

Report of the Council of the Metropolitan Counties Branch of the British Medical Association, on university degrees for London medical students.

Contributors

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REPORT OF

THE **COUNCIL**

OF

THE METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH

OF

THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION,

ON

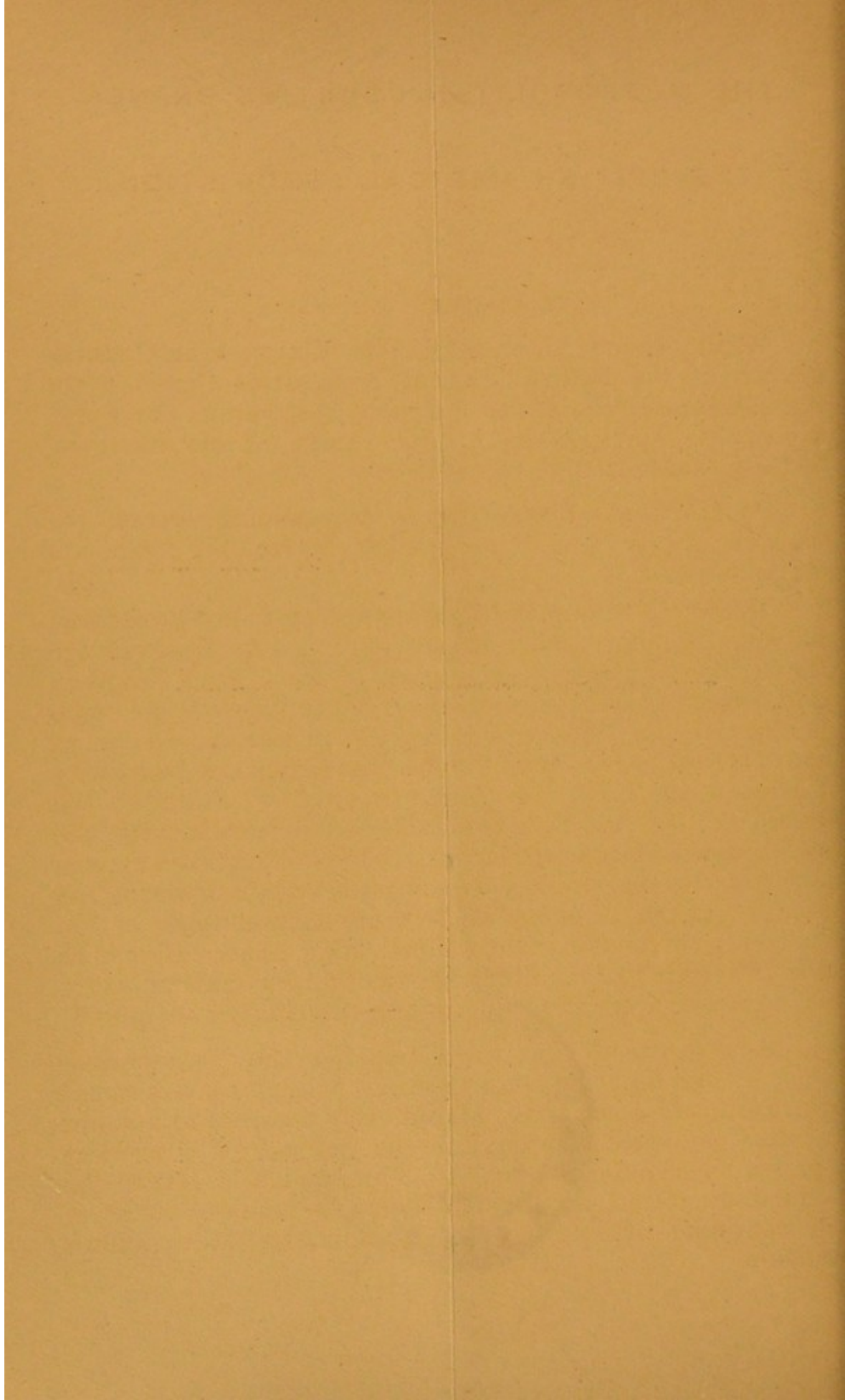
University Degrees

for

London Medical Students.



JANUARY, 1885.



THE METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH
OF
THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

At the Annual Meeting of The Metropolitan Counties Branch of the British Medical Association, held on the 24th of June, 1884, at the Holborn Restaurant, the President, MR. MACNAMARA, in the course of his inaugural address said :

"I am anxious that during the ensuing session the following subject should be brought before this Branch of the Association :—

There is a strong and growing feeling in the profession, that our London students are at a great disadvantage compared with those of other parts of the United Kingdom as to obtaining a degree in medicine. It seems to me to be the duty of our Branch to collect all the information we can upon this subject. And if it be found that the University of London does not at present meet the wants of the profession, we must employ all our influence with the Senate to modify its regulations. I hope if any such change be found necessary, it may be effected without lowering the standard of the "honour list" of the examinations of the University of London. But the tests for a "pass" should be such as to meet the requirements of ordinary students, without detracting from the value rightly attached to honours."

As a result of this, the Council of the Metropolitan Counties Branch at its next meeting, held at 13, Grosvenor Street, on July 22nd, 1884, unanimously resolved to appoint a Sub-Committee to consider the subject of University Degrees for London Medical students, and to report to the Council upon the steps which should be taken to facilitate the obtaining of Degrees in Medicine by Metropolitan students.

It was resolved that this Sub-Committee should consist of

MR. MACNAMARA, *The President of the Branch.*
DR. WALTER DICKSON, *The Treasurer of the Branch.*
DR. ALEXANDER HENRY, } *Hon. Secretaries to the Branch.*
DR. W. CHAPMAN GRIGG, }
DR. THOMAS BRIDGWATER.
DR. JOHN SYER BRISTOWE, F.R.S.
DR. ROBERT EDMUND CARRINGTON.
DR. SIDNEY COUPLAND.
DR. GEORGE HENTY.
DR. JOSEPH HUNT.
DR. WILLIAM MILLER ORD.
MR. WALTER RIVINGTON,
DR. EDWARD HART VINEN, and
DR. GILBART-SMITH.

The latter gentleman was appointed Honorary Secretary to the Sub-Committee, and subsequently the names of DR. CURNOW and MR. EDMUND OWEN were added to the list.

On the 30th of January, 1885, the Sub-Committee presented its report to the Council; the report having been previously circulated amongst the members of Council.

The Report was received and adopted by the Council, and was ordered to be printed, and instructions were given that copies of it should be sent to the members of the Metropolitan Counties Branch of the British Medical Association, to the General Medical Council, to the members of the Senate of the University of London, to the Committee appointed by the House of Convocation of the University of London "to consider the proposal lately published by the Association for promoting the establishment of a Teaching University for London," to the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, London, and to the Deans of the various Metropolitan Schools of Medicine, requesting these gentlemen kindly to refer the subject to the Staff of their respective Schools and to communicate to DR. GILBART-SMITH the result of their deliberations.

It was further determined by the Council that a General Meeting of the Metropolitan Counties Branch should be convened to consider the plan of action best calculated to carry into effect the objects specified in the resolutions contained in the report.

In accordance with this determination it has been arranged that this meeting shall take place at The Royal School of Mines, Jermyn Street, St. James's, on Friday, March the 6th, at 8 o'clock p.m.





THE FOLLOWING
Report of the Sub-Committee

APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION TO CONSIDER THE SUBJECT OF UNIVERSITY DEGREES FOR LONDON MEDICAL STUDENTS, AND REPORT THEREON,
WAS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL
AND ORDERED TO BE PRINTED AND CIRCULATED.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,

The Sub-Committee, appointed by you to consider the subject of University Degrees for London Medical Students, and to report upon the steps which should be taken in order to facilitate the obtaining of Degrees in Medicine by Metropolitan Students, begs to submit for your consideration the following resolutions, which after careful discussion have been unanimously adopted by your Sub-Committee :—

1. That there is a strong and wide spread feeling that it should be within the power of all well educated Medical students to obtain a degree in medicine; which degree, while implying such general and scientific culture as befits men of education, should mainly indicate the possession on the part of its holder of a good knowledge of the theory and practice of medicine, and of the sciences which are specially related thereto :—

Resolutions
unanimously
carried.

2. That, in Scotland and in Ireland, and in certain parts of England, all industrious and intelligent students educated at Schools of Medicine, can readily obtain degrees in Medicine from local Universities which exist for the purpose of granting such degrees; in the Metropolis owing to the University of London not having adapted its requirements to those of the Medical profession, the great bulk of London medical students are debarred from seeking or obtaining equivalent distinctions :—

3. That the time has arrived, when, in the interests of students educated in London, of the London Schools of

Medicine, and of the profession in England, a sustained and vigorous effort should be made to secure for Metropolitan students, educated as they are at Schools of Medicine where unrivalled opportunities exist for clinical instruction, facilities for obtaining degrees in medicine, such as are enjoyed in Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester, and Newcastle; in the four Scotch University towns; and in Dublin, Belfast, Cork, and Galway:—

4. That this Sub-Committee, therefore, submits the following recommendations for the consideration of the Council, viz.:—

That, in the first place, the University of London be requested:—

- a. To modify its regulations and procedure, so as to adapt them to the requirements of the Medical profession in England;
- b. To reconsider and modify the two preliminary examinations; and
- c. To admit upon the Senate as members of the Senate, a certain proportion of representatives of the Metropolitan Medical Schools.

That, failing adequate concessions from the University of London, steps be taken in association with the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, to obtain for some other body, in direct relationship with the Medical Schools of London, power to grant degrees in Medicine.

In support of the important questions dealt with in the above resolutions—questions which are pregnant with vital importance to the Metropolitan Schools of Medicine—your Sub-Committee has the honor to lay before you the following brief statements and facts, and to append in their support the accompanying tables.

Advance of
Medical
Education.

During the last 70 years the advance made by medical education has been progressive and great; the training of medical students has been becoming more and more thorough; the examinations have been growing more and more stringent; and the young men launched on the world as practitioners have been becoming more and more generally well informed and competent to fulfil the duties they undertake. It is not unnatural, therefore, that, seeing they undergo what is, in fact,

a University training in medicine, and are educated, during a period of several years at Medical Schools which are the equivalents, as respects medicine, of the Colleges of Oxford and Cambridge in relation to arts, they should desire to obtain degrees conferring titles in virtue of their work, and to acquire a legal right to the designation of Doctor which from time immemorial has been conferred upon them by the general public.

The uncertain use of the word "Doctor" leads to inconveniences which are much complained of in this division of the United Kingdom. They arise, partly from the difference between the popular and legal senses of the word, partly from differences of practice as to medical graduation in the different divisions of the United Kingdom, and partly from other causes; so much so that it is becoming more and more necessary for the medical practitioner to acquire the legal right to a title which, in the public mind, is associated with a higher status of professional education.

Title of
Doctor.

It is true that the licences of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons not only give the right to practice medicine and Surgery, but imply, by their possession a high degree of special education; and that the higher grades in the Colleges confer a professional status equivalent, in the minds of medical men, to that given by any University degree. But these, however valuable, do not convey the legal right to the title of Doctor. Undoubtedly, the title conferred by the degree of M.D., or M.B. has a special value, is a legitimate object of ambition on the part of a young medical man, and should be within reach of any man of average ability who chooses to work for it, and who receives his education at any of the Medical Colleges of the country.

Therefore it is that, notwithstanding the high reputation maintained, and well maintained, by the

Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, men are no longer satisfied with the possession simply of the diplomas of L.R.C.P. and M.R.C.S., but recognise the fact that circumstances within and without the profession are urging them to acquire a degree which shall convey with it the title of Doctor.

Facilities for
obtaining
degrees in the
provinces,
in
Scotland and
Ireland.

Prior to the establishment of the University of London, of the Queen's, now The Royal, University in Ireland, of the University of Durham, and quite recently, of the Victoria University in Manchester, degrees in medicine could only be obtained in Great Britain and Ireland, with certain exceptions, by students educated at Oxford or Cambridge; at Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen; or at Dublin. Practically, students educated in London, and at the provincial schools of England and Ireland, had either to go without degrees altogether, or had to migrate, at no inconsiderable expenditure of time and money, to one or other of the above Universities, or to some foreign University.

The establishment of the Queen's University in Ireland removed their grievance so far as the Medical Schools of Ireland other than those of Dublin were concerned, and the Medical Schools of Belfast, Cork, and Galway, became, each of them, part of the Queen's University, and their pupils eligible to compete for a degree in medicine.

The establishment of a University in Durham, has done for the Medical School in Newcastle what the Edinburgh University has done for the Edinburgh School of Medicine; and the new foundation of a University at Manchester, has given equal advantages to the medical students educated in Manchester.

Absence of
such facilities
in the
Metropolis.

London, which comprises a considerable number of Medical Schools of the highest renown, collectively the largest clinical School of Medicine in the world, remains, as do two or three of the

smaller provincial schools, without those advantages which are enjoyed by the various University towns which have been above enumerated. Men educated at these schools, even down to the present time, are practically debarred from obtaining degrees in medicine, in virtue of a medical education which is unsurpassed anywhere; and, in order to obtain a degree, have, with few exceptions, either to leave London before the end of their studies, and to finish their education at one of the University towns, at not one of which are the means of practical instruction comparable to those furnished in London, or to remain without such degree, or seek it at some foreign university. It is not surprising that, under such circumstances, many students prefer to go to one of the University towns from the very beginning of their career; and that there is a manifest tendency, not only for pupils to leave London in order to complete their education elsewhere, but for an annual diminution in the number of entries in London, concurrently with an annual increase in the entries at the Universities of Edinburgh, Durham, Manchester and other places.

That this diminution in the number of medical students entering at the London Schools of Medicine is actually taking place, is shown by reference to Table XI., wherein it will be seen that during the last five years such decrease has been steadily maintained, the entry in the year 1883 being 605, as against 731 in the year 1879; whilst, on the other hand, the entries at Scotch schools exhibit a steady increase. Recent inquiry shews also a considerable annual increase in the entries at Durham and Manchester. The increase in Scotch entries, however, does not reveal the full progress of the Scotch schools, for it is well known that many students who register as commencing their education in England, finally complete their curriculum and take their degrees in Scotland. The

Decrease in
the number
of
Metropolitan
Medical
Students.

entries at Scotch schools in the year 1883 were practically the same as the entries at the Metropolitan schools, viz., 605 at the latter and 596 at the former.—An anomalous position when the respective populations of the two countries and the relative advantages as regards facilities for instruction are considered.

Explanation
of decrease.

But it may be said that London has the University of London; and that the Metropolitan Schools can have no real cause of complaint, seeing that if their students choose to work they may become graduates of that University. An obvious answer to this, however, is that of the London students not a few go to Edinburgh, or elsewhere to obtain degrees, and that from various causes few even of the best students, graduate at the University of London.

The explanation of this state of things appears to your Sub-Committee to depend on the University of London not being in accord with the existing feeling of the Metropolitan Schools. This want of sympathy between the University on the one hand, and the Medical Schools on the other, largely arises from the fact that on the Senate of the University there is no real representation of the Metropolitan Schools.

Representa-
tion of the
Schools on
the Senate
of the
University
of London.

Your Sub-Committee has no hesitation in affirming that, in order to satisfy the pronounced opinion of the profession upon this point, and with a view of establishing confidence between the Schools and the University, representatives of the active teaching staffs of the schools should form an essential part of the Senate. Further, there is a very general consensus of opinion that many members of the Senate, acting presumably in the interests of science, think it essential to exact from candidates for degrees in medicine a totally unnecessary amount of proficiency in irrelevant scientific subjects.

The University of London has professed, from a very early period, that it was its duty to raise medical education; and to raise it, moreover, not by promoting a general elevation, which would have been serviceable to the public and in the interests of the profession itself, but by making its examinations so difficult that only a small percentage of those presenting themselves achieve final success—that is to say, not by raising the general standard of education, but by educating a few men highly.

The following quotation from the letter dated Oct. 17th, 1881, addressed by the Registrar of the University to the Royal Commission explains the position of the Senate with regard to medical education.

“The Senate of the University of London, considering itself charged from the very commencement of its corporate existence with the duty, as defined in its charter, “of promoting the improvement of medical education in all its branches,” has been enabled by the liberality of Parliament, to apply itself to this duty with the one single aim of carrying it out in the manner most beneficial to the public. This it has done by framing such a scheme of medical education, and such modes of testing its results, as would (in its judgment) tend to establish and maintain the highest attainable standard of professional acquirements. To increase the number of those who might seek the degrees of the University, has been, in the estimation of the Senate, quite subordinate to the maintenance of the *high qualification* of its graduates. And it has been by steady adherence to this principle, and by progressive improvements in the mode of carrying it out, that the medical degrees of the University of London now attract, in constantly increasing numbers, the ablest students of most of the principal medical schools of the Kingdom.”

“The Senate, moreover, has adopted from the very commencement, as a fundamental principle, what is now generally accepted as the basis of the right method of medical education, namely, framing the regulations of its M.B. degree in such a manner as to fit its possessor to become a highly qualified “General Practitioner”; and afterwards superposing on this primary qualification the degrees of Doctor of Medicine, or of Bachelor and Master in Surgery, which distinguish those who hold them as specially qualified for one or the other of these branches of professional practice.”

Whilst full credit may be given to the University of London for the manner in which it has carried out the above ideas of its functions in relation to medical education, it may well be asked whether the "improvement of medical education in all its branches" is best secured by its present attitude and policy.

In fact the question is,—Is the University of London working on the right lines? Or, in other words, does the improvement of medical education demand the exclusion of 90 per cent. of the students of Metropolitan and other medical schools from the advantages of medical degrees bestowed by an University specially chartered and fostered by State aid for the promotion of such improvement?

Your Sub-Committee maintains that the answer to this question must be in the negative.

Severity of its
Matriculation
and
Preliminary
Scientific
Examinations

The University of London has not taken the important share it could have taken, and ought to take, in promoting medical education generally. This has been largely due to the mistaken object, which, as the above quotation shows, it has hitherto held in view; and to the consequent fact that it has made its preliminary examinations so vexatious and so difficult to surmount, that few students matriculate or present themselves for its preliminary scientific examination without a prolonged course of "cramming"; and most of them for these or other cognate reasons do not even aim at obtaining a London degree.

Increased
Expenditure
of time and
money
thereby en-
tailed.

The Matriculation and Preliminary Scientific examinations impose two years of hard study and proportionate outlay, in order to exact from each candidate for a degree in medicine an amount of preliminary knowledge far beyond what is reasonable to expect, and most of which is of absolutely no use to him directly or indirectly.

The stringency of the regulations to be followed by candidates for the degree of M.B. has been

recently still further increased by the adoption by the Senate of the rule that the preliminary scientific examination must have been passed at least two years before a candidate can present himself for the intermediate examination in medicine.

When the results of the examinations for the Medical degrees of the University of London are analysed it will be seen that the majority of its rejections occur in preliminary subjects. It cannot be said, therefore, of the large number of Students rejected thus before their medical education has commenced that such education has been thereby "improved."

Rejections.

Moreover, rejection at these examinations besides involving the loss of time, involves additional expense that many cannot afford.

Again, it is only a limited number who, upon leaving school, are able to pass the matriculation examination between the ages of sixteen and eighteen without a year's additional study. Indeed the chances of rejection at this examination are great, the rejections being 42 per cent. in the year 1882. A large number of students come to London ignorant of the ordeal that awaits them, they can ill afford to sacrifice their first year, and if, having been interrupted by unforeseen circumstances, they desire, at a later period, to proceed to obtain a degree, they cannot do so in London without recommencing their study, at such an expenditure of time as to render this course virtually impracticable. The preliminary scientific examination in the same way can only be passed by few, without the expenditure of another year mainly devoted to preparation for it, and with a similar chance of rejection at the end.

In support of its views relative to the position of the University of London, as expressed in the second resolution, your Sub-Committee submits the following extract from a letter, dated December,

Dr. Bristowe's
letter to
Chancellor
of the
University
of London.

1879, addressed by Dr. BRISTOWE, F.R.S., to the Chancellor of that University :—

He says that :—

“ During the 40 years of the existence of the London University, 761 Candidates have graduated in Medicine in the University; that an annual average of 19 men, or exactly one man per school (reckoning only the schools of England) have proceeded M.B.; and that at the present time there are (according to the Calendar) just 534 men living who hold a medical Degree in the London University, out of a total of between 20,000 and 25,000 medical practitioners possessing British qualifications. Can any University out of England show such paltry results as these?

“ Only a small minority of the students entering the medical profession in England offer themselves as Candidates at the Matriculation Examination, let me trace the subsequent history of this minority. Nearly 50 per cent. of the total number fail at Matriculation; of those who, having matriculated, present themselves at the Preliminary Scientific, again nearly 50 per cent. fail; of those who, having passed the Preliminary Scientific, present themselves at the First M.B. Examination, nearly 35 per cent. fail; and of those who finally become candidates for the Degree of M.B., 19 per cent. are rejected. The collective result is (allowing for the fact that no inconsiderable number of the Candidates faint by the way, and never proceed beyond the Preliminary Scientific or First M.B. Examination) that not 10 per cent. of the young men who enter at the lowest of the series of examinations emerge successful from the last; and that at least 72 per cent. of the whole number are rejected at the Matriculation and Preliminary Scientific Examinations—examinations in subjects which, with scarcely an exception, have no direct bearing on medicine. Surely the fact that the examinations required of aspirants for the M.B. Degree are so devised and so conducted, that they involve the rejection of nearly three-fourths of them before they have been afforded the slightest opportunity of displaying their acquaintance with any of those branches of knowledge which are the almost exclusive objects of their study in the Medical Schools, which alone it is essential that a medical man should know, and which ought to be the real basis of a Degree in medicine, is sufficient to condemn them as tests of fitness or unfitness for the medical membership of the University. As a matter of fact, those who have never presented themselves at the portals of the University, together with those who have lost heart by being rejected at its earlier examinations, include the great bulk of the more

distinguished pupils at our hospitals; of whom many leave us before the completion of their pupilage to gain in Scotland, Ireland, or elsewhere, the Degrees practically denied them in London."

"To what causes is the failure of the London University attributable?" These are, as it seems to me, mainly two; one, the want of knowledge which still prevails among large classes of the population, and especially perhaps among those which chiefly furnish the supply of medical students, of the requirements and even of the existence of the University; the other, the serious impediments which the Matriculation and Preliminary Scientific Examinations oppose directly and indirectly to the entrance of pupils into the University."

This quotation needs no comment.

It is the opinion of your Sub-Committee that the great majority of medical students in London do not, and, at the present time, cannot, derive any benefit whatever from the University of London; nay, that the University of London is less the University for the Metropolitan schools than are the Scotch and Irish Universities; that the regulations as to residence and the curriculum of the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, and now of Victoria, form obstacles which are insuperable to the mass of Metropolitan students; and that in the matter of facilities for obtaining medical degrees the London schools are heavily and unjustly handicapped. The inevitable result is that many students, fully alive to the disadvantages incurred in passing from one school to another, involving as it does a further and considerable expense, in many cases prohibitive, prefer to enter at other schools which offer greater facilities for graduation.

The figures shewn by Tables VIII. and IX. demonstrate a fact which has already been adverted to, viz., that many students, who originally register the commencement of their student career in England, finally take their degrees in Scotland, for whilst the total number of qualifications registered in Scotland in the years 1876 to 1880 was 1059, the

University of
London
unavailable
for London
Students.

Migration of
London
Students
to Scotland.

number of degrees granted by Scotch Universities in the same years was 1536, which plainly means that at the least 477 or one-third of the graduates did not register in Scotland, or, in other words, were students who had migrated to Scotland for their degrees.

English
Medical
Education
not inferior.

In answer to these opinions and figures thus set forth by your Sub-Committee relative to the migration of English students to Scotch schools, and of the preponderance of degrees obtained in Scotland as compared with those granted by English Universities, it may be replied that the medical education obtained in Scotland is better than that provided by English Schools. That this, however, is not so is readily shewn by the results of the examination for commissions in the medical department of the Army and Navy. Thus it will be seen by reference to Table XIII, which gives the results of these examinations, held in February and August, 1884, that whilst of the 119 candidates possessing Scotch qualifications 61 men or 51.2 per cent. were unsuccessful, of the 97 who derived their diplomas from an English source, but 36 men, or 37.1 per cent. failed to obtain commissions.

Foreign
Graduates in
Medicine.

This difficulty in obtaining degrees experienced by English, but more especially by Metropolitan, students, compels many of them to seek such degrees not only from Scotch but also from foreign Universities.

Upon reference to Table II. it will be seen that foreign degrees are held by 186 of the 3576 medical men possessing degrees and practising in England, elsewhere than in London, and by 176 of the 1643 resident in London—or that of the total degrees held in the provinces 5.2 per cent. are foreign, and of degree-holders in London 10.7 per cent. have obtained their degrees from Foreign Universities. The number of such foreign graduates has considerably increased of late years, and is still increasing.

A petition presented to the Royal Commission by certain graduates of the University of Brussels, contained the following evidence on the point:—

“That there is a large and continually increasing number of members of the profession, many of whom are holding important public appointments, who have, since the passing of the Medical Act of 1858, graduated in foreign universities of repute, after having, in all cases, presented themselves at such universities for examination for their degrees.”

“That up to quite recently (with the exception of St. Andrew's, where the number of degrees conferred in any one year on medical practitioners who have attained the age of 40, is limited to 10) there has been no university in the United Kingdom at which a practitioner of age and experience could obtain a degree in medicine, without either going into residence a second time, or attending courses of lectures on subjects with which he is thoroughly acquainted.”

“That to comply with such regulations is an impossibility in the great majority of instances, as those seeking degrees are busily engaged, for the most part, in special or general practice.”

“That in consequence, practitioners desirous of obtaining a degree in medicine have been induced, often unwillingly, to offer themselves for examination in various foreign universities.”

Your Sub-Committee, therefore, submits that a material injury is inflicted upon medical education in this country by the monstrous anomaly that, whilst to students of other places which present but scanty opportunities for the clinical study of disease, every facility in the direction of a degree is fully accorded, yet to men educated in the metropolis of this great Empire, at Hospitals such as St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas's, Guy's, The London and others, the power to obtain a degree is practically denied.

Injury to
Medical
Education.

A condition which, in the opinion of your Sub-Committee, is antagonistic to the best interests not only of the Metropolitan Medical Schools, but of the Profession, and of the Public.

Special advantages presented by Metropolitan Hospitals.

The important position occupied by the Metropolitan Hospital system, with regard to the education of Medical students cannot be over estimated. For it must not be forgotten that the essential part of a medical man's education consists in the practical study of disease in the wards of a hospital, and in post-mortem investigation. No mere scientific training or attendance upon lectures can usurp the place of these. Unrivalled opportunities for the study of clinical medicine abound in the Metropolis. London offers to medical education special and unexampled advantages, in its large and well appointed general hospitals, with their 5000 beds and upwards, occupied by close on 60,000 patients a year; its special hospitals, with more than 3000 beds, its Asylum Board hospitals, with 1500 beds which it is hoped will shortly be utilised for educational purposes, its poor-law sick infirmaries, with their 10,000 beds, its lunatic Asylums with upwards of 5000 beds, and the numerous out-patients that attend the hospitals and other institutions devoted to their treatment.

The wide area for clinical study thus existing in the Metropolis ought certainly to be the training ground for the bulk of English practitioners. Unquestionably great, however, as are the attractions of the London Hospitals, yet even these may fail to induce men to avail themselves of such when offered at the expense of future professional standing.

Ill effects of decline in prosperity of Metropolitan Schools.

A decline in the prosperity of the London Schools of Medicine is to be expected if the present condition be allowed to continue, and such decline must spread its baneful effects beyond the Schools to the hospitals, to the profession, and to the public. For it is manifest that the success of the Hospitals themselves, the degree of professional eminence attained by their Physicians and Surgeons, and the character of the teaching of the science and art of healing, largely depend upon the success of the Medical Schools.

Seeing therefore that, according to the above statements, supported as they are by reliable evidence and borne out by men in all respects ably qualified to give an opinion, medical students educated in the Metropolis are practically debarred from obtaining degrees in medicine, and that most of the students who register in England are attached to metropolitan schools, it is obvious that this condition must make its mark upon the professional status of medical men throughout the country.

According to Table X it will be seen that from the year 1865 to the year 1883 inclusive, 26998 medical students have been registered in the three Kingdoms, of whom 13024 were registered in England or 48.2 per cent., and of these three-fourths received their education in London. Of the 4705 students who registered in England during the last 5 years, 1311 were entered at Provincial and 3394, or 72 per cent. at London Schools. See Table XI.

Proportion of
Medical
Students
educated in
London.

Any condition, therefore, which interferes with the degree-obtaining facilities of metropolitan students must affect the country at large.

That this actually happens is readily proved ; for a comparison of the three divisions of the United Kingdom, in respect to the facilities for obtaining Medical degrees presented by each, reveals striking characteristics. In Scotland, candidates for the Medical profession are for the most part educated in the national Universities ; in Ireland the same condition, although to a much less degree obtains, whilst in England, on the other hand, but a small proportion of the candidates enter the Medical profession through the Universities ; the remainder, a large majority, educated in the Medical Schools of the Metropolitan and provincial hospitals, obtain the licence to practice from the Medical Corporations. See Tables IV. to VIII. This difference, so important

The three
Kingdoms
Compared

in its bearing upon Medical education, and so adverse to professional status in England, is anomalous; for it cannot but be undesirable that England alone, of all countries, should deny to the industrious and intelligent alumni of its Medical Schools the crowning evidence of their medical attainments—a degree in Medicine.

Comparison
as to number
of degree
holders in

Tables I. II. III. tabulate the evidence derived from the Medical Directory for the year 1884, in such a manner as will easily explain the relative position of the three countries.

They shew that:—

England, Of the 16,192 practitioners practising in England, only 5,219 or 32.2 per cent. possess M.D. or M.B. degrees;

Scotland, Of the 2,206 medical men practising in Scot-
and land 1,557 or 70.6 per cent. possess degrees; and

Ireland. Of the 2,430 men engaged in medical practice in Ireland, 925 or 38.0 per cent. possess degrees.

Source of
Degrees in
England,

A difference still more striking is observed, however, when inquiry is made into the sources from whence the different degrees are obtained in the three Kingdoms as shewn in Tables II. and III, for it will be seen that of the 5219 men possessing degrees in England, but 1076, or 20.6 per cent. derive the title from an English University; while as many as 62.7 per cent. are indebted for their degrees to the Scotch Universities,

Scotland, Of the 1557 who possess degrees in Scotland, 1537 or 98.7 per cent. have acquired their title from a native source; and

Ireland. In Ireland of 925 men who have degrees, 672 or 72.6 per cent. possess Irish degrees, and 243, or 26.3 per cent. are graduates of Scotch Universities.

Public
Services.

The same relative paucity of English degrees is observable among the medical officers in the public services and the practitioners resident abroad.

For of the 2430 men in the former, 1057 or 42.4 per cent. possess degrees, of which but 42 or 4.0 per cent are derived from an English source; and

Of the 1717 practitioners resident abroad, 752 or 43.1 per cent. possess degrees, of whom but 39 or 5.2 per cent. derive their degrees from English Universities.

Residents
Abroad.

And here it may be observed how small a part is played by the University of London in providing the country with more highly qualified medical practitioners, for of the 5219 men holding degrees in England, but 622, of whom 303 are in London, derive their titles from the University of London; and that taking the degree holders in England, Scotland, Ireland, and the Services and abroad while only 7.1 per cent. are University of London men as many as 64.1 are Scotch Graduates—a strange corollary to the statement that “the University of London is a University for the British Empire, and as such, exists in every city of the Empire as much as in London.”

Small per-
centage of
University
of London
Graduates.

Further, if the relative numbers of the populations of the three Kingdoms be considered, together with the numbers of practitioners in each, and be compared with the numbers of pupils educated at the Medical Schools of the three Kingdoms respectively, it will be manifest that a far larger proportion of medical students and graduates in medicine are trained and produced by Scotland than is required by her population for its own use. See Table XII.

Proportion of
Degrees and
Students to
Population.

That the present unsatisfactory position is fully recognised and that reform in the matter is urgently called for by the members of the medical profession generally, is sufficiently shewn by the frequent and prolonged correspondence which from time to time has occupied the columns of the Medical Journals.

Suggestions
for remedy-
ing the above
evils.

Having carefully discussed and considered this important question, and having viewed it from many aspects, your Sub-Committee is of opinion that what is required in London is a representative Medical University, which shall have the same kind of relation to the Medical Schools of London, as the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Dublin, Edinburgh, Durham, Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Manchester, have to the Medical Schools of those towns; and that the best and most legitimate remedy for existing defects in Medical Education in the Metropolis, lies in the University of London.

Hitherto, however, the University of London has declined to bring its curriculum within the needful scope.

Recommen-
dations to
the Senate
of the
University
of
London,

Your Sub-Committee would recommend that the Senate of the University be requested, with all due respect, to consider the following suggestions, which are made in no unfriendly spirit, but, on the contrary, are framed with the earnest wish to augment the usefulness of the University, by bringing it into direct harmony with its surroundings, and with the requirements of the best interests of the profession and of the country;

They are as follows:—

1. The Medical Schools of London should be adequately represented in the Senate of the University, the members for the Schools being elected by the Schools;

2. All Students save those who have already matriculated at other Universities, might be required to pass the Matriculation Examination of the University of London previous to entering at the London Schools;

3. The Matriculation Examination might be modified, so as to cover such a range of knowledge as might reasonably be expected from boys on leaving public schools, without compelling them

to resort to the most objectionable system of "cramming";

4. The severity of the Preliminary Scientific Examination might be considerably diminished;

5. The Preliminary Scientific Examination might be held at least twice a year;

6. Students should be permitted to present themselves for examination at any periodical examination after matriculation;

This is of importance, for the result of the present system is that men contrary, it is true, to the regulations of the University, often spend the first year of their hospital course in preparing for the preliminary scientific examination, and thus lose a great part of that period which should be given to purely professional purposes.

Your Sub-Committee would, moreover, recommend that the Senate of the University be requested to take into consideration what arrangements, if any, could best be made, without detriment to Medical education, whereby facilities to obtain degrees should be afforded to Medical practitioners of certain standing and repute.

In conclusion, your Sub-Committee, aware of the value of co-operation and support in this important question is pleased to be able to add that since this matter was publicly mooted by the President, a movement having for its object the organisation of a teaching University in, and for London, has been initiated, which appears to aim at securing for all faculties similar advantages to those which your Sub-Committee is anxious should be obtained for the faculty of medicine.

Signed on behalf, and by order, of the Sub-Committee,

T. GILBART-SMITH,
Honorary Secretary to the Sub-Committee.

Received and adopted by the Council,

C. MACNAMARA, *President.*
30th January, 1885.

APPENDIX *giving in tabular form the statistics alluded to in the foregoing report.*

TABLE I. Numbers of Registered Practitioners possessing Degrees in Medicine, M.D. and M.B., in the United Kingdom, in the Army and Navy, Indian, Merchant Service and Resident Abroad, according to Medical Directory, 1884.

	Number of Practitioners.	Number of Practitioners possessing M.D. or M.B. Degrees.	Percentage of Practitioners possessing Degrees.
London	4,417	1,643	37·2
Provinces, England ..	11,775	3,576	30·8
Total for England ..	16,192	5,219	32·2
Scotland	2,206	1,557	70·6
Ireland	2,430	925	38·
Army & Navy, India, &c.	2,493	1,057	42·4
Practitioners resident Abroad	1,717	752	43·8
Total	25,038	9,510	38·0

TABLE II. Totals of Degrees, M.D. and M.B., held in England, Scotland, and Ireland, the "Services" and Abroad according to Medical Directory, 1884.

	London University Degrees.	English Degrees	Scotch Degrees	Irish Degrees	Foreign Degrees	Total all Degrees.
London	303	509	835	123	176	1,643
Provinces, England	319	567	2,439	384	186	3,576
England (all)	622	1,076	3,274	507	362	5,219
Scotland	4	6	1,537	4	10	1,557
Ireland	3	4	243	672	6	925
Army & Navy, &c.	24	42	563	440	12	1,057
Registered English Practitioners residing abroad ..	28	39	481	105	127	752
Total	681	1,167	6,098	1,728	517	9,510

TABLE III. Similar to the foregoing, showing in percentages the sources of the M.D. and M.B. Degrees held in England, Scotland and Ireland. These figures signify the percentages of English, Scotch, Irish, and Foreign Degrees respectively, as compared with all the Degrees in each country, and in the Army and Navy, and Abroad.

See Tables I. and II.

	London University Degrees.	English Degrees.	Scotch Degrees.	Irish Degrees.	Foreign Degrees.
London	18.4	31.0	50.8	7.5	10.7
Provinces, England	8.9	15.9	68.2	10.7	5.2
England (all)	11.9	20.6	62.7	9.7	6.9
Scotland	.2	0.4	98.7	0.2	0.6
Ireland	.3	0.4	26.3	72.6	0.6
Army & Navy, &c. ..	2.2	4.0	53.3	41.6	1.1
Practitioners Abroad	3.7	5.2	64.0	14.0	16.8
Total	7.1	12.2	64.1	18.1	5.4

TABLE IV. Number of Graduates in Medicine admitted during the five years 1876—1880 in England. See Reports, Royal Commission.

University.	Total Degrees in Medicine.	Average per annum Degrees in Medicine
Oxford	40	8.0
Cambridge	87	17.4
London	198	39.6
Durham	77	15.4
Total	402	80.4

TABLE V. Number of Graduates in Medicine admitted during the five years 1876—1880, in Scotland. See Reports, Royal Commission.

University.	Total Degrees in Medicine.	Average per annum.
Edinburgh	687	137.4
Glasgow	392	78.4
Aberdeen	399	79.8
St. Andrew's	58	11.6
Total	1536	307.2

TABLE VI. Number of Graduates in Medicine admitted during the five years 1876—1880, in Ireland. See Reports, Royal Commission.

University.	Total Degrees in Medicine.	Average per annum.
Dublin	254	50.8
Queen's University	263	52.6
Total	517	103.4

TABLE VII. Number of Graduates in Medicine admitted during the five years 1876—1880, in the United Kingdom. See Reports, Royal Commission.

	Total Degrees in Medicine.	Average per annum.
Total English Universities.. ..	402	80.4
Total Scotch Universities	1536	307.2
Total Irish Universities	517	103.4
Total United Kingdom	2455	491.0

TABLE VIII. Shewing the percentage of Medical Men obtaining Degrees in Medicine, to the total number of those admitted on the Register as qualified during the Five Years 1876—1880.

	Number qualified.	Number of Degrees.	Percentage of Degrees.
England	3083	402	13.3
Scotland	1059	1536	145.0*
Ireland	922	517	55.9
Total for United Kingdom	5064	2455	47.4

* These figures shew that one-third of the graduates have not registered in Scotland.

TABLE IX. Shewing the percentage of Students that obtain Degrees in Medicine in each of the three Kingdoms.

	Number of Students 1871—1875	Number of Degrees 1876—1880	Percentage.
England	3143	402	12.4
Scotland	1767	1536	86.9
Ireland	1557	447	33.2
Total	6467	2385	36.8

TABLE X. Giving the SUMMARY of the Number of Medical Students Registered during each Year, in each of the three Divisions of the United Kingdom, from the commencement of Students' Registration in 1865 to the end of the Year 1883.

COUNTRY.	1865	1866	1867	1868	1869	1870	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	Total from 1865 to end of 1883	
																				Number	Per centage
ENGLAND..	313	470	457	483	530	551	563	636	676	635	633	708	783	881	988	983	1054	853	817	13024	48.2
SCOTLAND	61	321	258	266	317	341	340	324	343	346	414	414	471	498	540	589	567	585	596	7591	28.1
IRELAND..	208	157	212	175	317	268	351	357	199	386	264	357	430	353	481	534	540	424	370	6383	23.7
TOTAL....	582	948	927	924	1164	1160	1254	1317	1218	1367	1311	1479	1684	1732	2009	2106	2171	1862	1783	26998	100.0

TABLE XI. Shewing the total number of Medical Students registered during the last five years, in the Schools of the Metropolis, of the Provinces and of Scotland and Ireland, and also the increase in Scotch and decrease in London and English Schools.

	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	Total
Total Entries at the London Schools	731	702	722	634	605	3394
Total Entries at Provincial Schools	257	281	342	219	212	1311
Total Entries at English Schools	988	983	1064	853	817	4705
Total Entries at Scotch Schools	540	589	567	585	596	2877
Total Entries at Irish Schools	481	534	540	424	370	2349
Total Entries in English and Scotch Schools	1528	1572	1631	1438	1413	7582
Percentage ratio of Entries at London Schools to Total English and Scottish Entries	47.8	44.6	44.2	44.0	42.8	44.7
Percentage ratio of Entries at Scotch Schools to Total English and Scotch Entries	35.4	37.0	34.8	40.6	42.1	37.8

TABLE XII. Shewing the proportion of Practitioners to population, and of Students registered in 1883, and degrees annually conferred, (average of 5 years,) in their relative proportion to practitioners in each country, and in London.

Country.	Population last Census.	Number of Practitioners.	Average number of degrees annually conferred.	Number of Students Registered in 1883.	Proportion of Practitioners to Population.	Proportion of degrees conferred annually to practitioners.	Proportion of Students annually registered to Practitioners.
London	4,019,361	4,417	39	605	1 in 909·9	1 in 113·2	1 in 7·3
England	25,974,439	16,192	80	817	1 in 1604·1	1 in 202·4	1 in 19·8
Scotland	2,735,573	2,206	307	596	1 in 1240·0	1 in 7·1	1 in 3·7
Ireland	5,174,836	2,430	103	370	1 in 2129·5	1 in 23·5	1 in 6·5
Total	34,884,848	20,828	490	1783	1 in 1674·9	1 in 42·5	1 in 11·6

TABLE XIII. Shewing the source, as regards Country, of the qualifications of the number of successful, and the percentage of unsuccessful Candidates for Commissions in the Medical Department of the Army and Navy, who presented themselves in February and August, 1884.

Source of qualification as regards country.	Total number of Candidates.	Passed for Vacancies.	Qualified but unsuccessful for Vacancies.	Rejected.	Percentage of unsuccessful and rejected.
England	97	61	36		37.1
Scotland	119	58	59	2	51.2
Ireland	142	46	94	2	67.6
Total.. ..	358	165	189	4	53.9

Signed on behalf, and by order, of the Sub-Committee,

T. GILBART-SMITH,

Honorary Secretary to the Sub-Committee.

Received and adopted by the Council,

C. MACNAMARA,

President.

30th January, 1885.

