

**An address delivered to the Lincolnshire Benevolent Medical Society at their anniversary meeting in 1809; containing an account of the proceedings lately adopted to improve medical science, and an exposition of the intended Act for regulating medical education and practice. To which is added, an appendix, comprising the Acts of Henry VIII and the correspondence had with the public bodies, together with the legal opinion of an eminent counsel on the subject of medical regulation, &c; / [Edward Harrison].**

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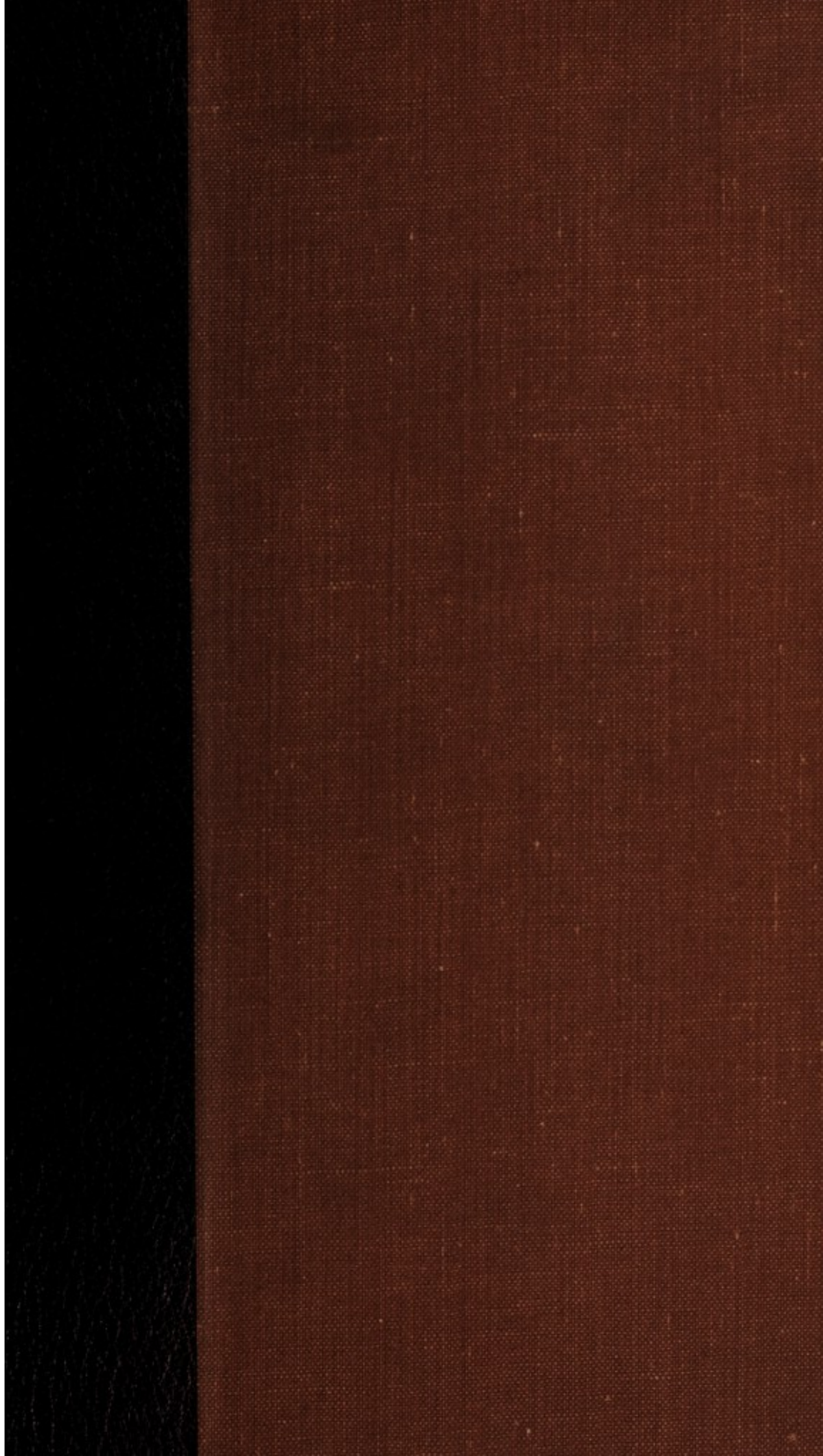
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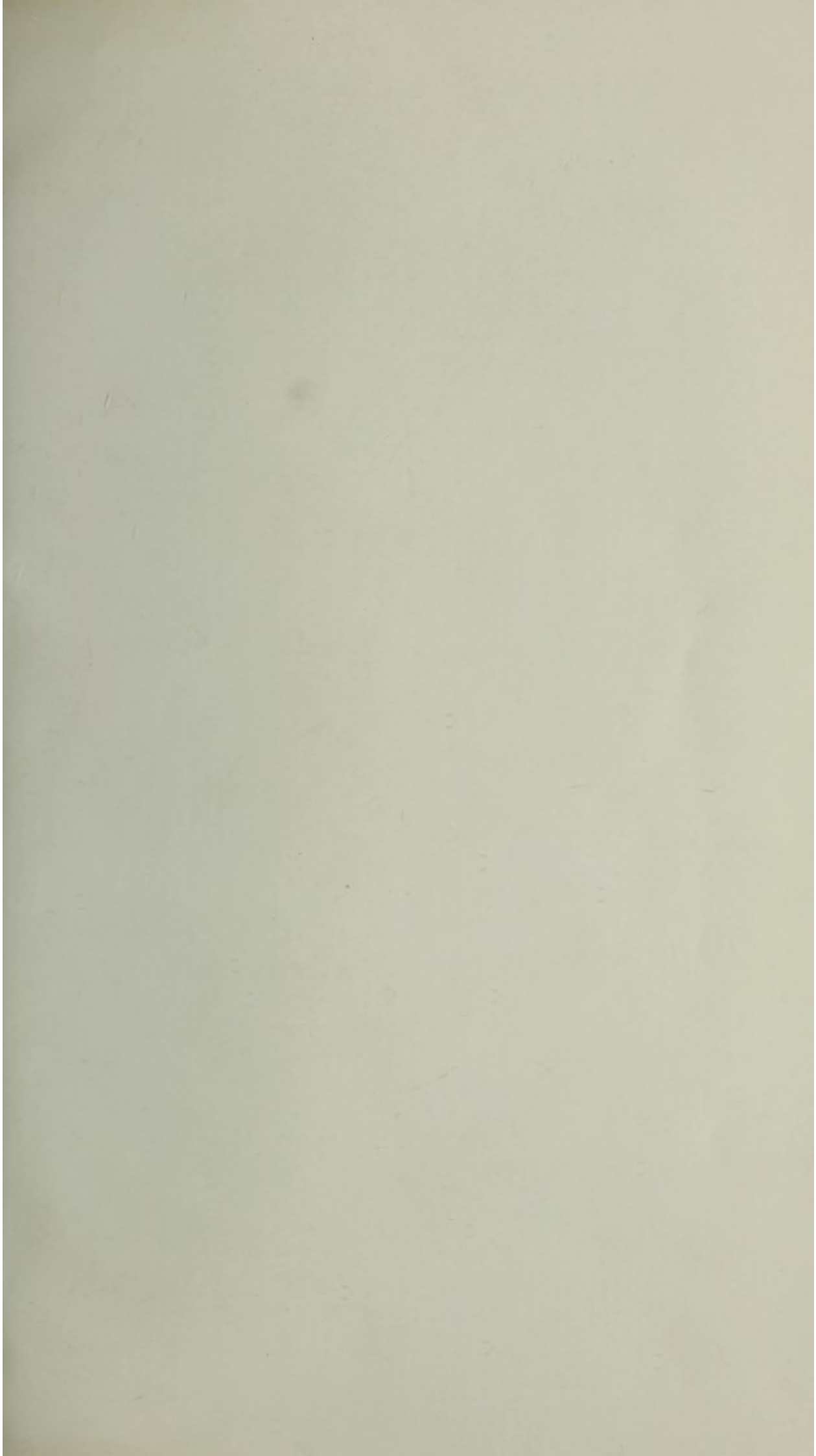


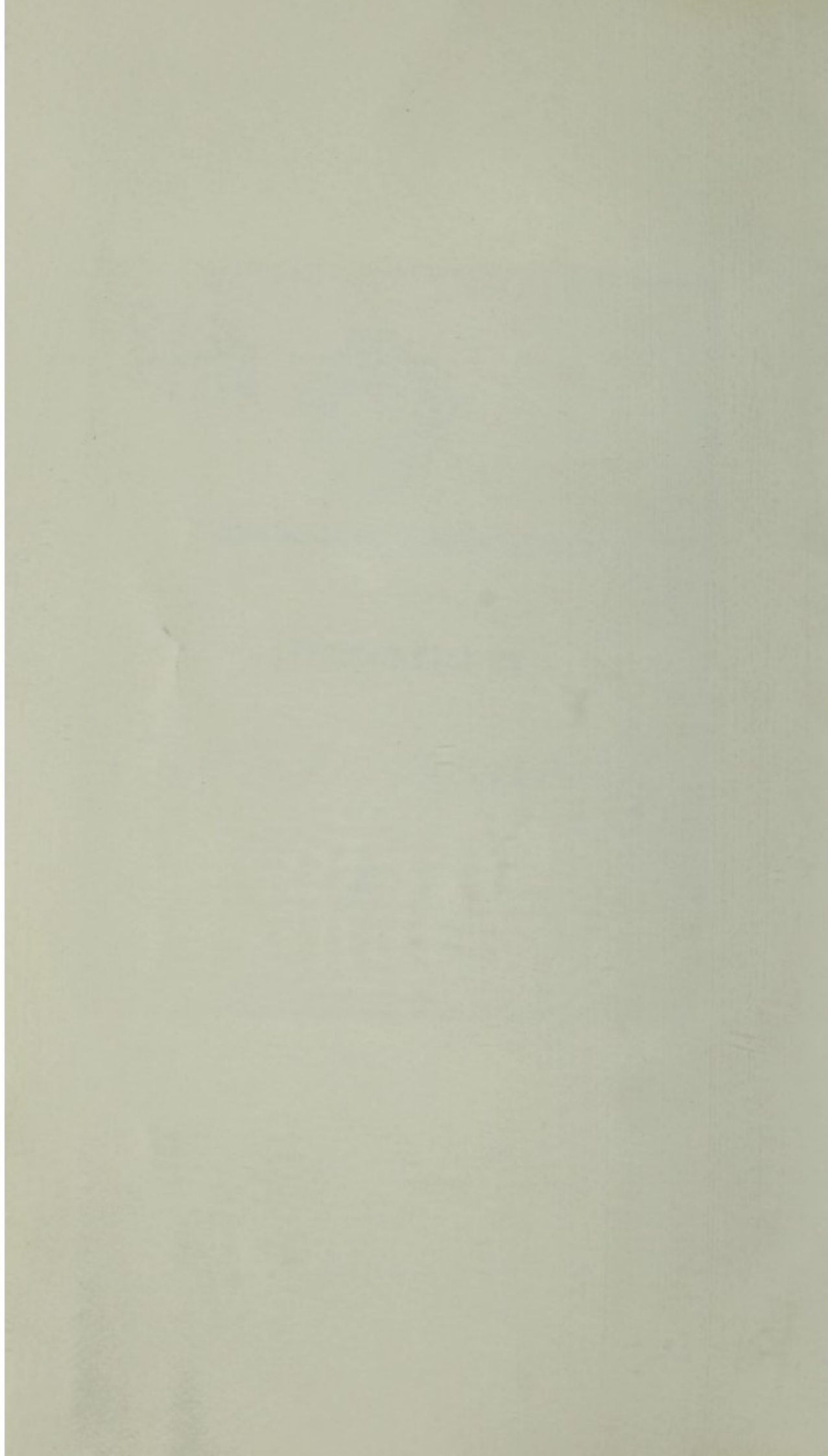
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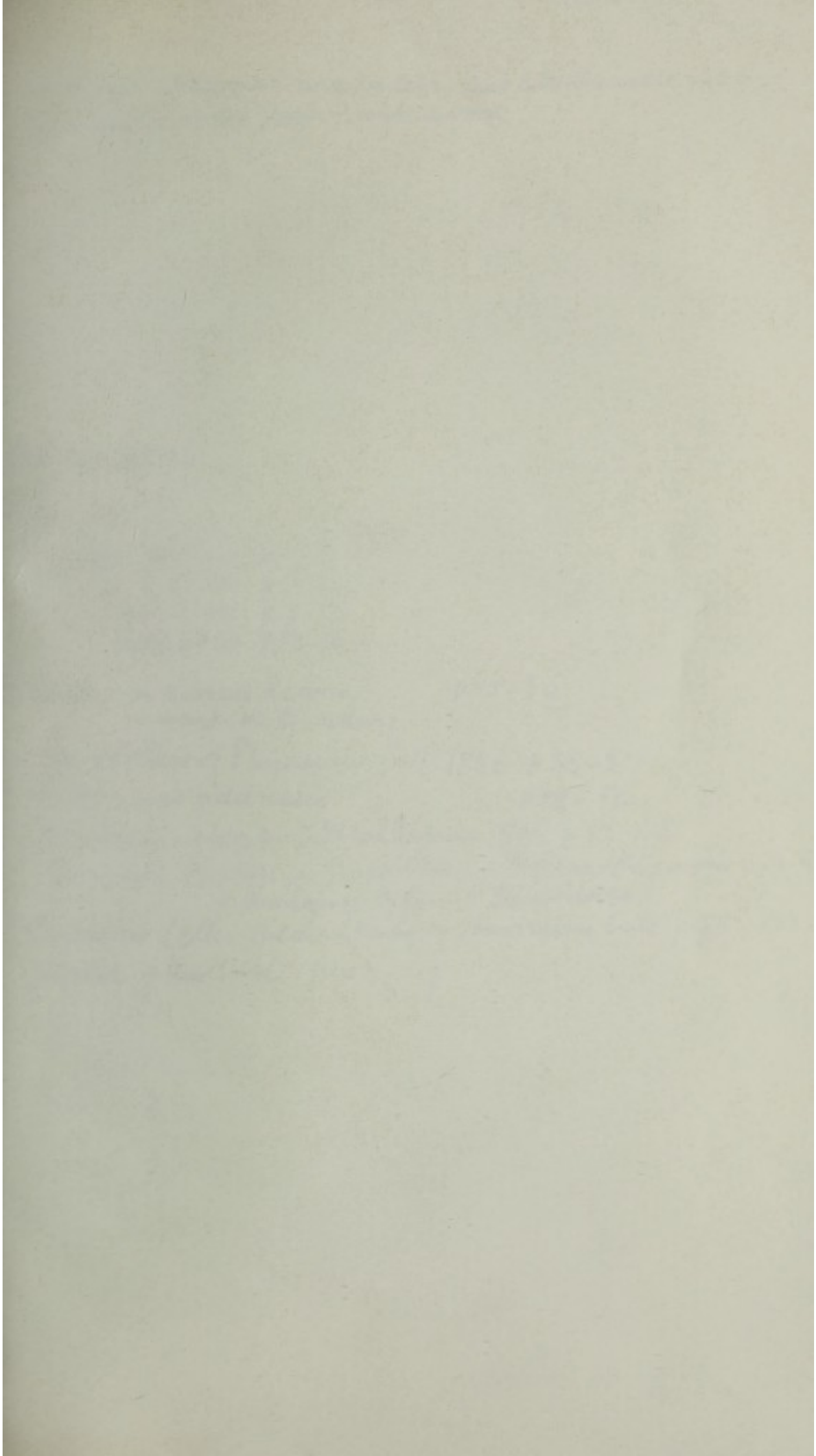
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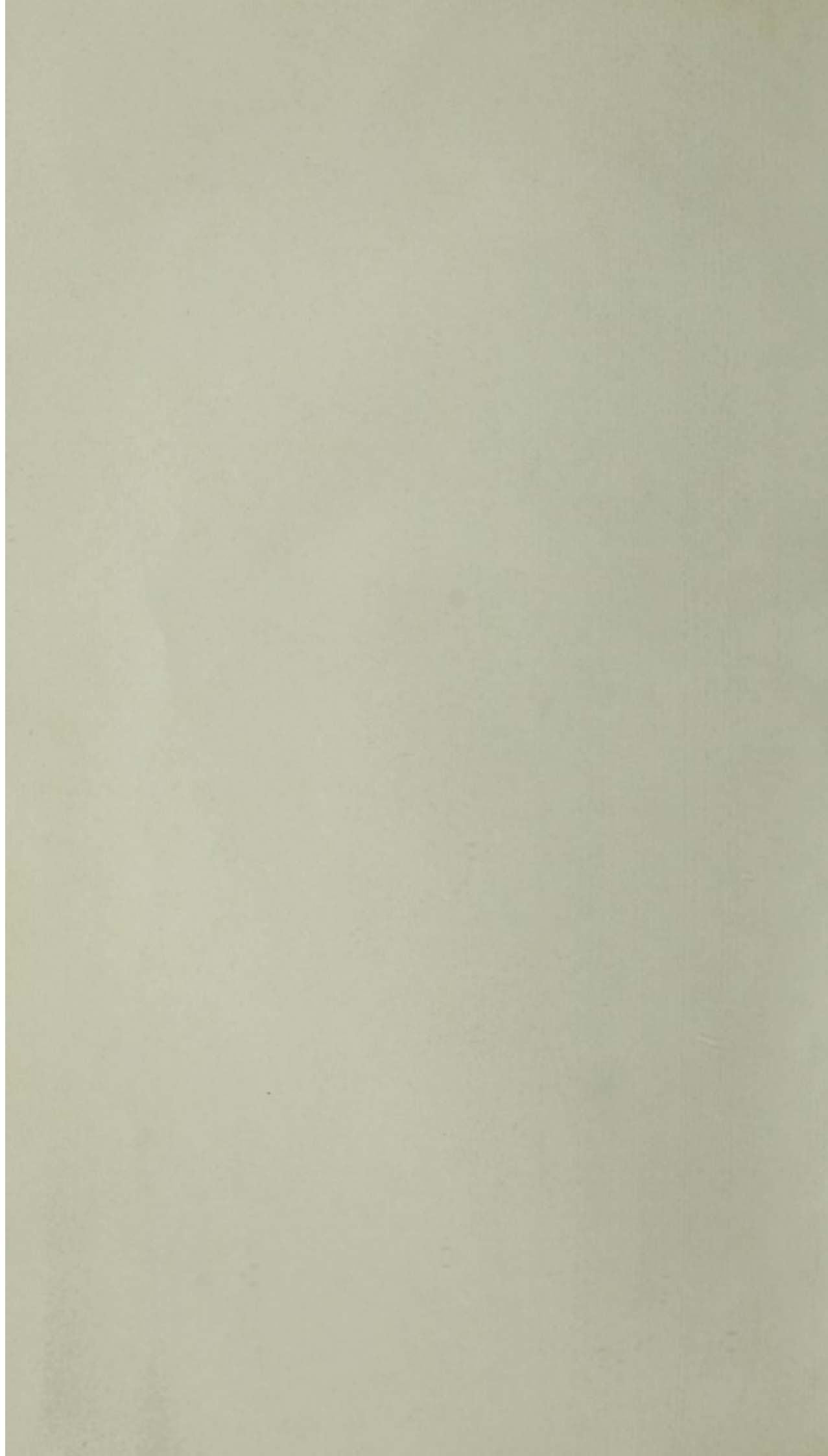
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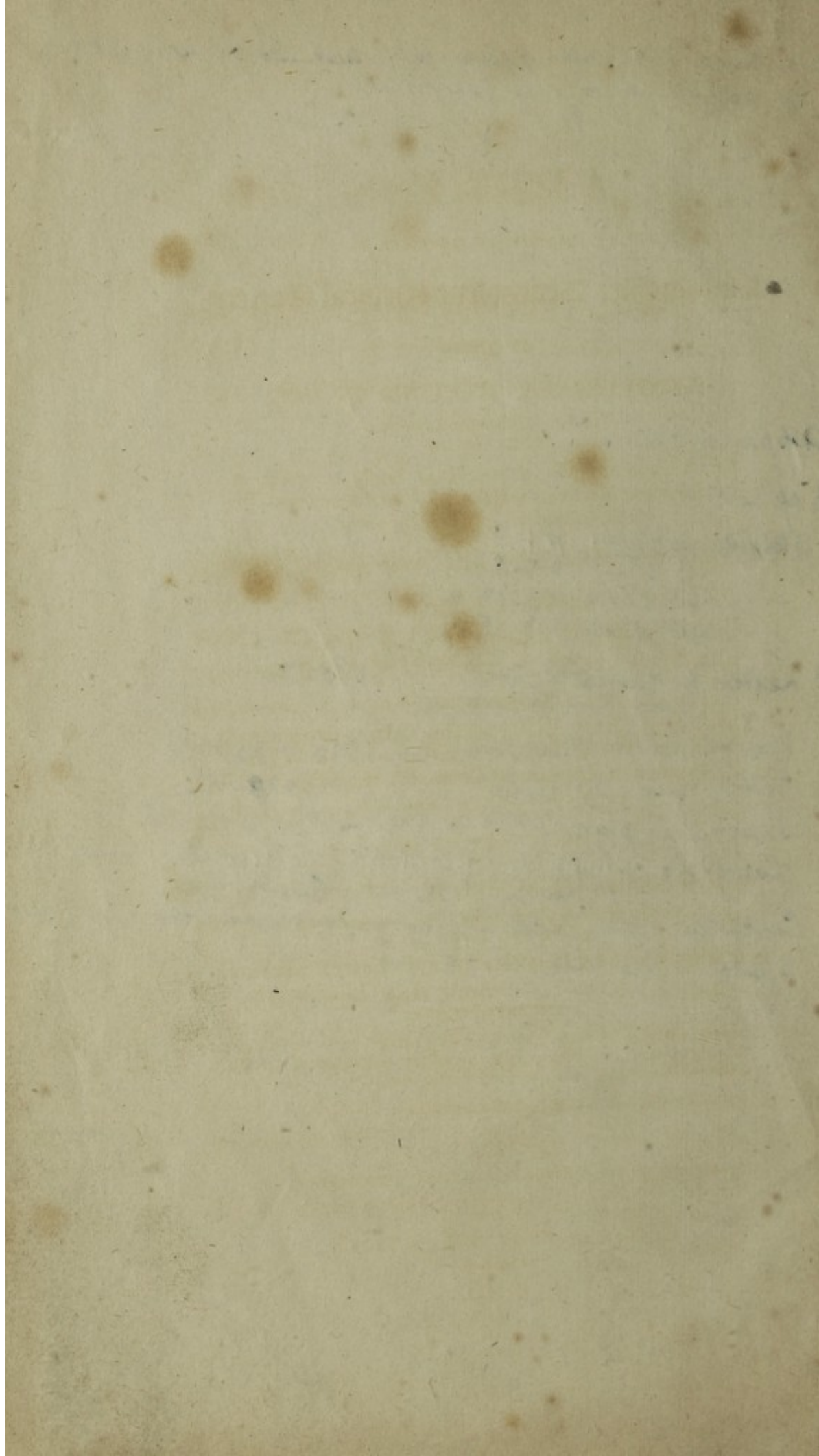
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AN  
**ADDRESS**

DELIVERED TO THE

**Lincolnshire Benevolent Medical Society**

AT THEIR

**ANNIVERSARY MEETING IN 1809.**

CONTAINING

An Account of the Proceedings lately adopted to  
improve Medical Science, and an Exposition  
of the intended Act for regulating

*MEDICAL EDUCATION and PRACTICE.*

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

*AN APPENDIX,*

COMPRIZING

The Acts of Henry VIII. and the Correspondence had  
with the Public Bodies; together with the legal  
Opinion of an eminent Counsel on the Subject  
of Medical Regulation, &c.

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By EDWARD HARRISON, M. D. F. R. A. S. Ed.

*Member of the R. Med. and R. Phys. Soc. of Edinb.  
of Med. Soc. London, &c.*

PUBLISHED AT THE UNANIMOUS REQUEST OF THE MEETING.

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*Quemadmodum sanitas omnium rerum pretium excedit, omnisque felicitatis  
fundamentum est, ita scientia vitæ ac sanitatis tuendæ omnium nobilis-  
sima omnibusque hominibus commendatissima esse debet.* HOFFMAN.

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R. BICKERSTAFF,

CORNER OF ESSEX STREET, STRAND.

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1810.



ADDRESS

DELIVERED TO THE

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE

304940

AT THE

ANNUAL MEETING IN 1900.

CONTAINING

An Account of the Proceedings of the Meeting, and of the various papers read, and of the various resolutions passed, and of the various other matters of interest to the members of the Society.

MEDICAL EDUCATION AND PRACTICE

IN WHICH IS

A. V. APPENDIX

CONTAINING

The Acts of the Society, and the various resolutions passed, and the various other matters of interest to the members of the Society.

BY EDWARD HARRISON, M.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.P.

FOURTH EDITION, REVISED BY THE AUTHOR.



LONDON:

R. DUNSTON

Corner of Fleet Street, Strand.

1910.



## AN ADDRESS, &c.

GENTLEMEN,

**A**MONG the various inquiries which have lately excited public attention, and the numerous abuses that have in consequence been removed, it seems not a little extraordinary that the medical profession should have remained so totally neglected. Although the health and lives of the community could never be considered of inferior moment, this interesting subject, so intimately connected with the happiness of individuals, and our national glory, has never once occupied the attention of parliament, on general principles, in a lapse of nearly three\* hundred years. When we contemplate the various improvements in Arts and Sciences; the important changes effected in medical discipline and practice; and, above all, that our code, such as it is, was established in a rude and tu-

\* See the Acts of Henry VIII. for regulating the practice of Medicine. Appendix (A).



multuous reign, we have surely cause for astonishment that the question has never once incidentally obtruded itself upon the legislative body; that legitimate guardian, deputed by our fellow-citizens to watch over the properties, the lives and every thing dear to a great nation. This is, I believe, the only kingdom in Europe where medical men, and their important functions, have been so generally overlooked. Yet, among the contentions of party, it must have been sometimes felt, that without the blessings of good health, rank, titles, and fortune, are but empty and joyless appendages.

It has been often observed, that medical men are most regarded in rude and infant states. Among the nations of antiquity they were even deemed worthy of Divine Honours; and in France, at this moment, they are much esteemed, for their acknowledged importance to the civil and military departments. As society grows complicated and artificial, the Faculty are more likely gradually to lose their influence and respectability; because, while all other classes of the people are virtually represented in the national assemblies, they alone, from the nature of their vocations, are precluded from any share in legislative deliberations. When we consider the nature of their preliminary studies, and occupation of their mature judgments,



ments, we are at no loss to perceive, that on many occasions medical men might be consulted with advantage in the direction of military expeditions, and the best means of preserving the health of our soldiers and mariners. In matters of *domestic* concern, the advice of the Faculty would sometimes be highly advantageous. In confirmation of these opinions, we discover Physicians and Philosophers among the Counsellors of France, and of her tributary dominions.

Gentlemen, it may be proper to remark in this place, that we, as medical men, have been accused of disaffection to the established institutions of our country, and an insinuation to that effect is reported to have been successfully employed in a high quarter, against the Licentiates of the Royal College of Physicians. False and calumnious as this insinuation has always appeared, may not the circumstance of its having arisen be traced to the following cause? When persons find their complaints and remonstrances continually neglected, they are apt, by an easy transition, to become prejudiced against those who disregard them. This was, I believe, the actual situation of the French Faculty, and led astray by their feelings, they imprudently arranged themselves among the early and determined partisans of that desolat-



ing revolution. Had their urgent appeals been properly respected, as is the case in this happy country, instead of debasing our common profession, by encouraging anarchy and bloodshed, they would, I confidently trust, have placed themselves among the most active and zealous friends of regularity and subordination. I may further remark, that some of our brethren have been led to conclude, that for want of medical representatives in the senate, our cause will never be zealously advocated, or maturely considered. In this sentiment I cannot agree. I trust that every true friend to his country, whatever may be his political principles, will feel it his duty to support the interests of humanity, as well the strenuous advocates for prerogative, as the most enlightened votaries of rational liberty. And it cannot be supposed that the eloquent supporters of African freedom, and tenderness to brute animals, would ever be wanting in attention to so numerous a body of their *fellow-subjects*, or in what they cannot but esteem a proper regard to the welfare of their country. This neglect of medical men, and discouragement of useful science, gave occasion to the following remarks from a most accomplished physician.

“ Have you any reason to expect the concurrence of the legislature in any such plan of reform.



reform as you have in view \*? I doubt much whether our statesmen will ever listen to such a proposal; that is, judging of their future from their past conduct. While they despise and set at defiance, in the most heroic manner, many of the most important, and what appear to me, the soundest principles of political economy, which are inculcated by Adam Smith, in his book on the Wealth of Nations, they seem to have adopted, and very faithfully to have applied in practice, one of his doctrines, which though in one sense true, is by no means true, or safe, or expedient, in its full extent. I mean his observation, that statesmen ought not to be the physicians of the people whom they rule." The same writer observes in another place, "How can we expect that they should discourage or prevent Quack Medicines? These medicines yield a revenue; more valuable, in the judgment of our statesmen, than the health of the people, the prosperity of physicians, and the improvement of physic †."

\* See Appendix (B).

† See my Essay on the Ineffective State of Medical Practice; where the original resolutions of the Lincolnshire Benevolent Medical Society are inserted. A manuscript copy had been forwarded to the writer of the letter cited above; from which it will be seen that no interference with Quack Medicines was ever in contemplation.

Much



Much as I respect this amiable and candid successor to a long line of literary progenitors, I am nevertheless disposed to believe, that the fault is neither to be found among individual practitioners, nor in the rulers of the people. I very much apprehend, that it has arisen from the mistaken views of a few selfish, and interested men, who forgetting the duties of their high station, have been led to suspect that a strict inquiry into their official conduct, might ultimately prove injurious to themselves. These are the people who indifferent to the dignity of the art, and what is of infinitely more importance, the lives of their fellow citizens, are occupied solely in promoting their own aggrandisement. By their fruits we may judge them. Examine I beseech you the mode of licensing, for home and for country practice! look to their printed lists, where you will see members possessing the same titles, and having the same duties to discharge, arranged into fanciful classes, unconnected with professional merit! See how the health officers of the army, have been selected and promoted! You will find in these appointments, that nothing has apparently been less considered, than professional merit! Let us not complain, till we have made out a case, and suggested a remedy for these evils. It will then be seen, whether our lawgivers, will not be  
ready



ready to bestow the attention, and employ the correctives that are wanted. For my own part, I cannot entertain a doubt of their ready compliance, since I have never conversed with a single liberal and disinterested gentleman of any description, who has not admitted the existence of great abuses, and expressed his readiness to contribute towards their removal.

GENTLEMEN,

It was at the annual meeting of this society, in the year 1804, that strongly impressed with the dangerous and degraded state of our common profession, you first selected me to institute an inquiry into the state of medical practice, in this large county. I had the honour at the succeeding anniversary, to communicate to you, the result of this investigation, from which it was ascertained by accurate returns to the printed queries, that in Lincolnshire Empirical pretenders exceeded the regular Faculty, in the proportion of nine\* to one. It formed no part of my instructions, to examine into the qualifications of Physicians, Surgeons, and Apothecaries, I therefore declined to enter upon a painful and invidious comparison. It might be supposed, that the bare exposure of this fact,

\* See my Essay on the Ineffective State of Medical Practice.



would of itself be sufficient to excite universal alarm, more especially since there is reason to believe from other reports, that most districts are deeply infected with these dangerous inmates†. The disclosure, as you must recollect, afforded scope for animated discussion. The subject was attentively considered in its various bearings, by the attending members, from an anxious desire to see the Profession placed upon that high ground, which the importance of its functions, and intimate connexion with society, so imperiously demand. At length it was resolved to solicit the Patron of this Society, the Right Honorable Sir Joseph Banks, whose long and active life, has been constantly devoted to scientific pursuits, and the good of his fellow men, to use his endeavours to restore the Practice of Physic to its former rank and condition, with a view to ensure the constant supply of trust-worthy practitioners, to discharge the various duties of the curative art. I accordingly waited upon Sir Joseph Banks, at your request, to consult him upon the best mode of proceeding in this difficult undertaking. It was by his advice, that I visited London, to solicit the metropolitan Faculty, more especially the Incorporations, to encourage a plan, so materially

† \* See Medical and Surgical Review. Medical and Physical Journal, &c.



interesting to the welfare and improvement of the public health. I entered upon my mission early in the winter, and made it my business, to get introduced to the President of the Royal College of Physicians, previously to the first meeting of the associated Faculty in Soho Square, to induce him to promote the undertaking, and *take the lead in it*. I afterwards waited upon the Master of the Royal College of Surgeons, and several other distinguished Members of the Faculty, particularly the late venerable and candid Sir George Baker. My object in applying to these respectable Individuals, was to prevail upon them to take an active part, in regulating medical practice. They all received me favourably, and admitted that great, and dangerous abuses, were openly committed with impunity by quacks, and other low persons, not only in the country, but in every part of the British capital. When I stated my errand to Sir George Baker, he seized my hand, and declared himself very friendly to our proceedings, adding with emphasis, "the corruptions in physic have increased considerably of late\*." On account of bodily infirmities, and having retired from active life,

\* I should not have presumed to quote the authority of a person deceased, had not the same assertion been repeated by him afterwards to a physician of eminence.

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DNB  
born 1722  
died 1809  
FCP 1757  
FAS 1776



he requested to be excused from personal interference, but repeatedly wished success to the enterprise. I had several interviews with Sir Lucas Peyps, the present learned President of the Royal College of Physicians. He invariably received me with politeness, and candidly admitted the great necessity for more suitable provisions, to enable the Faculty, to do justice to their employers. He observed, that "lawyers had been lately consulted, and the college were resolved to carry their powers into effect, from a determination to discharge the obligations imposed upon them by the public."

It was in November and December, 1804, that these conferences took place, and yet, extraordinary as it may appear, no *legal, or effectual measures*, have been taken in this long interval, to extend these salutary regulations to country practitioners. It is true, that advertisements were published in several newspapers, during the following summer, and circular addresses were likewise sent to the quarter sessions of the peace, of which the following is a copy.

"SIR,

The Royal College of Physicians in London, have subjoined a copy of their advertisement, respecting the irregular state of the Practice of Physic in the country, and have inclosed lists  
for



for distribution in your neighbourhood: not doubting that you, and all the magistrates of your county, will heartily concur in this endeavour on the part of the College, to make known by these means, that those whose names are mentioned in the list, are (except the Graduates in Medicine of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge,) the only persons legally qualified for the important duty of prescribing for the sick.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

JAMES HERVEY, Register.

*College of Physicians,*

*December 22, 1806.*

The Royal College of Physicians in London, having received accounts from various parts of England, complaining of the number of irregular practitioners, calling themselves Physicians, who exercise the Profession of Physic without authority, and in many instances without due qualification, feel it their duty to apprise the public of the legal provisions to obviate this evil, and to refer them to the list *annually printed* by the College, (*which in future they will take care to have properly circulated,*) in order that the names of all those may be known, who, having been examined by the college



according to law, have been deemed competent to practise as Physicians.

*Extract from the Acts of Parliament of the 14 and 15 Henry VIII.*

“That it may be enacted in this present parliament, that no *person* from henceforth be suffered to exercise or practice in Physic, through England, until such time that he be examined at London, by the said president, and three of the said elects, and have from the said president and elects, letters testimonial of their approving and examination: except he be a Graduate of Oxford or Cambridge, which hath accomplished all things for his form without any grace.

By order of the College,  
JAMES HERVEY, M. D. Register.”

June 25, 1806.

To the . . . . .

Chairman of the Quarter-Sessions.”

These applications were I believe universally neglected, and in most cases highly disapproved. It has been whispered that ineffectual petitions were made to the Judges of Assize, to allude in their charges to the validity, and reasonableness of the College claims.

I am indebted to a respectable physician in Nottinghamshire for the only copies circulated  
by



by the College, that I ever saw, and the preceding transcript was made from one of them, now in my possession. The packet had been given to him by the Chairman of the Quarter Sessions in the same District, with these observations. I do not intend to distribute them. The College has taken an improper method, and I will not be made a party to it. I should be ashamed to countenance what I esteem such illiberal conduct. To me it appears a little curious, for I cannot impute it to accident, that none of the packets were, as far as I have yet heard, sent into any part of the county of Lincoln. Why the College chose to overlook a large division of the kingdom, in which the necessity for new medical regulations was first agitated, and where ignorant and dangerous pretenders\* are reported to be so abundant and audacious, can only be fully known to themselves. This, if not imputable to accident, affords a strong suspicion, that our proceedings were disagreeable to the learned body, and that they were anxious to conduct the undertaking privately, and by their own unassisted energies. If we suppose them anxious to promote measures useful to the community, and honourable towards their brethren, there can be no just

\* See my Essay on the Ineffective State, &c.

cause,



cause for mystery or concealment. The public and the Faculty can have no desire to impede any proposals from the College of Physicians, unless they are adapted more to establish a dangerous monopoly, or perpetuate visionary authority, than to promote generous emulation, and the interests of mankind. If such be their real motives, which I pretend not to impute to any body of men, I venture to assure the College, without arrogating to myself the gift of prophecy, that it would be impossible to attain their wishes. Interest and cabal might indeed, for a time, prevent a reform, but the success of such an unworthy opposition would only lead to a great and cruel waste of human lives. Considerations of equity and reciprocal benefit will always be most successful in the promotion of any desirable or useful object. When the Acts of Parliament were first obtained for erecting a College of Physicians to examine candidates, and superintend medical practice in England, they were probably well adapted to the state of society, and the condition of the Faculty. They were soon found to be extremely defective. After several fruitless attempts to restrain the proceedings of unlicensed apothecaries, and ignorant pretenders, applications were made by the College for stronger powers, and an extended jurisdiction.



tion. The \* petitions were so favourably received by James the First, and Charles the Second, that it is very difficult to conceive why the College neglected at that time to prosecute their favourite plan. Had they even made one unsuccessful attempt, upon equitable principles, to correct the abuses in medicine, less blame would have rested with them for the numberless professional executions, which, however undesignedly, they have suffered to be perpetrated in the nation, through the ignorance and misconduct of medical men. Far be it from me to include the Fellows in undistinguished censure. The Royal College has, I believe, always contained, and does at this time actually possess some of the brightest ornaments in medicine. It is much to be lamented, that many of the Society voluntarily absent themselves from the College meetings, and seem to conceive that they are only accountable where they take a share in the deliberations. Probably, in so deciding, they have not fully considered the importance of their stations, or the duties inseparable from them. Had the body at large been led seriously to reflect upon the nature of College obligations, or made themselves acquainted with the mischievous proceedings of rash and

\* See Dr. Goodall on the Royal College of Physicians.



ignorant practioners in remote districts, I cannot imagine that they would have so long remained supine and inactive. While they choose to continue members of the College, constituting part of the body corporate, they are in some measure committed and implicated in all its acts. Such of them, therefore, as have merely seceded because they could not enforce their favourite contrivances, or conscientiously join in those of others, must be understood to have violated their sacred engagements to the Public, which require unremitting activity and vigilance from every person in authority. Dr. Gregory, of Edinburgh, felt so forcibly his indefeasible relation to the Edinburgh College of Physicians, that upon being informed of some offensive proceedings, he declared his fixed determination to surrender the Fellowship, and thus free himself from further responsibility. This manly determination of Dr. Gregory induced the College to re-consider, and, it would seem, finally to relinquish a beloved project, rather than drive from their Councils a learned and independent associate. Similar conduct in some of the London Fellows, would, I am convinced, over-awe the regular attendants, and induce them to adopt a course more agreeable to liberal minds, and advantageous to medical science.

I have also to inform you, that I was repeatedly



edly advised to lay your \* Resolutions before the College of Physicians, with an assurance that "they would be taken up by the Body." In reply, I did not fail to remark, that since the Colleges have no authority beyond seven miles from London, I could neither wholly commit the rights of the provincial Faculty, nor the paramount interests of our employers, to their hands, either with propriety or probability of success. I assured the Fellows of the Royal College, that no difficulties would be raised by us to an extended jurisdiction, upon equitable terms, but that unless practitioners in Surgery, Pharmacy, and Midwifery, over whom they had no controul, were included in the scheme, little or no benefit could accrue from it. I therefore proposed, with a view to an amicable arrangement of our respective pretensions, that a select meeting of the different orders should be convened in London, over which Sir Lucas Pepys would in course preside. To this proposal a direct negative having been repeatedly given, I judged it expedient to terminate the negotiation. Though, from a desire to conciliate, I cautiously omitted to notice the oppressive tendency of the College plan † for reforming medical practice, I con-

\* See Essay on the Ineffective State of Medical Practice.

† See Appendix (C.)



ceived, with such a specimen of declared prejudice, it would have been highly improper, without fresh instructions, to have acceded to their wishes. You must recollect, that among other proposals, apparently severe, for examining candidates, the College plan includes the present establishment of every description. Even gray hairs, literary attainments, and the experience of a long life, were overlooked. All must bow to the omnipotent Body. In order to attain the intended objects, Censors belonging to the College were to have been stationed in different parts of the kingdom, with ample salaries, and such extensive powers, that the Provincial Faculty would have been held in complete subjection. Nay, to humble them still more, they were intended to contribute, by annual taxation, towards the splendor and magnificence of these favoured Deputies. Sir Lucas Pepys repeatedly observed to me, at our different conferences, that the College of Physicians had many enemies, desirous to change its constitution, for private ends; and that it became him, in his official capacity, to act with great circumspection. I assured him that the intentions of country practitioners were fair and open. So far from wishing to disturb the public institutions, they were most solicitous to invigorate them by new enactments, and an extension of proper



proper regulations to the country ; for the better security of invalids and a large body of meritorious sufferers. He appeared to admit the justice of their claims, and the correctness of their motives. Such was the substance of our different conversations, and I left Sir Lucas with feelings of respect and esteem.

Mr. Forster, then Master of the Royal College of Surgeons, some Censors of the College of Physicians, and Examiners of the College of Surgeons, with several very eminent Physicians and Surgeons, attended the meetings on the state of Medical Practice, convened at the President's of the Royal Society, who, with his usual liberality, entertained us in his public rooms. As the meetings were held in a private house, it was deemed improper to invite a numerous assembly ; in consequence of this determination, I have to regret the absence of many highly respectable gentlemen, well affected to the cause, with whom I was not then personally acquainted. The unanimous opinion entertained on these occasions, was the great and increasing necessity for a substantial reform, and that *to be complete, it must pervade all the departments in physic, and be extended through the empire.* At length a suggestion arose, that the association was secretly actuated by designs hostile to the Medical Incorporations.

Thompson  
Forster  
Master  
1805



tions. To do away these unmerited fears, it was proposed by a member, *who was also of the College of Physicians*, and resolved unanimously, on the 10th of Dec. 1805, as follows: "That we are of opinion, that no resolution ought to be made, or measure taken, which can in any degree interfere with the powers or privileges already possessed by the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of London." This resolution I was desired to transmit to the Royal College of Physicians, in the expectation of removing their deep-rooted and groundless mis-apprehensions. In this I am sorry to say, notwithstanding our continued moderation, that we did not altogether succeed. It does not appear that these mistaken advocates of College authority have ever affected to identify their own interests, with those of their fellow-citizens. They seemed rather to insinuate, that the College was constructed for the aggrandisement of those in power, and therefore wished to pervert our motives by insinuating, that the present scheme was grounded on a desire to overturn an ancient and venerable structure. It was in vain that I represented the extent of our wishes, and that we were solely occupied with a desire to procure a legislative act, which would be useful to the whole of the united kingdom. In answer to their pretensions over England and  
Wales,



Wales, I engaged to prove, by a legal opinion, that they had under *the existing laws no useful nor effective authority beyond the distance of seven miles from London* \*. This assertion was afterwards confirmed by Mr. Sergeant Williams, and it is supported, as I believe, by the concurring testimonies of Sir Vicary Gibbs, and Mr. Dampier, whose opinions are understood to be in possession of the College of Physicians †.

Though the Colleges have not ventured, *in a single instance*, to exercise authority in the country, nor thought proper, in the lapse of three centuries, to appeal for assistance to the legislature, they are still unwilling that the sufferers by such inattention should try to obtain that relief, which is admitted even by themselves to be much wanted. Although the College of Physicians has never applied to the Legislature, it has nevertheless shown great anxiety, on divers occasions, to extend its jurisdiction to the country, as may be seen by perusing the Charters

\* See Appendix. (G.)

† It remains for Dr. Heberden to point out what College Statutes have been lately acknowledged and renewed, after being long dormant? What licentiousness of ignorant persons has been restrained? What hostile attempts have been checked; and above all, in what respect the authority of the College has been increased?—Vid. *Ora- tio Harveiana a Gulielmo Heberden, Londini, 1810.*



obtained from James and Charles the Second \*. The latter monarch expressly gives his leave to summon country practitioners, and punish the disobedient, by inflicting penalties upon them, as in the Home Circuit. He accordingly declares his readiness to confirm and ratify an act of parliament to that effect, which, for reasons only known to the College, has never been attempted. It would be curious to learn, why the College was deterred from prosecuting a favorite object, under the sunshine of court favour. In gratitude to their patron, a statue was erected by them to his memory, which shews their sense of the obligation intended. During the same reign, accident laid the foundation of a proceeding, on the part of the College, which has in many ways tended to the injury of medicine, and discredit of the Faculty. A message was sent to the College, stating, that many Physicians were suffered to practise Physic, who had not taken the oath of allegiance, by which omission the security of government, and peace of society were exposed to unnecessary hazard. It was therefore recommended, on political grounds only, that no Doctor should be suffered to enter the College until he had been admitted into an English University, where he would be required to take the oaths of

\* See Dr. Goodall on the College of Physicians.



supremacy and abjuration. This being easily obtained, the caution was cheerfully submitted to. Soon afterwards, an agreement was entered into between the Universities and the College, not to incorporate a Doctor of Physic. In consequence of this arrangement, foreign Graduates were shut out of the Fellowship, and destined thereafter to form a new and subordinate class. Such was the origin and mode adopted to new-model the College. Hence the honours and privileges intended equally for all Doctors, who, in the language of the act of parliament, are "*profound, sad, discreet, groundedly learned, and deeply studied in Physic,*" became restricted to the scholars of two Universities, where medical science never flourished, at least to the extent anticipated by their founders\*.

I have to complain, that some gentlemen have, without the smallest provocation, and in disregard or contempt of the resolution officially laid before the College, had the rashness to accuse the Associated Faculty, and friends of medical reform in general, with entertaining projects adverse to the College of Physicians.

\* See Dr. Stanger's Justification of the Right of every well-educated Physician of fair character, and mature age, residing within the jurisdiction of the College of Physicians of London, to be admitted Fellow of that Corporation.



Indefinite charges are easier made than refuted. I might, therefore, on the part of my brother associates, call for specific proofs of hostility, but, conscious as I am of the rectitude of our intentions, I plead *not guilty*, and am ready, whenever they choose to prefer an *indictment*, to be tried upon it, on the part of the association, by a jury of the country.

After much deliberation, and various meetings, an Address\* to the Faculty was prepared, and by means of a free postage, extensively circulated through the British dominions. The Association was then adjourned.

Numerous answers were speedily returned, from which it appears, that we are not only overrun with Quacks in all parts of the empire, but what is of still more consequence to the public, that a large number of practitioners, deemed regular, have assumed the titles of Physician, Surgeon, and Apothecary, without due qualifications, or legitimate pretensions.

Invalids apply to professed Quacks, with open eyes. Disappointed and dissatisfied, they resolve at last to make trial of Emperics. Medicines are accordingly procured, and cautiously taken, because they have not full confidence in the adviser. With the established Faculty they act with less fear, and submit implicitly to the

\* See Appendix. (D.)



directions given. Were these credulous invalids only to suspect, that the persons confided in for regular Physicians, Surgeons, and Apothecaries, had usurped their stations, possessing no legal claim to professional confidence, how would they boil with resentment towards them? Such, however, is the fallen state of the profession, that probably most of the gentlemen now present, have at one time or other consulted with Doctors of this description, and all of us with Physicians whose diplomas were obtained by the post, from Universities which they never saw. It is within the recollection of us all, that the amiable lady of a wealthy, elevated, and much-esteemed county gentleman, lost her life, under the immediate care of two Physicians, whose legitimate claim to that title has been justly suspected. I mention this occurrence to convince you how easy it is to deceive the public in this respect, when families of the first rank and estimation in the kingdom are placed at the mercy of professional intruders. But if the quality of a crime is to be estimated by the injury done thereby to society and individuals, surely that must be considered the most flagrant which robs us of our health, and deprives us prematurely of our dearest and most valuable friends.

In the following Summer, another meeting of the Faculty was held in the same place.

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When the voluminous answers had been laid upon the table, I read the following abstract:—

“ The answers already returned to the circular letter, are, as you perceive, too numerous and bulky to admit of being read to the meeting this evening. I therefore conceived, that it would contribute to shorten the business, and relieve the company from much trouble, if I undertook to abridge them, and arrange their contents under distinct heads.

“ The correspondence before you, comprises returns from the most respectable practitioners in every part of the United Kingdom, as well as from most of the public bodies. I have the satisfaction to state, that they contain, with a solitary exception, one common sentiment in favor of the measures which we are now pursuing, and, in general, the promise of active co-operation.

It must unavoidably happen, from the nature of the subject, and the mode of inquiry pursued, that the writers would be impressed with a feeling of the same kind of grievances, and in general propose nearly similar methods to remove them. An opinion seems to prevail universally, 1st. That the profession is greatly injured by the culpable indifference with which medical and surgical Diplomas are, in many instances, conferred upon the ignorant and illiterate.

2dly.



2dly, That practitioners in all departments of the profession are too numerous, owing to the facility of getting that incompetent education with which a great majority now satisfy themselves.

3dly, That the emoluments of respectable practitioners are unjustly reduced, by the admission of persons of low station into the profession, who can neither devote the time, nor provide the means necessary to complete a systematical education.

4thly, That the urgent and irregular demand for Army and Navy Surgeons, enables a great number of unqualified persons to get employed during the war, who settle afterwards in different parts of the kingdom, to the great annoyance of established practitioners.

5thly, That dangerous impostors, of various descriptions, are to be found in most districts, who contrive, by delusive arts, and false promises, to engross a considerable share of medical and surgical practice.

6thly, That empirical medicines, of very pernicious effects are sold to an incredible amount, by which means the public health is exposed to great and serious injury.

7thly, That Chemists, who know nothing of diseases, or of the animal economy, take upon themselves not only to compound medical prescriptions, but to prescribe for the sick, to the

great detriment of the profession and the community.

It appears to be the general opinion, that in order to remove these grievances, which tend greatly to prevent youths of reputable birth, and liberal education, from engaging in a toilsome employment, from which they can derive little credit or emolument,—it is desirable,

1st, To suppress, or at least to restrain, empirical practice.

2dly, To prevent the admission of mean and low persons, by a fine upon all certificates of qualification.

3dly, To compel future practitioners of every description to undergo a suitable education, and to submit to proper examinations, before they are suffered to engage in any branch of the profession.

GENTLEMEN,

The necessity of a substantial reform was again admitted by all present, and the great body of the provincial Faculty appeared so anxious to co-operate, that it was resolved to prosecute the scheme with unabated ardor. For this purpose a committee was chosen to conduct the undertaking, and call future meetings. They digested and published another Address \*

\* Vide Appendix, (D.)

to



to the Faculty, which contained a few propositions calculated to discover the sentiments of medical men on the mode of educating and admitting future practisers. These were confessedly very imperfect, and it was therefore resolved, "That the proposed plan of reform be adopted as the basis of regulation, subject however to such alterations as may hereafter appear to be necessary." Notwithstanding this explicit declaration, I am sorry to say, the plan has been misconceived, or at least misrepresented, by various persons, and motives have been assumed, which were never entertained. The members of a celebrated Northern University\*, deemed the proceedings of sufficient importance to occupy their attentive consideration, and they entered pretty much at large into the plan and supposed views of the committee. Their objections were ably refuted by the late Dr. Beddoes, and in particular, he replied to their unfounded animadversions on "respectable schools of Physic," as stated in the first section of the plan. He made it appear, that by omitting the epithet "respectable," they wholly perverted the meaning of the clause. This concession, on the part of the Committee, to places eminent for medical science, though not dignified with chartered honors, seems to have filled the Senatus

\* Vide Appendix. (C.)

Academicus with the idea of a rival seminary, which, from being fixed in a more fertile soil, was likely, in process of time, to blight their future prospects, otherwise they would not, I think, have been led openly to object to certificates from Schools of Physic, merely because they are not Universities. I am persuaded the learned Professors are fully apprized, that in France it has been wisely proposed to restrict Universities to general Literature, and establish separate Colleges for Divinity, for Law, and for Medicine. Here the youth, by conversing freely on the same topics, by reading together, and by prosecuting the same studies, are expected to incite each other to habits of industry, and professional excellence. This project has already been carried into effect with respect to Medicine. Dispassionate people will see no difficulty in placing medical discipline, in the British capital, upon an equal footing with that of our favoured Universities, or of the most eminent continental schools. In order to prove the regularity of attendance, which may surely be done in one place as well as another, let a muster-roll, for example, be called over immediately before and after Lecture. On this list absentees should be carefully noted, and certificates granted or withheld on some fixed principle, known to the students. The door-keepers  
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at the different classes, by managing this record, would derive some colourable pretence to the eleemosynary exactions of their masters, and Medical Science would be essentially promoted by its adoption. It is matter of notoriety, and for the truth of my statement, I may appeal to my fellow-students in two British capitals of the first celebrity, that certificates of study are apparently given in both with *culpable*, if not with criminal indifference. Such is the laxity of discipline, that I know a crowded private school, where printed certificates, couched in the same terms, are indiscriminately granted to every pupil. In order to obtain this inestimable document, it is only necessary to take out a ticket for the Lectures, and, when the course is completed, signed testimonials of regular and diligent attendance are delivered in course. These certificates, authenticated with the approving signatures of names distinguished in Physic, Surgery, and Midwifery, are afterwards hung up conspicuously in the shop or surgery, to astonish the gaping crowd, and impress them with full confidence. These testimonials, given equally to the idle and meritorious, without examination or inquiry, possess in country situations, all the force of diplomas, and, as I conceive, subject the grantors to a heavy responsibility.

That the disapprobation arose more from  
jealousy

jealousy than conviction, appears from the whole tenor of the elaborate report, and especially from the apparent solicitude not to increase the expence of a medical education. “ The proposed plan of prolonging the period of study would increase very much the expence of a medical education, at present very considerable. The consequences of this may prove very injurious to the future state of medicine in this country. It would deter many from applying to a profession in which, even at present, they must wait long before they receive an adequate return. It would effectually exclude many, whose talents fit them for adding to the dignity, and to the improvement of medicine, from taking Degrees in Physic ; and it would therefore tend to diminish the number of well-educated young men of the medical profession.”

“ Lastly, If, contrary to all expectations, the proposed plan of medical reform be likely to be enacted into a law, the Committee need not point out to the *Senatus Academicus* the injustice of extending its operation to those who have *already begun the study* of medicine, or any of its branches ; and the necessity of endeavouring, by every means, *to procure an exemption for them.*

“ The Committee, deeply impressed with these considerations, which they have taken  
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the liberty to state, earnestly recommend to the Senatus Academicus to oppose the passing of the provisions of the proposed plan of medical reform into a law; and for this purpose they humbly suggest, that a committee be appointed to attend to the progress of the measure, with power to take such steps as may seem to them from time to time expedient and necessary.—

*Extracted from the records of the University, by George Dunbar, Sec. and Libr."*

Had the Senatus Academicus been properly impressed with the force of their own objections, I cannot believe that they would have endeavoured, in a few short months, to augment the expense of a Doctor's diploma in their own University, by *nearly doubling* the fees of graduation, *without distinction*, or holding out to candidates, or the public, the prospect of advantage from the measure, thus acting in direct opposition to their own avowed statement. No reason was assigned for this indelicate proceeding, or attempt made to gloss it over, as far as I have yet heard.

The remaining allegations being either wholly irrelative, or no longer applicable, I am desirous, from respect to my *Alma mater*, to pass them over unnoticed. I trust, the necessity of vindicating myself and colleagues from unmerited accusations will be esteemed a sufficient

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excuse for the defence I have judged it proper to make on this occasion.

The learned Dr. Beddoes observes, with his usual candour, that “ the curative art cannot be learned on the sequestered banks of the Cam or the Isis, because Hygeia delights to fix her seat amid the filth, distress, din, and debauchery of great cities.” No medical character of the present age was, I conceive, more capable of determining upon the relative merits of our different seminaries. Dr. Beddoes was an Elevè of Oxford, and there commenced his luminous career, as reader of Chemistry. Not satisfied, however, with the scanty gleanings of his Alma Mater, he resided three seasons in Edinburgh, and visited the Continent of Europe, to compare the state of Science in Britain with that of other nations.

Bigotted to no sect, and corresponding through life with foreign Physicians of the highest celebrity, he was perhaps better able to perceive the defects of our Medical Institutions than any other person of the present age. So convinced was he of the utter impracticability of ever teaching Medicine to advantage in Cambridge or Oxford, that he was of opinion, neither of these celebrated seats of general literature would object to the establishment of a Medical School in a more eligible situation. Nay, for my own part, I am strongly inclined to believe, that the English  
Universities,



Universities would find it more advantageous to promote the establishment of a Medical School in London, than by opposing the scheme, to induce students, as at this time, to search for instruction in other countries, where many of them will of course continue to take Degrees in Physic, and thus deprive our own academies of the honor and emoluments arising from Medical Diplomas. Dr. Beddoes expressed his sentiments as follows:

“ I trust, if it ever come to law-making, that the objection will be radically removed, by endowing London at once with the privilege enjoyed by every great metropolis in Europe besides, and particularly suited to a great metropolis. An attempt at improvement, short of this, though it may not leave British Medicine as ineffective as the pamphlet of Dr. Harrison found it, will leave it much more ineffective than the means of instruction allow, and the public good requires. Why, in the name of common sense, should not London be authorised to call candidates in our Faculty to the bed-side, as it does those in another to the bar? Neither English University \* would, I dare say

\* Dr. Heberden, in his elegant and highly classical oration, seems fully to agree with Dr. Beddoes. He does not even stop to notice the English Universities, in his haste to celebrate the British capital. Whatever, he observes, our ancestors collected from the different academies of



say, view the *measure with jealousy*. The members, and the whole public must perceive, that

Europe, may be found at this day in London. If you are desirous to search into the wonderful fabric of the body, and its admirable structure, you will find them explained in the Anatomical Schools. If you wish to relieve the afflicted, you may draw instruction from Nature herself, by attending in hospitals to the sick, and the efficacy of remedies, under every form of suffering. There are gardens in the neighbourhood, filled with all sorts of herbs, and spacious Museums, stored with the most valuable specimens. The Libraries are full of books, and the Theatres are crowded with students. To us belongs the glory, that London, so justly celebrated for Arts and Sciences, now possesses the first place in Medicine.

I am ready to admit, with Dr. Heberden, that London enjoys every capability for endowing a Medical School upon the most comprehensive scale; but I do not hesitate to assert, that with the exception of Anatomy, it is at this moment much below Edinburgh, and I strongly suspect, in every particular inferior to Paris. Whoever has compared the hurry and bustle of Lecturers, and Hospital attendants in London, with the deliberation, and orderly methods at Edinburgh, must have observed a striking difference. In London most Physicians and Surgeons give Lectures, and take charge of medical charities to gain a name, whereas in Edinburgh they constitute an ultimate object. Consequently in one city the young men have their minds formed chiefly by speculative teachers, while in the other they are directed by experienced practitioners. In the accessory branches of Botany, Materia Medica, and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, so  
 necessary



that London is the spot in Great Britain, and probably in the whole world, where medicine may be taught as well as cultivated to most advantage. Nor would it be easy to estimate the number of persons, whom our government has suffered to linger in misery, or to die in the flower of their days, simply from having so long neglected to found a complete medical seminary there. The claim is on the part of human misery, not of national pride. By the force of its unrivalled opportunities alone, with but few teachers, either celebrated or deserving celebrity, though they now seem to have grown as thick as haberdashers, London has, perhaps, more than equalled the most celebrated seminaries; and it would, I think amount to a sort of treason against the common weal, if they should remain without being seconded by the

necessary to form a complete practitioner, few or no Lectures are given. From the short period usually allotted to education, the students are so much occupied with Anatomy, Surgery, and Midwifery, that the practice of Physic, and attendance upon medical cases in hospitals, by which their minds ought to be furnished with leading principles, are most unaccountably neglected. If London were only once formed into a regular College, men of the greatest erudition, and most profound learning, would easily be found there to fill the medical departments, and raise the British metropolis to at least an equality with any Academy in the world.



the whole public power, after the state of medicine comes to be a matter of legislative deliberation. In the course of many years, I not only never heard a specious objection; but generally found, when the leading ideas were propounded, that every hearer followed them up to the same conclusion.

But let us not, at least not wilfully, take a station below Paris. Let our regulations aim at still greater maturity in those whom we shall send forth to practise, and teach the healing art *ubique gentium*. What would it avail to increase the breed of practitioners, akin to those coffee-house politicians of ours, to whom the leading paragraph of the Morning Post stands in the place of history, and political economy;—practitioners all absorbed in the last curious case at Guy's, or the last curious opinion from St. Bartholomew's; and not much more deeply skilled in the disorders of the individual, than the newsmongers are in those of the body politic.

Every well-wisher to medicine, and to mankind, would desire to see Edinburgh maintain or recover what she ever had of real excellence. The contest would be generous if fairly carried on, and the competitors be allowed the fullest exercise of their faculties. But let not London have her hands tied behind her, that the sons

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of Edinburgh may have the delight of behold-  
her superiority, or at least escape being mortified by her manifest inferiority." \*

The imperfections in all our universities arising from the limited surrounding population, when compared with London, had probably occurred to the Caledonian Professors, and filled them with alarm, otherwise they would not, I think, have descended to combat the committee with irrelevant surmises and mis-statements. For my own part, I feel no inclination to point out defects, if it were possible to conceal them *pietas erga preceptores*, and grateful recollections would incline me to remain silent. The great concourse of students from all quarters, and their unceasing lamentations have made it notorious through the imperial dominions, that students are not furnished in the Scotch Metropolis with an adequate supply of dead bodies, and that they cannot be there procured. It is even believed that *subjects* are sent from London to be dissected at Edinburgh. This fundamental defect is of the greatest detriment to medical science, because accomplished Physicians and expert Surgeons must be formed in extensive hospitals, and by assiduous labour in practical anatomy. As these can only be regularly and liberally pro-

\* Dr. Beddoes' letter to Sir Joseph Banks.



vided in populous districts, the largest cities will always command the best opportunities. The dependance of surgery upon anatomy is evident to the most superficial observer. Dexterity in operating can alone be acquired by practice in dissecting, and a confidence resulting from a thorough knowledge of the parts concerned. In Paris and London, where students employ much of their time in the Anatomical Theatres, and in opening dead bodies, I have seen the most delicate and difficult operations performed with the greatest ease. I have also witnessed operations in other seminaries of education, where, for want of skill in practical Anatomy, the Surgeons were tediously slow and embarrassed, thus exposing the afflicted patients to unnecessary torture, and increased danger. Physicians, ignorant of Anatomy, are always liable to be confused, and to commit errors in practice. Such as are unacquainted with the form, situation, and functions of internal organs, must be wholly unfit to undertake the cure of internal complaints. Unable to distinguish with accuracy the characteristic marks of disease, the practitioner cannot be expected to undertake its treatment with much prospect of success.

The young graduates of our different Universities have confirmed the advantages to be obtained



obtained in London, by resorting thither for anatomical knowledge, so that, although unprotected by the Legislature; it can boast of containing more medical pupils than any Academy in the Empire. It is a remarkable fact, though certainly not very creditable to an enlightened nation, that London is the only considerable metropolis in Europe where no medical school has been founded by the Government. We trust that the people of England will not labour much longer, under the severe national reproach of forcing their youth into distant countries for medical tuition, when they can supply all defects out of their own resources.

Through the wise policy of the Legislature, a Veterinary College was some time since erected in the metropolis, which has hitherto been chiefly confined to the anatomy and complaints of horses. Here students are carefully trained and formed for Cavalry Surgeons, by which means this department of the service has been greatly improved. I trust the design of the original promoters will, e'er long be extended to the medical treatment of beeves, sheep, pigs, dogs, and indeed of all animals, which are either immediately useful, or can give light and information respecting the œconomy and disorders of mankind. Highly as I approve of a Veterinary School, even on its own account, I must never-

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theless be permitted to consider it in a very subordinate point of view, and as deriving its chief excellence from contributing to the perfection of Human Medicine. The wants of the cavalry led to the establishment of a Veterinary College. Although the interests of peaceable citizens might in this respect continue to be most unaccountably overlooked, I hope the absolute necessity for able medical men in the Army and Navy will induce benevolent individuals, and the directors of the Empire, to take proper means to provide them liberally for these essential purposes.

On the 18th of August, 1807, the Committee met again, to consider the letters and communications received since the out-line was circulated. They had great satisfaction in contemplating the progress already made in the undertaking, and the zealous co-operation of some public bodies, and of many individuals of high and deserved reputation, who have materially assisted the measure, by comments upon the out-line, and by pointing out other matters connected with medical regulation. The proceedings not being deemed of sufficient interest to be distributed among the Faculty, were only inserted in the Medical and Surgical Review \*.

\* Vide Appendix, (E.)



It is of importance in this place, gentlemen, to notice objections which have been advanced by a few writers.

1st. The Committee have been accused of attempting to exalt one branch of the Faculty to the injury of the rest. However extraordinary it may appear, the same charge has actually been made by persons engaged in every branch of the healing art. We therefore trust that the suspicion originates in misapprehension, or an imperfect view of the subject. The Faculty having for many years been suffered to exercise the different departments indiscriminately, and from necessity, the Committee did not choose to propose any practical restrictions, though they think it due to the public security, and credit of well-educated persons, that medical distinctions should hereafter be confined to their legitimate owners, and not lavished upon every retailer of drugs, or practitioner of the lowest order. The title of Doctor, the highest in Physic, is no longer confined to regular graduates. It is assumed at pleasure by medical men of every description, as well as the rapacious Quack and common Farrier. Thus prostituted, it is rather a term of reproach, than an object of ambition. Strangers have no longer the means of distinguishing accomplished practitioners from mere pretenders, and, in many instances,



stances, very serious calamities have resulted. Should the proposed Bill be adopted, no further confusion will arise from misapplication of medical titles, and thus one important point will be gained. 2dly, It has been insinuated, that reformation in physic should not originate with the Faculty, who will thus become liable to the imputation of harbouring notions and projects for their separate aggrandisement, rather than the good of society. Had it been proposed to secure the object by secret machinations, and private cabal, the charge would indeed have been intitled to every consideration. No such intention was ever entertained. It was always declared openly and unequivocally, that nothing short of legislative interference could avail; that unless the public, seeing the necessity, chose to come forward in support of the scheme, it ought not to be attempted under any circumstances. It must be admitted, that however desirous the people may be to place the profession of physic upon a better footing, they neither know the magnitude of the evils, nor are they competent to devise the means to correct them. When a plan is prepared, they will be able to ascertain its merits, and determine how far it is calculated to answer the purposes in view. Medical regulation is of so comprehensive a nature, and embraces matters of such intricacy, and vast importance



importance to the different orders of society, that its provisions cannot be too rigorously examined, before an attempt is made to carry them into effect.

GENTLEMEN,

In the course of last summer it was agreed to employ an eminent barrister, conversant with parliamentary business, to draw up a bill, as far as possible, free from controversial points, and embracing only fundamental principles. How far the bill now upon the table is entitled to commendation on these grounds, and whether it will be acceptable to the legislature or not, are matters on which I dare not presume to offer an opinion. I can safely assure you that it has been most favourably received by the Faculty, and all others to whom I have shewn it. Though withheld from parliament last winter, on account of the great urgency of other public business, and some delicate investigations, I trust it will be presented next session, and that in consequence of the delay, it will be rendered more perfect. We have endeavoured every where to make the interests of the Faculty subservient to those of the community, and in this I anticipate your unanimous approbation. However desirous we may be to exalt the medical profession in every proper way, we esteemed it



it our first duty to endeavour to serve the country at large, in preference to all minor considerations.

I have now, Gentlemen, delivered to you a short account of the different proceedings, and it will give me the most heartfelt pleasure to find them approved by my fellow members. Since my appointment, in 1805, I have paid four visits to London, in order to expedite our common wishes. The first time I was detained from my family and business upwards of five months, and my last journey occupied six weeks. I mention these circumstances to satisfy you, that I have neither been wanting in zeal, nor in exertion, to forward the measure committed to my care by your partiality. During my abode in London, I had frequent opportunities of becoming acquainted with the feuds, the jealousies, and the discontent, which have unfortunately set the metropolitan Faculty against each other, and broken that harmony which ought to subsist among the members of a liberal profession. The quarrel had its origin in certain excluding bye-laws, which are thought to press unjustly upon many Physicians and Surgeons. I am truly concerned for this unhappy misunderstanding, and wish that a conciliatory spirit would rise up in the parties concerned, then, and not till then, may we hope to see the Faculty united  
among



among themselves, and Medical Science prosecuted with all the ardor of which it is deserving.

The profession suffers in its respectability and usefulness, from a variety of causes common to the city and the provinces. These have been made the foundation of the present Bill, and it is only, as I conceive, by avoiding disputed points, that we can ever hope to procure the cordial approbation of the Faculty, which I am free to admit is indispensably necessary to a favourable issue. The constant agitation of the subject, and deep interest taken in the discussion, by many of the most enlightened and eminent practitioners, have given a [degree of importance to the measure, which it could not have acquired by other means in the short period of five years, and a conviction of ultimate success from steady and disinterested perseverance.

Suffer me here, Gentlemen, to regret the severe loss we have sustained by the death of two early associates, the late Dr. Osborne, formerly an eminent teacher of Midwifery, and Dr. Patterson, of Londonderry. Both these gentlemen have distinguished themselves by valuable publications, and had declared their sentiments in favour of medical regulation.

The premature death of Dr. Beddoes is also much

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much to be lamented. His ingenious work on Medical Reform has aided the cause, but from a philosopher of liberal notions, profound learning, and indefatigable industry, much more might have been expected, had his valuable life been longer continued. I have the satisfaction to inform you, that the abuses in physic are not unknown to many persons of high rank and deserved estimation, nor do they deem them of small concern in a national view.

In proof of this assertion, it will be sufficient to state, that when returns of medical officers serving in Spain, in Portugal, and on a particular occasion, in the East-Indies, were applied for in the late session of parliament, the motions were so well received, that a Board of General Officers was instituted to inquire into the Medical Department of the Army. This disposition in the senate ought to animate us with the most cheering hopes, since it shews that a strong impression has been made on that august assembly. It was observed in debate, that of 50,000 men sent out to the East-Indies, 13,000 died in the first twelve months, and that at least one third of the mortality was occasioned by incapacity in the medical attendants employed on the service \*. The bare suspicion of a cala-

\* The great sickness and mortality among our soldiers in Spain and Walcheren, have given room for apprehension



a calamity so disgraceful to the country, so discouraging to our valiant brethren in arms, and so injurious to the national glory, ought to excite in every Briton the strongest feelings of sympathy and commiseration. Nor should we rest for a single moment, until the cause and the remembrance are for ever effaced. The hardships of warfare, the privations inseparable from a military life, the severe marches, and exposure to unhealthy climates, are surely of themselves sufficient to appal the boldest heart, without subjecting our intrepid youth to the hazard of falling ingloriously, through professional incompetence. You will recollect, that soon after I received your commission, our incorruptible patriot, the immortal Pitt, was taken from his grateful country. Gentlemen, we have the more reason to lament his untimely death, because he had expressed his readiness to forward our scheme, "convinced," as he said, "of the great want of proper medical officers for the civil and military departments." I was introduction that our armies were not furnished with an adequate supply of suitable medicines, and confidential practitioners. Indeed, the Physician and Surgeon-General, on examination before the House of Commons, were obliged to confirm these reports, by admitting a great deficiency of Hospital Mates, and that the assortment of Drugs sent with the expedition to Walcheren, bore no particular reference to the prevailing disorders in that unhealthy island.

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ed, soon afterwards, to Lord Henry Petty\*, his immediate successor, by our excellent patron, and was admitted by the minister to two long conferences. He did me the honor afterwards to begin a correspondence, and evinced his anxiety on every occasion, to afford his aid in correcting abuses, and making future practises equal to their important functions. Upon his retiring from office, the proceedings were made known to some leading members of the present government. Had it not been for the pressure of public business, and some unexpected occurrences, I have reason to believe, that the Bill upon the table would have been laid before parliament in the late session, by a gentleman of great talents and influence, in the councils of his Sovereign. We unquestionably have enough from this statement to encourage hope, since all parties agree that some improvement in the medical profession is essentially necessary, in order to render it beneficial to the community, and honourable to the Faculty. With these intentions a variety of projects have been at different times suggested, which have hitherto been abandoned; chiefly, perhaps, because they were confined either to one or two branches of the curative art, or limited in their operation to particular districts. Irregularities

\* Now Marquis of Landsdown.



of the most disgraceful and dangerous kind prevail equally among the Physicians, the Surgeons, the Apothecaries, the Midwives, and the Druggists. Even in cities, under the auspices of corporate bodies, medical honors are so easily counterfeited, that invalids are continually deceived, often to their irreparable injury, by intrusting their health and lives to those, who, notwithstanding the specious appearance they assume, have no pretensions whatever, to Medical Science. This confusion, and its pernicious consequences, are still greater in the provinces, where such impostors, under the feigned titles of Physician, Surgeon, or Apothecary, get introduced and received into the most respectable families.

Few Chemists and Druggists, or indeed, inferior Apothecaries, in small market towns, are supplied with good drugs, or a sufficient variety of dispensatory compositions, to enable them to do justice to the prescriptions of Physicians. They are thence induced to substitute one article for another, by which means the intentions of the prescriber are defeated, and much mischief results to the patient. From these various causes a profession, which, under judicious regulations, is calculated to relieve the sick, defeats its own design; and has become in many instances useless, if not prejudicial to the com-

munity. Gentlemen, in other nations of Europe, great consideration has been given to the Healing Art, while in this, no general legislative provision has been made for nearly 300 years, so that regulations which were perhaps well adapted to a rude people, are many of them wholly inapplicable to modern times. During this long interval, prejudices have arisen, and jarring interests been established, which cannot be immediately removed. It is therefore intended to recommend a plan, calculated, by its progressive operation, to correct the grievances complained of, without disturbing in any way the present race of regular practitioners. With these views, it is proposed, 1st, to establish, by act of parliament, a general Registry of all the Faculty regular and irregular. When this is done, the profession will gradually become more entitled to confidence, because future competitors for medical employment, will not only find it necessary, as a preparatory step, to obtain their honours from respectable sources, in order to get patients, but what is equally important, corporate bodies will be enabled to examine candidates for country practice with requisite strictness.

The necessity for a General Register of the Faculty has been frequently mentioned, and much injury has arisen to travellers in particular



lar, from the want of an authentic list to distinguish trust-worthy practitioners from unblushing usurpers. A writer in the Medical and Physical Journal observes, “ A friend of mine, “ in a tour through the West of England, unfortunately fell from his carriage, and broke “ one of his thigh bones. A Surgeon, or at “ least a person who had assumed the name, “ was instantly called to set the bone. This “ fellow, completely ignorant of the proper “ method of treating a fracture, left the knee- “ joint perfectly extended, instead of placing “ the limb in a relaxed position. The consequence was, that the muscles being put to “ the stretch, one end of the bone passed the “ other near two inches. The patient, indeed, “ recovered, after being confined to a couch “ more than six months; but to his surprise, “ found that one limb was shorter than the “ other by two inches. What an irretrievable “ misfortune, owing to an ignorant pretender “ interfering.

“ This fellow I afterwards understood, had “ attended a drug-shop for a few months, then “ commenced for himself in that line; but finding he did not succeed, he immediately removed to a part of the country where he was “ not known, and commenced surgeon at “ once; and unfortunately, my friend hap-  
“ pened

“ pened to be among the first of his patients,  
 “ or I may rather say, victims. In this in-  
 “ stance only a limb suffered; but in how  
 “ many cases has such ignorance cost men  
 “ their lives?”

Every gentleman in this company is, I dare say furnished with proofs of notorious ignorance, and rash interference, on the part of a celebrated bone-setter resident in this neighbourhood, who has had the imprudence to boast that he never examined the human skeleton. How is it possible, for a man wholly unacquainted with the size, form, and natural situation of bones and joints, to replace them when broken or dislocated? In fact his cures are pretended or effected after simple fractures and dislocations, where very little skill is required. In instances of difficulty his patients are generally maimed for life, unless where he acted in concert with a regular practitioner. On the rumour of an epidemical disorder bursting forth in remote districts, application might be easily made to an enrolled Faculty, and information imparted to government, by which means these wide spreading complaints would often be strangled in the birth, and much suffering avoided. The want of a full registry of names and titles was particularly inconvenient, when I had to forward circular letters through  
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the united kingdom. The only records of the Faculty are the incorporation lists, and these are so palpably deficient, that they afforded very little assistance. We have reason to believe, that some districts of the kingdom are peculiarly liable to certain disorders, while they are nearly exempt from others. Cholera morbus, Bilious and intermittent Fevers, little known on the Wolds, are common in the fens and marshes of this county. Again Pulmonary Consumptions from constitutional causes and calculous affections, are the endemics of our Wolds. These disorders originate in local causes, capable as I conceive of being ascertained. The investigation conducted on a national scale would lead to much practical advantage, but so long as the Faculty are unconnected, and unknown to each other, no combined and uniform plan can be adopted. We have county agricultural reports, and why should we not undertake a medical topography for the United Kingdom? The inquiry if once undertaken, would I am persuaded, be productive in many ways of great benefit to medical science. We should find not only that some disorders are more prevalent in certain situations than in others, but that epidemics rage with unusual severity in particular districts.

2ndly

2dly. According to the principle of the various enactments, and charters founded on them relative to the Faculty, it appears to have been intended that all who undertake to prescribe for the sick, should have been previously examined and admitted members of some Medical Institution. Such, however, is at present the inattention of the Faculty, that very few country practitioners of any description, think it necessary to apply for Licences to the Colleges of Physicians or Surgeons, and it is well known that the authority of these bodies is wholly confined to the environs of their respective capitals.

One of the Fellows ventured, under the sanction of the College\*, to publish a contrary opinion. He maintains, in his Harveian Oration, that the London College of Physicians has jurisdiction over all England (*per totum Angliæ regnum*). By this statement he exposed the College to public animadversion, because, if power was ever committed to them, it was, in the language of Lord Mansfield, coupled with a trust "to be exercised for the general good." The members are therefore called upon to declare, in their own justification, why no attempt has been made to act upon the statute of Henry VIII. during a lapse

\* Harveian Oration, by Dr. Powell, Page 16, 17.



of nearly 300 years. To this dilemma have they incautiously reduced themselves, by presuming to disturb a dormant and neglected statute.

As to Apothecaries, Druggists, and Empirics, they are not, I believe, amenable for their practice, even within this limited jurisdiction.

It is to these several causes that we may impute the disorder and confusion which now prevail, and are rapidly increasing in every part of the British dominions. Dr. Linacre having observed the mischiefs done by ignorant and artful persons in his time, had the good fortune, during the reign of Henry VIII. to get them in some measure corrected, in the neighbourhood of London, through his influence with government. We are therefore led to hope, that by similar means, beneficial regulations may be extended to every part of the country, when the great want of them has been made known to an able, vigilant, and enlightened Ministry. Nor can the representation, it is presumed, come with more propriety from any set of men, than from members of the profession; who, like Linacre, are eye-witnesses of the enormities committed. It is on this ground, gentlemen, that we first aspired to public attention. According to a late survey, the inhabitants of

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England and Wales are computed at nine millions. Suppose London, and a circuit of seven miles, to contain two, upon a rough estimate, it follows that seven millions, or more than three fourths of the population in South Britain alone, are placed out of the jurisdiction and influence of corporate supervision. If an estimate were to be formed on this head, of the aggregate amount of the whole Empire, the disproportion would be truly alarming to all, who are properly impressed with the welfare of the State. And are his Majesty's laborious subjects in the provinces, and adventurous travellers into distant climates, less worthy of medical aid, than the inhabitants of a populous and luxurious capital? Let those who object to the necessity of new regulations, give an explicit answer to this question! Let those come forward who are implicated in the discussion. The Welsh nation may be addressed with propriety on this occasion. Appeal may be made to the provincial inhabitants of England, Ireland, and Scotland—to the Army and Navy, whether serving at home or abroad, and likewise to our numerous visiters and residents in every region of the world!

The plea advanced by Physicians and others, for refusing all connexion with Medical Incorporations, is the fee required on admission.

Hence,



Hence, unfortunately for invalids, a strong inducement is held out to the profession at large, and plausible reasons assigned by the incompetent, for neglecting to hazard those probationary trials, which were intended by the crown to restrain the ignorant, and protect the health and lives of every class of his Majesty's subjects. It has been found necessary to oblige candidates for Holy Orders to be regularly initiated, and to undergo an examination, before they are deemed capable of the sacred office. The Lawyer of every denomination is likewise required to be properly educated, and to submit to certain introductory forms, before he is allowed to practise his profession. It seems in the sister art of Medicine alone, where credulity is most prevalent, that the Legislature has yet interposed no effectual barrier against imposition, nor afforded any adequate check to the delusions of ignorance, or the wiles of misrepresentation.

How far the humorous adventures of the celebrated Count Fathom are founded in fiction or in truth, may be matter of uncertainty, but the circumstance of his officiating in the character of a Village Apothecary, is rendered highly probable, from the same having been lately assumed by the unhappy General Wall, formerly Governor of Goree, partly, it would seem, for



the purpose of concealment, and partly for obtaining a maintenance. In this obscurity he would probably have escaped from public justice, dealing out destructive pills and potions to his deluded patients, had it not happened that an eminent and highly honourable Physician was called into his circuit of practice. Upon repeating the visit, and finding that the medicines were improperly prepared, the Doctor requested to see the unknown compositor. After subjecting him to a private examination, in which he was obliged to acknowledge his great ignorance on all medical subjects, the Governor thought proper to move off; but whether he afterwards declined the profession altogether, or exercised it elsewhere with more circumspection is not known. This anecdote shows how easy it is for any one out of London to assume the medical garb, and therefore that some preliminary tests are much wanted, to defend the community against the most dangerous impostors.

And can it be endured, that the country, the seat of our unrivalled manufactures, and chief source of national splendor, the residence of our gentry, and the nursery for hardy recruits, should be thus exposed to unnecessary danger, for want of a proper criterion being held out to them,



them, by which they might be able to discriminate skilful from unskilful practitioners? Gentlemen, this general disregard to Corporate Bodies would be less injurious to society, if the Universities were, in all places, sufficiently cautious in granting Degrees, and the Faculty were required to exhibit their Indentures and Diplomas, as in other countries, before some proper tribunal. In order to remedy these several defects, and place every practitioner upon an equality, in point of pecuniary expense, it is proposed to subject such as continue to practise independently of the Incorporations, unless they be Medical Graduates of Oxford or Cambridge\*, to an annual payment, in lieu of the fine on admission. Medical men, who have omitted to comply with the obvious intentions of Parliament and the Crown in founding the Corporate Bodies, cannot, it is presumed, object to make an equal payment in another shape, considering that the good of the public, and respectability of the Faculty, depend so much on all impediments to the approval of legitimate candidates being carefully removed.

Should this mode be adopted, medical men, in future, will become members of Corporate Bodies, and by properly preparing themselves for the necessary examinations, they will have

\* See Appendix. (A.) p. 3, 13.



a just claim to professional confidence. To this, perhaps, a no less stronger inducement may be added, as the whole revenue which shall arise from these regulations, is designed to be expended on objects calculated to exalt the medical character, by making it more deserving of professional confidence, it is presumed, had there really been an apparent inequality in the rate, that the known liberality of the profession would not have considered it as any obstacle to the promotion of so laudable and benevolent a scheme.

Common justice, and the most obvious policy, require that the Members of Public Bodies should meet with proportionate encouragement, otherwise it cannot be expected that persons will voluntarily submit to painful examinations, and to pay large sums of money for the empty gratification of being placed on a list which their patients never see. The medical world was lately astonished by a decision at Stafford \*. Dr. Middleton, a Scotch Doctor of Physic, brought his action for damages against Mr. Hughes, a Surgeon Apothecary, for defamatory expressions. After the pleadings had been opened, the Plaintiff was non-suited, on the recommendation of Chief Justice Mansfield,

\* See Dr. Powell's Harveian Oration, Appendix No. 5, and the Medical and Physical Journal.

who



who observed, that a Degree in Physic, gives no title to practise in England\*, unless conferred *under certain conditions* from Oxford or Cambridge. Heretofore the Treaty of Union, which provides, "that there be a communication of all other Rights, Privileges, and Advantages, which do or may belong to the subjects of either kingdom, except where it is otherwise expressly agreed in these articles," had been supposed to impart equal medical rights to the Scotch and the English. This decision places the question in a point of view highly injurious to country Physicians, many of whom, from having taken their Diplomas in the best regulated and most eminent Medical University in the British Dominions, had conceived that they were destined through life, to occupy the first medical stations.

It is indeed true that they are not liable to pecuniary damages for exercising Medicine independently of the College, because the statute

\* See the Acts of Parliament of the 14th and 15th Henry VIII. where it is decreed that no *person*, whether he be Physician, Surgeon, Apothecary, or other practitioner, shall be suffered to meddle with Physic through England, until he has been examined and approved by the President of the Royal College of Physicians, and three of the Elects, unless he be a Graduate of Oxford or Cambridge, who has accomplished all things for his form without any grace.

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enjoins no penalty, as in the home district; nevertheless they are left by it in an uncomfortable and degraded situation. As Doctors by sufferance in England, it is understood that they can neither claim rank, nor defend their medical characters in Courts of Law, however unjustly or cruelly they may have been traduced. Mortifying as this adjudication may appear to their own feelings, it would certainly tend to the advancement of medical practice, if the College of Physicians could exercise any controul over the Faculty, or were sanctioned by the laws to punish those who contemn their authority, but so long as the refractory can exercise their talents in defiance of the College, the voluntary applications will be too inconsiderable to produce the desired amendment. Were all Physicians distinguished according to merit, no repugnance to examination would, I trust, be discoverable in any of them. It must, moreover, be remarked, that such as are advanced in life, or cannot conveniently absent themselves from their professional duties, will not be likely to object to any equitable composition which will legalize their practice, without subjecting their patients to the pain and inconvenience of a long absence, and themselves to the expence and fatigue of a distant journey. So long, however, as they are liable to be con-

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founded with the vilest quacks, and imbodyed with pretended regulars, they have no inducement to make sacrifices of either money or time. The Faculty will be highly gratified to learn that, while their emoluments will be greatly increased by the proposed restraints upon dangerous quacks, an impenetrable shield is placed before the credulous invalid.

A large majority of Apothecaries in country situations are obliged, from necessity, to unite Surgery with Pharmacy. Such of them as are not furnished with Diplomas, can claim no reward in Courts of Law for surgical cures. Nor would they, I believe, be permitted more than Physicians, to defend their professional characters, however defamed and misrepresented. In consequence of adjudged cases, some of the most expert operators, and best practical Surgeons, have been cruelly deprived of very moderate fees, after a tedious and anxious attendance. These disabilities will, in future, be effectually removed, since all Apothecaries, who before the passing of the Bill have acted in the capacity, will become legal Surgeons, and entitled to the emoluments.

By suffering village shop-keepers, barbers, booksellers, and other ignorant persons, to deal in medicinals, to the discredit of the Police, poisonous substances are easily obtained for

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wicked purposes, and the country is inundated to such a degree with base drugs, that genuine medicines can scarcely be found. This indiscriminate permission is extremely detrimental to the public, who cannot be supposed to distinguish good from spurious articles. The annual fine will induce many humble venders voluntarily to decline the drug trade, by which means society and the fair dealer will be essentially served. Thus, without violence or injustice, will an important object be attained, which is calculated equally to favour the Public and the regular Faculty.

Lastly, by the immediate suppression of the most dangerous Empiricks, and spontaneous secession of others, on account of the annual payment, and superintending authority of magistrates, the Medical Establishment will, from the very commencement of the Act, be considerably purified. Could nothing more be secured in the bill for suffering humanity, such as are acquainted with the unblushing rapacity, the presuming ignorance, and busy, often wicked interference, and proceedings of empirical intruders, must be convinced that the very necessary restraints laid upon them will be highly advantageous to the Faculty, and in particular to the lower orders of the people. Gentlemen, it would be waste of time to address persuasive arguments



arguments to members of the Corporate Bodies, or to Graduates of Oxford and Cambridge, with a view to gain their approbation, because all the advantages of the Act will attach equally to them, and in consideration of the admission fine formerly paid, they will be discharged from further expense. To them, therefore, the bill will be productive of benefits unallayed.

The regular introduction of future candidates will lead to other advantages, which may not have occurred to you. So long as Divinity and Law were accessible without proper education and examination, aspiring young men could enter into the different Faculties at pleasure, but since the two former have been defended by salutary enactments, the Medical Profession has been over-run with low and illiterate pretenders. A large proportion now acting in the profession, have neither submitted to prescribed forms of education, nor have had the opportunity of acquiring medical knowledge. Among Druggists this evil prevails to such an alarming degree, that women, porters, grinders of paint, pestle-pounders, distillers of peppermint, &c. soon think themselves qualified to sell Drugs, and prescribe them too, in all cases. Nor are these usurpers satisfied to be called Druggists, many of them having settled in distant places, with unblushing effrontery assume the title of



Apothecary, Surgeon, Man-Midwife, and even Physician, thus identifying themselves with the most honourable characters. By this artifice the Faculty are unjustly degraded, and unless some barrier is placed between them and their false brethren, the profession will soon sink below the notice of gentlemen of birth and education. A palpable distinction is established by this bill among the various orders, nor will the unadmitted be suffered to enter the profession until they have passed through a proper form of study, and sustained the necessary examinations.

Gentlemen, let us here pause to compare the curative art with other employments, and to ascertain what allurements it holds out in its present degraded state, to induce young persons of good extraction, and liberal endowments, to give it a preference. In other ways of life, arrangements can be made for business and for recreation; but medical men are intruded upon suddenly and at all hours. They can neither calculate upon the stillness of night, nor upon devoting an unmolested moment to private friendship. These are severe trials, especially to invalids, and to persons of social and liberal tempers. In the prosecution of professional duties, we are likewise exposed to the greatest anxieties, independent of personal danger



ger, from exposure to contagious influence. Called to the dying, in every form of human suffering, we are often embarrassed in the treatment, feeling at the same time, that a moment's delay, or a small error in practice, will be fatal to the patient. These distressing situations have occurred so frequently to the whole company, that I have no occasion to recall them to your recollection. In return for toilsome employment, and the most distressing perplexities, let us examine into the remuneration for our services. Here we shall find, if we expected an adequate return for a competent education, or to enable us to maintain the station allotted to us in society, that most of us have been miserably deceived. I do not pretend to assert that large fortunes are not made by some of our brethren, but I do maintain that they are few in number and comparison, and that a great majority of meritorious individuals are doomed to pass their days in penury and continual exertion. The sufferings of the Faculty have been much increased of late years, owing to the culpable ease with which medical titles of every description, have been obtained or assumed, together with the increased difficulties, as formerly observed, of procuring an establishment in Law and Divinity. Let the profession



profession be once regulated, according to the provisions of the bill, and Hygeia will speedily arise, like another Phenix, to distribute her healing balm over the whole land.

The result of the whole, then amounts to this. It has been recently discovered, that a large majority of Provincial Physicians, and Practitioners in Surgery and Pharmacy, although they entered upon their respective offices in the manner of their ancestors, from the most remote antiquity, had not complied with the intentions of the Crown on founding the Medical Corporations. These Public bodies from not being able to enforce submission more than seven miles around them, have unfortunately been led to introduce a marked difference in the examinations for town and country licences. Disgusted with a system calculated to place the Provincial Faculty below their Metropolitan Brethren, the more respectable Members of the Healing Art, have generally refused to connect themselves with the Corporate Institutions. In so determining, they by no means wished to encourage any thing irregular or improper. They only intended to manifest their disapprobation of a mode irksome to their feelings, and highly derogatory to their professional character. They lament that during this long struggle, many persons have got established



blished as Physicians, Surgeons, Apothecaries, and venders of Drugs, who are in no way competent to the responsibility they assume. In order to remedy these several imperfections, which are equally injurious to the Faculty and the Public, they propose that no person shall be admitted hereafter into any department of the Medical Profession, until he has undergone a full course of study, and passed through examinations sufficient to ascertain his competence. When it was found expedient some time since to adopt new ordinances in Divinity and Law, these were made entirely prospective. Since it would be particularly inconvenient, both to Practitioners and the Sick, for Medical men to be long absent on any account from home, they propose that a similar plan be adopted in Physic. The Faculty are not ignorant that all Licences are attended with pecuniary expence, and they wish it to be clearly understood, that they are ready to contribute a due proportion in another shape, provided they shall be placed on the ground of professional regularity, and raised to an equality with their Brethren of the same rank.

3rdly. Gentlemen, the total amount of a very moderate payment from unadmitted practisers must, in the first instance, be very considerable



able. At two guineas\* each, it is estimated to produce about 60,000l. per annum; and if applied to purposes connected with the medical profession, the plan would be rendered popular, and might, it is presumed, be made an object of great national importance. Of all situations in the Empire, and probably in the whole world, the metropolis of this country appears to be the best adapted for a School of Physic. From its abundant population, and being a place of general resort from all quarters of the world, it presents greater choice of able teachers, facilities for anatomical investigation, medical inquiry, and professional improvement, than can be expected elsewhere to be found. Yet, notwithstanding these unparalleled advantages, the industrious pupil is at present precluded from a great part of them, by the unprofitable time he is obliged to consume in hastening from one quarter of the town to another, in order to attend Lectures, so that London, under such existing difficulties, can never attain that cele-

\* So far am I from believing, that the proposed measure with its contingent advantages will be deemed severe by the Faculty, that I am persuaded a large proportion of them would be pleased with an opportunity to subscribe the annual sum cited above, merely to found with it a Medical School in London, on a scale answerable to the greatness of the Empire, and importance of the Profession.

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brity to which it is otherwise so justly entitled. To prevent all suspicion of the projected arrangements being adapted more to the meridian of London, than the established Academies of England, Ireland, or Scotland, it will be proper to remark here, that it is proposed in the bill, that the *sums raised be wholly expended in the Kingdoms from whence they are respectively derived*. It is presumed, that however the advantage of London may be considered, a large portion of this benefit will extend to all the Universities, and thus will they become better qualified for instructing young men upon the most comprehensive scheme, in the various branches of Medical and Veterinary knowledge. By erecting schools in different situations, a generous emulation will be excited. Should national vanity and enthusiasm be called forth, so much the better, the conflict will be favourable to Medical Science, and the public welfare. Let the palm then be given to the most meritorious, but let the contest be carried on upon equal terms. Should Edinburgh maintain a superiority in this arduous struggle, I shall rejoice at her honours, and wish they may never wither, or be blighted.

The facilities afforded by the Bill for obtaining medical tuition in the three Kingdoms, will considerably increase the number of professional

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applications to the Army and Navy, by which means the public service will be materially promoted. The scarcity of medical men to accompany our different expeditions has been repeatedly asserted from high authority \*. We have also been frequently told, that a large portion of the attending practitioners are wholly undeserving of confidence. From these two causes alone many, very many, soldiers and mariners have been unnecessarily sacrificed †. “ You cannot but have observed, that within the last twenty years, the kingdom has been inundated with medical men; and many fond foolish parents, who cannot afford to give their sons a decent, much more a classical education, are induced, partly from pride, and partly from the great

\* This truth is abundantly confirmed by the mortality at Walcheren, and examinations of the Faculty, to which it gave rise. The Army Medical Board admit this defect, and the unsuccessful attempts made by them, in many instances, to procure recruits. The Inspector-General of Hospitals, Mr. Knight, observes, in an official letter to the Secretary at War, that for want of Mates to supply the urgent army demands, he was obliged to make a ratable distribution among the various detachments, thus leaving a deficiency of these necessary auxiliaries in all the Hospitals, both at home and abroad.

† See Dr. Wells' letter to Lord Kenyon. Dr Jackson's different publications. Medical Observer. Medical and Physical Journal, &c.

demand



demand for young men in the Army and Navy, to place them as apprentices to Apothecaries, for a longer or shorter period, to learn the arts of blacking shoes and making up medicines ; from whence they issue ignorant of the first principles of their profession, and destitute of every sense of honourable feeling. In this state they are received, in times of peace, as dispensers of medicines in Apothecaries shops, at a very trifling salary, and in time of war their services are required in the Army or Navy, where they are received with little or no examination, as to their qualification or abilities.

“ You cannot fail to recollect, that at the beginning of the last war, the demand for Hospital and Surgeon’s Mates was so great, that the Army Board, and the Board of Sick and Hurt, were obliged to advertise \* for Assistants; and many hundreds of men were thus received, and sent to the army in Flanders, then under the command of his Royal Highness the Duke of York, who were not only incompetent to practise their art, but were besides guilty of the greatest enormities and abuses, such as no man who had a feeling heart, or a spark of British

\* When the British fleet were going to attack the Danish ships at Copenhagen, so great was the want of medical men to accompany the expedition, that notices were circulated in different parts of Edinburgh, inviting Medical Students to enter the Naval Service.



honor pervading his breast, could countenance or justify.

“ A British Officer, who served in this army during the campaign of 1794, says, that “ the condition of the sick at this time was deplorable beyond all precedent, and when a man was ordered to the hospital, the common expression throughout the army was, that he was sent to the shambles.”

“ Our brave and helpless countrymen were thus given up to the mercy of Surgeons’ Mates, who deprived them of every shadow of enjoyment \*.”

The loss of warriors is always a heavy calamity, but as the relative population is much against us, this waste is felt with greater poignancy. It is therefore incumbent upon us, as we hope to conduct the struggle to a successful issue, to emulate in this respect the example of an implacable enemy, by employing every effort to preserve the men, by reforming and multiplying the schools for medical instruction. We have seminaries of every kind, founded by the State, for training up youth in the arts of destructive warfare. The art of saving life in *a military consideration*, seems hitherto to have been unaccountably overlooked, or at least not sufficiently attended to, though it is certainly of

\* Medical and Surgical Review.



the greatest importance to every successful campaign. If the schools already established be thought sufficient to supply the Army and Navy demands, let an impartial survey be taken, and compare the means with the end. We shall then find that we are miserably defective in Lectures on the different branches of military diseases and surgery; as also in the whole art of teaching what is wanted by medical men in ships, camps, and the field of battle. The habits, manners, and mode of living, among military people have great influence on the character and treatment of their disorders, which are again varied by the climate, and endemics of the country. These circumstances constitute altogether such an extent and variety of medical duties, that military Health Officers require to be formed and trained by long and appropriate study. The only preparatory Lectures of which I have any knowledge, are given at Edinburgh, by Dr. Thompson, on Military Surgery. These are truly important, but are insufficient of themselves to complete the education of a Medical Cadet. London, the great nursery for Army and Navy Practitioners, is wholly unprovided with fit instructors; though, God knows, no set of men can be conceived more in want of information than the multitudes, who rush to the metropolis, warm from the shops



shops of their masters, generally ignorant of classical learning, and too often unacquainted with the very rudiments of the art. It appears, from the disturbed aspect of Europe, that a protracted war, or precarious peace, is all that can be expected for the British Empire, until material changes have taken place in many Governments of the world. We are, therefore, required, by every tie of humanity, and the obvious maxims of sound policy, to watch over the lives of our brave defenders with the most anxious solicitude, since, under Divine Providence, we must look up to them for the maintenance of social order, and the security of national independence. Gentlemen, however the subject of this address may be viewed at home, I can assure you, from the best authorities, that it has not been passed over with indifference by the Americans and several nations on the Continent of Europe. If you examine into the proceedings at Philadelphia, New-York, and the other States, you will find that whatever may have been their inattention, neglect, or mistaken policy on other important points, the greatest solicitude has been displayed, and the strongest exertions made to improve the discipline, and increase the usefulness of Medical Science. The immediate relation between the health of the people, and its Medical Institutions,



tions, have been abundantly proved in the means recently adopted to subdue the Yellow Fever, and other virulent disorders. But, Gentlemen, it is in France that the greatest attention and encouragement have of late been given to the curative art, by placing its establishments under the particular direction of Government. From the commencement of the war, the French judging it of primary importance to the success of their military forces that they should be supplied with able practitioners, have spared no pains to accomplish their object. With this view, the different branches of education have been so carefully regulated, that the Parisian Medical School appears at this moment upon a better footing than any other in Europe. This may be seen by consulting the new plan of a constitution for Medicine, in the History of the Royal Society of Medicine. In this Report, drawn out by Commissioners expressly appointed for that purpose, a very comprehensive course of study, and rigorous mode for examining pupils, is recommended, which was partly carried into effect under the Directory. When Professor Byggé, of Copenhagen, visited Paris, in 1798, he reports that the Medical School, beautifully situated in the Rue des Cordeliers, contained *25 professors, and from 1000 to 1200 students*. Medical Lectures were



also given at the free school, for Pharmacy, Rue de l'Arbaletre, where there is a Botanic Garden, and Laboratory, and at the Military Hospital, Rue St. Jaques. " According to the Programma, or account of the institutions, the following Lectures were delivered at the Military Hospital, in the 7th year, or from the 22d of September, 1798, to Sept. 21st, 1799. The first, or Winter Course, consisted of 1st, Anatomy, with Physiological Observations, by Huttier. 2dly, Internal Pathology, by Charion. 3dly, Practical Medicine, and particularly Clinical Cases, by Gibbert. 4thly, Practical Surgery, by Barbier. 5thly, Natural History, with reference to the *Materia Medica* and Pharmacy, by Perinct. In the Summer half-year were explained, 1st, Pharmaceutic Chemistry, by Brougniart. 2dly, Observations on gunshot wounds, by Dufourt. 3dly, The diseases and setting of the bones, by Huttier. 4thly, Botany, by Barbier, who takes botanic excursions with the pupils.

Clinical Lectures are read by all the six Professors, in Medicine and Surgery, with medical conferences and prescriptions in the morning; and in the afternoon, consultations are held on Clinical Diseases, in the Amphitheatre."

In the last decade of Thermidor, or about the middle of August, a general examination of  
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the students takes place, in order to confer premiums on such as have distinguished themselves by assiduity in the service of the Hospital, or by attending the Lectures, and acquiring knowledge."

It appears from this statement, that under the Directory, Paris, independently of the departments, contained three distinct Medical Schools. We are so little acquainted with recent occurrences in France, that we cannot minutely detail the progress of medical knowledge since the era of the Directory, but we may calculate upon its subsequent improvement from the following anecdote, connected with other particulars. It is stated in the Evening Post for March, 1809, "that the care which his Majesty, the Emperor Napoleon takes to furnish his army with good practitioners, may be inferred from this, that on the 12th of last January, at Valladolid, he nominated nine Surgeons members of the Legion of Honor, a situation of the highest ambition to all Frenchmen." Whoever considers the various duties of an army practitioner, must be convinced of his vast importance to the success of a campaign. Where troops have to march through distant and unknown countries, it is no less the business of medical men to discover favourable situations for the encampments, and provide for the preservation of health, by suitable diet, clothing, &c.

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than to administer to the sick and wounded soldier. By proper attention to the wants of an army, the number of invalids will be greatly diminished. Here, gentlemen, the enlarged views of accomplished Physicians must be productive of the greatest benefit. We have reason to believe, that on many occasions the French have been as much indebted for the issue of a battle, to the skill of the Faculty, as to the tactics of their Generals. The condition of the Russian and French armies in Poland, furnishes an example in point. After the French had routed the Prussians at Austerlitz, and performed a most harassing march of more than five hundred miles, they took up their quarters in the inhospitable and dreary regions of Poland. No magazines had been previously furnished, nor other means provided for men unaccustomed to the rigors of a northern winter. Yet, under all these disadvantages, the army was so well supplied with every requisite, though in an enemy's country, that the hospitals remained nearly empty, and in Spring the soldiers took the field in the best condition for active service, while the Russians, inured to the climate, were deprived of common necessities\* to such a degree, that their hospitals were overcharged with sick, and the remainder entered upon the campaign enfeebled, and dejected; chiefly from the great

\* See a cursory view of Prussia, &c.



want of suitable diet, a sufficient stock of good drugs, and an adequate supply of able practisers. Had these things been liberally provided, the event of the war might have been as glorious to Europe as it was disastrous and disgraceful to the Russians.

Contemplated as an object of revenue only, the establishment of a Medical School ought not to be wholly indifferent to the British people. The American Physicians formerly were in the habit of repairing to Edinburgh in great numbers; but it is now supposed that they give a decided preference to Paris. It has been asserted, that the American Medical Students alone do not expend in Europe less than 12,000*l.* per annum; and if the French are suffered to take the lead in Medical Science, not only this sum, but the monies of other neutral states, will be employed to augment the resources of a dangerous enemy. Nay, after the war, our own countrymen may be expected to resort to France for improvement, where they will not only spend money, but may return home with opinions and prejudices highly dangerous to the interests of their native land. And shall we suffer the wreath to be torn from us, when we can so easily preserve it in a vigorous and flourishing state? or shall we allow our military forces, and peaceable countrymen, to encounter



dangers in sickness, which we are enabled to avert, by a proper attention to medical discipline?

Gentlemen, when we contemplate the question in a moral view, whoever has languished on the bed of sickness, or witnessed the mournful departure of a dear relative, must have felt the emptiness of all ambitious projects, and the futility of wealth, when compared with the God-like attribute of imparting, under Providence, health and life to a sick friend. If we examine it in a political view, how much have we to regret, that of the immense numbers which die at home, or upon foreign service, how small a proportion had arrived at old age! How many have been cut off by the premature accidents of life, or the ravages of climate! more, indeed, than by the sword! It cannot be doubted that many of these sufferers might have been saved, under better medical treatment. The inquiry comes home to the breast of every one. The Selfish will feel it on his own account; the Humane, from enlarged notions of benevolence; the Statesman, the Politician, and the Warrior, will discover its propriety, as a means of increasing the resources of their country, which can only be rendered defective by the want of numerical strength.

Had it been proposed to extract the supplies  
necessary



necessary for this purpose from the industry of the people at large, it might have been objected, that a nation groaning under taxes could not, without great difficulty, advance the necessary means; but when they are *voluntarily offered*, upon equitable terms, this obstacle is effectually removed. Hence the proposal must be viewed as an object of policy unconnected with pecuniary considerations. Gentlemen, provisions are made in the bill not only for a general Registry of the Faculty—for an uniform admission of future candidates according to their respective functions—and for the improvement of medical science in England, in Scotland, and in Ireland, by appropriating to each kingdom the money raised in it; but I have further to inform you, that the proposed scheme includes the Veterinary Art, among the other branches of Medicine. Whether we contemplate it as a portion of knowledge useful to the Faculty, by enabling them to compare the structure and disorders of Brutes, with those of Human Beings, or for its importance to Agriculture, by leading to a better treatment of domestic animals, it merits in a high degree the patronage of a great Nation. In France, the human and animal medical schools were at first separate establishments, but it was soon discovered



discovered that a chain of connection subsisted through the whole range of animal life; and, therefore, if they were combined, additional light would be reflected on both of them. On this ground, it is understood that a new arrangement lately took place, by collecting at Paris the scattered materials, and erecting them into one magnificent college\*.

I trust

\* Veterinary medicine, although attended to by the Ancients, has been too long neglected by the Moderns. This present century has the honor of having re-established this branch of medicine, which is worthy in every respect of the attention of legislators, and the study of philosophers. It may be added, that no good reason can be alledged for considering the healing art as applied to animals, distinct from that applied to man. The same general principles are applicable, and therefore to understand in what respects these two parts of the same science resemble each other, and in what they differ they ought certainly to be united.

The veterinary schools established at Charenton are almost as much at a distance, as if they were at the corner of a remote province. No Physician or Surgeon is engaged in what is carried on there, and no correspondence is kept up between the professors of these schools, and those by whom the healing art as applied to man is taught. These schools ought therefore to be transferred to Paris; and they will then afford an object of emulation to a great number of persons. They should be established in the vicinity of the medical schools, or what will be better, they should form a part of these, Physicians and Surgeons, will then visit them in crowds,  
they



I trust that it may be unnecessary to add, that the preceding remarks are the result of much consideration, and of repeated conferences with persons of great professional reputation and knowledge of the subject.

Though I cannot in this place enter minutely into the structure of the Bill, you will be more inclined to approve of its provisions, when I inform you that it was originally prepared, and has been subsequently revised by an eminent Barrister, who is particularly familiar with this department of the law \*. It can never be expected

they will attend the courses, they will make both studies advance in union. The professors of both branches of instruction will communicate to each other their projects and labours, and their knowledge will be increased from that reciprocal intelligence. By this means the Physiology of animals will be very much improved; the young men will become accustomed to extend their ideas, and all the branches of Medicine, mutually illustrating each other, will be brought to perfection at the same time. This is the only means by which Veterinary Science can be made to flourish, can be diffused, and can be rendered really useful, by multiplying the number of those who study and practise it, and by obtaining for it all the attention from the departments which it merits.

*Nouveau Plan de Constitution pour la Medicine en France.* Duncan's Med. Commen. for 1792.

\* In order to remove the fears, and correct the mistakes of some people, it may be proper to observe, that  
the



pected that evils of this complicated and extensive nature should be wholly remedied in a single Act. Ours is therefore necessarily confined to the most apparent and radical abuses \*. Designs of this magnitude are not to be wholly accomplished by a single effort.

The abolition of African Slavery occupied more than fourteen years, though the question was annually brought forward in parliament, and supported in its different stages by a Wilberforce, a Pitt, a Fox, and a Grenville, with many of the most able speakers, and enlightened statesmen of the age. Had Mr. Whitbread, on a

the Bill does not attempt to limit the sphere of medical duty by coercive statutes. Practitioners will be left under it at full liberty to use their talents according to their own discretion. It will, however, oblige all future medical men to pass through a suitable course of study, and undergo examinations for the particular branch, or branches, of the profession into which they are admitted. If any of these persons be desirous afterwards to act beyond the authority of his Diploma, as is now the case with many in the profession, and can succeed with the Public by his address or merit, he will not be prevented by the Bill from following the bent of his inclination.

\* Since my arrival in London, I have been given to understand, that although the College have not seen the corrected Bill, and have declined to recommend any alterations, such is the rancorous and inflexible obstinacy of the Fellows, that they have retained Counsel to oppose its enactment.

late



late occasion, confined his views in the first instance to elementary principles, he would probably have secured immediate advantages to the Poor, and have ultimately established his system of the Poor Laws. It is also to our purpose to remark, that the medical regulations passed in the reign of Henry VIII, were contained in three separate Acts, and employed the attention of the Legislature from the 3d to the 14th year of the same reign. Influenced, therefore, by prudential motives, it was determined to exclude the mention of some less important or objectionable abuses, rather than hazard the whole scheme, by making it too difficult and complex, leaving it to the wisdom of after times to correct them by such provisions as may be suggested by sound policy, and subsequent reflection. Before I conclude this Address, be pleased to accept my warmest thanks for a new mark of approbation, in confiding the mode of publishing your resolutions\* of this day to my private discretion. I will assuredly employ them to the best of my judgment in promoting the important objects for which we are assembled, and I confidently hope the period is nearly arrived when our persevering exertions will be crowned with success.

\* See Appendix. (G.)



In order to lay before the Public the entire proceedings on Medical Reform, it will be necessary to add, that I lost no time in communicating the above cited resolutions to Dr. Clutterbuck, as Secretary to the Committee appointed "to confer and correspond with the different public bodies of the United Kingdom." On receiving his letter in reply, I immediately determined to publish and circulate them through the United Kingdom, with an explanatory address, from an apprehension, that without some accompanying remarks, their object and tendency might not be so well understood. The answers returned were in complete unison with the former accounts, and justified, in the most ample manner, the statement repeatedly made, *that dangerous abuses are hourly committed in every department of the healing art, from the removal of which the regular Faculty and community would derive the greatest benefit.* During my visit to London last Autumn, I submitted the bill to several Fellows and Licentiates of the Royal College of Physicians, to office-bearers and private members of the Royal College of Surgeons, to members of the Apothecaries Company, to Men-Midwives of the first eminence, and to independent practitioners, by all of whom it seemed to be approved, and was in general declared to be well-calculated to become the basis of a radical and  
useful



useful reform. Being desirous to show the bill to Dr. Heberden, who had always appeared favourably inclined to the undertaking, I wrote to him in Pall-Mall, to request an interview for that purpose. In a few days I received a handsome apology for his not being able to see me, on account of his being then resident at Windsor. He advised me to consult with Sir Lucas Pepys, as President of the Royal College of Physicians. I accordingly wrote to Sir Lucas on the 25th October, and by the Baronet's invitation, I remained with him on the following Sunday upwards of an hour. At that time the bill was attentively read through, and its several provisions carefully discussed, as I then imagined in an amicable and unreserved manner. It was by Sir Lucas's particular recommendation, that I hastened to lay the bill before the College of Physicians, at their quarterly meeting in October, in expectation of its being then fully considered, and of my receiving an answer soon afterwards. Why the discussion was delayed for three months, has never been explained to me, nor shall I attempt to penetrate the secret. Sir Lucas voluntarily offered to introduce the bill, and engaged that I should receive "a full and explicit answer from the College," adding, "this is all that I can promise, and if I could promise more,



it would not be right." Thus we parted, and in a few days I returned home, much pleased with my reception in London, and especially from having, as I thought, secured the cordial approbation, and unequivocal support of Sir Lucas Pepys. I conceived, that through the President's influence, the prejudices of the College of Physicians would be effectually removed, and their consent to the bill at length obtained. I was therefore not a little surprised and mortified, on receiving the following letter :

SIR, *Royal College of Physicians,*  
Dec. 22, 1809.

Having laid before the Royal College of Physicians, according to your request, the draught of " a bill for the improvement of the Medical and Surgical Sciences, and for regulating the practice thereof," I take the earliest opportunity of informing you, that the College consider the proposed bill, so far as it regards Physicians, to be highly objectionable, and that it will be incumbent on the College to oppose its enactment.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

L. PEPYS.

I replied,

SIR,

I had the honor of your letter a few days  
since



since, and am much concerned to be informed in it, that the Royal College of Physicians “ consider the proposed bill for regulating medical education and practice, so far as it regards Physicians, to be highly objectionable.” As I am very anxious to reconcile the bill to your favor before copies are submitted to the Colleges of Ireland or Scotland, may I take the liberty to desire of you to point out the objectionable parts, and the alterations required by the College? If agreeable, the whole of your observations will be laid before Mr. W. Harrison, counsel for the bill without delay, by directing them to the care of Messrs. Green, Tennant, and Harrison, solicitors, Gray’s-Inn. If you prefer their being forwarded to me in the first place, I will carefully transmit them to Mr. Harrison, unless you recommend some other proceeding. I trust he will be able to accommodate the bill to your wishes. I mentioned to Sir Joseph Banks, upon my return into Lincolnshire, the conference which had taken place between us at your house. He was much pleased with my account of it, and said that *he should be happy to meet you and arrange the provisions of the bill by amicable discussion\**. In the mean

\* Sir Joseph Banks was elected Patron of the Associated Faculty on the 3d of December, 1805. As Sir Joseph

mean time, I much wish to remove difficulties, so that upon the introduction of the bill into Parliament, the measure may proceed with satisfaction and alacrity. I have it from high authority, that Government is favourable to the bill, and with respect to the country, so great is the necessity for improved medical regulations, that in the course of last week I received messages from two members of Parliament, both unknown to me, desiring to be informed when the measure will be agitated in the House of Commons, that they may be prepared to give it their personal support.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

E. HARRISON.

*Horncastle, Jan. 7th,*

1810.

P. S. I hope you will be pleased to favour me with an early answer, that time may be given to hear from the Colleges of Dublin and Edinburgh, before the Session of Parliament is far advanced.

To

Joseph was at the time confined by indisposition, I had the honour to communicate to him the unanimous request of the members. I may further observe, that this proposal originated with a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and was first offered to the Society, on the 26th of the preceding month.



To this Sir Lucas Pepys returned the sub-joined answer;

SIR, *Upper Brook Street,*  
*Jan. 12, 1810.*

I Have received the favor of your letter, and will not fail to communicate it to the College of Physicians at their next Meeting, the 16th of April.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

L. PEPYS.

I acknowledged the above letter as follows:

SIR, *Horncastle, Jan. 16, 1810.*

I had the honor of your letter by yesterday's post, and beg to return you my best thanks for your obliging promise to submit mine to the Royal College of Physicians, at their meeting in April. As I am under engagements to send copies of the bill to Edinburgh and Dublin, before it is introduced into Parliament, I am extremely anxious to have it immediately corrected, that advantage may be taken of the ensuing session to relieve the counties distant from London, from the mischievous practices of ignorant pretenders, regular and irregular. With this view I hope you will excuse my taking the liberty to request the favour of you to point out, either in your  
public

public or private capacity, such parts of the bill as appear to you to be objectionable, and I will get them carefully revised, by which means I trust a more perfect bill may be obtained. In that case, I shall direct another copy to be sent to you, which will of course be open to the correction of the College at their next meeting. Conceiving that your colleagues may not approve of the Colleges of Edinburgh and Dublin having power to license for England and Wales, I have already written to instruct my solicitor on that head. I proposed to him, that the clause with respect to Physicians shall run as follows: " That no person who shall not before that time have practised or acted as a Physician shall be entitled to be registered, or to take out any such certificate as aforesaid, to practise or act as a physician, or shall be entitled or allowed to practise, or act as a physician, for gain or reward, or be entitled or permitted to claim or receive any recompence or remuneration, for such his practice, until he shall have taken the degree of a Doctor or Bachelor of Physic in some British, or Irish, or Foreign, University, and shall have obtained a diploma, or certificate, from the proper officer of having taken such degree, and also shall have been examined by and shall have obtained a diploma, or authority to



to practise as a Physician\*, *from the Royal College of Physicians of London, if he reside in England or Wales; from the Royal College of Physicians of Dublin, if he reside in Ireland; and from the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, if he reside in Scotland, except in the Counties of Lanark, Renfrew, Dunbarton, and Air, when he shall obtain his Diploma, or Licence from the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.* My reason for having the bill drawn in its original form, was to enable medical men residing on the confines of England or Scotland, to practise in both countries, or to change their places of residence at pleasure from one Kingdom to another. The former difficulty will be provided for in the new bill, and the latter is, perhaps, all things considered, of too little importance to be much insisted upon.

I am extremely sorry to give you so much trouble, but I hope you will impute it to my great desire to make the bill acceptable in the first instance, *to you, and the members of your college.*

I have the honour to be, with great respect,  
Sir, your very obedient, humble servant,

E. HARRISON.

\* The paragraph in the former bill concluded in the following terms,—“ from some one of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of England, Scotland, or Ireland, or from the Faculty of Physicians, and Surgeons of Glasgow.”

Sir Lucas rejoined in the following terms:

*Upper Brook-Street,*

SIR,

*Feb. 7, 1810.*

I could not answer the favor of your letter of the last month, till I had had some communication with some of the College, though the meeting of the whole body would not take place till the 16th of April. I have now, therefore only *my private opinion to give you, with that of some others, that the College will not depart from the opinion given in December\**.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant,

L. PEPYS.

The last letter from Sir Lucas Pepys having precluded all hope of assistance or cordiality from him or his fellow-members, in *favor of any bill* for improving Medical Science and practice, I judged it expedient to put an end to the correspondence. Conceiving, from the general tenor of the first epistle, that the hostility of the College was only directed to a single point, I replied to the President, in the confident expectation of removing his objections, by ingenuous and friendly communication. It was

\* May the 31st, having received no subsequent communication from the College, I conclude this answer of Sir Lucas Pepys was admitted by the Fellows.



under this impression that I wrote my answers; nor were my eyes opened until I had perused his concluding letter, in which, after every attempt at reconciliation had been exhausted, I am briefly told, "that the College will not depart from the opinion given in December," which was, "that the College consider the proposed bill, so far as it regards Physicians, to be highly objectionable, and that it will be incumbent on the College to oppose its enactment." Thus at length has the veil been completely withdrawn, and the intemperate opposition of the College, under its present Directors, fully confirmed. Here I shall leave the question, unless the President of the Royal College of Physicians, the Chairman of the defunct Army Medical Board, thinks fit to justify his measures. He may then, perhaps, be made to understand, that the powers of every kind granted to the College were, as Lord Mansfield observed, "coupled with a trust to be used for the public good." Whether these sacred obligations have been conscientiously discharged or not, may become an object of just and severe inquiry. Should such an investigation be ever instituted, the President may be made to feel, that he and his colleagues had solemn duties imposed upon them, which they have too much neglected; that the country has, for nearly three centuries, looked in



vain to them for a supply of meritorious practitioners, and the Faculty for protecting influence. This is the plain truth. However the argument may be disguised or misrepresented, the fact stands recorded, that nothing has been done by the College for the provinces, nor attempted, except with a design apparently selfish. And can it be imagined that the sufferers by this culpable, if not criminal neglect, since they have a paramount interest in the establishment of medical regulation, will remain supine and unresisting instruments, until it happens to please the President and Fellows to afford them redress? Is it not much more reasonable to suppose, that after the College has refused to co-operate, the injured party will at last form the resolution of conducting their own business, solely by their own energies?

It may be proper to remark in this place, that from a desire to remove prejudices, and obtain the College support, I applied personally to Sir L. Pepys\*, and several other Fellows, before the first meeting of the Faculty in Soho-square, to induce them to countenance the proceedings for correcting abuses in medicine. Though I could not prevail upon the President to attend, some of the Fellows joined the Association. It was from a desire to conciliate, that

\* See p. 9, 17.



we so readily agreed to pass the resolution not to interfere with the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons\*. Our moderation and friendly intentions towards the Medical Corporations of the United Kingdom, were also declared in the circular Addresses, dated March 4th, and August 9th, 1806 †, and indeed on all other occasions. It is impossible to understand why the College should continue so implacably adverse, unless they are conscious that the interests of the Profession cannot be reconciled to those of the College of Physicians; and, therefore, rather than join in procuring regulations useful to society, are desirous of preserving their authority unimpaired, however prejudicial it may be to Medical Science and the public welfare.

Thus ended my second fruitless negotiation, from which I was improvidently led at one time to anticipate a very different issue. I had, indeed, frequently received hints in conversation, and communications by letter, that the College of Physicians were *unalterably* resolved to conduct Medical Reform by their own unassisted exertions, or regardless, as many think, of the profligate waste of human lives, to get it deferred to a more favourable period. Whatever might have been my former opinion of the Pre-

\* See p. 20.

† See Appendix, p. 39—41 to 45, 56, 57, 58, 82.



sident and his confidential advisers, I had, since our late interview, been encouraged to expect, that from feeling the extent of their engagements to the Public, they were at length become well disposed to liberal and friendly co-operation. Had I not been most anxious on this, as on all preceding occasions, to conciliate the President and Fellows, I should certainly have been in London about last Christmas, with a view to get the bill received into Parliament at the beginning of the present Session. During the time of my epistolary intercourse with Sir Lucas Pepys, new agitations commenced in the House of Commons, which made it unlikely that opportunity would then be afforded for medical discussions. I therefore resolved to defer my intended visit to a later period of the Session, when the House of Commons might be expected to have finished the more urgent business of the year. If any neglect or delay has therefore arisen in the management of this very important undertaking, it cannot be justly imputed to me, or the Committee. The blame will, I trust, be admitted to have arisen either out of the delicate and complex nature of the measure, or from the inflexible opposition, and groundless prejudices of others. It is much to our purpose to remark, that none of the public bodies have ventured to  
state



state that the system of medical instruction, examination, or admission to practise, is not very imperfect, or is incapable of further improvement.

The Royal Colleges of Physicians\* in Ireland and Scotland candidly admit that the state of medicine is extremely defective in all its branches.—The London College openly declared, so long ago as March 1806, in reply to our first application, that “ they have been occupied for some time past in the consideration of the subject, and *will be ready at all times to give the attention due to any information that may be submitted to them.*” The answers from the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow are to the same effect. Those from the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of England, Scotland, and Ireland, are short—guarded—and extremely imperfect.—In answer to the Letter and Bill sent last October to the London College of Surgeons, I was informed by the Secretary, “ that the subject will be taken into consideration.”

The Master of the Company of Apothecaries in London acknowledged the first circular Address, as follows:

\* Appendix. p. 59, 63.

SIR,

SIR,

I am this morning favoured with your letter, which I shall take an early opportunity of submitting to the Wardens and Court of Assistants of the Society of Apothecaries.

I am, Sir, your very obedient humble servant,

A. MOORE.

*Norfolk Street, March 6, 1806.*

Having received no subsequent answer from the Society of Apothecaries, I have a fair right to conclude that the correspondence is at an end. How far as a favoured company deriving profit from the sale of drugs, under the present system, they may be supposed liable to undue bias, it does not become me, nor do I wish to decide.

The University of Edinburgh is, as far as I know, the only place for medical tuition, which has condescended to take public notice of the different circular addresses. Although the Professors were perhaps too much actuated in their Report by schemes of private aggrandisement, and of individual interest\*, they fully admit the great want of better medical regulations. The two letters from Professor Flint of St. An-

\* See a Letter to the Right Honorable Sir Joseph Banks, Bart, P. R. S., &c. by Dr. Beddoes.



draws are not, I conceive, of a public nature. I have now made a full and unreserved disclosure of every communication, received from the Universities and Public Bodies on the subject of Medical Regulation and Reform. It will afford me high gratification to learn that the part I have taken, and the course I have pursued in this arduous attempt have met the approbation of my brethren and the community at large. I cannot, indeed, have any concealed purpose to serve, nor sinister object in view. My favorite wish is that the plan may answer the humane and beneficial effects which it was designed to produce, that it may ultimately tend to the proper remuneration and encouragement of useful science, and, when carried into full effect, become a lasting benefit to mankind.

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 beneficial ends which it was designed to pro-  
 duce, that it may ultimately tend to the proper  
 termination and improvement of useful sci-  
 ence, and, when carried into full effect, be-  
 come a lasting benefit to mankind.



## APPENDIX. (A).

*An Act for the appointing of Physicians and Surgeons. Anno Tertio Henrici VIII.*

“**T**O the King our Sovereign Lord, and to all the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament assembled: Forasmuch as the science and cunning of Physic and Surgery (to the perfect knowledge whereof be requisite both great learning and ripe experience) is daily within this realm exercised by a great multitude of ignorant persons, of whom the greater part have no manner of insight in the same, nor in any other kind of learning (2): Some also can no letters on the book, so far forth that common artificers, as smiths, weavers, and women boldly and accustomedly take upon them great cures, and things of great difficulty; in the which they partly use sorcery and witchcraft, partly apply such medicines unto the disease, as be very noious, and nothing meet therefore; to the high displeasure of God, great infamy to the faculty, and the grievous hurt, damage, and destruction of many of the king's liege people; most especially of them that cannot discern the uncunning from the cunning:” (3) Be it therefore (to the surety and comfort of all manner of people) by the

Mem. (2) That surgeons be comprized in this act like as physicians, for like mischief of ignorant persons presuming to exercise surgery.

a

authority



authority of this present parliament enacted, that no person within the City of London, nor within seven miles of the same, take upon him to exercise and occupy as a physician or surgeon, except he be first examined, approved, and admitted by the bishop of London, or by the dean of Pauls, for the time being, calling to him or them four doctors of physick, and for surgery, other expert persons in that faculty; and for the first examination such as they shall think convenient, and afterward alway four of them that have been so approved; (4) upon the pain of forfeiture for every month that they do occupy as physicians or surgeons not admitted nor examined after the tenour of this act, of *v. li.* to be employed the one half thereof to the use of our sovereign lord the king, and the other half thereof to any person that will sue for it by action of debt, in which no wager of law nor protection shall be allowed.

II. And over this, that no person out of the said city and precinct of seven miles of the same, except he have been (as is aforesaid) approved in the same, take upon him to exercise and occupy as a physician or surgeon in any diocese within this realm, but if he be first examined and approved by the bishop of the same diocese, or he being out of the diocese by his vicar general; either of them calling to them such expert persons in the said faculties, as their discretion shall think convenient, and giving their letters testimonials, under their seal to him that they shall so approve, upon like pain



pain to them that occupy the contrary to this act (as is above said) to be levied and employed after the form before expressed.

III. Provided alway, that this act nor any thing therein contained, be prejudicial to the universities of Oxford or Cambridge, or either of them, or to any privileges granted to them.

*An Act concerning Surgeons to be discharged of Quests and other Things, Anno quinto Henrici VIII.*

“ SHEWETH unto your discreet wisdoms, your humble orators the wardens and fellowship of the craft and mystery of surgeons enfranchised in the City of London, not passing in number twelve persons, that whereas they and their predecessors, from the time that no mind is to the contrary, as well in this noble city of London as in all other cities and boroughs within this realm, or elsewhere, for the continual service and attendance that they daily and nightly at all hours and times give to the king's liege people, for the relief of the same according to their science, have been exempt and discharged from all offices and business wherein they should use or bear any manner of armour or weapon, and with like privilege have been intreated as heralds of arms, as well in battles and fields as other places therefore to stand unharnessed and unweaponed, according to the law of arms, because they be persons that never used feats of war, nor ought to use, but only the business and exercise of their science, to the help and comfort of the king's liege people



in the time of their need. (2.) And in the aforesaid city of London, from the time of their first incorporation, when they have been many more in number than they be now, were never called nor charged to be on quest, watch, nor other office, whereby they should use or occupy any armour or defenceable geer of war, where through they should be unready and letted to practise their cure of men being in peril." (3.) Therefore for that there be so small number of the said fellowship of the craft and mystery of surgeons, in regard of the great multitude of patients that be, and daily chance and infortune happeneth and increaseth in the foresaid city of London, and that many of the king's liege people suddenly wounded and hurt, for default of help in time to them to be shewed perish, and so divers have done, as evidently is known, by occasion that your said suppliants have been compelled to attend upon such constableness, watches, and juries, as is aforesaid. (4) Be it enacted and established by the king our sovereign lord, and the lords spiritual and temporal, and by the commons in this present parliament assembled, and by authority of the same, that from henceforth your said suppliants be discharged, and not chargeable of constableness, watch, and of all manner of office bearing any armour, and also of all inquests and juries within the city of London. (5) And also that this act in all things do extend to all barber-surgeons admitted and approved to exercise the said mystery of surgeons, according to the form of the



the statute lately made in that behalf, so that they exceed not, nor be at one time above the number of twelve persons.

*The Privileges and Authority of Physicians in London, Anno 14 & 15 Henrici viii. Cap. v.*

IN the most humble wise shew unto your Highness, your true and faithful subjects and liege men, John Chambre, Thomas Linacre, Ferdinandus de Victoria, your physicians, and Nicholas Halsewell, John Frances, and Robert Yaxley, and all other men of the same faculty within the city of London, and seven miles about, that where your Highness (by your most gracious Letters Patents, bearing date at Westminster the 23rd day of September, in the tenth year of your most noble reign) for the common wealth of this your realm, in due exercising and practising of the faculty of Physick, and the good ministration of medicines to be had, hath incorporate and made of us, and of our company aforesaid one body and perpetual commonality or fellowship of the faculty of Physick and to have perpetual succession and common seal, and to choose yearly a president of the same fellowship and commonalty, to oversee, rule, and govern the said fellowship and commonalty, and all men of the said faculty, with divers other liberties and privileges by your Highness to us granted for the common wealth of this your realm, as in your said most gracious Letters Patents more at large is specified and contained, the tenour whereof followeth in these words.



‘ (2) HENRICUS Dei gratia Rex Angliæ &  
 ‘ Franciæ, & Dominus Hiberniæ, omnibus ad quos  
 ‘ præsentēs literæ pervenerint salutem. Cum re-  
 ‘ gii officii nostri munus arbitremur ditionis nostræ  
 ‘ hominum fœlicitati omni ratione consulere; (3)  
 ‘ id autem vel imprimis fore, si improborum cona-  
 ‘ tibus tempestive occurramus, apprime necessari-  
 ‘ um duximus improborum quoque hominum, qui  
 ‘ medicinam magis avaritiæ suæ causa, quam ullius  
 ‘ bonæ conscientiæ fiducia, profitebuntur, unde rudi  
 ‘ & credulæ plebi plurima incommoda oriantur,  
 ‘ audaciam compescere: (4) itaque partim bene  
 ‘ institutarum civitatum in Italia, & aliis multis na-  
 ‘ tionibus, exemplum imitati, partim gravium, vi-  
 ‘ rorum doctorum Joannis Chambre, Thomæ Lina-  
 ‘ cre, Ferdinandi de Victoria, medicorum nostro-  
 ‘ rum, Nicholai Halsewel, Joannis Francisci, &  
 ‘ Rob. Yaxley, medicorum, ac præcipue reveren-  
 ‘ dissimi in Christo patris, ac domini, dom. Thomæ  
 ‘ tituli Sanctæ Cecilæ trans Tiberim sacrosanctæ  
 ‘ Romanæ ecclesiæ presbyteri cardinalis, Eboræ-  
 ‘ censis archiepiscopi, & regni nostri Angliæ can-  
 ‘ cellarii clarissimi, precibus inclinati, collegium  
 ‘ perpetuum doctorum & gravium virorum, qui me-  
 ‘ dicinam in urbe nostra Londino & suburbiis, in-  
 ‘ traque septem millia passuum ab ea urbe quaque  
 ‘ versus publice exerceant, institui volumus atque  
 ‘ imperamus. (5) Quibus tum sui honoris, tum  
 ‘ publicæ utilitatis nomine, curæ (ut speramus) erit,  
 ‘ malitiosorum quorum meminimus inscientiam te-  
 ‘ meritatemque, tam exemplo gravitateque suis de-  
 ‘ terrere,



‘ ferrere, quam per leges nostras nuper editas, ac  
 ‘ per constitutiones per idem collegium condendas,  
 ‘ punire. (6) Quæ quo facilius rite peragi possint,  
 ‘ memoratis doctoribus Joan. Chambre, Thomæ  
 ‘ Linacre, Ferdinando de Victoria, medicis nostris,  
 ‘ Nicholao Halsewel, Joanni Francisco, & Rob.  
 ‘ Yaxley, medicis, concessimus, quod ipsi, omnes-  
 ‘ que homines ejusdem facultatis de & in civitate  
 ‘ predicta, sint in re & nomine unum corpus &  
 ‘ communitas perpetua sive collegium perpetuum;  
 ‘ (7) & quod eadem communitas sive collegium  
 ‘ singulis annis in perpetuum eligere possint & fa-  
 ‘ cere, de communitate illa aliquem providum vi-  
 ‘ rum, & in facultate medicinæ expertum, in præ-  
 ‘ sidentem ejusdem collegii sive communitatis, ad  
 ‘ supervidend’ recognoscend’ & gubernand’ pro illo  
 ‘ anno collegium sive communitatem præd’ & om-  
 ‘ nes homines ejusdem facultatis, & negotia eorun-  
 ‘ dem. (8) Et quod idem præsidens & collegium,  
 ‘ sive communitas, habeant successionem perpe-  
 ‘ tuam, & commune sigillum negotiis dict’ commu-  
 ‘ nitatis & presidentis in perpetuum servitutum.  
 ‘ (9) Et quod ipsi & successores sui in perpetuum  
 ‘ sint personæ habiles & capaces ad perquirendum,  
 ‘ & possidendum in feodo & perpetuitate terras &  
 ‘ tenementa redditus, & alias possessiones quas-  
 ‘ cunque.

‘ (10) Concessimus etiam eis & successoribus  
 ‘ suis pro nobis & hæredibus nostris, quod ipsi &  
 ‘ successores sui possint perquirere sibi & succes-  
 ‘ soribus suis, tam in dicta urbe quam extra, terras  
 ‘ & tene-



& tenementa quæcunque annum valorem duo-  
 decim librarum non excedent' statuto de alien-  
 atione ad manum mortuam non obstante. (11) Et  
 quod ipsi per nomina præidentis & collegii seu  
 communitalis facultatis medicinæ Lond' placitari  
 & implacitari possint coram quibuscunque judici-  
 bus in curiis & actionibus quibuscunque. (12) Et  
 quod præd' præidens & collegium sive commu-  
 nitas, & eorum successores, congregationes lici-  
 tas & honestas de seipsis, ac stat' & ordinationes  
 pro salubri gubernatione, supervisu, & correc-  
 tione collegii seu communitalis præd' & omnium  
 hominum eandem facultatem in dicta civitate, seu  
 per septem milliaria in circuitu ejusdem civitalis  
 exercen' secundum necessitalis exigentiam, quo-  
 ties & quando opus fuerit, facere valeant licite  
 & impune, sine impedimento nostri, hæredum,  
 vel successorum nostrorum, justitiariorum, esca-  
 etorum, vicecomitum, & alior' ballivor' vel mini-  
 stror' nostror' hæred' vel successor' nostror' quo-  
 rumcunque. (13) Concessimus etiam eisdem  
 præidenti & collegio, seu communitati, & suc-  
 cessoribus suis, quod nemo in dicta civitate, aut  
 per septem milliaria in circuitu ejusdem, exer-  
 ceat dictam facultatem, nisi ad hoc per dict' præ-  
 sidentem & communitatem, seu successores eo-  
 rum, qui pro tempore fuerint, admissus sit per  
 ejusdem præidentis & collegii literas sigillo suo  
 communi sigillatas, sub pœna centum solidorum  
 pro quolibet mense, quo non admissus eandem  
 facultatem exercuit, dimidium inde nobis &  
 hæred'



‘ hæred’ nostris, & dimidium dicto præidenti &  
 ‘ coll’ applicandum.

‘ (14) Præterea volumus & concedimus pro no-  
 ‘ bis & successoribus nostris (quantum in nobis est)  
 ‘ quod per præidentem & collegium præd’ com-  
 ‘ munitatis pro tempore existen’ & eorum succes-  
 ‘ sores in perpetuum, quatuor singulis annis eli-  
 ‘ gantur, qui habeant supervisum & scrutinium,  
 ‘ correctionem & gubernat’ omnium & singulor’  
 ‘ dictæ civitatis medicorum utentium facultate me-  
 ‘ dicinæ in eadem civitate, ac aliorum medicorum  
 ‘ forinsecorum quorumcunque facultatem illam me-  
 ‘ dicinæ aliquo modo frequentantium & utentium  
 ‘ infra eandem civitatem & suburbia ejusdem, sive  
 ‘ intra septem milliaria in circuitu ejusd’ civitatis,  
 ‘ ac punitionem eorund’ pro delictis suis in non  
 ‘ bene exequendo, faciendo, & utendo illa; (15)  
 ‘ nec non supervisum & scrutinium omnimodarum  
 ‘ medicinarum & earum reception’ per dictos me-  
 ‘ dicos, seu aliquem eorum, hujusmodi ligeis nos-  
 ‘ tris pro eorum infirmitatibus curandis & sanandis,  
 ‘ dandis, imponendis, & utendis, quoties & quando  
 ‘ opus fuerit pro commodo & utilitate eorundem li-  
 ‘ georum nostrorum; (16) ita quod punitio hujus-  
 ‘ modi medicorum utentium dicta facultate medi-  
 ‘ cinæ, sic in præmissis delinquent’ per fines, amer-  
 ‘ ciamenta, & imprisonamenta corpor’ suor’ & per  
 ‘ alias vias rationab’ & congruas exequatur.

‘ (17) Volumus etiam & concedimus pro nobis,  
 ‘ hæredibus, & successoribus nostris (quantum in  
 ‘ nobis est) quod nec præidens nec aliquis de col-  
 b ‘ legio



‘ legio præd’ medicorum, nec successores sui, nec  
 ‘ eorum aliquis exercens facultatem illam, quoquo  
 ‘ modo in futur’ infra civitatem nostram præd’ &  
 ‘ suburbia ejusdem, seu alibi, summoneantur aut  
 ‘ ponantur, neque eorum aliquis summoneatur  
 ‘ aut ponatur in aliquibus assisis, juratis, inquestis,  
 ‘ inquisitionibus, attinctis, & aliis recognitionibus  
 ‘ infra dictam civitatem, & suburbia ejusdem, im-  
 ‘ posterum coram majore ac vicecom’ seu corona-  
 ‘ toribus dictæ civitatis nostræ pro tempore existen’  
 ‘ capiendis, aut per aliquem officarium seu mini-  
 ‘ strum suum, vel officarios sive ministros suos sum-  
 ‘ monend’ licet eadem juratæ inquisitiones, seu re-  
 ‘ cognitiones summon’ fuerint super brevi vel bre-  
 ‘ vibus nostris, vel hæredum nostrorum, de recto;  
 ‘ sed quod dicti magistri, sive gubernatores, ac  
 ‘ communitas facultatis antedictæ, & successores  
 ‘ sui, & eorum quilibet dictam facultatem exer-  
 ‘ centes versus nos, hæredes, & successores nos-  
 ‘ tros, ac versus majorem & vicecomites civitatis  
 ‘ nostræ præd’ pro tempore existen’ & quoscunque  
 ‘ officarios & ministros suos sint inde quieti, &  
 ‘ penitus exonerati in perpetuum per præsentem.

‘ (18) Proviso quod literæ nostræ, seu aliquid in  
 ‘ eis content’ non cedent in prejudicium civitatis  
 ‘ nostræ Lond’ seu libert’ ejusd’ & hoc absque fine  
 ‘ seu feodo pro præmissis, seu sigillat’ præsentium  
 ‘ nobis facienda, solvenda, vel aliquo modo reddenda,  
 ‘ aliquo statuto, ordinatione, vel actu in contrarium  
 ‘ ante hæc tempora facto, edito, ordinato, seu pro-  
 ‘ viso in aliquo non obstante. In cujus rei testimo-  
 ‘ nium



‘ nium has literas nostras fieri fecimus patentes.  
‘ Teste meipso apud Westmonasterium xxiiij. die  
‘ Sept’ an’ reg’ nostri x.

Per ipsum Regem.

TUNSTALL.

Et de data præd’ autoritate parl’

(19) And forasmuch that the making of the said corporation is meritorious, and very good for the common wealth of this your realm, it is therefore expedient and necessary to provide, that no person of the said politick body and commonalty aforesaid, be suffered to exercise and practise Physick, but only those persons that be profound, sad, and discreet groundly learned, and deeply studied in Physick.

II. In consideration whereof, and for the further authorising of the same Letters Patents, and also enlarging of further articles for the said common wealth to be had and made: Pleaseth it your Highness with the assent of your lords spiritual and temporal and the commons in this present parliament assembled to enact, ordain, and stablish, that the said corporation of the said commonalty and fellowship of the faculty of Physick aforesaid, and all and every grant, article, and other thing contained and specified in the said Letters Patents, be approved, granted, ratified, and confirmed in this present parliament, and clearly authorized and admitted by the same good, lawful, and available to your said body corporate, and their successors for ever, in as ample and large manner as may be taken,

b 2

thought,

thought, and construed by the same; (2) and that it please your Highness with the assent of your said lords spiritual and temporal and the commons, in this your present parliament assembled, further to enact, ordain, and establish, that the six persons beforesaid in your said most gracious Letters Patents named as principals and first named of the said commonalty and fellowship, choosing to them two more of the said commonalty from hence-forward be called and cleaped elects, (3) and that the same elects yearly choose one of them to be president of the said commonalty, and as oft as any of the rooms and places of the same elects shall fortune to be void by death or otherwise, then the survivors of the said elects (within thirty or forty days next after the death of them or any of them) shall choose, name, and admit one or more as need shall require of the most cunning and expert men, of and in the said faculty in London, to supply the said room and number of eight persons (4) so that he or they that shall be so chosen, be first by the said survivors strictly examined after a form devised by the said elects, and also by the same survivors approved.

III. And where that in dioceses of England out of London, it is not light to find alway men able sufficiently to examine (after the statute) such as shall be admitted to exercise Physick in them, that it may be enacted in this present parliament that no person from henceforth be suffered to exercise or practise in Physick through England, until such time as he be examined at London by the said president,



sident, and three of the said elects; and to have from the said president or elects, letters testimonials of their approving and examination, except he be a graduate of Oxford, or Cambridge, which hath accomplished all things for his form without any grace.

*A Bill that Persons, being no common Surgeons, may minister Medicines, notwithstanding the Statute. 34 & 35 Henrici viij. Cap. viij.*

WHERE in the parliament holden at Westminster in the third year of the king's most gracious reign amongst other things, for the avoiding of sorceries, witchcrafts, and other inconveniences it was enacted, that no person within the city of London, nor within seven miles of the same, should take upon him to exercise and occupy as physician or surgeon except he be first examined, approved, and admitted by the bishop of London and other, under and upon certain pains and penalties in the same act mentioned: (2) Sithence the making of which said act, the company and fellowship of surgeons of London, minding only their own lucre, and nothing the profit or ease of the diseased or patient, have sued, troubled, and vexed divers honest persons, as well men as women, whom God hath endued with the knowledge of the nature, kind, and operation of certain herbs, roots, and waters, and the using and ministering of them to such as been pained with customable diseases, as womens breasts being sore, a pin and the web in  
the

the eye, uncomes of hands, burnings, scaldings, sore mouths, the stone, strangury, saucelim, and morphew, and such other like diseases; and yet the said persons have not taken any thing for their pains or cunning, but have ministered the same to poor people only for neighbourhood and God's sake, and of pity and charity. (3) And it is now well known that the surgeons admitted will do no cure to any person, but where they shall know to be rewarded with a greater sum or reward than the cure extendeth unto; for in case they would minister their cunning unto sore people unrewarded, there should not so many rot and perish to death for lack or help of surgery, as daily do; but the greatest part of surgeons admitted been much more to be blamed, than those persons that they trouble.

II. For although the most part of the persons of the said craft of surgeons have small cunning, yet they will take great sums of money, and do little therefore, and by reason thereof they do oftentimes impair and hurt their patients, rather than do them good. (2) In consideration whereof, and for the ease, comfort, succour, help, relief, and health of the king's poor subjects, inhabitants of this realm, now pained or diseased, or that hereafter shall be pained or diseased.

III. Be it ordained, established, and enacted by the authority of this present parliament, that at all time from henceforth it shall be lawful to every person being the king's subject, having knowledge and experience of the nature of herbs, roots, and  
waters,



waters, or of the operation of the same, by speculation or practice, within any part of the realm of England, or within any other the king's dominions to practise, use, and minister in and to any outward sore, uncome, wound, apostemations, outward swelling or disease, any herb or herbs, ointments, baths, pultess and emplaisters, according to their cunning, experience and knowledge in any of the diseases, sores and maladies beforesaid, and all other like to the same, or drinks for the stone, strangury, or agues, without suit, vexation, trouble, penalty, or loss of their goods, the foresaid statute in the foresaid third year of the king's most gracious reign, or any other act, ordinance, or statute to the contrary heretofore made in any wise notwithstanding.

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#### APPENDIX. (B.)

*Extract of a Letter from an eminent Physician in Edinburgh to Dr. Harrison, dated August 28, 1805, on the Subject of Medical Reform.*

“ THE subject of your letter is not altogether new to me. Our attention, in the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, was called to it, about a twelvemonth ago, by a communication from a Committee of the Royal College of Physicians in London, which was transmitted to our President, with a view to obtain our observations on the plan proposed for the better regulating of the practice of physic, and

and our concurrence and assistance in such a plan as might be deemed best for that most desirable purpose.

“ It was evident to me, and I believe to us all, that the plan \* proposed by the Committee of the London Physicians (or perhaps by some individual members of it who had formed themselves into a kind of voluntary committee or association) for the purpose in view, however practicable or proper it might be in England, was altogether inapplicable and impracticable in Scotland, in consequence of the great difference, not only in the mode of practising physic in the two countries, but in the manners and customs of their inhabitants, the difference of their laws, and even the very great difference in the rights and privileges conferred, either by royal charter or by act of parliament, on the Royal Colleges of Physicians in London and in Edinburgh. The powers of the London College are much greater, and more extensive, than those of our’s.

“ I conceive, therefore, that a Scotchman who has lived very little in England, and who never attended in the least to those matters while he was in England, must be very ill qualified to judge either of the merit or of the difficulties of that plan, the outlines of which you have sent me. But, as you have done me the honour to ask my opinion of it, I shall tell you frankly what I conceive will be some of the chief objections to it, and some of the greatest difficulties that you will have to surmount: I mean only such difficulties as depend on the most

\* See Appendix (C.)



general principles, not on any peculiarities of the institutions and manners of England and Scotland; and which difficulties, therefore must be common to both countries, and to every plan of medical reform that can be proposed. I shall be very happy if my pointing out these difficulties shall lead you, or your friends with whom you act in this business, to contrive some means of removing them; for none of you can be more sensible than I am of the greatness of those evils which you wish to rectify.

“ 1. Have you any reason to expect the concurrence of the Legislature in any such plan of reform as you have in view? I doubt much whether our statesmen will ever listen to such a proposal; that is, judging of their *future* from their *past* conduct. While they despise, and set at defiance in the most heroic manner, many of the most important, and, what appear to me, the soundest principles of political economy, which are inculcated by Adam Smith in his book on the *Wealth of Nations*, they seem to have adopted, and very faithfully to have applied in practice, *one* of his doctrines; which, though in one sense true, is by no means true, or safe, or expedient, in its full extent: I mean his observation, that ‘statesmen ought not to be the physicians of the people whom they rule.’ Think what our statesmen have long done, and are actually doing, with respect to the distillery, and judge what you have to expect of them with respect to quack medicines and quacks. Our statesmen certainly ought to know, and I presume they



do know (for they have often been told, and obliged to attend to it), that the use of distilled spirits is destructive to the health, the understanding, the morals, and the industry of the people: it debases and brutifies them; and, what probably some of our statesmen may think of more consequence, it makes them bad citizens and disloyal subjects, by the surliness and ferocity which is the immediate effect of drinking spirits, and by that impatience and discontent which is the necessary consequence of idleness and profligacy, disease and poverty. Yet for the sake of *revenue*, or, as it has been said, with some probability, merely for the sake of the *more easy collecting* of the revenue, they allow a few hundreds of rich distillers to poison their fellow citizens by wholesale. This is by much the greatest evil, both physical and moral, that we have in Scotland. It is infinitely worse with us than it is with you in England; but, I believe, you have enough of it in England to enable you to understand to what I allude, and judge of the force of my argument. By the bye, I believe some of *my* countrymen very kindly take the trouble to distil spirits for the *benefit* of *your's*. If I am rightly informed, one company of Scotch distillers sent last year to England six hundred thousand gallons of *whiskey*, which, of course, would soon be baptized by the names of *gin* and *British brandy*; but would not be the less poisonous for that. I believe it was the same company of distillers, but at least it was one of our Scotch companies, that was understood to have



have made, of clear profit, by their trade, one hundred and fifty pounds a-day, or between fifty and sixty thousand pounds in one year. I have heard, but I have now forgotten, how many thousand quarters of grain they boasted of having consumed, or having distilled, in one year: but the quantity was almost incredible.

“ If our statesmen cared for the welfare of the people in point of health, morals, industry, &c., they would prohibit distillation altogether; as, I believe, the Chinese have done, fourteen hundred years before the *art of distillation* was known in Europe. But while they permit and encourage so many hundred distillers to convert, in *wholesale*, the *food* of man into *poison* for him, and to ruin every year many thousands of their fellow subjects in mind, body, and estate, how can we expect that they should discourage or prevent the practice of quacks and the general use of quack medicines? These medicines, as well as distilled spirits, yield a revenue more valuable, in the judgment of our statesmen, than the health of the people, the prosperity of physicians, and the improvement of physic.

“ 2. Supposing, contrary to all probability, and all past experience, that our statesmen should be inclined, for once, to weigh the health and welfare of the people against the sterling consideration of money; are you sure that the proposal for restraining the practice of quacks, and the sale of their medicines, will be the more favourably received,



either by our rulers or by the people at large, for coming from our most noble regular Faculty? I think not; but quite the contrary; for we have an evident pecuniary interest in accomplishing the proposed reform: and as it is an established principle that no individual, and no set of men, can be allowed credit for good motives when it is possible to suppose bad motives for what they do, you may be assured that the worst possible motives will be imputed to you and your friends, not only by the quacks and the venders of their vile drugs, but by the bulk of mankind. Conscious that your motives are upright and honourable, you may well despise all such illiberal imputations, as *relating only to yourselves*; but they are not to be despised as relating to the influence they may have on public opinion, and on the decision of the legislature. They may probably be sufficient to frustrate your purpose altogether.

“ You should consider, also, that many of the richest and greatest, and who should be the wisest, men in the nation (judges, bishops, and peers), not only believe in quack medicines, and take great quantities of them, but are professed patrons of quacks, and allow their names to be used every day, in the common newspapers, as vouching for the efficacy of various quack medicines which they had employed in their own families, or on their own persons. These wise men will undoubtedly, either from vanity or for *conscience*’ sake, oppose and reprobate, with contempt and indignation, any such plan



plan of reform as you have in view. Would it not, therefore, be better, that the proposal should come not from physicians, but from men of other professions, or of independent fortune; and, withal, of well established character for understanding, and probity, and knowledge? Such men, if they are in earnest in the business, may easily procure, from regular physicians, ample information on the subject; particularly with respect to the general nature, and if not the whole composition of quack medicines, at least the principal ingredients; and, consequently, the pernicious effects of the compound. As to many of the quack medicines, nothing more is requisite to ascertain on what their pleasant and their pernicious effects depend, but just to throw a little of them into a good clear fire. It soon appears, by their bursting suddenly into a blaze, that the basis of them is brandy, or at least some kind of distilled spirit. I believe one of the most famous quack medicines, at present in the greatest use in England (and by the sale of which the worthy inventor has already made a much larger fortune than any physician in England, or in Europe, ever yet did by the most extensive and lucrative practice in the course of a long life), consists only of coarse spirits impregnated with some kind of turpentine, and perhaps a little sugar and some opium. Yet that quack, though he has done infinite mischief to the people, has certainly done good service to the revenue of his country, by the *excise duty* on the spirits which he employs, the *quack duty* on his  
*medicines*



*medicines* when prepared for sale, and even the *stamp duty* for his *newspaper advertisements*. I have no doubt that the last article alone, since he began to advertise, must have amounted to such a sum as any physician in England would consider as a very affluent fortune. Probably you or I would gladly give up the practice of our profession for one half of it.

If men not of the medical profession would heartily engage in your proposed plan of reform, they could not find in the world a fitter person to take the lead in the business than Sir Joseph Banks, whom you mention to me in your letter. His well known character, and talents, and public spirit, and the eminent station which he has long most honourably held in the republic of science, must give tenfold weight to every thing that he shall say or do in such a cause.

“ 3. You should consider also, that there will be many doubts and difficulties with respect to the expediency of such a reform as you propose, independently of all regard to pecuniary interest, and purely from considerations of what may be for the *good and comfort* of many thousands of persons who suffer under *imaginary*, or perhaps real but *incurable*, disorders. Pernicious as quack medicines may be justly thought on the whole, some good, at least some relief and comfort, must be obtained from them in many cases; else so many thousands would not fly to them in their distress, and persevere in the use of them. Would it be right, to take from  
many



many miserable objects that comfort, without giving them something as good, or better, in exchange? If the science and the art of physic were perfect, so as to afford us a certain cure for every disease; or even if they were so nearly perfect as to enable us to cure every disease that is in its own nature curable, and to alleviate as much as possible those that are not; no injury would be done to the bulk of mankind by prohibiting quack medicines and quacks, and giving to the regular Faculty a perfect monopoly of the practice of physic. But I need not tell you that there are very few diseases for which we have *nearly certain* remedies: that the use of remedies of great and general efficacy, for the cure of particular diseases, is at best precarious; often unavailing; and sometimes pernicious: that many diseases, at least in the present state of our science, seem to be incurable, and that our means of relieving such diseases are very inadequate. In consequence of this imperfect state of medicine, vast numbers, every year, languish long, and at last die of consumption, dropsy, palsy, gout, stone, king's evil, cancer, asthma, &c. &c., in spite of all that our Faculty can do for them. Many thousands suffer miserably from imaginary diseases, and vapours, and low spirits; which, of course, can neither kill them, nor be cured by us. Many thousands suffer miserably by diseases produced by their own idleness, laziness, luxury, and intemperance, who might be cured by proper regimen, if they would submit to it, which they will not do;

I mean,

I mean, by temperance and exercise: but they cannot be cured by any medicines that I know of. Then, all mankind must die at last, which very few of them are inclined to do; and most of them must die of diseases, not of good old age: but, as they grow old, they become infirm and sickly; and they expect a cure, which we cannot give them, for such diseases; nay, we can give them but very imperfect relief.

“ If all mankind were but tolerably wise, they would soon discover all these things by their own sagacity, or, if not, they might be informed of them by their physicians; and would not be offended, perhaps would rather be gratified, by being told the honest truth. In cases in which there were means of recovery and relief, they would employ these with thankfulness and real benefit: in other cases, they would submit to their fate, if not cheerfully or without repining, at least without plaguing themselves by taking a multitude of useless medicines. But the bulk of mankind is very far from being wise on these subjects. What then is to be done with them? Are they to be left to their fate, and told that their diseases are incurable, or that they are growing old and infirm, that they must suffer long, and die at last? Or ought they to be amused and gratified by giving them a variety of frivolous medicines, and daily assurances that they are to be relieved or cured? If this kind of practice is to be employed, ought regular physicians to have the monopoly of it? or would honest physicians wish



wish to have such a monopoly? I should rather think that an honest physician would wish to be released from the painful duty of attending such patients, when he finds he can do them no more good. I should think he would wish the same with respect to patients who have got the vapours, and all manner of imaginary diseases. In acute diseases (fevers, inflammations, &c.), a physician ought certainly to continue his attendance and care, till either he shall have cured his patient by the operation of his remedies, or till the disease has ceased by the operation of nature. Patients labouring under such diseases have no occasion for the aid of quacks, and could sustain no injury if they and their vile medicines were annihilated. The same is true with respect to some chronic diseases; especially the pox, for which we really have a remedy.

“ But the case, I think, is widely different with respect to many patients, and the diseases, real or imaginary, under which they labour. What can an honest physician do with an hysterical fine lady, or a fanciful hypochondriac who has got all the diseases in all the systems of nosology, and ten times more; or with a gouty lord, or a guzzling alderman, or a greasy bishop? I mean, what can he do with such patients, after he has fairly told them the nature of their disorder, and the means, chiefly regimen, with very little help from medicines, by which they may be relieved or cured? It appears to me that the physician has then done his duty, and is completely *functus officio*. The rest depends on the

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patients

patients themselves; ninety-nine in the hundred of whom will not do what *they ought* to do, and will persist in doing what they *ought not* to do, till *there is no health in them*. Miserable as they are, by the necessary consequences of their own laziness, luxury, and intemperance, they would be still more miserable, if they were not amused and gratified by a variety of frivolous medicines, and, when these are exhausted, sent to one idle watering place after another.

“ The wisest and best of our faculty are fain to employ these miserable expedients in numberless cases: but by whomsoever they are employed, they are but a species of quackery. Are our *spirituous tinctures*, whether bitter or aromatic, more salutary or less pernicious than those of the quacks? Are our *purging pills* better than their *analeptic* and *antibilious* pills? Are their medicines essentially different from our’s; or are they not, in general, our own medicines variously disguised, and trumped forth, under new names, with much impudence and many lies?

“ To such questions, and such observations, our regular faculty will certainly be exposed, if they rashly engage in a war with the quacks; and many wise and good men will be apt to think that the difference between the quacks and the regulars is more in degree than in kind, and much less in degree than we are disposed to admit.

“ You should consider, also, that England is a *free* country, and that the freedom which every  
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*free-born Englishman* chiefly values, is, the freedom of doing what is foolish and wrong, and going to the devil his own way. Your countrymen will certainly think it a most horrible encroachment on the liberty of the subject, if they are not allowed to poison themselves with quack medicines; just as they would think it a most cruel oppression if they were not allowed to ruin themselves, in *mind*, *body*, and *estate*, by drinking distilled spirits, when they chuse to do so. I believe the case is nearly the same in all countries: *adeo blanda est sperandi pro se cuique dulcedo*. Even the inexhaustible impudence and monstrous lies, and confident assurances, of the quacks, afford much more relief and comfort to many thousands of patients than any of our regular faculty could give them, even if they were administering to them the same medicines that the quacks employ.

“ It is either *Rousseau*, or some such original genius, who has observed, that many persons have no other pleasure in life but that of thinking they are not dead: and it is certain, at least, that there are many thousands in England who seem to have no other object or business, in this world, but that of preserving a miserable life, burdensome to themselves, and useless to the public. Quack medicines, and quacks, are *necessaries of life* to such people; who would be more indignant than the quacks themselves, if quackery was abolished by law.

“ As to the evil which you foresee on the return  
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of peace, and the vast number of medical men, who, being discharged from the army and navy, will endeavour to establish themselves in all parts of England, in most of which our profession is already overstocked, I do not see how it could be prevented, or even much lessened, by the total annihilation of all quack medicines and quacks; for if this were accomplished, still the number of regular medical practitioners would be so great, that, if the practice and the emoluments of the profession were to be equally divided among them all, they must all starve; or, at the best, live in great poverty and wretchedness. But such an equal distribution of professional business never did, and I dare say never will, take place. A few of the profession, by their own address, or by their talents, or merit, real or supposed, will acquire great employment and affluence: many more will barely be able to live by their profession; and many will not be able even to live by it: just as has always happened in our profession, and many others. I more than suspect that it is impossible for human wisdom, or human power, to regulate these matters properly; and that the best way, for all concerned, is, to allow them to regulate themselves; just as is done with respect to the daily supply of bread and meat to a great town; and as is done, in a great measure with respect to every article of manufacture and commerce; and would be done, completely, with respect to all such articles, if statesmen were wise and honest enough not to interfere in them with their



their injudicious and arbitrary regulations; and to content themselves with punishing and preventing injustice of every kind.

“ With respect to the practice of every branch of the medical profession, it is evidently so much for the good of mankind, that the prosperity of those who practise it should depend chiefly or solely on their own personal exertions; and the evils resulting from medical men being made almost independent of such exertions, in consequence of their having, by commission or otherwise, a kind of monopoly of the practice, in certain places and certain situations, have been so often and so severely felt, that too great caution cannot be employed in proposing or establishing any regulations in that respect.

“ Do not suppose, from any thing that I have said in this letter, that I mean seriously to contend for the maxim—*Si populus vult decipi, decipiatur*. I heartily wish, not only for the good of mankind, but for the honour, the comfort, and the permanent interest of all men of merit in our profession, that there were no deceit in the practice of physic. But while there is so much deceit, and so much imperfection in it; while the bulk of mankind will not believe that it is so imperfect, and eagerly wish to deceive themselves, and to be deceived by others, on that point; while so many impudent quacks are no less eager to take advantage of the folly and credulity of mankind; and while these abuses are not only established by the manners and customs of  
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the people, but in a manner sanctioned by the authority of the legislature, the difficulty of correcting them must be very great, perhaps insurmountable, especially if the reformation is proposed by men who have an evident and avowed pecuniary interest in that change which they endeavour to accomplish. An unsuccessful attempt of that kind, or what the French call *un coup manqué*, on the part of our regular Faculty, will be completely degrading to ourselves, and will afford matter of endless exultation and triumph to the quacks. In short, I cannot help thinking, that, before your proposed reform can be accomplished, physie must be made more perfect, physicians more honest, statesmen more enlightened, and the bulk of mankind much wiser and better than they are at present, or have ever been, or are likely to become in our time."

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#### APPENDIX. (C.)

*Outline of a Plan for an intended Bill for the better Regulation of Medical Practitioners, Chemists, Druggists, and Venders of Medicine, circulated by the Royal College of Physicians of London\*.*

WHEREAS many and great inconveniences have arisen from the ignorance of persons styling themselves physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries, and others known under the appellations of chemists, druggists, and venders of medicine, who are settled in divers parts of the United Kingdom, and

\* See Medical and Surgical Review, Feb. 1806.



who practise their several callings without previous authority derived from regular education, or other legitimate and proper sources, to the great detriment of his Majesty's subjects, and the great scandal of the medical profession, be it enacted,

1. That no physician, who is not a regular graduate, having personally performed his academical exercises, and been admitted to his degree without grace, either in the universities of England, of the university of Ireland, or in those of Scotland (except as is hereinafter provided), shall be permitted to practise in the United Kingdom.

2. That no surgeon, who shall not have served a regular apprenticeship of five years, and afterwards have attended two years in a provincial hospital, or one year at least in any of the hospitals of London, Dublin, or Edinburgh (except as is hereinafter provided), shall be permitted to practise as a surgeon in the United Kingdom.

3. That no apothecary, who shall not have served a regular apprenticeship of five years, and afterwards have attended two years in a provincial hospital, or one year at least in any of the hospitals of London, Dublin, or Edinburgh (except as is hereinafter provided), shall be permitted to practise as an apothecary in the United Kingdom.

4. That no chemist, druggist, or vender of medicine, shall be permitted to compound or dispense medicines, in a retail manner, unless he shall have had the regular education of an apothecary, or be otherwise legally authorised so to do.

5. That



5. That physicians, having no authority by their particular degrees to practise in that part of the United Kingdom where they have fixed their abode, shall be licensed so to do by the royal college within the jurisdiction of which such abode is situated.

6. That surgeons, by their particular education qualified to practise surgery, shall be examined and licensed by their respective corporations, societies, or colleges, as to their ability and qualification so to do.

7. That in default of such examination by their respective corporations, societies, or colleges, it shall be competent to the physician of the district (hereinafter to be provided), together with two assessors, being surgeons, already approved and examined by their particular corporation, society, or college, to call before him any surgeon so circumstanced, and to examine him touching his ability and qualification.

8. That apothecaries, by their education entitled to act as such, shall be examined by their respective corporations or companies as to their qualification and ability so to do.

9. That, in default of such examination by proper authorities, it shall be lawful for the physician of the district to call any apothecary before him, and, with the assistance of two assessors, being apothecaries properly educated and authorised to act as apothecaries, to examine him touching his medicinal, pharmaceutical, and chemical knowledge.

10. That



10. That, with respect to chemists, druggists, and venders of medicine, it shall be lawful for the physician of the district, with the assistance of two proper assessors, to call them before him, and to examine them touching their pharmaceutic and chemical knowledge.

11. That no physician who hath not attained his thirty-sixth year, and who hath not been a fellow of the royal college of physicians of London seven years, can be appointed by the royal college of London a physician to any district in England.

12. That no physician who hath not attained his thirty-sixth year, and hath not been a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Dublin seven years, can be appointed by the Royal College of Dublin a physician to any district in Ireland.

13. That no physician who hath not attained his thirty-sixth year, and hath not been a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh seven years, can be appointed by the Royal College of Edinburgh a physician to any district in Scotland.

14. That each and all of the several royal colleges shall nominate to the districts in their respective parts of the United Kingdom; that is to say, the college of London to the districts in England, the college of Dublin to those in Ireland, and the college of Edinburgh to those in Scotland; and the senior physician of such respective college (such physician not being in the enjoyment of any district appointment) shall be nominated resident physician in any district then vacant; and, in case of his re-

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fusal to accept such nomination, the next of the fellows, in order of seniority as they stand in the catalogue, shall then be nominated, and so on; and, as often as any vacancy shall occur, the same order of nomination shall be strictly observed, beginning always with the first upon the list, or senior fellow: provided, however, that the president for the time being (unless he really be the senior fellow) shall not, according to any construction, be held to be such, and he is hereby not accounted the senior fellow.

15. That if the number of fellows regularly qualified should not be sufficient, it shall be lawful for each Royal College, in case of such deficiency, to appoint from their licentiates, according to their respective seniority as they stand in the catalogue.

16. That each district physician shall reside within the district to which his college hath appointed him; that he shall have authority to call upon all physicians, practising within his district, to exhibit their diplomas and licences to practise; that he shall, either by himself or with his assessors, examine every surgeon, apothecary, chemist, druggist, or vender of medicine (except such as have heretofore, by proper authorities and privileges, been permitted to practise), touching their qualifications and abilities in their several branches and professions; that he shall once in every year, or oftener if he thinks fit, examine in the day time such houses or shops as dispense medicines, and that he shall report to the quarter sessions, or to the judge at the summer assize, the result of his visitation.

17. That



17. That the district physicians shall visit and examine all places licensed for the reception of lunatic or insane persons; that he shall report upon the number and treatment of the persons confined, and upon the state and condition of the houses wherein they are kept; and that he shall lay the result of his visitation before the justices in quarter sessions, or the judge at the summer assize.

18. That the district physician shall enquire into and examine the state of the parochial work-houses, or poor-houses, and report upon their salubrity and internal economy to the justices in quarter sessions, or to the judge at the summer assize.

19. That the district physician shall be empowered to grant licences to all such surgeons, apothecaries, chemists, druggists, and venders of medicine, as shall have been examined as aforesaid, settled within his limits, and who may not by proper authorities be otherwise privileged to act in their respective professions and occupations; that he shall exhibit to the clerk of the peace, or other proper officer, at the general quarter sessions, a list of such surgeons, apothecaries, chemists, druggists, and venders of medicine, with their respective residences, as appear to him qualified to act in their several branches, in order that the clerk, or other officer, may receive the payment of their annual licence from all such as, by especial authority and privilege, are not exempted therefrom; and that he shall transmit a similar list to the college of physicians.



20. That each person shall pay for his annual licence two pounds two shillings, and one shilling to the clerk of the peace for registering and inserting a notification of the same in a list to be published after the summer assizes in the county newspaper.

21. That two or more persons acting in partnership shall pay for two or more licences.

22. That persons acting in any of the departments of medicine without licence or authority shall forfeit thirty pounds

23. That all incompetent persons shall be refused licences.

24. That the constables of townships and hamlets do every year procure the name of every person practising or vending medicine, as well as the places for the reception of lunatics, and also the number of work-houses or poor-houses, in their particular departments, and make known the same by affixing a list upon the door of the parish church of such townships or hamlets, any time between the first of January and the last day of March; and that they transmit similar lists to the district physician, and to the clerk of the peace, between the times above mentioned.

25. That England be divided into sixteen districts.

26. That Ireland be divided into eight districts.

27. That Scotland be divided into districts.

28. That for each district physician, each royal college shall draw annually upon the receivers-general of the counties, for a salary not exceeding five hundred pounds.

29. That



29. That salary shall be paid by the college, and commence from the quarter day next succeeding the appointment of the physician, and be paid up to the day of death or resignation.

30. That no less than eight months in the year be deemed a sufficient residence, to entitle the district physician to his salary.

31. That district physicians abusing their trusts be removeable.

32. That no district physician shall reside within ten miles of any of the Royal Colleges, nor within ten miles of any university of England, Ireland, or Scotland; nor hold any professorship, lectureship, or office, within or connected with the same.

33. That nothing in this Act be construed to diminish, or in any manner interfere with, the privileges and jurisdictions of any of the Universities, Royal Colleges, Corporations, or Societies, of the United Kingdom, which privileges and jurisdictions, as heretofore enjoyed, are hereby recognized, and, by this Act, to their full extent established and confirmed.

## APPENDIX. (D.)

*Copy of a circular Letter transmitted to the Medical Corporations and individual Practitioners of the United Kingdom. Also of a Letter and Address sent by Dr. Harrison in pursuance of a Resolution of the Association, to the Royal College of Physicians in London; and, mutatis mutandis, to the Royal College of Surgeons and the Society of Apothecaries of London, the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of Dublin and Edinburgh, and the Faculty of Physic, Glasgow; with the Answers subjoined.*

*Soho-Square, March 4th, 1806.*

(CIRCULAR.)

SIR,

I AM requested, by an association of medical men, who have held several meetings at the house of the president of the Royal Society, for the better regulation of the practice of physic, and to whom government has been pleased to grant free postage for this letter, and the answer you may be pleased to return to it; to beg the favor of your sentiments, and those of such other gentlemen in and out of the profession, as you may have the goodness to consult, by holding meetings of the faculty or otherwise, respecting the propriety of an application to parliament, to establish the Practice of Physic in the hands of qualified persons. It may not be improper to add, that it is not intended, that  
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the regular faculty now existing, of any denomination whatever, should be subjected to the measures in contemplation. They are to be confined entirely, to such persons as shall hereafter present themselves for admission. It is greatly to be lamented that the Practice of Medicine, in many parts of the kingdom, is now engrossed by physicians and surgeons without diplomas—accoucheurs without education—and apothecaries and druggists, who never served any apprenticeship; while regular and able practitioners are dispossessed of the stations, which they ought to hold in society, and are deprived of the emoluments due to the expence of their education.

To prevent a continuance of the manifest abuse of public confidence, and to increase the respectability as well as the usefulness of the faculty, are the leading considerations of the gentlemen, who have met on this subject. They are desirous in the commencement of their undertaking, to communicate with, and to obtain the co-operation of, respectable practitioners, in all parts of the kingdom. I therefore beg leave to solicit your assistance in promoting a measure, which is eminently calculated to benefit the community at large, as well as to improve the condition of medical men.

The general principle only can now be proposed; its execution must be the result of much deliberation. It is proper however to acquaint you with two things; 1st, That the scheme now under consideration, does not interfere with any of the rights or  
privileges

privileges of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons. 2dly, That these learned bodies do not possess powers for regulating the practice, beyond the distance of seven miles from London, whatever may be their good dispositions for the benefit of society at large; consequently there exists no legal control over any person, however illiterate, and ignorant, who ventures to assume the medical profession, beyond these limits.

In order to facilitate the communication of the necessary information, I have taken the liberty of submitting to your judgment, and of requesting answers to the Queries subjoined. The arrangement of free postage having been unavoidably delayed, a very early return to this letter is earnestly requested, to expedite the attainment of the desired object in the present Session of Parliament.

I have the honour to be your faithful, and very obedient humble servant,

EDW. HARRISON.

*\* \* \* Please to address your answers to Dr. Harrison, Horncastle, Lincolnshire—under cover to the Right Honourable Nicholas Vansittart, Treasury, London.*

First Query. Are you acquainted with any persons in your district, who practise physic, and are at the same time known to be so deficient in medical science and literature, that they may be considered incompetent to the responsibility, they take upon themselves?

2ndly.



2dly. What may be (in your opinion) the proportion of such incompetent persons, under the heads of Physicians, Surgeons, Apothecaries, Druggists, and Practitioners in Midwifery, compared to the number of those, whose education and talents render them deserving of the confidence of their patients?

3dly. In particular, what may be the proportion of persons usually distinguished by the appellation of Quacks, or Empiricks?

4thly. Do you find that the Chemists and Druggists, and other Venders of Drugs, are constantly supplied with medicines of such qualities, and with preparations in such a state, as a due regard for the public security obliges you to require? And do any of those persons interfere with the practice of physic, or Surgery?

5thly. What alterations appear to be wanted in your circuit, to render the Practice of Physic most useful to the community?

N. B. It is by no means wished that the Name of any incompetent person should be mentioned in the answers to these queries.

*To Sir Lucas Pepys, Baronet, M. D., Fellow of the Royal Society, &c., President, and to the other Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians, London.*

GENTLEMEN,

I BEG leave to state to you, that several meetings have been held in the county of Lincoln

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on the subject of a reform in the practice of physic, including surgery and pharmacy. As Chairman of the Medical Benevolent Society, I had the honour to preside at a meeting of medical practitioners on the 7th of last September; and, in consequence of the resolutions unanimously adopted on that day, I visited London, to lay the injurious and degrading modes of practice in my own county before the faculty, and other respectable gentlemen not of the medical profession, in order to determine whether any and what measures ought to be taken to correct the injuries of which we complain. I have reason to believe, from personal inquiries and an extensive correspondence, that similar abuses to those which exist in Lincolnshire are to be found in all parts of the kingdom, and that the regular practitioners are very desirous of a better regulation of the medical profession.

The practice of physic in the county of Lincoln is at this time so little under control, that persons who have received no medical education do not hesitate to engage in all its branches, and to assume whatever titles they please, without fear of punishment, or of being amenable to any tribunal. Hence it follows, that although many of the regular provincial faculty are possessed of great professional skill and acquirements, their exertions are, in a great measure, defeated by the multitudes of ignorant intruders, who assume the appellations of regular practitioners in all parts of the country.

These pretenders, whom patients have no proper means



means of distinguishing from regular and well educated practitioners, have increased so much of late years, especially since admission into the faculties of divinity and law have been regulated with greater circumspection, that, unless something be speedily undertaken to place the practice of the healing art upon a more respectable establishment, it is to be feared that, in many places at least, qualified persons will no longer engage in a toilsome employment, from which they can derive little credit or emolument. Thus a profession which, in able hands, is eminently calculated to relieve the most poignant and most complicated sufferings of humanity, will become useless, if not prejudicial, to mankind.

I have the satisfaction to observe, that several eminent physicians and surgeons have lately associated in London, to prosecute the very important object on which I have now the honour to address you; and as they have voluntarily engaged not to interfere with the rights or privileges of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, I hope this arduous and necessary undertaking will obtain the support of all respectable medical practitioners.

I have to add, with respect to the plan itself, that the regulations are intended to be prospective, and to prevent persons from being in future admitted into the profession, unless they have undergone a suitable education.

In this early stage of the business, it is impossible to enter into minute details, or to state more than

the general principle. In the progress, circumstances involving the best interests of the profession and of the community will come under discussion; which induce the gentlemen already engaged in this great undertaking to solicit earnestly, that the members of your respectable and learned Body will give their assistance in preparing the necessary provisions and regulations: I therefore take the liberty to request that the President and Fellows will have the goodness to return me an answer to this address with as little delay as possible, stating how far they concur in the necessity of a reform, and are disposed to give their countenance to it upon the terms proposed, or in any other way that may be more agreeable to themselves.

(Signed) E. HARRISON.

*Letter to Sir Lucas Pepys, Bart. &c.*

SIR, March 5, 1806.

I have the honour to forward with this letter an address to the President and Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians. I beg leave to request that you will have the goodness to lay it before the College with as little delay as the forms of your Body will permit, that opportunity may be given to obtain relief in the present session of parliament. The address was read and approved by the gentlemen with whom I act in this business, at their meeting last night. I have subjoined the  
copy



copy of a resolution formerly adopted, by which it will be seen that we do not intend to interfere with the rights or privileges of medical corporations. It will afford me great pleasure to find that the address has received the approbation of your College, and that the Faculty in all parts of the kingdom are zealously disposed to assist in promoting and arranging the necessary regulations. Without perfect unanimity and a liberal co-operation among the different branches of the profession, I am persuaded that great obstacles will be thrown in the way of any reform, and that it is almost impossible to establish one for the general advantage of the Faculty and of the community at large.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

E. HARRISON.

*Soho Square, December 10, 1805.*

“ Resolved unanimously,

“ That we are of opinion that no resolution ought to be made, or measure taken, which can in any degree interfere with the powers or privileges already possessed, by the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of London.”

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*College of Physicians, March 31, 1806.*

SIR,

The President and Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians have directed me to acquaint you, that they have been occupied for some time  
past

past in the consideration of the subject of your letter, and that they will at all times be ready to give the attention due to any information that may be submitted to their consideration.

I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,  
JAMES HERVEY, Register.  
*Dr. Harrison.*

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*London, April 23, 1806.*

DEAR SIR,  
I am sorry that, from various causes, you have not received an answer to the very obliging letter which you did me the honour to write to me, containing propositions intended for the benefit of the profession at large, and of mankind in general. It has been read before the Court of Examiners; but the Court of Assistants have been so engaged by urgent and important business, that it has not yet been submitted to their consideration.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

T. FORSTER.  
*Southampton Street, Bloomsbury Square.*

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SIR,  
I am this morning favoured with your letter, which I shall take an early opportunity of submitting to the Wardens and Court of Assistants of the Society of Apothecaries.

I am, Sir, your very obedient humble servant,  
A. MOORE.  
*Norfolk Street, March 6, 1806.*

SIR,



*Dublin, July 4, 1806.*

SIR,

I had the honour to receive your letter on the subject of medical regulation some time ago, and I took the opportunity of the first meeting of the College to lay it before my colleagues. They agreed *unanimously* to the necessity of the measures which you have resorted to, and desired that I should return you the thanks of the College for your zeal and assiduity, in endeavouring to put the profession at large on a better footing than it is on at present. A committee of the College has been appointed to answer the particular queries contained in your letter, and to propose to you and the medical association such improvements as may appear best adapted to the state of the profession in this part of his Majesty's dominions.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JAMES CLEGHORN,

President of the King and Queen's  
College of Physicians.

*Dr. Harrison, &c. &c.*

*Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.*

*Dublin, July 2, 1806.*

SIR,

I am directed to acquaint you that your letters, dated the 4th of March last, have been received, and were laid before the College, at a meeting

ing convened for that purpose ; and that they, feeling the importance of the subject on which you have addressed them, have appointed a committee to take the same into consideration, and have desired me to inclose you a copy of their charter and by-laws.

The committee having met, have ordered your letter to be printed, and have directed me to request that you will transmit, as soon as possible, for their information, a copy of the outlines of the bill for the better regulation of the practice of physic and surgery, intended to be brought into parliament, if such are prepared.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

*Dr. Harrison.*

J. HENTHOM, Sec.

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*Edinburgh, 5th Aug. 1806.*

SIR,

I this day laid before the College of Physicians of Edinburgh your circular letter and address, and they have desired me to return you their thanks for the communication.

The College are fully aware that there exist over Scotland abuses in the practice of medicine in all departments, and they ardently wish that these might be removed, so that the profession might be rendered more useful as well as more respectable.

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When you shall communicate the outlines of your plan more fully, the College will be enabled to take the subject into more particular consideration.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

TH. SPENS, C. R. M. Ed. Pr.

*Dr. Edward Harrison.*

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*Edinburgh 5th August, 1806.*

SIR,

I am desired by the College of Surgeons to inform you that their President has laid before them your letter of the 24th June last, referring to a former one addressed by you to him, but which he did not receive, and therefore they have no grounds to go upon in forming an opinion on the subject of medical reform alluded to in your letter.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

WILL. BALDERSTON, W. S.

Clerk to the College.

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*Glasgow, June 2, 1806.*

SIR,

This day I laid your circular letter and other correspondence before the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons in this place, and appointed a committee to take the subject under consideration.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

PETER WRIGHT, Preses.

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SIR,

SIR,

Glasgow, Aug. 5, 1806.

The enclosed Report of the Committee of our Faculty was yesterday laid before them, and approved of.

I now take the liberty of transmitting it to you. Wishing you success in your laudable exertions, I am, Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

PETER WRIGHT.

*Dr. Edward Harrison, Physician.*

*Report.*

At a meeting of the Committee appointed to consider the proposed medical reform, the following members were present---Mr. Couper, Mr. Macnish, Mr. Grieve, Dr. Corkindale, and Dr. Freer; and think the following answers may be made to the queries which were proposed.

1. There are many persons in this district, who practise physic without having had opportunities of making themselves qualified for that profession, and are consequently unfit for such employment.

2. We cannot determine exactly the proportion that exists between regularly bred medical practitioners and those not qualified, but suppose the number of these two classes may, perhaps, be nearly equal.

3. There are no eminent proprietors of nostrums or quack medicines here, though many of these medicines are sold in this quarter.

4. There



4. There are many venders of drugs in this place, who, from their education, are well qualified to distinguish and compound, and, we believe, sell good medicines; but there are others, who, from the want of opportunity of acquiring the necessary knowledge, we think unfit for that business; and all these interfere with the practice of physic and surgery.

5. We cannot, at present, suggest any plan which may effect the reformation in medicine that is wished for, though we should willingly concur in any one that might to us appear adequate to the purpose. At the same time we wish it to be understood, that our above answer to the proposed questions may not be considered as pledging our approval of *any* plan that may be brought forward.

The Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons in Glasgow consist of doctors of medicine, and also of surgeons who have had a liberal education, attended the different medical classes, and who, after examination by a standing committee of Faculty concerning their knowledge in anatomy, surgery, and pharmacy, and other public trials, are found qualified to practise these arts. This Faculty is a corporate body, erected by charter from King James the Sixth of Scotland, in 1599, confirmed by act of parliament; with power to call before it, and examine all practitioners in medicine who have not obtained a medical degree; likewise practitioners of surgery and pharmacy within the counties of Lanark, Renfrew, Ayr, and Dumbarton, with re-



gard to their knowledge; and to license, or interdict them from practice, as may appear proper. It has often prosecuted unlicensed practitioners; but, of late, the tediousness of such prosecutions, the expence and odium occasioned by them, have prevented the Faculty from exercising this part of its power.

ROBERT FREER, Convener.

*Faculty Hall, July 15, 1806.*

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#### APPENDIX. (E.)

*Soho Square, August 9th, 1806.*

*At a numerous Meeting of the Faculty, held this Evening at the House of the Right Honorable Sir Joseph Banks, Bart. K. B. President of the Royal Society, &c.—Dr. Harrison laid upon the Table the Answers he had received to the different Circular Letters transmitted to the Public Bodies, and individual Practitioners of the United Kingdom, in pursuance of a former Resolution. He then presented the following Plan for better regulating the Practice of Physic in its different Branches; which being read and considered, the subsequent Resolutions were entered into:*

#### PLAN.

1st. "That no person shall practise as Physician unless he be a graduate of some university in the United Kingdom, and has attained the age of twenty-four years. That he shall have studied the  
different



different branches of physic in an university, or other respectable school or schools of physic, during the space of five years, at least two of which shall have been passed in the university where he takes his degree.

2ndly, " That no person shall practise as Surgeon under three and twenty years of age, nor until he has obtained a diploma or licence from some one of the royal colleges of surgeons or other chirurgical corporations of the United Kingdom. That he shall have served an apprenticeship of five years to a practitioner in surgery, and afterwards have spent at least two years in the study of anatomy and surgery in a reputable school or schools of physic.

3dly, " That no person shall practise as an Apothecary until he shall have served an apprenticeship of five years to some regular apothecary, or surgeon practising as an apothecary; that he shall have studied the different branches of physic in some reputable school or schools during the space of at least one year, and shall have attained the age of twenty-one years.

4thly, " That no man shall practise Midwifery, unless he has attended anatomical lectures twelve months, and received instructions for the same term from some experienced accoucheur, and shall have assisted at real labours, And that no female shall practise midwifery without a certificate of fitness and qualification from some regular practitioner or practitioners in that branch.

5thly,



5thly, " That no person shall follow the business of a retail Chemist or Druggist, unless he shall have served an apprenticeship of five years to that art.

6thly, " That none of these restrictions be construed to affect persons at present regularly practising, in the different branches of medicine.

7thly, " Whether physicians shall be entitled to recover their fees by the usual legal means?

8thly, " That a register shall be kept of all medical practitioners in the United Kingdom, and every person in future entering upon the practice of any branch of the profession shall pay a fine on admission, the amount and disposition of which to be settled and specified hereafter.

**RESOLVED,**

1st, That it appears from the returns to the circular letters, that the abuses complained of do exist to a great degree in every part of the United Kingdom; and that the necessity for adopting regulations for their correction is universally admitted.

2dly, That it seems to be expedient that the plan proposed by Dr. Harrison be adopted as the basis of regulation; subject, however, to such alterations as may hereafter appear to be necessary.

3rdly, That Sir Joseph Banks and Dr. Harrison be requested to wait again upon the Right Honorable Lord Henry Petty, to state to him the progress of the undertaking, and to consult him upon further measures.

4thly,



4thly, That the following Gentlemen be appointed a committee to confer and correspond with the different public bodies of the United Kingdom, upon the subject of the proposed regulations—that they be requested to report their proceedings from time to time, and to take such other steps as they may judge necessary.---Names of the committee: Sir John M. Hayes, Bart.; Sir Walter Farquhar, Bart; Drs. Blackburne, Harrison, Garthshore, G. Pearson, Stanger, Willan, and Clutterbuck, (*Sec.*)

5thly, That a voluntary subscription of One Guinea each be received from the town and country practitioners, by any member of the committee, to enable them to prosecute the important objects in which they are engaged. (The names of subscribers to be published hereafter.)

6thly, That Dr. Harrison be requested to circulate the above Plan and Resolutions of this evening among the Faculty of the United Kingdom, in the manner of the former circular letter.

7thly. That since persons of every rank and occupation in life are deeply interested in the proposed regulations, the faculty are particularly requested to submit them to the principal inhabitants of their respective districts, by convening meetings, or in any other mode which they may think proper.

8thly. That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Right Honourable Sir Joseph Banks, for his continued attentions to the Association, and the important objects of their pursuit.

*London,*



*London, August 20, 1806.*

SIR,

I have the honour to forward to you the outline of a plan of Medical Reform, with the resolutions lately entered into at a meeting of the faculty in London. As it has been determined from the beginning to avoid, as far as possible, any interference with the rights and privileges of the different public bodies in the United Kingdom, I trust that the measure in contemplation will meet with general and active support.

I shall hope for an answer, when you have had time to consider the subject with the requisite attention. It must be addressed "Dr. Harrison, Horncastle," under cover to "George Harrison, Esq. Treasury, London."

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your faithful and very obedient humble Servant,

EDWARD HARRISON.

P. S. It being highly desirable that the circular letters should be distributed as generally as possible, I am desirous to request of you to take the trouble to transmit them to the practitioners in your neighbourhood, in order to give publicity to the undertaking.

*London,*

*August,*



August 25, 1806.

*At a meeting of the Committee held this evening at the house of Dr. Garthshore, the following letter addressed to the Royal College of Physicians, and, mutatis mutandis, to the different Universities and Incorporated Medical Bodies of the United Kingdom, was read and approved; and Dr. Harrison was requested to transmit the same, with the Plan and Resolutions as above stated.*

“ August 26, 1806.

210 Strand.

“ *To Sir Lucas Pepys, Bart, M.D., F.R.S., President; and to the Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians, London.*

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ I am requested by the committee nominated at a late numerous meeting of the faculty at the house of the Right Honourable Sir Joseph Banks, to transmit for your consideration a copy of the proceedings and resolutions then agreed to on the subject of a proposed medical reform.

“ The committee are decidedly of opinion, that the object in contemplation can by no means be so effectually accomplished, as by their acting in conjunction with the Royal College of Physicians of London, and the other incorporated medical bodies in the United Kingdom, the rights and privileges of which it is, they think, highly desirable to maintain, and perhaps to extend by legislative provisions, as far as may be necessary to attain the de-

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sired purposes. I am, therefore, also requested by the committee respectfully to desire that the College will depute two or more of their body to confer with an equal number of the said committee, at such time and place as may be convenient, in order to consider of a plan of procedure, which, *while it preserves inviolate the rights and privileges of the different corporate bodies, shall afford protection to the regular faculty throughout the United Kingdom* against the ignorant and unskilful, and insure in future to the community practitioners qualified, both by education and knowledge, for the respective important stations they shall assume.

"I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

"Your most obedient humble servant,

"E. HARRISON."

*Answers of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of London, and of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, &c. to the communication made to them by Dr. Harrison, in the name of the Committee for conducting the proceedings relating to the proposed Medical Reform.*

*College of Physicians, London, Oct. 23, 1806.*

SIR,

THE honour of your letter has been received; and I am directed to inform you, that the College of Physicians are at all times zealous to exercise the power vested in them by the legislature for the improvement of the medical profession, and



and the advantage of the public:---and, that they feel themselves obliged to decline the conference proposed to them in your letter.

I have the honour to be, SIR,

Your most obedient humble servant,

JAMES HERVEY, Register.

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*Royal College of Surgeons, London,  
9th October, 1806.*

SIR,

I AM ordered by the court of assistants to inform you that your letter of the 26th of August last has been this day read, and to return you their thanks for the communication.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

OKEY BELFOUR, Sec.

*Dr. Harrison.*

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*Edinburgh 3d February, 1807.*

AT a quarterly meeting of the Royal College of Physicians held in their Hall this day, the president laid before them a copy of the outline of a plan of medical reform, with the resolutions lately entered into at a meeting of the faculty held at the house of Sir J. Banks, K. B. &c.

The college having attentively perused and considered this outline, appoint the following resolutions respecting it to be transmitted to Dr. Edward Har-

riſon for the conſideration of the gentlemen in whoſe names he has ſent this plan to the college and to other public bodies.

The college are of opinion that there is room for reform and better regulations reſpecting the different branches of the practice of medicine, but they have reaſon to think that the ſame abuſes do not prevail, or at leaſt not in the ſame degree in Scotland as in England.

Whatever reform takes place, or whatever regulation be enacted, they are of opinion, that theſe ſhould have chiefly in view the benefit of the community at large, and not merely the emolument or reſpectability of the medical profeſſion.

It appears to them that ſeveral parts of the propoſed plan may tend rather to diminish the number of thoſe who might hereafter engage in the medical profeſſion, than to promote the welfare of the public, by increaſing the facility and the certainty with which they may obtain proper advice and aſſiſtance in ſickneſs or in bodily injuries.

They cannot doubt that good education both in medicine and ſurgery may be obtained in other univerſities beſides thoſe of the United Kingdom, in ſome of which, they are ſorry to ſay, that none or at beſt very imperfect medical education is provided. They cannot, therefore, approve of limiting the practice of phyſic to the graduates of theſe univerſities.

They think that, when perſons are properly educated, they may be qualified to enter on the practice



tice of medicine at the time of life they are entitled by law to manage their own affairs.

They are persuaded that a period of study for three years, at some university where proper instructions in the different branches of medicine have been attended, is sufficiently long, provided a degree be conferred only after strict and impartial examinations.

Such examinations should be deemed indispensable in every case, and proper certificates of these should be produced by every person entitled to practise.

No physician shall be entitled to practise who has not attended lectures on medicine for one year at least at the university from which he receives his degree.

They are of opinion that surgeons also may be qualified to enter on practice at the age of majority.

An apprenticeship of three years they think sufficient, but they should have attended some reputable public teachers, not only in anatomy and surgery, but also in medicine, during two years.--- As apothecaries as well as surgeons are now very generally engaged in the practice of medicine, they are of opinion that their education should be the same, and for the same period, as that of surgeons, but they think an apprenticeship of three years enough to afford them opportunities of instruction.

Every midwife should receive instruction from some teacher of that art, and should possess a certificate of having been examined and approved by proper persons.

As

As men midwives are employed in the cure of the complaints and diseases of women and children as well as in cases of pregnancy, they do not think that any one should be entitled to practise as an accoucheur who has not studied the different branches of medicine for two years at least in some respectable school, nor unless he has been examined and found qualified by proper persons.

They think a sufficient knowledge of drugs and of the art of pharmacy may be obtained in two years, and do not see the necessity of requiring retail chemists or druggists to serve an apprenticeship of five years, at least for the purpose of being acquainted with the articles they deal in, or the method of preparing them.

Whatever regulations are enacted, it would be unjust that these should affect practitioners already engaged in business, or students who have entered on an education for any of the branches of the medical profession.

They do not think a register of medical practitioners necessary, and they are of opinion that fines on admission are improper, chiefly as increasing expences, already very considerable previous to entering on practice.

Extracted from the records of the Royal  
College of Physicians of Edinburgh, by

ALEXANDER BOSWELL, Clerk.

*February*



*February, 1807.*

*" To Dr. Harrison.*

" SIR,

" I am directed by the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland, to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a Report made to them by a committee of their members, to whom were referred your letters and the plan of medical reform; and I am desired to request, that you will be pleased to consider the said Report as expressing the opinion of the College on that subject.

" I have the honour to be, Sir,

" Your most obedient humble servant,  
HUGH FERGUSON, Register.

" By order of the King and Queen's

" College of Physicians in Ireland.

" *Dublin, December 12, 1806.*"

*" Report.*

" Your Committee, having taken into consideration the papers received from the meeting of the Faculty held at the house of the Right Hon. Sir Joseph Banks, beg leave to report, That

" The important connection which subsists between the due exercise of medicine and the health of the public, with the experience of those countries where the progress of medical science appears to have kept pace with the protection afforded to its cultivators, evidently point out that medicine should be professed by persons *suitably* educated; and that the branches of physic, surgery,  
and

and pharmacy, should be practised, as far as existing circumstances will admit, distinctly from each other.

“ But it is evident that complete irregularity prevails both in profession and practice; for not only is the necessary separation of the profession little observed, but also persons who have not received any education to qualify them for the exercise of the subordinate branches of medicine, act as physicians, to the injury of the public, and well instructed practitioners; and that, though means have been successfully devised for protecting from encroachment the professions of law and divinity, that of physic is still open to every intruder.

“ Your Committee beg leave to state the irregularities which appear to them to exist in the practice of medicine, the causes and injurious consequences of such irregularities, and the means necessary for their correction or removal.

“ The principal irregularity seems to originate from a want of proper discrimination between the respective duties and privileges of physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries; and from the intrusion of empirics, who exercise with little controul the duties of *all* the professions.

“ In Ireland, surgeons are very generally employed in medical cases, though they often, from the peculiar and necessary mode of their education, are not qualified for such practice. In many parts of the country, hardly any distinction is made between the physician and the surgeon. In Dublin, also, although this evil does not exist in the same degree,



degree, yet the surgeon practises in cases purely medical, claims the treatment of diseases formerly considered to lie within the province of the physician, and thinks it his right to be called in to consultation in cases strictly medical, where the physician was first employed, thereby affecting to controul his practice.

“ Apothecaries also continually act as physicians, and receive fees, which are regularly stated by their Corporation, with injury to the public, and regular practitioner, since their education is limited almost totally to the operations of pharmacy, and cannot qualify them to distinguish and treat diseases; and their absence from their proper business, while engaged abroad, frequently defeats the intention of the physician towards his patient, by occasioning various neglects in the preparation of medicines.

“ With regard to quacks, whose gross ignorance is notorious, though their number is not so great in this country as in England, yet they do much mischief by imposing upon the credulity of the ignorant, and distributing their nostrums.

“ Other irregularities remain to be mentioned, arising from the improvident facility with which degrees are obtained from certain Scotch universities, upon a certificate merely, and without any previous education. The same evil prevails with respect to testimonials, so readily granted to accoucheurs unqualified to practise medicine, from lying-in hospitals and teachers in midwifery, who thus acquire certain introduction to families and general medical practice.

“ The causes of these irregularities seem to your Committee to arise, 1st, From want of competent restrictive powers in the College of Physicians in Ireland, to prevent the intrusion of unqualified persons into the practice of medicine.

“ 2dly, The almost exclusive possession of county hospitals, and other charitable medical institutions, by surgeons, who, through parliamentary arrangements, are made necessary to such establishments, and their attendance insured by salaries; although it appears upon enquiry, that a very considerable proportion of the diseases admitted there are purely medical, and therefore such as the surgeon, by his education, has not been instructed to treat.

“ 3dly, A want of the appointment of physicians to the medical charitable institutions, conjointly with the attending surgeons.

“ 4thly, A want of the appointment of physicians in the army medical department, to act conjointly with the surgeons, who, by filling solely such situations, have acquired an undue influence over the leading men in the country, who hold military stations.

“ 5thly, The want of a medical hall, library, and endowments, similar to those of the College of Surgeons, where physicians might meet, to forward the purposes of medical knowledge, and promote the general interests of the profession.

“ 6thly, The granting of licences or certificates by teachers in midwifery (which in their operation become virtually diplomas), importing that those  
who



who have such are entitled to act as accoucheurs, although they may not have received a regular professional education, or possess any legal qualification authorizing them to practise either medicine or surgery.

7thly, The want of a regular inspection of medicines, weights, and measures, kept in apothecaries' shops, by physicians appointed to discharge that duty.

“ 8thly, The want of properly defined laws in charitable institutions, for regulating the admission and discharge of patients, and for discriminating between medical and surgical cases.

“ Serious consequences will be the result of the abuses now stated; the public interests will materially suffer, since it must happen that, from incapability of discriminating without a guide to direct, and imposed upon by that presumptuous confidence which too frequently accompanies ignorance, individuals will confound the unqualified pretender with the informed and well educated physician; that practitioners of regular education and correct manners will be deprived of that public confidence to which they are so justly entitled; and that medicine will gradually cease to be considered as an object of pursuit deserving the attention of men of scientific acquirements or mental ability; and that a profession hitherto deemed liberal and honourable, which has materially benefited mankind by important discoveries and improvements, is in danger of sinking into decline.

“ The remedies for such important evils are to be sought for by means likely to gain the approbation of the public, without which nothing effectual can be accomplished. Your Committee therefore propose,

“ 1st, That the powers of the College of Physicians be extended, by obtaining a ratification of their charter by act of parliament, the provisions of the charter being so modified as to meet the existing difficulties.

“ 2dly, The adoption of article 1st of Dr. Harrison's Plan, which limits the practice of medicine to graduates in medicine.

“ 3dly, The holding out inducements to country practitioners to become licentiates of the College of Physicians. Physicians so licensed, to be entitled Extra Licentiates.

“ 4thly, The publication of a list twice in the year of all those who have become licentiates, or extra licentiates, in six or more newspapers through the country.

“ 5thly, The adoption of means likely to procure the appointment to county hospitals, and other charitable institutions, of physicians, members of the College, in conjunction with the surgeons, and to insure the attendance of the physicians by salaries.

“ 6thly, A parliamentary grant for completing an hospital, in which clinical lectures, subservient to a school of medicine, may be given, and in which a library may be established for the use of students,



students, conformable to the tenor of the act 40th of the King (1800); the fund appropriated by that act having hitherto proved insufficient for those purposes.

“ 7thly, The appointment of physicians in the army medical department in Ireland.

“ 8thly, The providing a hall, for the members of the College to meet, furnished with a library and other means of promoting medical science.

“ 9thly, That no man should practise midwifery who is not regularly educated as a physician, surgeon, or apothecary, according to the new regulations; who shall not have practised half a year in a lying-in hospital; and who shall not have received a licence from the College of Physicians for that purpose.

“ 10thly, The appointing of inspectors of apothecaries' shops from among the members of the College of Physicians; so modifying the obligation to be taken by them as to suit it to present circumstances.

“ 11thly, That the exemplification of patents for quack medicines be regulated otherwise than heretofore; that the Colleges of Physicians be made acquainted, in a satisfactory manner, with the composition of the preparation; and that the patentee shall have the exclusive right to the profits of the sale, but for a limited time.

“ 12thly, The adoption of rules for the admission and discharge, with regularity, of patients in medical and other charitable institutions, and for discriminating between medical and surgical cases.

“ Your

" Your Committee have thus stated the principal irregularities which prevail in medical practice; their causes, and the means which seem to them necessary for their correction. They conclude by observing, that however great the abuses, or deep laid the causes which produce them, much may be done towards their removal; and, to this end, they are confident that present circumstances will materially contribute, if assisted by co-operation and unanimity among the members of the medical profession."

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*" Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland,  
 " Dublin, January 19th, 1807.*

" SIR,

" I have the honour to enclose you a copy of the Report of a Committee appointed by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, to take into consideration a plan for Medical Reform, on which you were pleased to request their opinions; and to state to you, that after the most deliberate investigation of the subject, the College agreed with their Committee.

" I have the honour to be, Sir,

" Your most obedient servant,

" JAMES HENTHORN, Sec.

" *Dr. Harrison, &c.*"

" At a meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, holden at the Theatre, on Saturday,



day, the 6th of December, 1806, Gerard Macklin, Esq., President; Dr. Hartigan reported from the Committee appointed to take into consideration Dr. Harrison's plan for Medical Reform, that they had met and came to the following resolutions:

“ Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Committee,

“ 1st, That the College should confine itself to what relates to the profession of surgery in the answer which shall be given to Dr. Harrison's letters of 4th of March and 9th of August, 1806.

“ 2d, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that the number of empirics professing to practise surgery in Dublin and its vicinity is not considerable: that in these places, and in the country at large, their number, and their practice, have gradually decreased for some years past, and that at this time their encroachments on the authorized practitioners are not so extensive as to require legislative interference for their suppression.

“ 3d, That this diminution of their number, and decrease in their practice, are to be ascribed to the establishment, by the College, of a regular system of anatomical and surgical education in Dublin, to a strict examination of the candidates for county hospitals, and for *licences to practise* (which is conducted openly in the presence of the members, honorary members, and licentiates, of the College), and to the exercise, in other respects, of the powers vested in them by their charter of incorporation.

“ 4th,

" 4th, That they look with confidence to the future operation of these causes for such further reform in the profession of surgery as may be desirable in this country; and the more especially as they are now engaged in extending their plans for the better education of the students in surgery, and which they are enabled to do by liberal parliamentary grants; and that they do not therefore think it necessary to call for the interference of the legislature, to regulate the profession of surgery in Ireland.

" The question having been put on the above report, the College agreed with the Committee.

" Extract from the Minutes,  
" J. HENTHORN, Secretary."

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" College, Edinburgh, Feb. 25th, 1807.

" SIR,

" I have the honour to transmit to you a Report of the Medical Faculty of the University of Edinburgh, approved of by the Senatus Academicus, respecting the " Plan for better regulating the Practice of Medicine in its different Branches;" and I beg leave to request that you may have the goodness to communicate the paper to the Committee who meet at your house on that subject.

" I have the honour to remain, with respect, Sir,

" Your most obedient and very faithful servant,

" GEORGE H. BAIRD, Principal.

" Sir Joseph Banks, Bart.

Sc. Sc. Sc.

" Report



*" Report of the Committee appointed by the Senatus Academicus to consider the ' Plan for better regulating the Practice of Physic in its different Branches.'*

" The Committee acknowledge that many great abuses prevail in the practice of medicine, from the removal of which many advantages would be derived. They are, however, decidedly of opinion that these abuses cannot be removed by the plan of medical reform which is now submitted by the Senatus Academicus to their consideration.

" In forming an opinion of this plan, the Committee have directed their attention chiefly to those parts of it which more immediately concern this University.

" 1. The proposed plan seems very inconsistent with the profession made by its authors, " to avoid, as far as possible, any interference with the rights and privileges of the different public bodies in the United Kingdoms." For the University of Edinburgh, in consequence of regulations sanctioned by long practice, confers degrees in physic upon those who have studied all the branches of medicine in some university for *three* years. The Committee, however, find themselves incompetent to decide upon the legal question respecting the violation of the privileges of the University by the proposed plan of medical reform. Nor are they much concerned about this question, as they would most readily agree to abandon those privileges, were  
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they



they persuaded that the intended plan would have the effect of reforming the practice of medicine, and of removing the abuses which at present prevail.

“ 2. The Committee need not mention the origin and the reasons of conferring degrees in physic, a practice which has been long followed in Europe, and of which the expediency and even necessity are now universally acknowledged. They beg leave, however, to observe, that it has never been intended to declare to the public that the person upon whom an university confers the degree of a doctor in physic has acquired a complete knowledge of medicine, but to announce to the world, in the most public manner, that he has been regularly educated; that he has studied during an university period all the branches of medicine, and that he has acquired such a stock of knowledge as, in the opinion of competent judges, qualifies him for entering upon the practice of physic. A period of three years, employed in the study of all the branches of medicine, has been considered by our predecessors as sufficient, according to the average of human abilities, for the above purposes. The propriety of fixing upon this period has been proved from ample experience. For the Graduates of this University have acquired as high a degree of respectability, have shewn themselves as deserving of the confidence of the public, and have contributed as much to the advancement of the science of medicine, as the Graduates of other Universities, in which the duration of study is much longer.

“ 3.



“ 3. It may, however, be alledged by the proposers of this plan, that a part of the long period of *five* years study might be employed with advantage in attending to many of those branches of science which are nearly connected with medicine, and must contribute essentially to improve it. But for the attainment of this very desirable object, this plan of medical reform makes no provision whatever.

“ 4. The proposed plan of prolonging the period of study would increase very much the expence of a medical education, at present very considerable. The consequences of this may prove very injurious to the future state of medicine in this country. It would deter many from applying to a profession in which, even at present, they must wait long before they receive an adequate return. It would effectually exclude many whose talents fit them for adding to the dignity and to the improvement of medicine, from taking degrees in physic; and it would therefore tend to diminish the number of well educated young men of the medical profession.

“ 5. If by the proposed plan it is intended that no University in the United Kingdoms shall *in any case* be allowed to confer degrees in physic until after a study of *five* years, it will necessarily prevent the subjects of other states, and even those of the foreign dominions of Great Britain, from studying medicine in these kingdoms, unless other states, which is in the highest degree improbable, should adopt the same plan.



“ 6. The proposed plan will prevent those persons from practising medicine in Britain who may have taken degrees in foreign Universities; a measure which appears extremely illiberal, as well as unreasonable, and which probably would be retaliated by other nations and their Universities.

“ 7. It has been the practice of most Universities to admit those certificates of study which are given by Universities only. Because these Universities, having been established and acknowledged by the government of the country in which they are, will, in general, be filled with proper and well qualified teachers, and possess faithful registers. But the proposed plan, by admitting certificates of education from *schools of physic*, may prevent the possibility of ascertaining a regular education; and it might lead to many other abuses, because these schools may be self-erected and conducted by teachers over whom there may be no controul.

“ 8. All the above objections, which have been made against the intended plan of reform in the practice of physic, may be urged with still greater force against that which regards surgery. The Committee will therefore only call the attention of the Senatus Academicus to the long period of a surgical education, no less than *seven* years; a period of time which very few of those who study surgery can bestow upon it, and which, if adopted, must necessarily diminish the number of those who would in future apply to that profession. The consequences of this are obvious; the more remote parts



parts of the country, and the poorer class of people, would every where be worse supplied with medical practitioners. It would enlarge the field for empiricism and ignorance, to contract which ought to be the great object of a medical reform. And the army and navy would also be much worse supplied with medical and surgical assistants; for it is a fact well known to your Committee, that, during war, the supply of medical students, even under the present system of education, is never equal to the demand.

“ 9. Although the surgeon, accoucheur, and apothecary, practise medicine every where except in great towns, yet no provision has been made in the proposed plan for obliging them to undergo a proper medical education.

“ 10. The proposed period of apprenticeships for the apothecary and druggist appears to the Committee to be a most unprofitable waste of time, and must tend to encourage habits of idleness, which it may be difficult to throw off in after life.

“ 11. The fine which is proposed to be levied on every person entering upon the practice of any branch of the medical profession appears to your Committee to be extremely exceptionable; because it loads with severe pecuniary burdens the intrant into a profession which requires a very expensive education; and because it supposes that the labour of the medical profession is more highly remunerated than that of others.

“ 12. Lastly, If, contrary to all expectations, the  
proposed

proposed plan of medical reform be likely to be enacted into a law, the Committee need not point out to the Senatus Academicus the injustice of extending its operation to those who have already begun the study of medicine, or any of its branches; and the necessity of endeavouring, by every means to procure an exemption for these.

“ The Committee, deeply impressed with these considerations, which they have taken the liberty to state, earnestly recommend to the Senatus Academicus to oppose the passing of the provisions of the proposed plan of medical reform into a law; and, for this purpose, they humbly suggest that a Committee be appointed to attend to the progress of the measure, with power to take such steps as may seem to them from time to time expedient and necessary.

“ Extracted from the Records of the University  
by GEORGE DUNBAR, Sec. and Libr.”

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“ *Edinburgh College, 18 Feb, 1807.*

“ This day, the Senatus Academicus having met, a copy of the above Report was laid before them, and, after mature deliberation, they approved of the same, and, in terms of the recommendation with which it concludes, appointed a Committee to attend to the progress of the measure in question, with power to take such steps as may seem to them from time to time to be expedient and necessary.

“ GEORGE DUNBAR, Sec.”

APPENDIX.



## APPENDIX. (F.)

*August 18th, 1807.*

AT a meeting of the committee appointed to conduct the proceedings relating to medical reform, held at the house of Dr. Garthshore, Dr. Harrison having laid before them a great number of additional answers to his circular letter, received since the last meeting of the committee, as well from the corporate bodies as individuals, and the same having been read—

RESOLVED, 1. That the communications laid before the committee this evening afford abundant proofs of the deplorable state of society in being exposed to the injuries resulting from a numerous race of unqualified practitioners, and the consequent discouragement of well-educated members of the faculty.

2. That as doubts are entertained with regard to the powers at present vested by law in the corporate bodies being adequate to the correction of the existing abuses, Resolved, That it be recommended to Dr. Harrison to endeavour to ascertain by proper inquiries the real extent of such powers, and their competency to effect the desired purposes.

3. That this committee do highly approve of the zeal shewn by Dr. Harrison, in collecting evidence of the various abuses in physic, and the sentiments of the profession on the subject of reform.

4. That, as it is desirable the fullest information should be obtained respecting the state of the profession



fession in every part of the United Kingdom, and the means of remedying its abuses, practitioners be still invited to transmit to Dr. Harrison, through the channel already pointed out, any further communications that may appear to them likely to elucidate the subject, and to promote the object in view.—  
Adjourned.

*“ A Case on Medical Reform drawn up for the Opinion of Mr. Sergeant Williams, by Messrs. Greene, Tennant, and Harrison, of Gray’s Inn, Solicitors.*

“ It has long been considered by many respectable physicians and other practitioners in medicine as a grievance calling for legislative interference, that the practice of physic in the country has principally fallen into the hands of illiterate and unskilful persons, who have had no regular education to qualify them for the profession, to the incalculable injury of the community, and to the great discredit of the science itself. Within these late years this subject has attracted the attention of a society of gentlemen in Lincolnshire, amongst whom Dr. Harrison, a physician of long standing and extensive practice, has at their desire particularly interested himself: and from a series of enquiries which have been instituted in that county, it appears that not more than about one in nine of those who practise for gain as physicians, surgeons, men-midwives, apothecaries, druggists, or empirics, have passed through any regular course of education, to qualify them to practise in their several situations; and,  
from



from subsequent enquiry, there is good reason to believe that the state of medical practice is equally defective, in other parts of the British dominions. And even of those who have had what is called a regular education, only a very small proportion are equal to the responsibility which they take upon themselves. Many physicians and surgeons in London of the first eminence, and others who, from their rank or political situations, may be supposed most capable of promoting a remedy for this evil, have concurred in the opinion that the interference of the legislature is become necessary; amongst whom Sir Joseph Banks has taken an active part. Lord Henry Petty, when chancellor of the exchequer, was also impressed with the same belief, and evinced his desire of promoting a reform on this subject, by procuring the licence of government that all correspondence with the provincial practisers should pass free of postage; and, in consequence thereof, a very extensive circulation has taken place of such questions as were calculated to procure from the regular practisers, throughout the United Kingdom, information whereon to ground such regulations, as may be deemed expedient and adequate to the object. Those who have undertaken this labour did not enter upon it without foreseeing very great difficulty and much opposition from many practisers, both regular and irregular; but their views being confined to such regulations only as should tend to a gradual correction of the present abuses, and render the profession more



respectable, by preventing irregular persons from entering into it in future, without disturbing those who are at present practising (however irregularly,) they hope that a large majority of the more enlightened and respectable part, as well of their own body as of the community at large, will, when their minds are once drawn to the subject, concur with them in the propriety of *some* regulations being made.

“ It was natural for these private gentlemen to endeavour, in the first instance, to obtain the influence and interference of the regular body of the College of Physicians. Accordingly different applications have been respectfully made to them, both collectively and individually. But it was scarcely expected that that body (however respectable the members of which it is composed) would, as a body hazard any innovation, which, as it appeared to them, might eventually endanger their own constitution and powers. And it is but fair to suppose that many of them, who have attained high rank and consequence as practisers in London, not having before their eyes the mischiefs which those who practise at a distance from town daily witness from the abuses alluded to, may not deem it expedient to make the attempt, or may be averse to it from principle. Be that as it may, the college, as a body, hath hitherto declined either to bring forward under its own immediate sanction any specific regulations for these abuses, or to give its assent to any which others have proposed.

“ As



“ As a preliminary to the consideration of any plan whatever, it seems incumbent on those who make the attempt to ascertain what are the existing powers of the present college of Physicians, and whether those powers, if exercised to their fullest extent, would be sufficient to the objects in view. Their authority, it seems, rests on an Act of 3d Henry VIII; a charter of incorporation granted by that king, confirmed and extended by the statute 14th and 15th of his reign, chapter 5th, in which the charter is copied, and other acts 32d Henry VIII. and 1st Mary. The principal Act of 14th and 15th Henry VIII. authorizes the election of a president and elects of the physicians of London, and extends the powers of the college by the following clause.

“ ‘ And where that in dioceses in England out of  
 ‘ London it is not light to find alway men able to  
 ‘ sufficiently examine after the statute such as shall  
 ‘ be admitted to exercise physic in them, that it  
 ‘ may be enacted in this present parliament that no  
 ‘ person from henceforth be suffered to examine or  
 ‘ practise through England, until such time as he  
 ‘ shall be examined at London by the said president  
 ‘ and three of the said elects, and to have from the  
 ‘ said president or elects letters testimonial of their  
 ‘ approving and examination, except he be a gra-  
 ‘ duate of Oxford or Cambridge, which hath accom-  
 ‘ plished all things for his form without any grace.’

“ By a bye law of the college, 1st February, 1572, the faculty were divided into four classes, *viz.* First, *Fellows* or members of the college. Second,



*candidates* for election into such fellowship. Third, *licentiates*, or persons having licence to practise physic, who are not considered as members of the college; and, fourth, *extra licentiates*, or physicians who reside more than seven miles from London.

“ The first class consists of a comparatively small number of the practisers in and about London, who are as jealous of their rights as they are careful to conceal the bye laws and regulations of their body. And as the right of election to this body rests with themselves, they are extremely limited in their selection of new members, confining them to graduates of Oxford, Cambridge, and Trinity College, Dublin.

“ The second class consists of those who are candidates for admission; and it is the general custom not to admit to this honour any practiser who resides more than seven miles distant from London, though, in consequence of some doubts raised as to the legality of such a custom, they have in a few instances deviated from it, merely, as it is supposed, to prevent the legality of their proceedings being drawn into question.

“ It is supposed that five or six fellows are at this time practising more than seven miles from London.

The third class of *licentiates* comprizes the great bulk of practising physicians in London. The fees of admission, which are (oddly enough) *larger* than those for the admission of fellows into the corporation, raise a considerable revenue. But how it is applied by the college does not generally appear.

The



“ The fourth class contains the extra licentiates, and is open to persons not necessarily doctors in physic, who practise more than seven miles from London. Although the college suffer physicians in the country to become fellows and licentiates, probably these licences are of no validity at a greater distance than seven miles from London. Admission into this class is very easily obtained, and is open to doctors with purchased diplomas equally with regular graduates. Hence the respectable provincial physicians seldom apply to be made extra licentiates, conceiving such a connexion with the college to be rather disreputable than otherwise.

“ But as far as relates to the objects above pointed at, either these powers, or the practice of the college under them, are very deficient, for they have never attempted to enforce the right of questioning any one, who calls himself a doctor or physician, or practises in any of the branches of physic more than seven miles from London, either regularly or irregularly, nor do they call upon any one to take out his licence to practise. Such as choose to apply for it, have it very much of course on paying their fees; but it is merely optional with themselves, whether to call for it or not. Thus it is obvious that no check is imposed by this body on the irregularities complained of, and their power to do it, if so disposed, appears at least very questionable. To shew the want of these powers is an object to those who seek for reform.

“ A considerable proportion of the provincial  
physicians

physicians have had their education and taken their degrees regularly, at one of the Scotch Universities. A very few of them have thought it necessary to become licentiates or extra licentiates under the college of physicians in London, but a large majority practise without such licence. And no instance has ever been known of any interference by the college with *any practisers* beyond the seven miles from London. It has been, however, a practice much to be lamented in some of those Universities to grant diplomas for money, or at least without requiring from the *candidates* the attendance and duties of a regular education, or even to undergo any previous examination. But doctors of this description cannot be considered as having accomplished (in the language of the act) "all things for their form without any grace," and this appears an evil which ought to be remedied.

"The laws and constitution of the college with respect to the admission of its town members are stated at length in the case of Dr. Archer and Dr. Fothergill, 5th Burr. 2740. That case appears to have been decided on the ground that those gentlemen having submitted to the bye laws of the college, by becoming licentiates under them, and as those laws prescribe *election* as the means of admission into the college as fellows, it was not in their power to dispute the validity of the bye laws.

"The case of Dr. Stanger, 7 Term reports, 282, brought the same question before the court; Dr. Stanger having been previously admitted as a licentiate,

1768

1796



tiate, though it appears to have been decided on broader grounds than the former, as it seems to have been conceded in the course of the argument, that, if the bye laws were illegal, Dr. Stanger was *not* bound by having subscribed to them.

“ But it may be a different question, whether those who have gone through a comprehensive course of education in the Scotch Universities, even much more full and complete than the English ones admit of, and have taken their regular degrees there as doctors of physic, and whose talents and characters are unimpeachable, have not under the Acts of Union a right to demand to be examined, in order to their being elected as fellows of the college, they having in no respect bound themselves to the bye-laws of that college by becoming licentiates under it.

“ By the Act of Union, 5th Anne, chap. 8, sect. 3d, ‘ it is ordained, that the universities and colleges ‘ of St. Andrew’s, Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Edin- ‘ burgh, *as now established by law*, shall continue ‘ within this kingdom for ever.’ But it is observable, that the preamble to this clause applies to the ‘ se- ‘ curity of the Protestant religion, and of the wor- ‘ ship, discipline, and government of the church, ‘ as above established;’ and the clause appears to ‘ have no reference to the practice of physic, al- though some of the colleges apply principally, if not wholly, to that science; yet the words of the enactment seem extensive enough to embrace and support the whole of those establishments.

“ By



“ By the same Act, chap. 8, art, 4, it is provided, that there shall be a communication of all other rights, privileges, and advantages, which do or may belong to the subjects of either kingdom, except where it is otherwise expressly agreed to in these articles.

“ Art. 25. That all laws and statutes in either kingdom, so far as they are contrary to, or inconsistent with the terms of these articles, or any of them, shall, from and after the Union, cease and become void; and shall be so declared to be by the respective parliaments of the said kingdom.

“ Art. 6th. And lastly, her majesty enacts and declares, that all laws and statutes in this kingdom, so far as they are contrary to, or inconsistent with the terms of these articles, shall, from and after the Union, cease and become void.

“ The diplomas granted in the University of Edinburgh state as follows:

“ ‘ Nos academix Jacobi regis Edinburginx, &c.  
 ‘ professores volumus, &c. gradum nempe doctora-  
 ‘ lem, A. B. consecutum esse eique amplissimam  
 ‘ potestatem medicinam ubique gentium legendi  
 ‘ docendi faciendi concessam aliaque omnia privile-  
 ‘ gia immunitates juraque hic aut usquam alibi ad  
 ‘ doctoratus apicem erectis concedi solent—cujus  
 ‘ rei quo, &c. &c.’

“ Upon a review of the several acts of parliament, and cases referred to, with the bye laws mentioned in those cases, you are requested to advise on the following points.”

*Queries*



*Queries addressed to Counsel, respecting the Jurisdiction of the Royal College of Physicians of London; with the Answers thereto.*

FIRST. "Have the London College of Physicians any real or effective power (under the Act of 14th and 15th Henry VIII.) of controuling *generally* the practice of physic in England at a greater distance than seven miles from London?

SECOND. "If they have such power, does it extend to doctors of physic (not graduates of Oxford or Cambridge,) or merely to persons practising without a diploma?"

*Ans.* I am of opinion that the London College of Physicians *have not any power* whatever, either under their charter confirmed by the statute 14th and 15th Henry VIII, c. 5, or by the third section of that Act, to controul the practice of physic in England at a greater distance than seven miles from London. There are two clauses in the charter relative to this subject of their power to controul the practice of physic. One is to prohibit any person, *whether he be fit or not*, to practise physic in London, or within seven miles round London, without the licence of the College. If he do so *for a month*, he is liable to a penalty of 5*l.* a month; one half to the king, and the other to the college. And this remedy by action is the only way by which the college can prevent the practice of physic in London, or within seven miles round, without their licence. The other clause in the charter gives the

four censors the power of supervision and correction over physicians, and of punishing them "*pro delictis suis in non bene exequendo, faciendo & utendo*:" but this power of supervision and punishing is confined to London and seven miles round. Under this charter the censors cannot either fine or imprison any person for practising in London *without a licence* from the college; they can only fine or imprison *pro malá praxi*. Now when the statute 14th and 15th Henry VIII, c. 5, s. 3, says, that no person shall practise physic through England until such time as he be examined in London by the president and three of the elects, and to have from the said president and elects letters testimonial of their approving and examination, yet it gives no power to the College of Physicians, or to any body else, to oblige a person to be examined, and have a licence before he is allowed to practise as a physician. The statute does not subject the party to a penalty, either expressly, or by reference to the charter, if he does practise without the licence required by the statute; as the charter does when it prohibits persons from practising in London without a licence; or as the statute of 3d Henry VIII, c. 11, s. 2, does when a person practises physic out of London and the precinct of seven miles without the allowance required by that Act. Nor does the third section of the 14th and 15th of Henry VIII. give to the college any power to correct and punish physicians who practise at a greater distance than seven miles from London. Therefore, inas-



much as the college could not have prevented persons from practising physic in London, unless there had been a penalty added for so doing, it being clear that they cannot punish a person who practises in London without a licence by fine or imprisonment; and inasmuch as without the clause in the charter giving the censors a power to punish persons practising physic in London *pro malâ praxi*, they could not have had any controul over them, it follows that, though the statute contains a prohibitory clause in it, yet as it has not inflicted any penalty upon the persons prohibited for doing contrary to the act, or given any power of punishment to the college to correct their mal-practices in the country, the act is a dead letter, and wholly inoperative.'

THIRD. "Are graduates in physic of the Scotch Universities entitled by the Act of Union to the like privileges in England, as those of Oxford and Cambridge are entitled to under the Acts before mentioned?"

'Ans. I am clearly of opinion that they are not. As for instance: The 21st Henry VIII, c. 13, s. 23, provides that all doctors and bachelors of divinity, doctors of law, and bachelors of law, who shall be admitted to any of the said degrees in any of the universities of this realm, and not by grace only, may purchase licence to hold two livings. It has been held that a person who has been created to any of these degrees in the Scotch Universities, though after a regular education, is not intitled to purchase a dispensation to hold two livings. So it

is with respect to an advocate in Doctors Commons; he must be a doctor of one of the English Universities. Lord Mansfield comments on the 4th article of the Union in *Jones v. Smart*, 1 Term Rep. 48. "It is true," says he, "that by the 4th article of that act, the Scotch have the same general privileges as the English; but then they must have the same qualifications, otherwise they come not within the same description; for the general article which declares there shall be a communication of all privileges, can only mean such as are of a general nature." A doctor of the English Universities may become a member of the College of Physicians; may plead in Doctor's Commons; and has various other privileges, from all which a Scotch doctor, as such, is excluded. The words in the third section of the 14th and 15th Henry VIII. are very strong, "except he be a graduate of *Oxford or Cambridge*, which has accomplished all things for his form, without any grace."

FOURTH. "May doctors of physic of the Scotch Universities, who, according to the acts of Henry VIII, are groundedly learned, &c. claim to be examined for the fellowship of the College of Physicians in England, although they refuse to be made licentiates? And are they by the Act of Union placed upon an equal footing, in point of eligibility for the fellowship with the graduates of Oxford and Cambridge?"

'Ans. It is too fully settled to be now doubted that doctors of physic of the Scotch Universities, who



who are groundedly learned (to use the language of the statute of Henry VIII.) have no claim to be examined for the fellowship of the College of Physicians in England, although they may refuse to be made licentiates. This point is in effect decided in Dr. Stanger's case. For though he was a licentiate, and his claim to be admitted a member was grounded upon that circumstance, being a practiser of physic in London, and therefore within the clause in the charter "*et omnes homines ejusdem facultatis de & in civitate predicta;*" yet the court did in substance decide that the bye laws of the college, by which it was enacted that no person should be admitted who was not a doctor of physic of Oxford or Cambridge, or Dublin incorporated into Oxford or Cambridge, or unless licentiates in the manner there pointed out, was a good bye law; and by that decision it follows that a doctor of physic of the Scotch Universities has, as such, no claim to be examined for the fellowship of the college. I have already observed, that I think, and indeed am very clearly of opinion, that the Scotch doctors are not by the Act of Union placed upon an equal footing in point of eligibility for the fellowship with the graduates of Oxford and Cambridge.'

FIFTH. "On a review of the whole subject, be pleased to mention, generally, any ideas which may suggest themselves to you, as calculated to promote the ultimate objects of those who are desirous of procuring the reform suggested."

'Ans.

‘*Ans.* The result of the whole is this : The great object cannot be attained. Any person with a degree, or without one ; or with a licence from the college, or without ; may practise physic in England at a greater distance than seven miles from London, whether he be fit or not, without any person to controul him ; otherwise than that, by the common law of England, if a person is guilty of *mala praxis*, whether it be for curiosity and experiment, or by neglect, he is guilty of a great misdemeanor and offence, for which he may be indicted. But he is not under the controul, or supervision, or correction of the College of Physicians, or any other ; or liable to any penalty for so doing, notwithstanding the statute 14th and 15th Henry VIII. ; and, therefore this mischief can only be, and I conceive ought to be, remedied by the legislature. As to the claims by the doctors of physic of the Scotch universities to be admitted fellows of the College of Physicians, it is hardly worth the contest. If they are fit, and wish to practise in London, they will have of course a licence, and by that means be entitled to the same rewards of their talents as if they were members of the college ; and by being licentiates, they may be proposed by the president or any of the fellows, and by that means become members of the college, as much as if they had obtained their degrees at Oxford or Cambridge.

‘ JOHN WILLIAMS.’

‘ *Sergeants Inn, Oct. 15th, 1807.*’

## APPENDIX.



## APPENDIX (G.)

## (CIRCULAR.)

*London, September 23, 1809.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to you the enclosed resolutions, and hope no apology will be deemed necessary for again calling your attention to the present defective state of medical education and practice in the country, or to the advantages that will arise to the community at large, from obliging future members of the profession to be properly qualified before they engage in their respective occupations.

I beg leave to inform you, that the Bill, alluded to in the resolutions here annexed, was drawn up last summer by a gentleman of high legal rank, and much in the confidence of government. It has since that time been submitted to many persons, practising in the different branches of medicine, and to others not of the profession; by all of whom, I am happy to add, it has been highly approved. Though the bill had been carefully revised, no attempt was made to present it to parliament last winter, principally for want of an adequate fund to pay the fees of parliament and provide for contingencies. The pecuniary resources of the committee appointed in London to conduct the undertaking are still very deficient, and I write to request the favour of you to endeavour to induce the faculty and others of your acquaintance to assist you in  
procuring

procuring subscriptions from such as are favourable to the measure, whether they be in the profession or not, that the bill may be offered to parliament early in the approaching session. The names and amount of all subscriptions, with the expences incurred, will be given to the public in a future stage of the business.

The declaration concerning the royal colleges of physicians and surgeons is founded chiefly on the opinion of Mr. Sergeant Williams, who, in answer to the queries proposed to him at the desire of the committee, respecting the jurisdiction of the Royal College of Physicians, observes, "the result of the whole is this: The great object cannot be attained. Any person with a degree or without one; or with a licence from the college or without, may practise physic in England at a greater distance than seven miles from London, whether he be fit or not, without any person to controul him; otherwise than that by the common law of England, if a person is guilty of *mala praxis*, whether it be for curiority and experiment, or by neglect, he is guilty of a great misdemeanor and offence, for which he can be indicted. But he is not under the controul, or supervision, or correction of the College of Physicians, or any other; or liable to any penalty for so doing, notwithstanding the Statute 14th and 15th Henry VIIIth, and therefore this mischief can only be, and I conceive ought to be, remedied by the legislature."

From want of authority in the corporations of the  
United



United Kingdom to controul the provincial faculty, and examine into their fitness to enter upon practice, a very large majority are now exercising the different branches of medicine, as regular practitioners, with fictitious titles or purchased diplomas, by which frauds the public are deceived often to their utter ruin, and well educated men are cruelly deprived of their fair emoluments. Among these several have undergone the essential parts of a liberal education, only overlooking the forms, and are worthy of all the confidence that can be reposed in them; but as they are liable to be confounded with ignorant pretenders, it will certainly be for the safety as well as the advantage of the community, to fix an adequate restraint upon the conduct of those, to whom they commit so valuable a treasure as their health. If we may credit reports, the medical establishments of the army, navy, and East India Company are equally incompetent; and is it politic in us to expose unnecessarily the protectors of our independence and of our dearest interests, when, under divine favour, the prosperity of the empire can only be affected by want of numbers?

It appears from the opinion cited above, that in the country the vilest empiric is as much at liberty to exercise the curative art, as the most skilful and regular practitioner. Quacks, aware of their ignorance and misdeeds, artfully conceal them, by compounding and dispensing their own drugs. A sagacious writer, adverting to their numerous contrivances to impose upon the credulous invalid,

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observes,



observes, "as matters stand at present it is easier to cheat a man out of his life than of a shilling, and almost impossible to detect or punish the fraud." In order to reduce the shoals of empiricks to some order, and place them under an impartial tribunal, it is directed in the bill, that such as cannot obtain certificates from three or more magistrates assembled in sessions, are to be immediately suppressed, and as the remainder die away, their places are to be supplied by responsible persons.

With a view to correct other abuses, it is proposed, that no unadmitted practitioner shall be suffered to act as physician unless he be a graduate of some university. Surgeons must possess diplomas from a College of Surgeons. Apothecaries are to submit to a five years apprenticeship. Accoucheurs to be physicians, surgeons or apothecaries, who have spent twelve months in the study and practice of midwifery.

To instruction is to be added in all cases strict examinations, and the names with the titles of the faculty are to be annually published in a register. Such are the leading features of the proposed bill, which differs in several particulars from the "Outline" formerly published; and it is expected that by instituting these several defences against designing intruders, society at large will be essentially benefited, because no person will venture hereafter to engage in medical practice, until he has obtained his authority from a respectable source, and is therefore entitled to the confidence of his patients.



patients. Thus at the same time that the present race of medical men of every description, except empirical pretenders, are legally confirmed in their accustomed titles and occupations, a lasting improvement will be gradually established.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

E. HARRISON.

P. S. I hope to be honoured with an answer to this address. To obtain the freedom from postage it must be directed as formerly " Dr. Harrison, Horncastle." under cover to " George Harrison, Esq. Treasury, London."

It is much to be lamented that for want of a Medical Register a large majority of the provincial faculty must necessarily be overlooked in this circular application. As the omission arises from their names or residence not being known to the writer, he trusts they will be pleased to accept this apology, and come forward in aid of the common cause as much as they would have done, had they been individually solicited.

*Horncastle, Bull Inn, July 27, 1809.*

At the anniversary of the Lincolnshire Benevolent Medical Society, held this day, Dr. Fawssett, the president, in the Chair; when the business of the society was concluded, Dr. Harrison addressed the meeting on the indispensable necessity of an improved regulation in the education

and admission of future practitioners; especially for the provincial districts of the United Kingdom, which being, under the present laws, out of the jurisdiction of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, are therefore most in want of medical enactments. He also stated what had already been done to attain this important object; and that the bill, now on the table, for regulating medical education and practice, was intended, if a sufficient fund could be raised in the mean time, to be presented to parliament in the approaching session.

Mr. Pettener, of Louth, the president for the ensuing year, then read the bill to the members present; after which, the following resolutions were moved by Dr. Bousfield of Spalding, and unanimously adopted;

*First*, That the bill, as now corrected, appears to be well calculated to serve the best interests of the community, by supplying all parts of the Empire with confidential practitioners, as the present establishment retire from their functions; and also, by restoring the faculty to the full enjoyment of their profession; in preventing future candidates from entering upon medical practice, until they have been properly educated, and examined.

*Second*, That the bill by suppressing the most dangerous empirics, and imposing restraints upon the rest, will be productive of immediate advantages to society at large.

*Third*, That it appears to this meeting, that the amount of the present subscriptions is quite insufficient



cient for carrying this bill through parliament, and the meeting thinking it desirable to accomplish the same by voluntary contributions, are of opinion, that if all who are impressed with the necessity of the measure, will undertake to exert themselves in their respective neighbourhoods, an adequate fund may be easily raised—since, after providing for the general defence of the country, the preservation and recovery of health should claim the first consideration, from all ranks and descriptions of people.

*Fourth,* That the thanks of this meeting be given to Dr. Harrison for the address he has just read, which it recommends him to prepare for publication; also for his unwearied endeavours to obtain an improved condition of the profession, and which the meeting hopes he will not remit, until the object is fully accomplished.

*Fifth,* That a copy of these resolutions be delivered to Dr. Harrison for the committee of medical practitioners in London, who have co-operated with him in this business; authorizing them to make such use of the same as they may think proper.

THOMAS TAYLOR.

right for carrying this bill through parliament, and the existing thinking it desirable to accomplish the same by voluntary contributions, and of opinion that if all who are interested with the necessity of the measure, will undertake to assist themselves in their respective neighbourhoods, in adequate fund for the early success—hence, after providing for the general defence of the country, the preservation and rectitude of justice should claim the first consideration, from all ranks and descriptions of people. I trust, that the thanks of this meeting be given to the Association for the efforts he has just made, which is recommended him to prepare for publication, should his concerted endeavours to obtain an improved constitution of the protection, and within the same time, hope he will not remain until the object is accomplished.

Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be referred to the Association for the consideration of the said Association, and that the Association be requested to take such measures as they may think proper.

THOMAS TAYLOR



THE SKETCH OF

*A B I L L*

FOR THE

*Improvement of the Medical and Surgical,  
and Veterinary Sciences,*

AND FOR

REGULATING THE PRACTICE THEREOF.

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**S**INCE it is expedient that provision should be made, as well for regulating the Practice of the Medical and Surgical and Veterinary sciences, as for promoting the due education of Practitioners in the different branches ; therefore, from and after the                      day of                      one thousand eight hundred and eleven, every person in Great Britain and Ireland then practising, or who shall thereafter practise or act for gain or reward as a physician, surgeon, midwife, apothecary, or veterinary practitioner, or who shall sell medicines or drugs, or chemical preparations by retail, as an apothecary, compounder, or vender of medicines or drugs, shall, between the              day of              and the              day of              enter, or cause to be entered

entered, in a register to be kept for that purpose at such place or places as shall be appointed for that purpose, his or her Christian and Surname and place of abode, and the capacity or capacities in which he or she practises as a physician, surgeon, midwife, apothecary, or veterinary practitioner, or in which he sells medicines or drugs or chemical preparations, as an apothecary, compounder or vender of drugs and medicines: and every person who shall, after having so entered himself or herself, or caused himself or herself to be entered in such register as aforesaid, change his or her place of abode, or be desirous of practising or acting for gain or reward, or selling as aforesaid, in any other of the above capacities than that or those in which he or she shall have been first entered, shall, within one month after he or she shall have so changed his or her place of abode, or shall have practised for gain or reward in any other capacity than that or those in which he or she shall have been first entered, cause a new entry to be made thereof in such register as aforesaid; and that at the time of every such entry being made in such register as aforesaid, a certificate shall be given to every person so registered of the capacity or capacities in which he or she shall be registered to practise, or act, or sell, as aforesaid.

*Physicians,*



*Physicians, Surgeons, &c. annually to take out  
Certificates of Registry.*

EVERY person practising as a physician, surgeon, midwife, apothecary, or veterinary practitioner, or selling medicines or drugs or chemical preparations, by retail, as an apothecary, compounder or vender of drugs or medicines, shall annually, within one month after the first day of

take out a certificate of his or her being registered as aforesaid, and from and after the

day of one thousand eight hundred and eleven, every person who shall practise or act for gain or reward as a physician, surgeon, midwife, apothecary, or veterinary practitioner, or sell medicines or drugs or chemical preparations, as an apothecary, compounder or vender of drugs, without being so registered as aforesaid, and without having taken out such certificate as aforesaid, shall forfeit pounds for every month, or in proportion for any less time, in which he or she shall so practise or act or sell as aforesaid.

*Physicians, Surgeons, Apothecaries, Compounders  
and Venders of Drugs by Retail, Midwives and  
Veterinary Practitioners, to put upon or over  
their Doors the Capacities in which they practise.*

EVERY person practising or acting for gain, as a physician, surgeon, midwife, apothecary, veterinary practitioner, compounder and vender of drugs,



shall place, or cause to be placed, in legible characters, upon the outer Front Door, or some other conspicuous part of his or her house or dwelling, and also on such building or place as shall be used by any surgeon in his said practice as a surgery, or by any apothecary, compounder and vender of drugs by retail, for selling medicines, drugs, or chemical preparations, the capacity or the different capacities in which he or she shall have been registered to practise, or act, or sell, as aforesaid, and for which he or she shall have obtained such certificate as aforesaid, on pain of forfeiting

pounds for every month of omission, and of for every false statement of his or her register, or certificate, as aforesaid.

*Qualifications necessary to enable Physicians, Surgeons, Apothecaries, Compounders and Venders of Drugs, Midwives, and Veterinary Practitioners to practise Medicine.*

AFTER the day of no person who shall not before that time, have practised or acted as a physician, shall be entitled to be registered, or to take out any such certificate, as aforesaid, to practise or act as a physician, or shall be entitled or allowed to practise or act as a physician for gain or reward, or be entitled or permitted to claim or receive any recompence or remuneration, for such his practice, until he shall have taken the degree of a Doctor or Bachelor of Physic,



Physic, in some British, or Irish, or foreign university, and shall have obtained a diploma or certificate from the proper officer, of having taken such degree; and also shall have been examined by, and shall have obtained a diploma or authority to practise as a physician from the Royal College of Physicians of London, if he reside in England or Wales, from the Royal College of Physicians of Dublin, if he reside in Ireland, and from the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, if he reside in any other part of Scotland than in the counties of Lanark, Renfrew, Dumbarton, and Air, and if he shall reside in any of these counties, then from the faculty of physicians and surgeons of Glasgow.

And no person who shall not before that time have practised as a surgeon, shall be entitled to be registered, or to take out any certificate to practise as a surgeon, or shall be entitled or allowed to practise or act as a surgeon, for gain or reward, or to receive any recompence or remuneration for such his practice, until he shall have been examined by, and shall have obtained a diploma, or authority, to practise as a surgeon, from the Royal College of Surgeons of London, if he reside in England or Wales, from the Royal College of Surgeons of Dublin, if he reside in Ireland, and from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, if he reside in any other part of Scotland than in the counties of Lanark, Renfrew, Dumbarton, and Air, and if he shall reside in any of these counties, then from the faculty of physicians and surgeons of Glasgow.

And



And no person who shall not before that time have acted as an apothecary or compounder, or vender of medicines or drugs, shall be entitled to be registered to act, or shall be entitled or allowed to practise or act as an apothecary for gain or reward, or as a compounder or vender of medicines or drugs, in a retail manner, until he shall have served an apprenticeship, by regular indentures, to a physician or surgeon, who dispenses medicines, or has the care of an Hospital or Dispensary, or to an apothecary, or compounder of medicines and drugs, nor until he shall have been examined by, and shall have obtained a certificate from the company of apothecaries in London, or Dublin, or in Edinburgh, from a medical board to be established by the commissioners appointed to carry this act into execution, and if he reside more than seven miles from such company or board, then either from the aforesaid company or board, or from medical persons appointed by the said commissioners for that purpose.

And no person not having before that time practised as a manmidwife, shall be entitled to be registered to practise and act, or shall be entitled or allowed to act as a manmidwife for gain or reward, or to receive any remuneration or recompence for acting as a manmidwife, unless he shall be a physician, surgeon, or apothecary, and shall have obtained a certificate from a board of midwifery practitioners, to be appointed by the said commissioners.



No female, who shall not, before that time, have practised or acted as a midwife, shall be entitled to be registered, or to take out a certificate to practise or act as a midwife, or shall be entitled or allowed to practise or act as a midwife for gain or reward, or to receive any recompence or remuneration for such practice, until she shall have been examined and licensed by a board of midwifery practitioners, or if she reside more than seven miles from such board, either from a midwifery board, or from medical persons appointed by the said commissioners for that purpose.

And no person who shall not before that time have practised on brute animals as a farrier or veterinary practitioner, shall be entitled to be registered, or to take out any certificate to practise as a farrier or veterinary practitioner for gain or reward, or to receive any recompence or remuneration for such practice, until he shall have been examined by, and shall have obtained a certificate or authority to practise as a farrier or veterinary practitioner, from some person or persons to be appointed by the said commissioners.

*Bone-*



*Bone-setters, &c. to be allowed to Act and practise under Licences from Justices at Quarter Sessions, with Power to withdraw Licences.*

Not to extend to prevent any person from administering any medicine, or from practising as a bone-setter, or from acting in any other manner in medicine or surgery, in which he shall have formerly acted, provided that such person shall have obtained and have a certificate and licence continuing in full force, and not withdrawn from any three or more magistrates, assembled at any Quarter, or General adjourned Sessions, or any petty Sessions of the peace for the county in which he shall practise; and shall record such licence annually in like manner, as registers are required to be made; and it shall be lawful for the Justices of the Peace, assembled at any General or Quarter Sessions of the peace, for the county or place in which such licence shall have been granted as aforesaid, or the major part of them, to withdraw any such licence whenever they shall think proper, and the clerk of the peace shall thereupon give notice to the registrar by whom such licence shall have been registered as aforesaid, of such licence being so withdrawn as aforesaid.

Every person who shall not have entered into practice before the passing of this act as a physician, surgeon, man-midwife, apothecary, compounder, or vender of drugs by retail, shall pay to the registrar, when his name is first entered upon the register, the sum of twenty pounds, to be applied



plied to carry into execution the purposes of this act, in manner as is hereinafter directed \*.

*Not to extend to Persons selling Drugs liable to a Stamp Duty.*

NOT to extend to prevent or hinder any person or persons from selling any drugs or medicines on the sale of which any stamp duty is by law imposed, in like manner as they might have heretofore done.

*The Appointment of Commissioners.*

THE great officers of state and others, in England, Scotland, and Ireland, respectively to be the commissioners appointed to carry into execution the purposes of the Act,

*Persons having acted as Commissioners to continue to act notwithstanding removal from Office.*

EVERY person who shall by virtue of any such office, as aforesaid, have been a commissioner as aforesaid, shall continue to be, and be entitled to

\* The Fellows of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of London and Edinburgh have, it is understood, been already made subject to the payment of the above sum as a stamp duty on admission. It therefore seems reasonable that the licentiates of these colleges, and members of the Royal College of Physicians of Dublin, and indeed all practitioners should be required to enter into the profession upon the same terms.

vote

vote and act as a commissioner under this Act, notwithstanding any removal from, or resignation of, any such office, as aforesaid.

*Commissioners of one Part of the United Kingdom may act in any other Part, while resident there.*

IT shall be lawful for all the persons appointed commissioners for England and Wales, and for Scotland, and Ireland, at any time to attend any meetings, and to sit and vote and act as commissioners for any other part of the United Kingdom than that for which they are appointed commissioners, in which they shall at the time be resident, as much as if they had been originally appointed commissioners for such part of the United Kingdom.

*No Meeting of Commissioners in one Part of the United Kingdom to possess Authority over another.*

NO meeting of commissioners held in one part of the United Kingdom shall possess authority, jurisdiction or controul in any other part of the United Kingdom.

*Seven Commissioners may carry Powers into Execution.*

ALL powers and authorities vested by this Act in the commissioners appointed for carrying the purposes thereof into execution, may be used, exercised and put in force by the major part of such of the commissioners as shall be present at any meeting



meeting held in England, Scotland, or Ireland respectively, provided not less than seven commissioners shall be present.

*Commissioners to appoint Places for registering,  
and proper Officers to keep Registers.*

IT shall be lawful for the respective commissioners herein before appointed for England, Scotland, and Ireland, respectively assembled at meetings to be held in England, Scotland and Ireland respectively, for such respective parts of the United Kingdom; and they are hereby required to appoint some proper place in London or Westminster for England and Wales, and another place in Edinburgh for Scotland, and another place in Dublin for Ireland, for registering and granting certificates in England and Wales, and in Scotland and Ireland respectively, and also to appoint proper officers and persons for keeping the same, and granting certificates, and receiving all sums of money in respect thereof.

*Monies received to be paid into the Banks of  
England, Scotland and Ireland.*

ALL money to be received for England and Wales shall be paid into the Bank of England, and all money to be received under the same for Scotland shall be paid into the Bank of Scotland, and all money to be received under the same for Ireland shall be paid into the Bank of Ireland, to such account as the said respective commissioners shall  
order;



order; and the monies shall be drawn for by such person or persons, and in such manner as the said respective commissioners shall direct.

*Commissioners may purchase Lands, and buy or erect Buildings for a Medical School or Hospital, and appoint Professors, &c. in their respective Kingdoms.*

IT shall be lawful for the said commissioners in England, Scotland, and Ireland, respectively, to purchase and hold any messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments which may be necessary, and to purchase or erect proper buildings for the establishment of medical, surgical, and veterinary schools and hospitals, or to add to any already built or established.

*\*Application of Money.*

ALL sums of money so to be raised for such registering and certificates as aforesaid, or arising from any moieties of any fines, penalties or forfeitures under any provisions to be made, and made applicable, as aforesaid, to the purposes thereof, shall go and be applied to the carrying into execution the purposes intended, in such manner as shall to the said commissioners seem most expedient and best calculated to promote the improvement of the medical and surgical, and veterinary sciences, and the education of the practitioners of the different branches thereof, and may for that purpose be applied in the purchasing of any  
messuages,



messuages, lands, tenements or hereditaments, necessary for the building and establishing, or repairing, or improving of medical and surgical, and veterinary schools and libraries, and hospitals, and botanical gardens, and museums for anatomical preparations, for natural history, mineralogy, &c. and in the payment of salaries to such professors and officers, and persons, as may be appointed by the said commissioners for the managing and superintending the same, and in the providing a permanent fund for the payment of such salaries, and in the payment of all other incidental expences which may be necessary for the purposes aforesaid.

*Commissioners to make Rules, &c. for  
registering, &c.*

IT shall be lawful for the said respective commissioners, from time to time, to make and establish such bye laws, orders, rules and regulations, as may appear to them to be necessary, and for the registering and the granting of such certificates as aforesaid, and for the regulation, government, and management of such Schools, and Hospitals, and establishments, as may be under the controul, or subject to the order or direction of the said commissioners, and for the ordering and government of the professors, officers, attendants, servants, and other persons belonging to or employed in the same, or attending therein for education and improvement in the medical, and surgical, and veterinary sciences. And it shall also be  
lawful



lawful for the said commissioners to appoint such and such number of persons, as may to such commissioners appear to be necessary, for any such school, hospital, or establishment, as directors, governors, and examiners, of such schools, hospitals, and establishments, for the care, and management, and superintendence of the same, and of the professors, officers, attendants, servants, and other persons employed therein, and of all persons belonging thereto, and connected therewith, or attending the same for instruction in the medical, surgical, and veterinary sciences, and for the examination and approval of all such persons so attending for instruction, as aforesaid, previous to their being allowed to practise or act, as aforesaid, and also to appoint such professors, secretaries, and officers, as may be necessary for carrying the purposes intended into execution, in relation either to the registering and granting certificates as aforesaid, or any other matter and things necessary for the improvement of medical, and surgical, and veterinary science, and ensuring a due education of the practitioners therein, and it shall also be lawful for the said respective commissioners to make from time to time, such orders, rules, and regulations, in relation to annual, and regular, and special meetings of the said commissioners, and the mode of summoning and adjourning such meetings, and calling meetings for other special purposes, as may appear to them to be necessary for the insuring due superintendence of the  
execution



execution of the same and controul over the persons employed and engaged in promoting the purposes thereof.

*Account of Application of Monies to be annually  
laid before Parliament.*

AN account of the application of all sums of money to be raised and applied shall be annually laid before Parliament.

General clauses to be added for recovery of penalties.

One half of all fines, penalties, and forfeitures, shall go to the informer, and the other half shall go to the purposes intended.

execution of the same and control over the persons employed and engaged in promoting the purposes thereof.

Account of Application of Monies to be annually laid before Parliament.

An account of the application of all sums of money so far raised and applied shall be annually laid before Parliament.

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