

Memoirs of the life of a country surgeon.

Contributors

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Royal College of Surgeons of England

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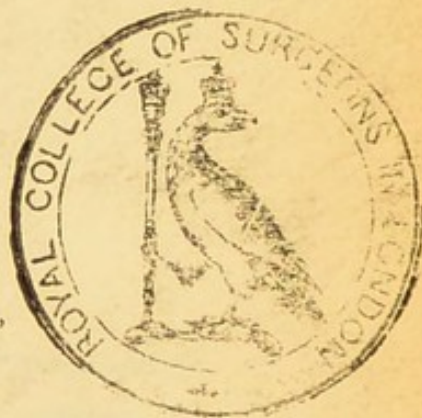
11.

MEMOIRS
OF
THE LIFE
OF A
COUNTRY SURGEON.

Stat nominis umbra.

"In misery's darkest caverns known,
His powerful aid was ever nigh,
Where hopeless Anguish pour'd his groan,
And lonely Want retir'd to die;
No summons mock'd by cold delay,
No petty gains disclaim'd by pride;
The modest wants of every day,
The toil of every day supplied."

DR. JOHNSON.



LONDON:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY REEVE, BROTHERS,
KING WILLIAM STREET, STRAND.

1845.

THE

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THOMAS HAYLEY, ESQ., M.P.

OF

AND

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OF

TO
THOMAS WAKLEY, ESQ., M.P.,

AND TO THE UNKNOWN

Writer of the *Medical Strictures*

IN

“THE TIMES,”

THE FOLLOWING HUMBLE PAGES ARE INSCRIBED, WITH EVERY SENTIMENT OF
GRATITUDE AND RESPECT, FOR THEIR ABLE, EFFICIENT, AND GENEROUS
DEFENCE OF THE PROFESSIONAL CHARACTER, AND CLAIMS, OF THE

MEDICAL SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

May 22, 1845.



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ADDRESS.

TO THE

RIGHT HON. SIR JAMES GRAHAM, BART.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT, ETC.

SIR,

As you have proscribed the race to which I belong, I am anxious, before your fell purpose is carried into effect, to lay before you a plain statement of the present position, character, and professional abilities of the Provincial General Practitioners of England; in the hope that you may be induced to pause, ere it be too late, and so modify your scheme, as to preserve to the country a body of men, the most useful, the most disinterested, and the worst requited, of any in the kingdom; and which, like—

“ —— a bold peasantry, their Country's pride,
If once destroy'd, can never be supplied.”

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

A GENERAL PRACTITIONER.

May 22, 1845.

PREFATORY.

THE progress of society necessitates a corresponding change in the individuals of which the public body is composed, and especially demands, and compels, an advancement in the knowledge and acquirements of such classes, as administer to the luxuries and necessities of the community at large. Hence the institutions founded by our prudent and sagacious forefathers, however well calculated to meet the exigences of their times, are found to be no longer suitable or adequate to the requirements of a more advanced and more artificial condition of society. The spirit of the "Laws of the Medes and Persians which alter not," has long been generally repudiated in principle, although still clung to in practice by those who are benefitted by the continuance of ancient codes, and the concomitant abuses, which time never fails to engraft on the most enlightened schemes of human wisdom and foresight. But notwithstanding the inadequacy of ancient institutions to meet the present wants of society, whether that inadequacy arises from their too rigid adaptation for a social condition long extinct, or from the corruptions which have sprung up in the course of years, the natural influence, so to speak, which the onward march of civilization exerts on the individual, and which hurries him on in the race of improvement, operates with yet greater energy on those limited classes, whose very existence as distinct members of the body politic, depends on their capacity to fulfil

their professed functions. Hence had there never been a College of Physicians or of Surgeons in England, our general practitioners from the mere force of circumstances, would necessarily have become immeasurably superior to the bone-setters and herbalists of the olden times; as they now are in the knowledge of the natural sciences, to any other body of men in the community.

That great benefits would result both to the practitioner and to the nation at large, from judicious legislative enactments, to regulate the education and attainments, and secure a liberal remuneration for the services, of those who engage in the arduous profession of medicine and surgery, will not admit of question; any more than that injudicious interference, and class restrictions, must be productive of irreparable mischief.

In the hope, but not very sanguine expectation, that the attainment of so desirable an object may be in a slight degree promoted by a brief and faithful statement of the important position which the provincial general practitioner fills in society, and of the arduous duties which he is called upon to perform, and the painful responsibility he is often compelled to bear, and the very inadequate recompense which even the most fortunate can reasonably expect to obtain, I submit the following hastily penned Memoir to the consideration of the public; possibly at some future time, I may fill up this imperfect sketch, with the view of preserving a true portraiture of the professional character and attainments of the calumniated *Medical Surgeons* of England.

STAT NOMINIS UMBRA.

MEMOIRS

OF THE LIFE OF A

COUNTRY SURGEON.

DESCENDED from a family of high antiquity, many of whose members had borne the honour of knighthood when that distinction was but sparingly bestowed, and whose possessions and honours had been dissipated and lost by civil commotions and religious persecutions, my father filled a respectable but humble station in a country town. His children received the best education which the provincial grammar school could bestow; and from an early predilection for study which I was supposed to evince, at the age of twelve I was removed from my Alma Mater, and placed under the private tuition of a clergyman, in a distant part of England. Here I remained three years, and at the expiration of that term was apprenticed to a general practitioner, in a market town in the west of ——shire.

My master was a married man in the prime of life, about forty years of age, of a ruddy countenance and robust frame. He had been a student under John Hunter, whose doctrines and precepts he held in high estimation. He had received the usual kind of education afforded by a provincial grammar school, viz. a “little Latin and less Greek;” he was fond of scientific pursuits in general, and like most of his class had a predilection for natural history, and enjoyed some reputation as a botanist, in the limited sphere in which he moved. He held the situation of medical attendant to the poor of three parishes, as well as that of “Ordnance Surgeon” to a troop of artillery, stationed in barracks near the town. He was popular among the tradespeople, but few of the

gentry, however, were included in his list of patients, for another practitioner of longer standing, and who deservedly ranked high as a surgeon, enjoyed the confidence of the principal families in the town and neighbourhood.

My master, (whom I will call Mr. Wilmot), had served his apprenticeship to an elderly man, who had successfully exercised the profession of "Surgeon, Apothecary and Man-midwife," upwards of half a century in this town; and to whose practice he ultimately succeeded, when Death took his revenge on one, who in his own estimation and in that of a large circle of friends, had often cheated the stern leveller of his prey. Before describing the nature of the services required of me, it may be worth while to notice those performed by the apprentice of a yet remoter period. Mr. Wilmot was articled to his predecessor at the age of fifteen; his master was then nearly seventy, and lived in a quaint old house in the main street. Two projecting angular windows, with a large, ancient, porched doorway, constituted the ground-floor of the front of the dwelling. Beneath each of these windows, about four feet from the ground, was a moveable table or board; and underneath them an oaken form, or bench, for the convenience of out-door patients. The windows were graced with rows of blue and white earthen pots and jars, bearing labels indicative of infallible remedies, now long since expunged from the *materia medica*; possibly to make room for others not more worthy of reputation. Not only were all the extempore medicines, but also the standard compounds, prepared by the master and his apprentice, for there were no retail druggists in those days; and the indigenous medicinal herbs were collected from the surrounding district, and prepared and distilled at home. In fine and mild weather, the general business of the dispensary and laboratory, was performed on the moveable tables on the outside of the windows, whose deep projecting cornices served as pent-houses, and afforded both shade and shelter. These temporary counters were further protected from the sun, by the umbrageous foliage of four ancient lime-trees, which grew in a row in front of the house, and whose branches were twisted and trimmed into three verdant arches, forming as it were a portico to this humble temple of Esculapius. Here unguents and syrups were prepared, together with other medicaments of a like nature; and the great brass mortar

and pestle, used for pounding bark, rhubarb, &c., was also removed to a snug nitch outside the door; and thus the worthy proprietor got rid for a season, both of noise, and of balsamic and odoriferous smells.

A hardy, rough-coated, Welch pony, who had done good service as a smuggler for a quarter of a century, and was therefore a proficient in nocturnal excursions, was the only locomotive employed by the old gentleman, in addition to those with which nature had provided him.

“ It was, indeed, a very sorry hack—
But that’s of course,
For what’s expected of a horse
With an apothecary on his back ? ”

For the sake of economy, this nag was turned out to grass during nine months of the year, in some fields, nearly a mile distant; and whenever required by his master, was caught, groomed, and saddled, by the elder apprentice for the time being. The lighting of the fire, sweeping out the shop, cleaning the windows, and all other domestic services required in the medical apartments of the mansion, also devolved upon the aspirants for Esculapian honours: such was the general condition of the apprentices of the country practitioner till near the close of the last century. The above particulars were communicated to me by Mr. Wilmot, who, when in a talkative mood, used to enjoy the recital of the pains and perils of his early life.

The returns of Mr. Wilmot’s practice at the commencement of my service, amounted to between £500 and £600 per annum; inclusive of his salary as ordnance-surgeon, and for the attendance on the sick poor of three parishes. The latter were contracted for at £20 each, surgery and midwifery being charged extra; the fee for each accouchement was 10s. 6d.; with an additional 2s. 6d. when three miles distant.

I had been brought up somewhat tenderly, and was therefore much depressed upon being shown into my dormitory, a kind of recess or closet, behind the shop (or surgery as it was termed), and directed to attend to the door-bell whenever that alarum was sounded; and, if in the night, to come up to Mr. Wilmot’s bed-

room with the message, without waiting to dress myself. Unfortunately, a summons to a case of midwifery occurred, on the first night of my noviciate; I jumped out of my warm bed, groped my way to the front door and let in the messenger, who was on foot, and dripping with sleet and snow; for it was a bitter night in February. With much difficulty I found the way to my master's apartment, and roused him from a sound sleep; then struck a light, got the stable lanthorn, and having hastily dressed myself, accompanied him to the stable, which was at a short distance from the house. Mr. Wilmot saddled and mounted his horse, praised me for my promptitude, observing that I had no hardships to go through like the apprentices of his times, for I had merely to light my master to the stable; told me to go to bed, and enjoined me not to sleep too soundly lest I should not hear the bell. Scarcely an hour had elapsed, ere the horrible sound of the door-bell again roused me from my slumbers; another summons to a village four miles distant, and in the opposite direction. I went to Mrs. W., who directed me to dress and go to another surgeon in the town, and request his attendance for Mr. W. It was then raining heavily, the wind high, the snow many inches thick on the ground and fast thawing, and I was soon nearly up to my knees in mud and snow. The surgeon to whom I was sent declined turning out, and I had to proceed to another, who resided at a distant part of the town. This gentleman, to my great joy, consented to go, and I returned home, wet through and half perished with cold. Mr. W. returned before day-light, but, in consideration of my inexperience in the duties of my profession, did not require me to take the horse to the stable, but attended to the animal himself.

I commenced my daily duties with sweeping out the surgery, cleaning phials, and powdering and sifting drugs; and by degrees learnt the art and mystery of making pills, and other medicinal preparations. In a few months all the medicines were dispensed and carried out by me; and the duty of collecting the empty phials from door to door, and afterwards of washing them, also devolved upon me. After the first year I had, in addition to the above services, to keep the accounts, write out all the bills, and to bleed and extract the teeth of all casual patients. Having attained some dexterity in tooth-drawing, I acquired a celebrity of which my mas-

ter was somewhat jealous, particularly when the daughter of the only squire on our list, (for *squires* were *rather* less common than now), requested that Mr. W's young man should be sent to extract her tooth!

As I was tall, and looked old for my age, I was soon able to be of considerable service to my master, by visiting the poor in slight ailments, and occasionally accompanying him to the military hospital, and assisting to dress the poor fellows' backs; for flogging was at that time in vogue, and we often had five or six men in the hospital from the infliction of that horrible and iniquitous punishment. Here I was initiated in post mortem examinations; for several deaths occurred in a troop lately returned from the West Indies, and each of the bodies was examined, and a report sent to the Director General, Dr. Rollo. Simple fractures, and slight surgical cases, often occurred among the parish patients, and were soon left to my care; my master only superintending those which required particular attention. Four years passed away in this daily round of occupations, and by rising very early (often by four o'clock) I had many a spare hour for reading and drawing; and having an ardent love for natural history, I made a little collection of plants, shells, &c., from the neighbourhood. At the expiration of this time, another apprentice was taken, and I was relieved from the menial offices I had hitherto performed. I was now a valuable assistant to my master, and had acquired habits of punctuality and dispatch, and an acquaintance with the peculiar dispositions of various classes in society, which were of the highest importance to my success in after life. At twenty, the term of my apprenticeship expired, and I proceeded to London to complete my professional education.

Medical Apprenticeship. Ere I proceed farther with my narrative, I would offer a few remarks on the subject of Medical Apprenticeship, which appears to me to have been condemned without sufficient reflection. That a young man, from the age of fifteen to twenty, may obtain a much greater share of professional, as well as of classical and mathematical knowledge at the hospitals and the universities, than he could possibly acquire during an apprenticeship in the country, must of course be admitted; but it may reasonably be questioned, how far these advantages should be con-

sidered at the age of twenty, of equal importance to his future success in life, as habits of obedience, of moral control, and of punctuality, and what may be termed the business of his profession ; together with a familiar acquaintance with the innumerable " petty ills that flesh is heir to," that constitute a large amount of cases in private practice, but which will never come under his notice within the walls of an hospital : these advantages an apprenticeship can alone bestow. It cannot be necessary to remark on the vast importance of keeping a virtuous lad from the contamination of the *immorale* of an hospital as long as possible. I may add, that although my apprenticeship was a most laborious servitude, and comprehended many things which I ought not to have been required to perform, yet when I presented myself as a pupil to Mr. Abernethy, my knowledge of anatomy was equal to that possessed by most of the hospital's students of my own age ; for the habit of copying drawings, and making extracts of standard works, had familiarized me with the elements and nomenclature of the science, and given me a good theoretical acquaintance with its details, so that the lectures on osteology were readily comprehended ; and by the frequent dissections of animals, during my apprenticeship, I had acquired a dexterity in the use of the scalpel, which greatly facilitated the practice of human anatomy. In consequence I soon gained the especial notice, and ultimately the friendship, of my excellent and eminent teacher. The great fault of the young medical persons of the present day, so far as my observation extends, consists in their utter ignorance of habits of business, their impatience of control, and unwillingness to submit to the performance of those irksome duties, which must inevitably fall to the lot even of the most successful practitioner.

But the subject of Medical Apprenticeship merits the most serious attention on another account. Without the premium, and the services of an apprentice, hundreds of surgeons in small country towns and villages, could not possibly carry on their practice. Setting aside their poverty, which would render the employment of paid assistants impossible, none could be obtained that would undertake the petty but necessary duties, that are now performed by apprentices. They who would enact that country surgeons should not dispense their own medicines, betray the grossest ig-

norance of the state of the profession in the provinces; the thing is utterly impossible! In hundreds of our small towns and villages a druggist could not obtain a livelihood; and even in many of our larger towns, it is indispensable that the Medical Surgeon should have medicines in his own house. Scarcely a day or night passes with a man in large practice, without some case of emergency occurring to require immediate remedies. For example: the surgeon is called up in the night to visit a case of spasmodic asthma, or other sudden and urgent attack; a person returns with him for the necessary remedies, which he puts up immediately. But under the proposed regulations the surgeon must write the prescription, which must be sent to a druggist, residing probably at some distance, who has then to be called up; possibly he may not have some one of the prescribed articles, and must either substitute another at the risk of injury to the patient, or send back to the surgeon for a modification of the prescription. This is no imaginary case; over and over again have I known it to happen. But I surely need not dwell on the impracticability of this scheme; many objections equally forcible will occur to every man who has been engaged in extensive country practice. The system of apprenticeship may be modified and improved, but must not be hastily abandoned.

It will not be necessary to dwell on my sojourn at the London hospitals. At the period to which I refer, (some thirty-five years since), no examination was required of the general practitioner, and the only Court of Examiners was that of the College of Surgeons. Although anxious, on account of the limited means of my only surviving parent, to avoid unnecessary expences, I was ambitious of obtaining the only professional distinction within my reach, and therefore resolved to acquire the diploma of the College. But the students of those days were sadly restricted in their anatomical studies, by the scarcity and high price of subjects for dissection; from six to ten pounds being the usual sum for a body, and frequently one could not be obtained at any price. This evil, to the disgrace of the country, was not removed till the most revolting crimes were committed, and public indignation compelled the legislature to interfere.

I spent two years at the hospitals, attending the usual course of lectures on medicine, surgery, and midwifery; and at the age of twenty-two, passed my examination at the College, and became a member of that body. A small share of a country practice was immediately offered me, by a surgeon who had known me from boyhood, and which I accepted, although it was not likely to produce me more than fifty pounds per annum; but this was my only resource, for I had tried in vain for the situation of an assistant in London.

The town in which I now began my medical career contained about eight or nine thousand inhabitants, and several populous villages were situated within a few miles of the place; and there were barracks for one or two troops of horse-artillery, the medical attendance upon which, was generally given to one of the resident surgeons. The practice depended in a great measure on midwifery, the fee for attendance rarely exceeding 10s. 6d.; there were three parishes contracted for at £20. each; surgical and obstetrical cases being paid for extra, at low charges.

For ten years I continued in partnership with the founder of this practice, and by incessant labour increased the returns from £250. to £700. per annum; attending myself from 200 to 300 cases of midwifery, annually. Frequently have I been up for six or seven nights in succession; an occasional hour's sleep in my clothes, being the only repose I could obtain. The death of my partner about this time put me in possession of the entire emoluments; with the exception of £100. annuity to the widow for a stipulated term of years.

My reputation now stood high; and by degrees my practice included all the principal families in the town and neighbourhood, and my returns exceeded £2000. per annum; but this amount was made up of bills which would scarcely average more than £3. or £4. each; including the attendance on a military hospital, and on six large parishes.

To carry on such a practice, spread over an area of from thirty to forty miles in circumference, several assistants and apprentices, as well as horses, were necessary; for my daily list of patients during the sickly seasons, often amounted to from sixty to one hundred cases.

The incessant toil and anxiety, and the want of sufficient sleep,

which these duties involved, began seriously to affect my health; and after thirty years of unremitting labour I was compelled to dispose of the practice, and seek the suburbs of some large town where my experience, and reputation, might be likely to obtain for me a small income with but little exertion. For although my practice had for many years been very extensive, and the returns considerable, the attendant expenses (of assistants, horses, drugs, &c.) swallowed up at least two-thirds of the receipts; and a bare support for my family only remained.

During this long period I was called upon to perform almost all the great operations in surgery; often suddenly, and without the possibility of obtaining the aid or sanction of another practitioner. Frequently have I had to perform the minor amputations of the extremities, with no assistance except what a neighbouring peasant or casual by-stander could afford.

As an accoucheur my practice, as already stated, was very great; and of course many difficult and dangerous labours fell to my lot; oftentimes under circumstances the most distressing from the abject poverty of the patients, and the next to impossibility of obtaining for them the necessaries of life. LONDON PRACTICE IS CHILD'S PLAY compared with the arduous duties of the country practitioner. The responsibility of the most difficult and serious operations often rests solely upon himself; and he may be called upon at the very moment when, exhausted by previous fatigue, he is the least fitted for the task. I will illustrate this assertion by the following case, which is but one of many that occurred to me.

On a miserable afternoon in October, after having been up several successive nights, I returned home, and, wrapping myself in a cloak, laid down on a sofa before the fire, not venturing to take off my clothes, as I was in hourly expectation of being called to another labour. I had been asleep about an hour, when I was summoned to a person, who by the accidental discharge of a fowling piece, was dangerously wounded and supposed to be dying, in a cottage some miles distant. I immediately provided myself with bandages, and other necessary applications, and instruments, mounted my horse, and galloped, through a heavy rain, to the house into which the patient had been carried. He was senseless from loss of blood; one hand was shattered to pieces; the muscles of one of the thighs

were torn to rags, and the femoral vessels exposed; one eye was destroyed, and the scalp over the front of the head, and face, dreadfully lacerated. I applied a tourniquet to each limb; administered cordials; and after a few hours, when the patient had sufficiently rallied, I amputated the fore-arm; a neighbouring practitioner kindly affording me assistance. The amputation of the thigh, which the injury seemed absolutely to require, was not ventured upon in consequence of the extreme exhaustion induced by the previous operation; yet the laceration of the limb was so great, that mortification appeared inevitable. Fortunately the patient recovered, and regained the use of the limb; but my anxiety till all danger was passed, cannot be described. Now had this case occurred in London, the hospital surgeon would have had the co-operation of his colleagues; and if in private practice, one or more eminent surgeons would have been called in, and whatever might have been the result, the responsibility would have been divided, and therefore scarcely felt.

Many cases of a like nature came under my cognizance in the practice of my neighbours; for of late years I was often called into consultation by the surgeons in the towns and villages around me. And I can bear honourable and unbiassed testimony to the skill, humanity, and disinterestedness of those excellent men, whose services were alike unappreciated and most inadequately recompensed. Often have I thought my lot hard to bear, till I have seen my professional brethren living in the most humble manner—toiling day and night like slaves—excluded from all intercourse with congenial minds—looked down upon with humiliating condescension by the rector and squire of the village—and treated with contumely by the wealthy and ignorant; the character of GIDEON GRAY*, so graphically portrayed by Sir Walter Scott, is indeed no fiction—there are thousands such in the provinces of England.

Compared with the lot of hundreds of country practitioners, my own career may be considered fortunate; yet surely in no other profession, in no mercantile enterprise, in no trade, would thirty-five years of such unremitting toil have been so poorly remunerated.

* See Sir Walter Scott's "*Surgeon's Daughter*."

With a broken constitution, and in a state of health that renders exertion most painful, I have in my declining years, still to labour on in anxious incertitude. And although I have been admitted into the batch of "Fellows" under the new charter, yet care has been taken to exclude the general practitioner, as long as possible, from all chance of sharing in the honours and emoluments of the college, by requiring *five years* purification from midwifery practice!!! a more barefaced act of injustice can scarcely be imagined. I should be considered eligible for election as a member of the Councils of any of the Scientific Institutions of England, composed as they are of noblemen and gentlemen of the highest eminence in science and station, but I am not deemed fit to be a member of the council of my own college. In other words, Sir Benjamin Brodie could not refuse to meet me on the council in Somerset House, although he would repudiate my society in Lincoln's Inn Fields!

As one of the senior members of the College of Surgeons—as one who has as largely contributed to the advancement of the sciences which the College was instituted to promote, as any of the present Council—as a Surgeon who has successfully performed the most difficult operations, and honourably filled for many years the situation of sole medical officer to a military hospital—I protest against the injustice of being excluded from the Council of the College, solely because I have practised the most important, difficult, and responsible branch of my profession. And as one of the medical surgeons of England, I solemnly deprecate the exclusion of myself and my professional brethren from the highest honours of the college, and claim the right to participate in all the advantages of the Hunterian Museum, and of the College Library; which were purchased for the benefit of the profession at large, and not for a self-constituted and irresponsible junta, composed of men, confessedly acquainted with only *one* branch of the healing art.

CONCLUSION.

The separation of the great body of medical surgeons from the College, and their establishment into an independent Institution,

thus virtually resigning the Hunterian Museum and Library, will, in my estimation, be fatal to the interests, respectability, and independence of the general practitioners; and fraught with the most serious consequences to the public at large. A proper modification of the Charter of the College of Surgeons is the only requisite and safe measure. This should now be the sole end and aim of the Medical Surgeons of England.

It is too of the first importance, that a liberal remuneration from public bodies for the services of medical surgeons, should be secured by legal enactments. Sir James Graham proposes to increase the expenses of medical education, and render the attainments of the future members of the profession, of a higher order than those of their predecessors; yet in the same paper in which this intention was announced, appeared the following advertisement.

BICESTER UNION.

Consisting of 17 parishes.—7680 population.

Greatest distance six miles.

Salary £60 per annum, and 10*s.* for each case of Midwifery.

This is indeed a *monster* insult! why 10*s.* 6*d.* for midwifery was the fee one hundred years ago; in “those good old times” as the radicals sing,

“Ere Castlereagh, or Pitt, or Peel was born,
Or laws were made to raise the price of corn.”

I leave it to Mr. Hume, and the other political economists, to examine into the statistics of the above precious document; and will only remark, that taking the average distance from the town, and assuming that each case will require three visits—the surgeon will have eighteen miles to ride—probably five or six hours to attend—and to supply the necessary medicines—for *ten* shillings! And should he attend, as I have done, three hundred cases in the year, Sir Robert Peel’s tax will mulct him of the fees for some eight or ten cases!

If the bill now before the house pass into a law, like other outrageous evils it will work its own cure; but not till much individual wrong has been inflicted, and serious consequences entailed upon

the community at large. The supply of able medical surgeons will soon be found insufficient to meet the demand; and thousands of the sick poor in the provinces will be left to the tender mercies of the ignorant empiric, and must suffer and perish accordingly.

It has grieved me to perceive so much difference of opinion among the medical associations that have sprung up, as to the measures that should be adopted at this critical juncture. This discrepancy appears in a great measure to have originated from the London members, who have necessarily taken the lead, being but imperfectly acquainted with the condition and necessities of their provincial brethren. The simple manly course, so ably advocated by Mr. Wakley, and by "The Times," is at once judicious and practicable. Abandon all thought of a separate College—insist upon equal rights and equal privileges—one College—one examination—and never relinquish your claim to the Hunterian Museum and Library. As to minor objects: charge for attendance but not for medicines, and leave it to the individual to dispense or not, as his peculiar circumstances may render necessary. An apprenticeship of three years, optional with the party, to serve as an apprentice, or attend as a student at the hospitals, may be desirable. Any legislative enactment, that will not admit of such modifications as shall enable the medical surgeon to accommodate his practice to the circumstances in which he is placed, it requires not the spirit of prophecy to predict, can never be enforced.

FINIS.

REEVE, BROTHERS,
PRINTERS AND LITHOGRAPHERS OF SCIENTIFIC WORKS,
KING WILLIAM STREET, STRAND.
