

Reply by Mr. Quain to a pamphlet entitled The official resignation of the Professorship of Surgery, in University College, London, with observations addressed to the President and Council, by Samuel Cooper, F.R.S., late President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England : with a resolution of the Council of the College respecting Mr. Cooper's statements.

Contributors

Quain, Richard, 1800-1887.
Royal College of Surgeons of England

Publication/Creation

London : Taylor and Walton, 1848.

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The Royal College of Surgeons
16. from Mr Quain

REPLY BY MR. QUAIN

TO

A PAMPHLET

ENTITLED

"THE OFFICIAL RESIGNATION OF THE PROFESSORSHIP OF SURGERY, IN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE, LONDON, WITH OBSERVATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL.

BY SAMUEL COOPER, F.R.S.,

LATE PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND."

WITH

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
COLLEGE

RESPECTING MR. COOPER'S STATEMENTS.



LONDON:

TAYLOR AND WALTON, 28, UPPER GOWER STREET.

MDCCCXLVIII.

LONDON:
BRADBURY AND EVANS, PRINTERS, WHITEFRIARS.

REPLY BY MR. QUAIN.

MR. COOPER, late Professor of Surgery in University College, in an Address to his pupils at the end of the Winter Term of this year, thought proper to impugn the conduct of two other Professors in the discharge of their duties as members both of the Senate and of the Hospital Medical Committee. Since then the same gentleman has circulated a pamphlet, in which the charges previously made are repeated at greater length, and are fixed on Dr. Sharpey and myself. The allegations contained in this pamphlet I propose to notice in detail. I cannot help, however, expressing my regret that statements affecting gentlemen holding office in the College were not submitted in the first instance to the governing body of the College. I offered (in the *Lancet* of May 6th) to join Mr. Cooper in requesting the Council to investigate his charges; and afterwards I placed in the hands of the Secretary of the College a letter, soliciting the Council to institute in any way they might think expedient a full inquiry into the truth of Mr. Cooper's statements, so far as they affected me. To this letter I have received a reply, in the form of a Resolution, which will be found at the close of this pamphlet. But though this resolution shows that I needed no defence in the minds of the Members of the Council, I feel

it to be necessary to place before the public some observations, with a view to vindicate my character from the accusations which Mr. Cooper has circulated among the pupils of the College in his address, and publicly through the press. In doing this, I shall confine myself as much as possible to a plain statement of facts.

At page 5 of his pamphlet, Mr. Cooper seeks to account for the circumstance of the Council not having acceded to his wishes as to the way in which his Course of Lectures was to be conducted, in the following words :—

“The only explanation, which can be given, is this: subsequently to the 9th of August, the date of the letter conveying the last distinct assurance of the Council, that I should have the assistance solicited, the two Anatomical Professors have not always found me subservient enough to their projects in the dominion, they are well-known to assume over the Medical department of the College; and, in particular, I was obliged, last October, publicly in the Medical Committee of the Hospital, to express my disapproval of the long delay that had taken place in filling up the Assistant Surgeoncy, vacant by the death of Mr. Potter; and also of the appropriation of a part of the Hospital, under the name of an Eye Infirmary, exclusively to Professor Quain. These gentlemen perceived in me, then, an independent Member of University College, determined to object to whatever he might conscientiously deem unfair, disadvantageous, or not creditable to the Institution. I was, as it were, in their sight, a rebel against their dictatorial sway, and they wished me out of office.”

It is important here to notice the time which Mr. Cooper fixes on for the beginning of his dissatisfaction—“Subsequently to the 9th August last.” It will be observed that, although he speaks of two Professors as “combined for mutual purposes,” and although the substance of this statement is iterated in various forms in other parts of the pamphlet, Mr. Cooper dates his complaints entirely from the period mentioned. Indeed, he states that at that time he “was rather anxious” that one of those Professors should be associated with him in his lectures (page 14).

In order that the reference to official acts and documents, of which I propose to avail myself in some of the following observations, may be intelligible to those who are not ac-

quainted with the way in which the medical business of the Hospital is conducted, it should at once be mentioned that all such business is managed by the Medical Committee. This body is composed of all the medical officers of the Hospital, together with those medical Professors of the College who do not hold office in the Hospital. The Dean of the Medical Faculty is Chairman. The meetings, which are convened by that officer, are assembled by notices to all the Members ; and the notices contain a statement of the business to be transacted. The meetings are necessarily frequent ; but any Member of the body, who has any special business to bring forward, has only to request the Dean to summon a meeting for the purpose.

So much being premised, I now come to the *two facts* which form the basis of Mr. Cooper's imputations on his colleagues. The first is as follows:—"I was obliged to express my disapproval of the long delay which had taken place in filling up the Assistant Surgeony." From what precedes respecting the Constitution of the Medical Committee, it will be understood that with due notice any Member of the Committee can bring forward for discussion whatever subject he may think proper ; and if improper delay in making an appointment occurred, it was equally in the power of all to seek to abridge it. In last summer Mr. Cooper wrote to me on the subject of the Assistant Surgeony, suggesting that I should bring forward a motion to recommend that the vacancy should be speedily filled up. This course I declined to follow, giving reasons why I thought it advisable that a longer interval should be allowed to elapse. Whereupon, on the 8th October, Mr. Cooper gave notice of a motion to recommend that Candidates should at once be invited to send in their applications for the office, just as any other person might have done. On the 22nd of the same month, the motion came under consideration ; and I find by the Minutes that there were present on the occasion Mr. Liston, the Dean of

the Medical Faculty, in the Chair, Mr. Cooper, Dr. Garrod, Mr. Morton, Dr. Murphy, Mr. Quain, Dr. Sharpey, Dr. Thomson, Dr. Walshe, Dr. Williams. At this meeting an amendment to Mr. Cooper's motion was proposed to the effect that it should be recommended to the Council to announce forthwith that they would proceed to fill up the vacant office in the ensuing summer; due notice of the time for receiving applications to be given. After discussion, the original motion was by leave withdrawn, and the amendment was carried *unanimously*. Notwithstanding this state of the facts, Mr. Cooper alleges that the office "still remains unfilled in consequence of its not being the pleasure of those two Professors to allow your printed Resolution that the Hospital shall have two Assistant Surgeons, just at present, to be fulfilled."—Page 6. But Mr. Cooper, it is plain, is himself a party to the delay in common with the whole Medical Committee. To the reasons assigned by Mr. Cooper for the desire which he first entertained that the vacancy should be speedily filled up, I cannot refer, as they were written in a private letter, or spoken before the Committee. But I may mention that the reasons assigned for delay were these:—That, inasmuch as the office was a new one (Mr. Potter, who first held it, died immediately after his appointment), and the two Acting Surgeons had declared that there was no urgent necessity in the business of the Hospital for a speedy appointment, the delay might be useful by affording the Council the advantage of selecting from a larger number of Candidates,—for instance, from old pupils living at a distance, or involved in present engagements, who would thus have the opportunity of making application for the office; that, in fact, while no Candidate was likely to be lost by a reasonable delay, some good ones might be brought forward. It is not, however, my province to defend the deliberate act of the Medical Committee of the Hospital, including Mr. Cooper himself.

The second of the two causes, to which Mr. Cooper ascribes

most important effects, is that he was obliged to express disapproval of "the appropriation of a part of the Hospital, under the name of an Eye Infirmary, exclusively to Professor Quain." I am not aware that Mr. Cooper ever made any observation on this subject at any meeting of the Committee; but, on account of the use he makes of the subject in his pamphlet, it may be well to state briefly the facts connected with it. I shall first advert to the formation of an Eye Infirmary, which I certainly suggested; and, secondly, to the circumstances under which I took charge of it.

I find, that at a meeting of the Medical Committee of the Hospital, held 22nd February, 1845, Dr. Williams, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, being in the Chair, and Mr. Graham, Mr. Morton, Dr. Sharpey, Dr. Taylor, and Dr. Walshe, being present, a communication from the House Committee was read, inviting the Medical Committee to offer suggestions as to the appropriation of parts of the north wing of the Hospital (then about to be built) to special purposes; and a Sub-committee, consisting of Dr. Williams, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Quain was appointed to consider the subject and report. A copy of the Resolutions was at the same time ordered to be sent to each member of the Committee. The Minutes of these proceedings were approved and signed by the Chairman (Dr. Williams), at a meeting held 27th February, 1846.

I further find, that at a meeting of the same body on the 27th February, 1846 (present, Dr. Williams, the Dean, in the Chair, and Mr. Liston, Mr. Morton, Dr. Murphy, Mr. Quain, Dr. Sharpey, Dr. Taylor, Dr. Thomson) a Report of the Sub-committee above nominated was read, and it was resolved, that it was desirable to devote a portion of the new building to the reception of Eye cases, and another portion to Uterine and Obstetric cases; also, that the Eye department should have for out-patients a separate entrance to rooms appropriated for the purpose in the new building, with conspicuous announcements to the public. The Minutes of these

proceedings were approved and signed by the Chairman, Dr. Williams, at a meeting on the 6th April, 1846.

Again, it will be found in the Minutes of the Committee, that, on the 25th June, 1847 (present, Mr. Liston, the Dean, in the Chair, and Dr. Garrod, Mr. Morton, Mr. Quain, Dr. Sharpey, Dr. Walshe, Dr. Williams) after a letter had been read from the Secretary of the College, requesting, on the part of the Committee of Management, that the Medical Committee would provide for the care of Ophthalmic patients in the new wing of the Hospital, it was resolved, that for the present such patients should be taken charge of by Mr. Quain; patients requiring in-door treatment to be admitted by Mr. Quain *into beds already assigned to him*. It should be added, that Mr. Liston, to whom application was made in the first instance by the Committee, declined to take charge of these patients. The Minute in which the resolution is recorded was read at a meeting on the 28th July, and signed by the Chairman, Mr. Liston.

From this authentic account of the facts as they occurred, it is obvious that Mr. Cooper's "disapproval" of the measures by which Mr. Quain was in fact charged with the task of creating an Eye Infirmary, (two rooms being assigned to him for the purpose) is a disapproval of a very deliberate act of the Medical Committee. Yet it is upon this case, and the preceding one, that Mr. Cooper relies for the purpose of showing the exercise of some extraordinary power on the part of Dr. Sharpey and myself.

After having made erroneous allusion to those cases, Mr. Cooper continues:—"These gentlemen perceived in me, then, an independent Member of University College," &c. Were not Dr. Williams and Mr. Liston, the successive Deans, "independent"? Were not the many Members of the Committee who took part in the proceedings "independent"? was not Mr. Cooper himself before that time independent?

Influenced, Mr. Cooper says, by chagrin in consequence of

his independence on these two occasions, Dr. Sharpey and I combined for "mutual purposes." And Mr. Liston opportunely dying, the *casus fæderis* I suppose arose: Mr. Syme was to be elected to succeed the deceased Professor, and Mr. Cooper was to be removed from his Professorship to make way for me.

First, as to the recommendation of a successor to Mr. Liston:—Mr. Cooper states that these two gentlemen "contrived, without any authority, to constitute themselves into a snug little party to decide what Surgeon should be recommended to the Senate and Council for the vacant appointment."—Page 6. Again, "The two combined Professors undertook the difficult task of inquiring into the qualifications and comparative fitness of all the most distinguished Surgeons in the United Kingdom for the vacant office. And according to *their written statement* of the result of this impartial investigation, not one appeared so fit as the intimate friend of Dr. Sharpey." To the word "statement" in this passage is appended a note which runs as follows:—"Recorded in the Minutes of the Senate, but, at the time of its being read, illustrated with very ludicrous additions by Professor Quain." At page 7 it is said "At the meeting the Senate held for the reception of the extraordinary kind of Report spontaneously concocted by the two Professors," &c.

Respecting these several statements I have to observe that they completely misrepresent the facts. Speaking on this matter, as in all else in those pages, only for myself, I have it in my power, by a very short history, to exhibit all I know of the circumstances.

After the death of Mr. Liston, the Medical Professors generally came to the conclusion that the Surgical Staff of the Hospital should be strengthened by the election of a person who already had acquired an established reputation in the profession. I know that this was the opinion formed by the Medical Professors individually; but Mr. Cooper is so far from

being correct in his assertion that the matter ought to "have been referred in the first instance, according to the original custom of the College in all matters particularly concerning the Hospital, or Medical School, to the special and separate consideration either of the Faculty of Medicine, or of the Medical Committee of the Hospital, before being brought under the notice of the Senate" (pp. 7 and 8), that, according to the constitution of the College, it is the peculiar province of the Senate (the body which includes *all* the Professors) to express its opinion upon the election to a vacant Professorship; and neither the Faculty of Medicine, nor the Medical Committee of the Hospital, is entitled as a body to offer an opinion upon the subject.

A Senate was convened to consider a proposition for recommending to the Council "to invite Mr. Syme, Regius Professor of Surgery, &c. in the University of Edinburgh, to the vacant Professorship." I went to the meeting without concert with any other Professor. I had received a summons (in which the object of the meeting was set forth), just as Mr. Cooper and every other Member of the Senate had; and, having ascertained that the Medical Professors generally were in favour of recommending Mr. Syme for the vacant office, I did not hesitate to take my share in supporting the general opinion. I am not at liberty to enter on any detail of the observations made at the Senate; but, in reference to Mr. Cooper's very erroneous statements, I may take it upon me to say what did *not* occur at the meeting. There was not, then, any "Report or written statement" whatever, brought up by two "unauthorised" or authorised persons; the Resolution, which was adopted without objection, was not seen by me before the meeting; it contained no statement to the effect that "not one of the most distinguished Surgeons of the United Kingdom appeared so eligible as" Mr. Syme:—nothing of this kind is to be found in the document, nor anything bearing that construction; and of

course I did not "verbally illustrate" any such statement "ludicrously" or otherwise. The privilege of negation may be further allowed me while I state that no Member of the Senate either formally opposed the Resolution or suggested any other course.

Stress is laid by Mr. Cooper on the circumstance that there were present but five (he erroneously says four) of the Medical Professors; but he omits to state that every absent Medical Professor knew of the proposition to be made, and gave it his sanction. It is to be presumed that Mr. Cooper was present on the occasion, in the discharge of his duty to the College; and if he thought any other course than that submitted to the meeting a better or a fairer one, he was surely quite at liberty to propose it. The Professors of the Faculty of Arts, although they might not be good judges of the professional attainments required in the Professor of Clinical Surgery, were good judges of the weight and value of professional reputation; and their opinion, that, after the loss of Mr. Liston, it was expedient to offer the vacant chair to a gentleman of acknowledged eminence, is entitled to as much respect as that of their Medical colleagues. Moreover, if any different course had been suggested by Mr. Cooper or any other Medical Professor, they would have been not only impartial but competent judges of the weight of argument by which it was supported.

Before concluding these observations on the circumstances attendant on the recommendation of Mr. Syme to the office of Professor of Clinical Surgery, I feel justified in questioning the propriety of Mr. Cooper, all things considered, having constituted himself the judge of those circumstances, as well as the manner in which he has performed the office he assumed. That he should be displeased with the appointment of Mr. Syme may not be unreasonable; that he should have earnestly sought the appointment of his near relative instead of that gentleman may be quite natural;—that, however, while

he did this, he should not only claim credit for the purity of his own motives and conduct, but impugn the motives and conduct of others who took a different view of their duty,—this course is, I conceive, as unjustifiable as I know the statements adduced in support of it to be irreconcilable with fact.

The second charge made by Mr. Cooper is one of very grave character. It is no less than that I sought his removal from his Professorship in order to procure that office for myself. The allegation is repeated again and again. At page 6 it is said, “The other Professor, Mr. Quain, according to his own statement to me and others, had long been impatient to lecture on Surgery himself.” * * * “Neither will the truth or force of these observations be affected were a suspicion prevalent in the profession to be realised; namely, that in the face of the strongly expressed and indignant feelings of the Surgical Class at the treatment which I have experienced, the Professor of Practical Anatomy will not now venture to offer himself for the Surgical Chair” (page 10)—“Mr. Quain not being at that period able to get the whole of my Chair”—and so on, elsewhere.

With respect to the statement in the first of these extracts, I must say that I have no recollection of having ever had any conversation with Mr. Cooper upon the subject. Certainly I have had none upon this, or, I believe, upon any other subject since Mr. Liston became ill. Before then, that gentleman, it is known, was coadjutor in the Chair of Surgery, and he undoubtedly would have succeeded Mr. Cooper. All the other passages in the pamphlet referring to the same subject, with one exception to be presently noticed, are mere assertions or assumptions, without the slightest attempt at proof, or reference to a single fact. Fortunately, however, Mr. Cooper does elsewhere venture on one statement as to fact; and to this I request especial attention.

“The most disagreeable part of my narrative” (he says at page 8) “is yet to follow ; for it seems that if I had not come to the preceding decision (that of resigning) I was in danger of being compelled to do so by other manœuvres,” &c. * * “After one or two meetings of the Senate relating to the continuation of assistance to me in the surgical lectures, * * you (viz. the Council of the College) appointed a Committee of five Members of the Council to inquire into and report upon the manner in which the duty of the Surgical Chair should in future be fulfilled.” After complimenting the Council, Mr. Cooper proceeds : “And even with respect to its five Members who composed the Committee, although I happened not to have the honour of a personal acquaintance with any one of them, while the Professor, eager for the Surgical Chair, had an advantage over me in this respect, I should have been perfectly content with their decision had they condescended to hear both sides,” &c. A statement to the same effect is incidentally made at page 13 : “The two combined Professors who, by their unauthorised proceedings, have had the power of making even you (the Council that is) depart from or hesitate to perform your written and deliberate promise to your Professor of Surgery.”

In reply to these several allegations, I have to assert :—

That having learned accidentally that Mr. Cooper had mentioned my name in his letter of application for aid in his lectures in last autumn, I abstained from attending any meeting of the Senate at which the subject was under consideration :—and that I did not communicate to any Professor or other official person, directly or indirectly, any opinion as to the propriety of giving or withholding assistance from Mr. Cooper, or in any respect as to the course which should be pursued with reference to his application :

That, as regards the Committee of Council, I knew nothing whatever respecting that body until after Mr. Cooper had announced his intended resignation. — (See

below, the Resolution of the Council,* regarding the imputation that I was in communication with the Committee. The Minute of the Council on the whole subject will be found further on) :

That every statement to the effect that I in any way whatever contributed to Mr. Cooper's withdrawal from his Professorship, is utterly without foundation in truth.

But further : before the Committee of the Council was appointed, I knew that although Mr. Cooper should retire from his Chair, it would not become open to me. Mr. Liston had an absolute claim to a share in the duties and emoluments of the Chair ; and Mr. Syme, when elected by the Council, received an admission of his claim to the same extent. This claim of Mr. Syme was in full operation on Mr. Cooper's retirement, and it necessarily follows, that by the resignation of the latter, *the Professorship was not vacant* "for the triumphal installation of the Professor of Anatomy," as Mr. Cooper states. The motive, therefore, which he ascribes to me could have had no existence ; and the statement as to fact, which he has brought forward, is entirely groundless.

In order, however, that the public may have the means of judging more exactly of the weight to be attached to Mr. Cooper's assertions and to mine, I will subjoin the reply which I have received from the Council of University College to my request that they would investigate the truth of Mr. Cooper's imputations.

* " He (Mr. Cooper) is further altogether in error in imagining that the proceedings of the Committee of five Members of Council, appointed to consider of the best mode in which the duties of the Surgical Chair may be fulfilled, are not unreservedly approved by the entire Council. On the contrary, the two bodies are identical in feeling, in purpose, and in the conclusion arrived at.

" *Mr. Cooper has been strangely imposed upon, if he has been informed that any Member or Members of Council had been influenced, directly or indirectly, by any of the Professors, or by any other parties, in the course pursued. On the contrary, no communication whatever was held with any one out of the Council, either as to the then Professor, or as to a successor, until some time after the letter to Mr. Cooper, of 20th March, suggesting to him that he should relinquish the Chair of Surgery.*"

COPY FROM MINUTES OF COUNCIL.*

"UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.

"13th May, 1848.

"Read Professor Quain's letter of 6th May instant, directing the attention of the Council to the printed address of Mr. Cooper, late Professor of Surgery, and requesting an investigation of the charges against himself therein contained.

"Resolved unanimously,

"That Professor Quain be informed, that the Council would have willingly entered on the suggested investigation, had the circumstances appeared to make any such inquiry necessary or advantageous.

"But they consider that Mr. Cooper has written under so entire a misapprehension of facts, that without any evidence beyond what the Council are possessed of, the whole subject, so far as the Council and Professors are concerned, may at once be disposed of.

"Mr. Cooper has no authority for supposing that Mr. Atkinson's letter of the 9th August, 1847, implied that the assistance granted to Mr. Cooper was to be without limit in its duration; and even had such a misconception existed, it must have been removed by the Minute of Council of 20th November last, by which "the recommendation of the Senate to authorise the employment of Mr. Morton as Assistant for the present Session, was adopted expressly as a temporary arrangement: and by which it was further resolved that at their Session in March the Council would take into full consideration

* Names of the Members of Council present at the Meeting:—

George Bishop, Esq.

James Booth, Esq.

F. Boott, M. D.

Charles Crompton, Esq.

The Baron de Goldsmid.

James Heywood, Esq., M.P.

R. Hutton, Esq.

James W. Mylne, Esq.

John Lewis Prevost, Esq.

H. Crabb Robinson, Esq.

Edward Romilly, Esq.

The Right Hon. Sir Edward Ryan.

The Right Hon. Edward Strutt.

John Taylor, Esq., F.R.S.

John Wood, Esq.

the mode in which the duties of the Chair of Surgery should be performed in future years." There is, consequently, no foundation for his complaint that such alleged promise has been receded from or violated.

"He is further altogether in error in imagining that the proceedings of the Committee of Five Members * of Council, appointed to consider of the best mode in which the duties of the Surgical Chair might be fulfilled, are not unreservedly approved by the entire Council. On the contrary, the two bodies are identical in feeling, in purpose, and in the conclusion arrived at.

"Mr. Cooper has been strangely imposed upon, if he has been informed that any Member or Members of the Council have been influenced, directly or indirectly, by any of the Professors, or by any other parties, in the course pursued. On the contrary, no communication whatever was held with any one out of the Council, either as to the then Professor, or as to a successor, until some time after the letter to Mr. Cooper, of 20th March, suggesting to him that he should relinquish the Chair of Surgery.

"The complaint of Mr. Cooper, that Professors Quain and Sharpey have combined to exercise an undue influence over the Medical department of the College, is one on which the Council would not have observed, had not that subject constituted so large a portion of the Address to the President and Council. The only remark which they will make is this, that the talent, character, and positions of Professors Quain and Sharpey must naturally and deservedly secure considerable weight to their wishes and opinions among their colleagues; while those very circumstances preclude the idea that they could be guilty of caballing for any unworthy purpose."

* This Committee consisted of the following Members of the Council :—

John Elijah Blunt, Esq.
F. Boott, M.D.
The Solicitor General, M.P.

Henry Warburton, Esq.
John Wood, Esq.

I think that I have now said enough to defend myself ; and it is not my purpose to attack Mr. Cooper. But the controversy will hardly be intelligible, unless I subjoin a short exposition of the real and very simple causes of that result, which Mr. Cooper fancies to have been produced by manœuvres and intrigue. Mr. Cooper has been unable for some years to deliver the course of Lectures on Surgery without assistance. I myself assisted him in former years. In 1840 an arrangement was made, in consequence of which Mr. Liston regularly delivered a large part of the Lectures on Surgery. In 1847 Mr. Liston notified, that the state of his health would no longer allow him to perform this duty. Mr. Cooper accordingly made an application to the Council, requesting them to appoint some other person to assist him. In his letter to the Council he pointed out, that there were only two of the officers of the College by whom this assistance could be suitably given, viz. Mr. Morton and myself ; and he then proceeded to suggest, that the regulations of the Medical Corporations precluded me from lecturing regularly on Surgery, inasmuch as I held the office of Professor of Anatomy ; and the consequence was, that Mr. Morton was, in his opinion, the only person eligible as his assistant. He certainly did not distinctly tell the Council that he would accept no other assistance : but he himself informs us, that very soon after Mr. Liston's death he gave Dr. Sharpey to "understand, that rather than have any stranger forced upon him in the Surgical Chair, he would relinquish it ;" that is, in other words, that he would not consent to be assisted by Mr. Liston's successor, as he had been by Mr. Liston, unless that successor were one of the actual officers of the College, the choice among whom he had narrowed in the way described above. In fact, the reason why Mr. Cooper was displeased at the invitation to Mr. Syme to become the successor of Mr. Liston was, that he wished that appointment to be conferred upon his near relative, Mr. Morton.

Early in the Session of 1847-48, the Council, according to the custom of the College, laid Mr. Cooper's application before the Senate, and requested their advice thereupon. For the reasons which I have assigned above, I scrupulously abstained from being present at any meeting of the Senate which was held on this business, and from taking any part whatever in it. But I understand from Professors who were present in the Senate, that their feeling was, that if Mr. Cooper should be allowed to select his son-in-law, Mr. Morton, to assist him, without any limitation, it would be in fact allowing him to appoint Mr. Morton at once Joint-Professor of Surgery, and to place him in such a position, that whenever Mr. Cooper should think fit to resign, Mr. Morton's succession to the Chair would seem almost a matter of course. Now, there is not one principle in the management of the College which the Council and Senate have at all times more carefully guarded than this, viz. that all appointments should be made by the governing body, solely on the ground of fitness for office, and that they should never become matters of private arrangement. In consequence, I am told, of this feeling, the Senate passed a Resolution recommending the Council to authorise Mr. Cooper to employ Mr. Morton as his assistant during the current Session; but recommending also that at the end of the Session the Council should take into consideration the whole question of the state of the Surgical Chair. The Council passed Resolutions in accordance with these recommendations, and towards the close of the Winter Session, *without any further communication with the Senate*, appointed a Committee from their own body (see *ante*, p. 16), to report upon the manner in which the duties of the Surgical Chair should in future be fulfilled; and this Committee in the discharge of their duty, *without communication with any of the Professors*, directed a letter to be written to Mr. Cooper, suggesting to him that he should resign his office. All unprejudiced persons will believe that the Senate and the

Committee of the Council only performed what they felt to be their duty, and a very disagreeable duty. Mr. Cooper, undoubtedly, is totally unconscious that in seeking his own object, he was seeking anything that was not right and reasonable ; and this very unconsciousness betrays him into the suspicion that there could be none but evil motives in any one by whom he supposes, erroneously or otherwise, his design to have been thwarted. But I am confident that all who understand the state of the case will be satisfied that the gentlemen whose views differed from Mr. Cooper's, acted at least as conscientiously as himself, and with perhaps a better informed moral judgment.

Committee of the Council only, but what they like to
be their duty, and a very different matter. Mr. Cooper
is, in fact, a man who is looking for his own
right, and is not at all concerned with the rights and
wrong of others; and this very disposition as regards him into
the position that there is no hope, but evil motives in any
man who is engaged in a course of such character, his design
to have a man who is not only a man of the world, but who
understand the state of the world will be satisfied that the
result will be as it should be, and Mr. Cooper, as a man
of the world, will be satisfied that it will be a better
information, and judgment.