

**Observations relative to some defects of the medical school of Dublin, in a letter addressed to the Board of Trinity College ... / [John Clendinning].**

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**Publication/Creation**

Dublin : For Hodges and M'Arthur, 1827.

**Persistent URL**

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Defects of the Medical School of Dublin.  
Clendinning ----- 1827.

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CLENDINNING, J.

**OBSERVATIONS,**

&c. &c.





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**OBSERVATIONS**  
RELATIVE TO  
**SOME DEFECTS**  
OF  
**THE MEDICAL SCHOOL**  
OF DUBLIN,  
IN  
**A LETTER**  
ADDRESSED TO THE  
**BOARD OF TRINITY COLLEGE.**

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BY JOHN CLENDINNING, A.M., M.D.

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DUBLIN:  
FOR HODGES AND M<sup>r</sup>ARTHUR, COLLEGE-GREEN.

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1827.



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## ADVERTISEMENT.

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**T**HE occasion and object of the following Appeal are apparent in the first pages, and can require no preliminary explanations. With respect to the matter, the Author thinks it necessary to premise one or two observations. In an Address of this kind, space is so precious, that the Writer has often found it expedient to substitute for reasoning, a bare assertion, or a direct Appeal to the experience of the candid Reader. He hopes his wish to be brief has not, in any case, rendered his meaning obscure, or his argument unsatisfactory. Knowing, however, that more or less of obscurity of expression and fallaciousness of reasoning must necessarily escape his scrutiny, he trusts that the Reader will refer his defects in point of conclusiveness to error of judgment, rather than to obliquity of intention.

With respect to his unsupported assertions, it may be proper to add, that they rest partly on the evidence of report and memory, and partly on that of manuscript notes taken during a protracted residence abroad.





## OBSERVATIONS,

&c. &c.

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GENTLEMEN,

THE Board has at length come to a final decision on the subject of my late Memorial, and I am informed, officially, that it is determined not to recall the resolution of July last, by which it recalled a former decision of the same month, by which it had granted me an order for examination. My demands, therefore, are settled, if not satisfied; and nothing remains, so far as I am myself concerned, but to express my grateful acknowledgments to the Registrar for the politeness he has evinced in my many visits at his apartments.

There are, however, other considerations, not peculiarly affecting myself, but yet sufficiently interesting to induce me to trespass again on your attention. I do not stand alone as a sufferer from



the defective economy of the Medical Department of the University. On the contrary, I may be considered as representing a class of persons, present or future candidates for medical degrees, whose interests have been prejudiced with mine.

Many young persons are now not content with the opportunities this island affords for the attainment of medical knowledge. For the higher branches of medical science, Edinburgh is generally considered the best school in these islands. For every department of medical study, those not excepted for which Dublin presents advantages over other British cities, Paris will be admitted by most disinterested persons, whose opinions are not mere localities or traditions, to excel English and Irish schools. Young men that are ambitious of professional distinction, find it, therefore, their interest to visit the metropolises of Scotland and France, before finally settling themselves as medical practitioners; there can be then no doubt that as Ireland increases in wealth and intelligence, the number of aspirants to Irish medical honours—who shall have spent some portion of their studious time, and, consequently, like myself, procured more or fewer of their academical testimoniums and certificates in other countries—will proportionably increase. Representing then a class of persons, whose interests have actually, or by antici-



pation, suffered with mine, I take the liberty of addressing to you, in the present appeal, some remarks suggested by circumstances that have occurred at various times during my protracted *mediate* intercourse with the Board.

The subject to which I wish more especially to call your attention, is the propriety of recognizing the diplomas and professorial certificates of the medical schools of Scotland and the continent.

I have been officially informed by the Registrar of Trinity College, that no account whatever is taken of the diplomas of the University of Edinburgh, with whose testimonium I had come provided ;—and I have been unable to obtain from the Board the recognition of regular testimoniums from clinical and other professors of Edinburgh and Paris.

With regard to the non-recognition\* of the

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\*To prevent misunderstanding, it may be proper to mention, that, by *recognition* of an academical testimonium or diploma, is understood admitting the validity of the instrument, as proof of *regularly completed undergraduate* studies ; and by recognition of a professorial testimonium or certificate, is meant, admitting the document as proof of the performance of the particular *portion of undergraduate studies or exercises* to which it relates ; and that in either case, a full recognition supposes



diplomas of the school of Edinburgh, and of the Continental Universities, I have to remark, that,— It is a natural supposition that between the national schools of countries alike distinguished in arts and sciences, there can be, in point of efficiency, but little substantial difference, provided, of course, there be no important differences in the relative excellence of their constructions. In the civilized world, the Press has gone far towards levelling local superiorities, scientific and literary. That which the literature of one country wants, can be readily supplied from the abundance of some other ; and there is no assignable limit to the system of borrowing and lending alluded to, at least in those departments of research that are not supposed to endanger the honours and emoluments of the rulers and privileged classes of the people. It is not, therefore, to be believed, that the efficiency of the national schools of any country should,

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complete exemption of the possessor of the testimonium, from the necessity of a second time performing the exercises referred to in the document, before his being admitted to examination, and honoured with a diploma. To exempt the graduate in medicine from such a trial as the final examination alluded to, is a concession to which academical liberality has not yet, I believe, arrived. With the jealousy of their own authority, indicated by the exaction by Universities, of the performance of the final exercises last alluded to, we have, however, no substantial reason to be dissatisfied, since neither well-informed candidates in particular, nor the public in general, can be injured by its indulgence.



*cæteris paribus*, considerably exceed that of neighbouring countries. And this is particularly true with respect to medical schools. Medicine flourishes even in Austria; Austria tolerates the importation of medical writings, and the school of Vienna can boast of her De Haen, Van Swieten, Stoll, Gölis, Beer, Hildenbrand, Prochaska :—Russia too is partial to medicine, and next to foreign artisans, and hireling soldiers and politicians, seems of all things to love exotic doctors. Medicine thrives in the most unkindly soils. It is difficult, therefore, to believe that a diploma from Göttingen, Padua, Paris, Edinburgh, &c., can, as proof of due preparatory studies, be justly considered inferior to that of any English or Irish school.

And similar to mine seems to be the conviction of many whose opinions are, in this matter, of some weight. If we look to the practice of the principal medical schools, we shall find that it is to a considerable extent governed by the principle alluded to. In Göttingen, for example, a University, which, though scarce a century old, stands in the first class of national Academies—in Göttingen the medical diplomas of Edinburgh, as I know, and those of other schools, as I am informed, are duly recognized. In Paris, again, for a second example, I have it on good autho-



rity, that the possession of a diploma from any foreign school of credit, entitles the holder to an examination, without further qualification. In Edinburgh, also, I know that the testimoniums of other schools are recognized, the diplomas of the English and Irish Universities only excepted—an exception originating, I am informed, in a spirit of retaliation, and unworthy of that estimable school. The Surgical Colleges, likewise, of England and Ireland, tribunals unquestionably competent to judge in such matters, recognise the diploma of respectable medical schools.

I am, therefore, very much at a loss to conceive the considerations of *utility* that have induced the Board of Trinity College, the guardian of Irish national interests in matters of education, to withhold from the diplomas of Scotch Universities that recognition which seems so justly their due.

It cannot be on account of the Presbyterian bias or lay character of those respectable institutions, since Trinity College receives into her hall Christians of all denominations, and since medicine is at all events indifferent to shades of creed and forms of polity. I have heard, indeed, that there exists an understanding between the Clerical Universities of England and Ireland, with respect to the terms on which, “*ad eundem*” degrees are to be conferred by the former on the graduates of



the latter ; and that in consequence of this compact, the Dublin College is obliged to withhold its countenance and recognition from Scotch diplomas. But of the reality of this alleged understanding, at least as conceived by me, I cannot avoid entertaining some doubt. Such a compact would, it appears to me, be manifestly hostile to the interests of the Irish public, and, therefore, opposed to the ends of an institution founded for popular advantage :—as long as Dublin is not the best medical school in Europe, so long it will be for the interest of the Irish public that persons intending to practise medicine in Ireland, should avail themselves of the greater advantages furnished by other schools—so long it will be the interest of the Irish public, that every artificial and unnecessary obstacle to foreign study be removed, and every facility afforded to those candidates for Irish medical degrees, that have the means and the ambition to drink at the most abundant sources of medical knowledge.

With regard, again, to the professorial testimoniums of Scotch and Continental Universities :—It is presumable that the official certificates of the individual functionaries of any respectable school, are as respectable *in their degree*, as the joint testimonium of its officers in their collective capacity, i. e. as its academical diploma. If it be true



that the academical testimoniums or diplomas of Edinburgh, Paris, Göttingen, &c., are universally respected, it seems natural that the professorial testimoniums or certificates of those schools should be so likewise. And this natural inference is actually conformable, as far as I know, to what we observe in the practice of Universities in relation to this matter. The official testimoniums of the ultra-monopolist professors of Dublin are duly recognized by the more modern policy of the Edinburgh school. At the latter liberal institution, the professorial testimoniums of accredited continental academies, are, I think, likewise admitted. Whether Scotch or Irish professorial certificates are recognized at Paris, Göttingen, Berlin, &c., I cannot affirm.

It has been already stated, that Scotch diplomas, however, are duly honoured on the continent; to which indeed might, I believe, have been added, that the possession of an Edinburgh degree in medicine, is considered a qualification sufficient to entitle the holder to an examination, by the Colleges of Physicians of London and *Dublin*.

On what reasonable grounds, therefore, recognition of Scotch or French professorial testimoniums is refused by Trinity College, I cannot conceive.



In the course of my numerous conferences with the officers of the University of Dublin, I have heard the refusal of the Board to recognize my testimoniums, justified on three distinct grounds: those I shall briefly state and examine. One distinguished gentleman defended it on the ground of the expedience of enforcing observance of existing rules.—“The Board had established  
“the rule, that Certificates from each of the  
“Dublin professors must be provided by candidates for medical degrees, as indispensable  
“qualifications for admission to a medical examination, and it would be unwise and unbecoming on the part of the Board, to violate its  
“own rule.” This plea requires no comment. For, in the first place, the respectable gentleman alluded to, expressly declared, that he considered the rule a “bad” one; and in the second place, the Board is, as will hereafter be shown, in the constant practice of “violating its own rule.”

The exclusion of the Certificates of other Universities, has, with respect to clinical tickets at least, been, by a distinguished physician, defended, on the ground, that such monopoly is necessary for the protection of the Dublin clinical chair, as an institution yet “in its infancy.”

The expression, “in its infancy,” is ambiguous:



a clinical lectureship may be said to be in its infancy, if it be *of recent foundation*.—Or, secondly, *if its occupant be*, whether from want of medical knowledge, or want of experience in teaching, *as yet incompetent to the duties of his office*.—Or, thirdly, if the *emoluments derived from pupils by the lecturer would, in the natural course of things, be inconsiderable*. Interpreting then, the professor's expression in the first sense, I have to remark, that his argument is not pertinent to the question. It assumes, what it was apparently advanced to prove, viz., that monopoly is necessary to the prosperity of an infant lectureship. Mere novelty can give no title to exclusive patronage. If the Institution be young, it has on that account the more to fear from the narcotic influence of monopoly, and the greater need of the open air, and invigorating regimen of unrestricted competition. With respect to the second interpretation of the professor's words; there can be little doubt that he did not mean to be understood in that sense.

It remains, that I should consider the third interpretation. And according to that sense of the expression "in its infancy," I am quite at a loss to find the pertinence of the professor's argument. The clinical chair cannot be superfluous—one lectureship cannot be too much to meet the demands of six or seven millions of people. Nei-



ther can it be premature.—Ireland is, it is needless to say, abundantly aware of the value of clinical instruction: why then should its emoluments be scanty? If the great principle of “The Wealth of Nations” have been really tried and rejected, has its failure not been attributable to some defect in the constitution of the medical school? If it have been not *experienced*, but merely *assumed*, that the clinical chair of Dublin, is an infant too weakly to bear the gymnastic labour of unrestricted competition—which is more probable—how can it be asserted, that it requires such bolstering up with exclusive privileges?

A third mode of defence has been set up by a respectable gentleman bearing office in the University. It has been objected to the testimoniums of the professors of Edinburgh, that they are not certificates of actual attendance on lectures, but merely, it might be said, of virtual assiduity.—Dublin College is, it appears, not satisfied with documentary evidence of the payment of certain fees, of residence at the University during a certain portion of the academical year, of occasional attendance on lectures, &c.; she requires of her candidates, certificates of actual attendance on the great majority, at the least, of the lectures delivered in the courses of each of her different professors;—and his industry is stimulated by a



system of espionage, which is almost, or altogether, peculiar to Dublin.—The Credentials of the Scotch schools, not being of this character, are, it is urged, on that account unsatisfactory and inadmissible.

To the reasoning above-stated, we can be at no loss for a reply :—

1. The practice of insisting on the production of certificates of actual attendance is, in itself, on many accounts, objectionable. It seems, in the first place, to be founded on a very exaggerated estimate, or rather a very erroneous conception of the system of instruction by lectures. Attendance on lectures will not serve as a substitute for reading and observation, or, in other words, for personal labour in study. With respect to those lectures whose substantial value is least questionable, namely, such as consist in great part of “demonstration” or “experiment,” we may affirm, that even they are not of themselves sufficient to secure to the student a satisfactory amount of practical knowledge. It is plain, for example, that an available, useful share of anatomical, physical, or chemical knowledge, is not to be acquired by looking at organs which have been elaborately prepared for inspection, or by witnessing experiments the success of which has been secured by



careful previous arrangements ; on the contrary, to be an anatomist, to know the use of the scalpel, we must often have witnessed and essayed its use ; and to know how to perform chemical or physical experiments, we must, in addition to the labour of the cabinet, have devoted much time to practice in the laboratory.

The truth is, that lectures are not so much substitutes for study as inducements to application. They prove useful principally by facilitating the acquirement of studious habits. The judicious lecturer, while he appears to indulge the indolence and really spares the weakness of the tyro, whets his curiosity by means of interesting views or striking experiments ; excites his ambition by the history of splendid discoveries or useful inventions ; renders easy his first advances on the ascent of science, by familiar explanations and well-timed encouragement ; leads him on, as it were, by the hand, advises, exhorts, and emboldens him. It is very plain, that the student who can dispense with such assistances, can, *cæteris paribus*, dispense with lectures likewise.

And the preceding views, respecting the working and use of lectures, is borne out by experience. Who, in fact, that is acquainted with the Universities of Scotland, France, &c., does not



know that it is supremely easy to hear lectures without profit—that it is often difficult even for the assiduous, to keep the attention uninterruptedly fixed on the professorial discourse—that the impressions left by lectures on the memory are eminently fleeting—and that, if notes be taken, it is but to add an unauthorized and usually very incorrect, and for consultation inconvenient, edition of what may be regarded as an unpublished work, to a copious list of printed treatises ?

The value then of certificates of actual or daily attendance on lectures, as proofs of useful attainment and securities to the public for professional competence, supplementary to a negligent, or in addition to a severe final examination, is too inconsiderable to justify the restrictions their requirement involves.

2. A second, and as many will think, a weightier ground of objection to the practice of requiring certificates of actual daily attendance on lectures, is, that it is not sanctioned by the authority of the most distinguished medical schools ; and the objection last referred to derives an additional weight from the circumstance, that in most of those academies, provisions have, at one time, existed for the detection of absentee pupils, which provisions have, in most instances, died natural deaths,



and have fallen into disuse, no doubt, because their intrinsic worthlessness has not enjoyed the aid of factitious interests, or bolstering premiums.

In Paris, the professors are salaried by the crown; the treasury reimburses itself, from quarterly payments made by the students, on entering their names in the academical album. In return for the quarterly payment, a ticket is received, the bearer of which is entitled to the use of the library, museums, &c., and has a right to attend whatever professorial lectures he thinks proper. There is, apparently, no direct practical restriction as to the manner, time, &c., of his studies—it rests mainly with himself to be assiduous or otherwise—no formal checks are in use. In my many visits at the *Ecole de Medicine*, I never observed a name taken down, or a list used by the porter of that crowded amphitheatre, nor have I ever witnessed the calling of a roll; neither have I ever heard such checks named, or alluded to, by my French acquaintances.

In Edinburgh, for a second example, no means were, until lately, in use, sufficient to insure even residence in Scotland, much less daily attendance on the academical lectures; no lists were kept, nor rolls called. Within these two years however, some checks have been instituted—intended,



probably, as a set off against certain other objectionable regulations—and now, I understand, the student must sign his name in the academical album monthly, in lieu of once a year. The Edinburgh College requires no certificates of daily attendance on lectures. The student of Edinburgh, who wishes for a certificate, is by the librarian officially furnished with an instrument, testifying that he has performed all such academical exercises, and attained to such standing, as may appear from such professorial and matriculation tickets, as he can produce. There is no other sort of testimonium known in that University, the diploma, of course, excepted.

In the distinguished School of Surgery of Dublin, for a third example, formal assiduity, or in other words, regular daily attendance on lectures, is, I am informed, not enforced by roll-call, or espionage; on the contrary, the possession of an indenture, or of a diploma of any respectable surgical school, is all the qualification required of the candidate for an examination; and satisfactory answering during two searching examinations, the only condition necessary to entitle him to a diploma.

If then, it be true, that certificates of actual attendance on lectures, are proof merely of opportunity enjoyed, and formal study,—and of no



value as securities to the public for substantial acquirement and professional skill;—and if it is contrary to the practice of the most distinguished schools to demand such certificates—with what show of reason, I ask, can the Dublin Medical School reject, as inadequate, those credentials which by more competent, because more experienced tribunals, are considered sufficient?

Whatever may be the cause of the non-recognition of Scotch and foreign professorial testimoniums by the Board, it is easily understood how the public may lose by such injudicious partiality to the Dublin professors. The attainment of vigour and efficiency is not favoured by a system of cockering and favouritism. It would be absurd to expect that the Professors of Dublin, who have no competition to fear, should exert themselves equally with those of Edinburgh, who have competitors to contend with, and, amongst the rest, with the ultra-monopolist teachers of Dublin. No better means, therefore, than the exclusive privileges under consideration could be devised, to prevent Irish “infant” institutions from ever reaching their majority—from equalling the chairs of Edinburgh in emolument, or the Edinburgh academical theatres in population.

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It is abundantly plain, that the non-recognition of Scotch and foreign academical testimoniums, by



Trinity College, is not called for by any superiority of the medical school of Dublin over other medical schools. On the contrary, indeed, the Dublin medical student labours under peculiar disadvantages. At other schools many assistances are enjoyed, which are wanting in Trinity College. It may not be amiss to enumerate a few of those.

The value of museums, libraries, hospitals, and debating societies, as accessory means of knowledge, supplementary to the labours of the lecture-room, amphitheatre, and laboratory, is, it may be premised, very considerable, and is universally recognized.

In the university of Bologna there is perhaps the most elegant suite of museums in Europe, amounting together to six ; there is also an immense library, accessible for four hours per day.

In Vienna the student has access to the royal library, the most splendid, with two or three exceptions, in Europe.—There is likewise a large library attached to the university.—To the student of ophthalmology, operative surgery, &c., the general Hospital presents advantages unknown in Ireland, and, indeed, scarcely compatible with the comparatively popular and philanthropic spirit of British institutions.



In Paris the student has the use of the collections at the botanical garden and medical school.—He has access to the royal and academical libraries.—He is also at liberty to attend the meetings at the College of Physicians, and at the illustrious Institute of France.—He has likewise the advantage of lectures, mostly gratuitous, on comparative anatomy and physiology,—and on experimental physiology,—and of the gratuitous use of several of the most distinguished institutions for clinical instruction, in Europe.

At Leyden the interesting collections of Brugmans, Albinus, &c. are accessible.

In Protestant Germany the ambitious, inquisitive student is splendidly provided for.—In Berlin there is, in addition to other advantages, perhaps the finest anatomical collection in Europe (if the Hunterian be not an exception) by Walter and others.—From the royal library also the student can borrow freely for domestic study. In Göttingen there is a noble library, with five or six exceptions, the largest in Europe, and without any exception probably, the best supplied with new works, and most useful, of European collections. From that library the student can liberally provide himself.



At Edinburgh there is a large academical library, from which books can be borrowed. There are besides two libraries belonging to corporate associations of medical students, of which that of the Royal Medical Society is one of the most useful medical collections in Great Britain—there is likewise a magnificent museum of natural history. Add to the preceding, two corporate debating societies,—institutions incompatible with the policy of paternal governments, but of great use nevertheless in connexion with universities, as furnishing cheap rewards to juvenile industry, and efficient stimuli to juvenile ambition.

The preceding line of argument and objection will, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to the non-recognition of the professorial testimoniums or certificates of foreign medical schools, and need not consequently be repeated.

In fine, I ask the candid reader, can there be a doubt that any regulations that tend to discourage the Student who has means to travel, from studying medicine in the schools of Scotland, France, and Germany, must tend at the same time to degrade the medical profession, and injure the public in Ireland? Can there be a doubt, that regulations declaring null, and, with a view to Irish academic rank, useless, all or any



testimoniums not of Irish growth, operate, so far as they extend, as a prohibition on foreign, and as a bonus on domestic study, and are consequently chargeable with the mischievous tendencies above stated?

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The only other point to which I shall, at present, request your attention, is the propriety of introducing method and consistency into the government of the medical department of the University of Dublin, and the obligation which you would confer on many individuals whose interests are worthy of your attention, by the establishment of fixed rules with respect to the qualifications to be required of aspirants to medical degrees.

An institution intended for national advantage and popular use, should be governed upon principles dictated by a desire for general accommodation. So, at least, says the theory of academic legislation. That justice may be done between man and man, and all suspicion of favour avoided, it is manifestly expedient that regulations be established and adhered to, and that no exceptions be admitted: equity towards individuals, and fidelity towards the public, require of the Board that the power it possesses of prescribing rules for the guidance of candidates, should be employed to devise wholesome regu-



lations of general application, and to make the rules devised extensively known, or, at least, easily and readily accessible to all who have an interest in being acquainted with them. The truth of those remarks is too obvious, in my opinion, to need proof or illustration. To you, gentlemen, it would seem, however, the matter presents itself in a different light. You do not appear to think that the interests of the public, and consequently your duty as functionaries, require on your part any limitation of that arbitrary power vested in you by the statutes—power which it is so pleasing to possess, and so difficult not to abuse. Conscious of purity of motive, you, perhaps, do not suspect that you may do a wrong with the most innocent intentions. You forget that the most methodical and self-possessed are occasionally hasty and capricious; that the most disinterested are sometimes partial and unjust; that the most vigilant may sleep at their posts; that the most benevolent are capable of harshness, and that the wisest are often chargeable with ignorance and error:—and you think, probably, that in your hands, at least, discretionary power may be lodged without risk of inconvenience to the public from its mis-employment.

But whatever motives might be supposed to determine your retention of the arbitrary power alluded to, there can be no doubt of the fact



that you have not relinquished its unrestricted enjoyment and exercise. Of this I have had sufficient evidence in my late protracted *mediate* intercourse with you. On waiting on the registrar for official information, I learned on the one hand from that gentleman, that candidates for medical degrees were required to produce certificates from each of the Dublin professors; and on the other, that that rule was little more than nominal, in as much as exceptions had been made in several instances, and it had in short been violated to an extent of which the Registrar was not precisely aware, and respecting which he would hazard no statement. And I have had in my own experience a practical illustration of that want of method, and neglect of rules, of which I complain. In January, 1826, I was in possession of certificates from two Dublin professors only, out of six or seven whose certificates are nominally necessary. Dr. Hill, Regius Professor of Medicine, aware of that defect in my title, but otherwise satisfied as to my qualifications, and regarding, no doubt, the rule above-mentioned as a mere formality, recommended me by letter as a candidate for examination. The Board, however, thought fit to demand further credentials; and accordingly required that I should furnish myself with two additional certificates, previously to being admitted to examination. In this instance, therefore, the Board thought proper to



dispense with *three out of seven certificates, which by the rule before alluded to, are declared necessary.* In July, all the testimonials in my possession were laid before the Board. I handed in no certificates for the additional courses pointed out by the Board in January,—I had not received any from the professors. An order was, notwithstanding, granted, and I was in July-August, summoned to the examination hall, on the faith of credentials which had been in the January preceding declared insufficient. Nor did the variations of opinion of the Board end there. On meeting the medical professors who assembled in consequence of the order of the Board, I found them resolved to refuse me an examination, and was informed that it was their intention to remonstrate against the order. A letter was accordingly addressed by the medical professors to the Board. Of the contents of that I have no personal knowledge; but have learned from my conversations with Drs. Phipps, Barker, and Macartney, that it contained a complaint that I had not attended some one or more of the professors;—information which was superfluous, as the Registrar had already had all my certificates for weeks in his possession. However, the consequence of the remonstrance on the part of the medical professors was, the recall of the order for examination previously granted. Thus, *the identical qualifi-*



*cations or credentials which in spring were insufficient, became satisfactory in summer, and were again pronounced altogether inadequate in autumn.*

The facts above stated speak for themselves. If the preceding story be substantially correct, and he must be hardy that denies its truth, there is surely no occasion for further illustration of the inconveniences that may arise to many individuals from such capricious and eccentric councils. It is not necessary to mention certain other defects in order to heighten the effect of the picture. It seems sufficiently made out without such additions, that candidates for medical degrees have, in Dublin, to contend with difficulties factitious and unnecessary, and attributable wholly to defects which it is in the power of the Board to remove.

Nor is the remedy difficult to find. The Continent presents us with several precedents.—The scientific and educational institutions of France, generally of modern construction, are probably amongst the best models for imitation. In Paris, then, we find that there is, in the first place, an invariable rule, and, in the second, that that rule is most readily accessible, being, at all times to be found placarded on the pillars of the Medical College, and being known to all



medical booksellers, and, in short, to every one interested in knowing any thing about the matter.

In Göttingen, again, the same or similar facilities of acquiring information, are to be found. Every bookseller, every student, every professor, public or private, can tell the conditions of admission to examination. In Berlin, Vienna, Pavia, Turin, &c., the rules to be observed by candidates for diplomas are, if my memory does not deceive me, general, and most easily and readily ascertained.

In Scotland, we observe the like attention to the convenience of the public. The qualifications invariably required by the University of Edinburgh, for admission to medical examination, are to be ascertained at any medical booksellers—from every medical student—from every medical teacher, public and private—from the librarian, or from the Dean of the Faculty, officially—and in the pages of several periodicals. Even in Dublin, the College of Surgeons may, I believe, be considered as opposed to the Medical College in its arrangements in this respect—the former having established rules invariable and accessible to all.

The remedy then is obvious and simple, viz. *a rule with respect to qualifications for admission to medical examination applicable to all cases*

*without exception, and in such a manner promulgated as to be easily and readily accessible to all inquirers.*

Such, Gentlemen, are the remarks which I consider myself called on to offer for your consideration. They are the fruits of personal observation and painful experience. They are presented to you in the present form, from no malicious desire to offend, or idle hope of effecting changes. The absence of every hostile feeling from my mind assures me of the former; my obscurity is a sufficient pledge for the latter. The utmost I look forward to is the occasioning of inquiry.

JOHN CLENDINNING.



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