, and obstetric, thus embracing the



fourfold qualification required for the *general practitioner*.

Allow me to repudiate the charge put so often before the public, in reference to what has been mis-named *monopoly*, viz. the county infirmaries in Ireland being reserved for surgeons of the Irish college *only*.—True, but is not the Irish college of surgeons as open as day to every man, who chooses to qualify himself for its searching examination, by the extended curriculum of education which it enjoins. Surgeons of other colleges, will be examined by shewing that they have obtained an education, equivalent to that required by the regulations of the Irish college. Will the public say, that the man should not be well educated, who has, in a remote quarter of Ireland, to depend on himself only for the treatment of all the accidents and diseases, which may be found in the wards of a county infirmary?

A system has obtained, by which the junior practitioner is excluded from practice; it is between the senior man and apothecary; the latter, in nine cases out of ten, is first consulted; should other advice be required, the apothecary will exclude the young man, for he (the apothecary) could not tolerate so *inexperienced* a person; if he consults with any one, it must be some senior, well skilled in the system of ordering *placebo* draughts every second hour, and thus understands the rule of *quid pro quo*. I was told by a senior friend at the profession, that it was not good policy to show up the apothecaries: he added, "they could be good friends, and they might be dangerous enemies." They have already done their worst—I have thriven on their enmity—I have preserved what is dearer to me than ill-gotten gain, my independence and unshackled liberty, for, gentlemen, "disguise thyself as thou wilt

"Still slavery thou art a bitter (but not *tonic*) draught!"

The royal college of surgeons in Ireland impressed with



the necessity of adopting measures to meet this monstrous state of things, has appointed a committee of which I have the honour to be a member, "to prepare a petition to both houses of parliament, praying for the removal of the abuses and imperfections of the existing laws for regulating the business of an apothecary in Ireland, which are found to be mischievous and dangerous to the public, and oppressive, injurious, and degrading to the medical profession; and also to prepare a bill, in conformity with that petition, to be introduced next session, to enable all persons, legally authorised, to practice medicine or surgery in Ireland, to dispense medicine to their own patients; and, further, to prevent them, or any other person who practises medicine or surgery, from compounding or dispensing the prescriptions of other practitioners.

Information or suggestions calculated to forward these objects, addressed, under cover, to the registrar, C. O'Keeffe, Esq., shall meet with every attention."

Gentlemen, in conclusion, allow me to add, that we have in the rules for the dissecting rooms, adopted such as are best calculated to obviate any tendency to making that place, or any other connected with this school, the arena for political, religious, or sectarian discussions.

I have been induced to state so much, in consequence of a report having been industriously circulated, that our school was remarkable for such obnoxious proceedings. I am happy to be able to give this public contradiction to such a slanderous report. It is our fixed determination at all times, to nip in the bud, (should such occur) any, the slightest tendency, which our pupils might manifest to depart from that line of conduct, which the students at a liberal profession should undeviatingly pursue.



