

**Memorial for Dr. Hamilton, Professor of Midwifery in the College of Edinburgh, respectfully submitted to the ... Lord Provost, Magistrates and Town Council of Edinburgh ... / [James Hamilton].**

**Contributors**

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# MEMORIAL

FOR

**DR. HAMILTON,**

**PROFESSOR OF MIDWIFERY IN THE COLLEGE OF EDINBURGH,**

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE

**Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council**

*OF EDINBURGH,*

**PATRONS OF THE SAID COLLEGE.**

**ALTHOUGH** the Charter for the Foundation of the College of Edinburgh was obtained in April 1582, no other Branch of Medical Education than Anatomy was taught in that College previous to 1726; and yet, from the earliest period, the Senatus Academicus had been accustomed to confer the degree of Doctor of Medicine. In order to prevent unworthy persons from obtaining that honour, a certificate of qualification from two respectable Physicians was required, as is the custom to this day in those Scottish Universities where Medicine is not professed.



On the 11th of November 1724, certain Physicians, viz. Dr. Rutherford, Dr. Sinclair, Dr. Plummer, and Dr. Innes, applied to the Town Council for a grant of the College Garden, "for the better carrying on their design of furnishing the Apothecary shops with Chemical Medicines, and instructing the Students of Medicine in that part of the Science."

Two years afterwards, viz. in the year 1726, the same Gentlemen petitioned to be appointed Professors of Medicine in the College of Edinburgh, founding their claim on the success they had had in teaching the Medical Students; and they were appointed accordingly by a Council Minute, of which a copy is inserted in the Appendix, and which was entered in the Records of the Senatus Academicus in the following October.

By the said Minute of Council it appears, that the sole power of instituting Professorships in the College of Edinburgh was assumed and admitted to be vested in the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council.

That the claim of the Petitioners to be appointed Professors of Medicine was founded, partly on their "having taught Students with some success;" and principally on the plea of their wishing to promote the improvement of Medical knowledge, "to the benefit and honour of this City and Country;" and on this condition their Petition was granted.

That Dr. Rutherford and Dr. Sinclair being made Professors of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, and Dr. Plummer and Dr. Innes Professors of Medicine and Chemistry, the Professorships seem to have been a kind of copartnery concern; and this is confirmed by the remarkable circumstance, that although four Professors were appointed, only two were allowed to vote at the deliberations of the Senatus Academicus.



At the same time (9th February 1826) a Professorship of Midwifery was instituted in the College; but the person nominated, a Mr. Gibson, resided in Leith, and never taught in the College. On his death, in 1739, Mr. Robert Smith, Surgeon in Edinburgh, succeeded to the Professorship; but he also declined teaching. And in the year 1756, on Mr. Smith's resignation, Mr. Thomas Young, also Surgeon in Edinburgh, obtained the Chair, and began to give Lectures both to Male and Female Pupils.

According to the fashion of the times, Mr. Young confined his Lectures chiefly to the mode of assisting Women in Child-birth, by which it was quite unnecessary for Physicians to attend his Lectures, and consequently the Professorship of Midwifery could not be included in the Medical Faculty; and indeed Mr. Young continued a Surgeon till the year 1776, when he took his degree of Doctor of Medicine at the College of Edinburgh.

Dr. John Hope, in the year 1768, who had succeeded Dr. Alston as Botanist, and Professor of Medicine, Botany, and Materia Medica, resigned the duty of lecturing on Materia Medica, that is, on the Nature and qualities of Drugs, in favour of Dr. Francis Home; and thus a sixth Professor was added to the Medical Faculty, all the Members of which had now obtained a place in the Senatus Academicus.

In the year 1780, Dr. Alexander Hamilton, the Memorialist's Father, was conjoined with Dr. Young in the Professorship of Midwifery, and on the Doctor's decease, in 1783, succeeded to the sole charge; and he extended very considerably the Directions for the Treatment of the Diseases of Women and Children.

The Memorialist, after having assisted his Father for several years in the duties of teaching, had the honour of being appointed, in the year 1800, Professor of Midwifery; and he deemed it necessary to ex-



tend the subject of his Lectures so much as to comprehend a regular account of the Diseases incident to Women and Children.

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Children* He was induced to make this improvement on the plan of his predecessors, because he found, that neither the Professor of the Practice of Physic, nor any of the other Professors constituting the Medical Faculty, treated of such diseases; and he was enabled to do so, partly from having, at his father's suggestion, devoted for several years all his time and attention to the subject, and partly from the extensive opportunities of practising in such diseases, which he had enjoyed, in consequence of the prevailing prejudice, that such diseases must be better understood by Practitioners of Midwifery, than by the other Members of the Medical Profession.

In consequence of the Memorialist having thus devoted his attention to the diseases of Women and Children, he has had the good fortune to point out improved modes of treatment of several of those diseases, as he flatters himself, "to the benefit and honour of this City and Country," and to obtain a share of public favour, upon which it would be indelicate for him to dwell.

From the extraordinary progress of knowledge in arts and in science since the first appointment of the Medical Faculty of the College of Edinburgh in 1726, a very great change in the subjects of study necessary for those who are to practise either Surgery or Physic, has actually taken place; and consequently the course of instruction absolutely essential in the year 1726 cannot possibly apply to the Students of 1823.

Thus, from the increased opulence of all ranks, and the more luxurious habits of living which that opulence has introduced, the aid of medical men is now called for much more frequently than in former times. And it must be perfectly evident to the Honourable the Pa-



trons of the College, as a natural consequence of the great advantages which the Commercial and Manufacturing Classes have derived from the division of labour, that the duties of Medical and Surgical Practitioners have, by universal consent, and with vast benefit to the Public, been for many years subdivided in large towns, in a manner unknown during the first half of the last century.

As this subdivision of labour cannot be maintained in country districts, all Medical Practitioners who practise in the country, must of necessity obtain the information essential to the exercise of their profession, from the Lectures of those Teachers in great towns who can afford to dedicate their attention to certain departments of the Healing Art.

These very obvious considerations have long impressed the Memorialist with the conviction, that the Medical Faculty of the College of Edinburgh, as it now exists, cannot communicate that information on practical subjects, which may enable those Students, who obtain the degree of Doctor of Medicine, to practise even with safety to the Public, and much less "to the benefit and honour of this City and Country."

Such an asseveration, the Memorialist has no doubt, will startle the Honourable the Patrons; but that he does not make it on light grounds can, according to his belief, be established by the very Regulations of the Medical Faculty.

By the printed Regulations alluded to, the Candidates for Degrees are required to have studied Medicine for Three Years at this or some other University, during which time they must have attended a Six Months Course of Anatomy and Surgery, of Chemistry, of Materia Medica, of the Theory of Medicine, of the Practice of Medicine, and of the Clinical Lectures, and a Three Months Course of Botany.

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To the nature of the Lectures thus declared to be necessary for obtaining the degree of Doctor of Medicine, the most serious attention of the Honourable the Patrons is respectfully entreated, in order that they may see the very small proportion of practical information which those Lectures are calculated to communicate.

*First*, The Professor of Anatomy is expected to explain the natural structure, and the functions and uses of the several parts of the human body, with the changes of texture produced by disease; and, through the talents of his predecessor, the late eminent Dr. Monro, he is entitled to add Lectures on Surgery. The Anatomical Lectures, therefore, form the *foundation* of all Surgical and Medical knowledge, but they do not detail the diseases of Women and Children.

*Secondly*, Any illustration of the importance of Chemistry would, in the present day, appear ludicrous. Many of the necessary and ornamental arts depend upon its principles, and the most sublime views of the wonderful powers of God are hourly displayed by that Science. But the Honourable the Patrons will please to observe, that when this Professorship was first instituted, (1724 and 1726,) the proposed object for which it was founded, was that of "making Chemical Preparations for the Apothecary Shops, and of teaching the same to the Students of Medicine;" and that, even after the year 1770, the Professor of Chemistry considered such to be his chief duty, is proved by the fact, that he obtained the additional title of Professor of Pharmacy, which, it is unnecessary to mention, means the act of making Chemical Preparations.

Now, while the Memorialist can prove that the present Professor of Chemistry does not teach the processes of Pharmacy, nor the "making of Chemical Preparations for the Apothecary Shops," he is ready to bear testimony, in common with the public at large, to the great value of Dr Hope's services as a Professor in the College of Edinburgh, and to express his conviction that his admirable and scientific

Infusions Decoctions Mucilages Extracts. Mixtures Tinctures  
Syrups Confections Powders Pills - Plasters Cataplasms ointments &  
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& Pharmacy - Practical chemistry & Pharmacology now



Course must be of the highest interest to every Physician. But it will appear evident to the Honourable the Patrons, that this Professor does not teach the Cure of Diseases. *See Illustration p. 13*

*Thirdly*, The third Course of Lectures specified by the Printed Regulations to be necessary for obtaining the degree of Doctor of Medicine, is the *Materia Medica*. This Class, as has been already mentioned, was allotted to a separate Professor in the year 1768; and, as its title implies, the object of the Lectures was to explain the qualities of drugs, and the method of preparing them for use.

When this Professorship was instituted, it formed a most important branch of Medical Education, because drugs of foreign growth were procured with much difficulty, and were often adulterated; and the processes for the preparation of Medicines were extremely intricate, from the principles upon which they should be conducted being at that time very little understood.

Even previous to the beginning of the present century, however, a wonderful change in respect to drugs and their compounds had taken place. Through the enterprising commercial spirit of this nation, drugs of the best quality, though procured from all the quarters of the globe, may be found (at a very moderate price too) in almost every village of Great Britain; and the chemical preparations are conducted with such skill and precision by great manufacturers, that few Surgeons or Apothecaries in the present day, at least in this part of the kingdom, deem it worth their while even to distil rose water.

Before the Memorialist mentions a fact which it is of the utmost importance to bear in mind, he deems it necessary to express his high respect and regard for Dr. Home, who, for more than twenty years after the Memorialist's appointment to a seat in the *Senatus Academicus*, was Professor of *Materia Medica*; and to remind the Patrons that, under his charge, the Pupils of his Class (of *Materia*



Medica) increased from One Ninth of the Medical Students, (the average number during his predecessor's incumbency) to One Third; that is, out of Seven hundred and ninety-four Medical Students, Two hundred and fifty-five, for the last ten years of Dr. Home's Professorship, attended the Materia Medica.

But it will not a little surprise the Honourable the Patrons to be informed, that from the year 1800, up to the time that Dr. Home was appointed Professor of the Practice of Physic in 1821, he never exhibited a specimen of a drug, nor a single process in Pharmacy. The reason for this was, that the Students did not require the information for which the Professorship was originally instituted; but they obtained from Dr. Home, to his high credit, that practical knowledge of the cases and circumstances under which the various Medicines ought to be employed for the cure of diseases, which they could not learn from any of the other Members of the Medical Faculty. Dr. Home was, indeed, the only Professor of Medicine from whom the Students could acquire the minute information necessary to enable them to *prescribe remedies* for disease.

*Fourthly*, When the Text-Book of the Professor of the Theory of Medicine is looked into, it will at once appear to the Honourable the Patrons, that all the subjects of his Lectures are fully discussed by other Professors. Thus, according to Dr. Duncan's Heads of Lectures, his Course consists of two parts, viz. what he calls Pathological Physiology, and Therapeutics. The first comprehends an account of the component parts of the human body, such as the blood, the bones, &c., of the various functions essential to life, as those of digestion, respiration, &c., and of the several senses of seeing, hearing, &c.; and under the second head he exhibits the general indications to be observed in the cure of diseases, with a particular illustration of the mode of operation of the several remedies employed with that view, such as Emetics, Cathartics, &c.



While the Memorialist can assure the Honourable the Patrons, that every subject lectured upon by the Professor of the Theory of Medicine is explained either by the Professor of Anatomy, or by the Professor of the Practice of Physic, or by the Professor of Materia Medica, he does not object to those subjects being brought under one view by a distinct Professor; but he ventures to allege, that the Students can derive from that individual Professor no additional knowledge which may enable them to cure diseases.

*Fifthly*, As to the Practice of Medicine, the fifth necessary Class, it should comprehend a view of all the general diseases which afflict the human body. When the Honourable Patrons are informed that these amount to a great many hundreds, independent of the varieties which climate and constitution produce, it must be self-evident, that in a Six Months Course it is quite impossible to give even a superficial view of so extensive a subject. It is well known that this has never been attempted, and that the Professor of the Practice of Physic for the last half century has confined himself to a description of the diseases most commonly met with, such as Fever, General Inflammatory Affections, &c. At any rate, the Memorialist positively asserts, that, within his recollection, the Professor of the Practice of Physic has not entered into any details respecting Diseases of Women and Children, and for the plain reason, that the other subjects of his Lectures filled up all the time of the Course.

*Sixthly*, By Clinical Lectures is meant Lectures on the Cases of Patients admitted into two wards of the Royal Infirmary, and placed under the charge of two of the Medical Professors in rotation; and it is an Institution of the greatest value, as illustrating the precepts of the Professor of the Practice of Medicine. For very obvious reasons, however, such Lectures cannot possibly relate to the Diseases of Women and Children.



*Seventhly*, The last Class necessary for those who graduate at this far-famed College of Edinburgh is that of Botany—a science of the highest interest, seeing that it relates to the structure and economy of every herb which affords sustenance to animal life, or which contributes to the alleviation or cure of disease. But when it is considered that it belongs to the Professor of Materia Medica to explain those parts of Plants (and the mode of preparing them too) which are employed by Physicians, and that, from the improvement of Arts and Manufactures, all such articles are now furnished of the best quality, and at a moderate price, by regular traders, it must be admitted that a Medical Student can derive no practical information, in so far as regards the cure of diseases, from attending the Lectures of the Professor of Botany.

In thus commenting upon the Course of Study prescribed for those who aspire to degrees in Medicine, the Memorialist has no intention of insinuating that this Course of Study is not necessary to a Physician ; but he has no doubt that the Honourable the Patrons will at once see that some additional practical information is absolutely essential. Thus, on looking into the Bills of Mortality, it appears that annually a large proportion of Infants die from Convulsions and Teething ; but if the Honourable the Patrons send for the Six Members of the Medical Faculty, and ask which of them describes the symptoms and mode of treatment of Infants during the natural process of dentition, they would be told by each that it does not fall within his Course of Lectures. Again, cases now and then occur where Pregnancy imitates dropsy ; and if the Medical attendant cannot distinguish the natural condition of the body from the disease, he may destroy two lives ; for he may poison the infant by the drugs given to cure the supposed dropsy, and he may kill the mother by directing the operation of tapping, when he finds that, in spite of his Medicines, the alleged dropsical enlargement is increased. If, however, the Six Members of the Medical Faculty were severally required to declare whether they describe the circumstances which enable a Practitioner to distinguish



Pregnancy from disease, they must, of necessity, answer in the negative.

These illustrations the Memorialist submits to the Honourable the Patrons, as being obvious and indisputable; but there are many other complaints of the utmost importance, on which the Members of the Medical Faculty are equally silent.

Nothing could induce the Memorialist to offer, in a Paper which must become a subject of public discussion, any enumeration of the complaints to which the tender sex is subject. He, therefore, contents himself with informing the Honourable the Patrons,—

*First*,—That he gives a regular description of the symptoms, causes, and mode of treatment of the Diseases incident to Women, Infants, and Children.

*Secondly*,—That no Member of the Medical Faculty does give the same practical information. And,—

*Thirdly*,—That no Physician can practise with safety to the community, who has not studied the diseases of Women and Children.

If the Honourable Patrons feel any difficulty in assenting to this latter proposition, they are referred to the Bills of Mortality of London. Thus, in the year 1820, (the last account to which the Memorialist has had access,) of Nineteen thousand three hundred and forty-eight deaths during that year, Eight thousand three hundred and fifty were under ten years of age, and of that number Seven hundred and twenty-five were still-born. Of the remainder, viz. Seven thousand six hundred and twenty-five, Three thousand five hundred and seventy-seven are alleged to have died of Convulsions and Teething. Hence it must be evident, that nearly one half of the children under ten years of age, who died in the year 1820 in London,



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were afflicted with diseases on which no information is given to the Medical Students of Edinburgh by those Professors who style themselves the Medical Faculty.

Under the conviction that it would be highly beneficial to the Public that the Professor of Midwifery should be a Member of the Medical Faculty, the Memorialist preferred a Claim to the Senatus Academicus, on the 26th December 1815, to be constituted a Member of that Faculty, founding it on the change which has taken place in the course of Medical Study, and on the assumption, that his exclusion from the Medical Faculty "can benefit neither the University in general, nor the said Faculty in particular, while it may prove most injurious to the Medical Students, and to society at large." And he concluded his Memorial in these words:—"If it appear to the Senatus Academicus that the Memorialist ought rather to have made this application to the Honourable the Patrons of the University, he ventures to solicit from their justice the concurrence of the Senatus Academicus in such an application."

The Reverend the Principal of the College appointed the first day of January 1816 for a special meeting of the Senatus Academicus, to take the Memorialist's claim into consideration; and at a private conference he induced the Memorialist to consent that the Medical Faculty should be allowed to state their objections without any reply from him, promising that he should have an opportunity, at a future meeting of the Senatus, to urge his claim.

On that day (Jan. 1. 1816) Dr Hope appeared as the Advocate for the Medical Faculty in opposing the Memorialist's claim; and, in a speech of very considerable length, dwelt upon the absurdity of Physicians learning to deliver Women in Labour,—on the inconvenience which would accrue from the addition of a Seventh Member to the Medical Faculty,—and on the heinous offence which the Memorialist had committed, in encroaching upon the privileges of the Professor of



the Practice of Medicine, by lecturing on the Diseases of Women and Children. The Doctor adverted to some minor topics, which it is unnecessary on this occasion to mention, as they are particularly noticed in the Letter inserted in the Appendix.

With this speech of Dr. Hope the Memorialist could not feel offended, because the Doctor had expressed himself in most complimentary terms towards the Memorialist; and he had evidently proceeded upon a misunderstanding both of the duties of the Professor of Midwifery, and of the nature and extent of the Memorialist's claim in reference to the Medical Faculty. He contented himself, therefore, with saying, in as few words as possible, that he could have no difficulty in showing the fallacy of all Dr. Hope's arguments, and that he should do so as soon as his professional engagements would permit.

Accordingly, on the 15th of January 1816, he transmitted to each Member of the Senatus Academicus a Letter, which he intended to be one of explanation and conciliation; and that he might not incur the risk of misunderstanding or misrepresenting Dr. Hope's arguments, (all of which he flattered himself he had refuted,) he put the Doctor in possession, for nearly two days, of the proof copy of the said Letter before it was printed off.

Referring to that Letter, which, as already mentioned, is inserted in the Appendix, it is sufficient for the Memorialist to state to the Honourable the Patrons the following very obvious replies to the objections urged by the Medical Faculty:—

*First*,—That the technical term Midwifery no more limits, in the present day, the duty of the Professor of that branch of knowledge to that of teaching the assistance necessary during Child-birth, than the term Chemistry obliges the Professor of that department to confine himself to “The preparation of Chemical Medicines for the Apothecary shops, and instructing the Students of Medicine in that part of the Science.”



*Secondly*,—That the Memorialist did not claim to have any share of the emoluments derived by the Medical Faculty from the examination of Candidates for degrees; and he was at the time impressed with the conviction that he had explained this to Dr. Hope himself, in an accidental conversation in the public street, a day or two before the meeting of the Senatus Academicus. On this point he is willing to believe that he was mistaken; and as it appeared to him that the dread of an encroachment upon the patrimonial interests of the Medical Faculty had been the chief cause of their opposition, he trusted that his disavowal of all wish to partake of the duties of an examiner, with its emoluments, would have removed their prejudices against his claim.

*Thirdly*,—That the accusation of the Memorialist having infringed the privileges of the Practical Chair, though insisted upon with not a little earnestness, was both inconsistent with the usage of the College, and particularly of the Medical Faculty itself, and was also inimical to the cause of science, must have been quite evident to every intelligent individual present at the Meeting of the Senatus Academicus. Thus the Professor of the Theory of Medicine, as has been already adverted to in this Memorial, lectures on no other subjects than those treated of by other Professors; and if the boundaries of Academical instruction were so accurately defined, that no Professor could allude to any subject which forms part of the Course of Lectures of another Professor, it would be absolutely impossible to teach any science. This argument being fully discussed in the Letter dated January 15. 1816, (*Vide Appendix*,) it is unnecessary to pursue it further.

Having thus, as he seriously believed, repelled the objections of the Medical Faculty, he confidently expected that a regard for the welfare of society would have induced that Faculty to agree, with a good grace, to his very reasonable demand, that the Graduates of the College of Edinburgh should be required to learn the treatment of the diseases of Women and Children, and that the Professor of Mid-



wifery should have a deliberative voice in the Acts of the Medical Faculty ; and, at any rate, he did not doubt that the *Senatus Academicus* would either support his claim, or transmit it *simpliciter* to the Honourable the Patrons. In the expectation of this act of justice, the Memorialist, with a forbearance which is perhaps without example, has waited for eight years.

Two questions will here at once occur to the Honourable the Patrons, viz. On what grounds, and by what means, was this claim resisted ; and for what reasons did the Memorialist submit to such injustice, with the wonderful patience which he has shown on this occasion ?

It is for the Medical Faculty, and the Reverend the Principal of the College, as the director of the *Senatus Academicus*, to answer the former of those questions. As to the latter, the Memorialist hopes that he can give a most satisfactory explanation,—at least that he can show that the delay proceeded from no interested or selfish considerations on his part. To do this, he must inform the Honourable the Patrons,—

In the *first* place, That about the period at which he preferred his claim (1815,) the Medical Profession was still in considerable disrepute in this City, in consequence of some intemperate publications respecting the Surgical Department of the Royal Infirmary, and respecting certain private Acts of the College of Physicians, which were most indiscreetly (to use the least offensive term) dragged before the Public ; and it is to be particularly noticed, that some of the Members of the Medical Faculty had been represented by one of their own Colleagues in a very odious point of view.

Now, it has always been the sincere belief of the Memorialist, that unless Medical Men have the reputation of the highest principles of honour and integrity, as well as of great professional knowledge, the most serious injury to society would ensue. If the character of the



Medical Profession were degraded, it might be confidently predicted, that in the course of a very few years, no man with the feelings of a gentleman would exercise such a profession.

Throughout his whole life, the Memorialist ventures to assert, that it has been his endeavour to extend the usefulness and the respectability of the Medical Profession; and of this his conduct on the present occasion affords ample proof. He was so anxious to conceal the difference of opinion between the Medical Faculty of the College of Edinburgh and himself from the world at large, lest the unfair prejudices against Medical men, and especially against those Members of the Medical Faculty who had been injuriously aspersed by their own Colleague, might be thereby increased, that he printed no more than forty copies of his Memorial and Letter to the Senatus Academicus, and of these, six copies still remain with himself; consequently his claim, in so far as he was concerned, was kept within the walls of the College. And,

*Secondly*, He was in yearly expectation of receiving that justice from the Medical Faculty to which he considered his claim entitled.

Before offering any observations upon the conduct of the Medical Faculty in opposing his claim, limited as the Honourable the Patrons will see it actually was, it is necessary to state, that the said Medical Faculty consisted at that time of Dr. Gregory, Dr. Rutherford, Dr. Duncan senior, Dr. Hope, Dr. Home, and Dr. Monro. Of these only four remain, and from those four Dr. Home must be exempted, as he has, with his usual liberality, more than once hinted to his Colleagues, according to the information of the Memorialist, that although he does not practise Midwifery himself, he considers that the Professor should be one of the Medical Faculty. Since the year 1816, Dr. Duncan junior, Dr. Graham, and Dr. Alison, have been added to the Medical Faculty, in consequence of the death of Dr. Rutherford and Dr. Gregory; and it is due to those three Gentlemen to avow, that the Memorialist is unacquainted with their sentiments upon this subject.



On looking into the Letter dated January 15. 1816, addressed to the Senatus Academicus, which contains a candid exposition of Dr. Hope's arguments, it must be evident to the Honourable the Patrons, that in the objections against the Memorialist's claim, urged with such earnestness by the Doctor, as the Advocate of the Medical Faculty, no allusion was made to the interests of the Public, nor of the Medical Students; and a plausible objection to the claim of the Memorialist, that enforcing attendance upon his Class would add to the expenses of the Students who intend to graduate, was never even hinted at. It is of most essential importance to attend to this fact; for, according to the sincere belief of the Memorialist, it was the result of a consciousness that the Medical Faculty had an interest in keeping any allusion to the expenses of Graduation quite out of view. His reason for believing so is, that a few years only had elapsed since the Medical Faculty had induced the Senatus Academicus to sanction a regulation, by which the Fees of Graduation were to be nearly doubled, without adding one farthing's worth of knowledge to the Graduates.

Had this fact been divulged, the natural inference might have been, that the Members of the Medical Faculty have no compunction whatever in heaping expenses on the Students, provided the money should come into their own pockets; while they have the utmost reluctance to let them spend four guineas upon the acquisition of knowledge of the very first necessity to their usefulness in society. It was obviously the interest of the said Faculty, therefore, to avoid any allusion to the expenses of Graduation.

By the interference of the Honourable the Patrons, this measure, proposed by the Medical Faculty, and sanctioned by a majority of the Senatus Academicus, was abandoned, even after the edict for its execution had been issued and distributed among the Students, and after a remonstrance claiming an exemption from the double Fees, by those Students who had attended the College for three years,



on the faith that the Fees of Graduation were fixed, had been indignantly rejected.

It has been already stated, that the Memorialist cannot explain the motives by which the Members of the Medical Faculty have for the last eight years been actuated, in refusing to admit the Professor of Midwifery as one of their number, seeing that every argument of Dr. Hope was untenable. He cannot suppose their objections to be personal; for, without the imputation of vanity, he may be allowed to say, that he has had an extent of practice equalled by few Physicians in this City, and certainly far beyond that of any of the Medical Faculty, as now constituted; and, he may add, that his reputation has not been limited to his fellow-citizens. It would, indeed, be very extraordinary if the Medical Faculty of the College of Edinburgh, viz. Dr. Duncan senior, Dr. Hope, (Dr. Home excepted,) Dr. Monro, Dr. Duncan junior, Dr. Graham, and Dr. Alison, should entertain the opinion that the addition of his name to that Faculty would be discreditable.

Nor can it be supposed that the dread of innovation could be the principle by which the Medical Faculty have been animated. It is well known that the institution of that Faculty was itself an innovation on the original foundation of the College, introduced too about a century and an half after the erection of the College; and the Members of that Faculty must be conscious that they are daily teaching and inculcating, (if they perform their duties, as the Memorialist verily believes they do,) innovations upon the opinions and the modes of practice of their predecessors. It cannot for one moment be imagined, that in the present day any objections could be urged against innovation, either in the subjects of human study, or in the mode of making those subjects intelligible.

Another conjecture, and the only plausible one which the Memorialist can form, is, that the opposition to his claim will be made to rest on the allegation, that the Professor of Midwifery is not Profes-



sor of Medicine, and cannot therefore be one of the Medical Faculty, as all the Members of that Faculty are Professors of Medicine. But this objection the Honourable the Patrons, he hopes, will find no difficulty in removing.

Be the reasons of the Medical Faculty what they may, the Members of that Faculty cannot deny that the Diseases of Women and Children form a necessary part of the education of every Medical man. It is, moreover, impossible for them to allege, that any one of their number does teach those subjects; and it would be not a little extraordinary, if, after their former attempt, they should pretend to be unwilling to burden the Students with additional expenses.

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The Memorialist must express his regret, and he does so with the utmost sincerity of heart, at being under the painful necessity of agitating this question; but he has done so from a solemn conviction, that his forbearance in not urging his claim for these eight years has been injurious both "to this City and Country."

And now the Memorialist confidently appeals to the Honourable the Patrons of the College of Edinburgh for that justice which the Medical Faculty of the said College have opposed, and which the Senatus Academicus of the same College, apparently through the influence of the Medical Faculty, have, in evading, refused; and he rests his claim to their favour on the following grounds:—

*First*, That the Patrons have the undisputed power of instituting Professorships in, and of regulating the public acts of, the College of Edinburgh.

*Secondly*, That in appointing four Physicians (in 1726) to be Professors of Medicine, the object was that of teaching Medical Knowledge, and "of conferring the Degrees of Doctor of Physic with due solemnity;" by which it is perfectly obvious, that the intention of the



Honourable the Patrons, as trustees for the public good, has always been what reason and common sense dictate, that those who practise as Physicians should have every opportunity of receiving, in their College of Edinburgh, all the information necessary to enable them to exercise their profession to the benefit of their fellow-creatures, and with credit to themselves.

*Thirdly*,—That no man can now practise Physic with safety to the public, without a knowledge of the Diseases of Women and Children, and that none of the Members of the Medical Faculty, as presently constituted, do teach that knowledge.

*Fourthly*,—Because both that Faculty and the Senatus Academicus have refused to give the public the advantage of having such knowledge communicated to the Graduates of Edinburgh, who are, it is to be remarked, solemnly entitled by the said College to practise the Healing Art throughout the whole world—*UBIQUE TERRARUM*—being the phrase employed in conferring the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

*Lastly*,—Because the duties of the Professor of Midwifery are as arduous, and his services are as useful, as those of the Professors who call themselves the Medical Faculty. And it would be inconsistent with the liberality and sense of justice of the Honourable the Patrons, if they did not put him on a footing of equality with those Professors, by constituting and appointing him Professor of Medicine.



## APPENDIX.

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No. I.

### MINUTE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL.

*Edinburgh, 9th February 1726.*

“**T**HE which day, the Lord Provost, Bailies, Council, Deacons of Crafts, ordinary and extraordinary, being convened in Council anent the petition given in by John Rutherford, Andrew Sinclair, Andrew Plummer, and John Innes, Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians at Edinburgh, showing that the Petitioners had, under the Council's protection, undertaken the professing and teaching of Medicine in this City, and, by the encouragement which the Council had been pleased to grant them, had carried it on *with some success*: That was Medicine professed and taught in the College by the Petitioners, it would tend more to promote it, than to have taught it, and professed in the manner hitherto undertaken: That the sole power of instituting such Professions in the College, and of electing of persons qualified to profess the same, was vested in the Council: *That the promoting the aforesaid profession was only what was intended by the Petitioners, which would tend to the benefit and honour of this city and country*: Craving, therefore, the Council to institute the Profession in the College of Edinburgh, and appoint the Petitioners to teach and profess the same; as the petition bears. Which being maturely considered, and the Council being fully convinced that nothing can contribute more to the flourishing of this or any other



College, than that all the parts of Academical Learning be professed and taught in them by able Professors, were of opinion that it would be of great advantage to this College, City, and Country, that Medicine in all its branches be taught and professed here, by such a number of Professors of that Science, as may by themselves promote Students to their degrees, with as great solemnity as is done in any other College at home or abroad. The Council, further considering that the Petitioners above mentioned have given the clearest proof of their capacity and ability to teach the above valuable ends and purposes, they having already professed and taught Medicine with good success and advantage, and with the approbation of all the learned in that Science here, do therefore unanimously constitute, nominate, and appoint Andrew Sinclair and John Rutherford, Doctors of Medicine, Professors of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, and Andrew Plummer and John Innes, Doctors of Medicine, Professors of Medicine and Chemistry in the College of Edinburgh, with full power to all of them to profess and teach Medicine, in all its branches, in the said College, as fully and freely as the said Science is taught in any University or College in this or any other country; and do, by these presents, give, grant, and bestow upon the said four Professors of Medicine, and of the particular branches thereof above mentioned, all the privileges, liberties, and immunities that at present, or hereafter, are or may be enjoyed by the Professors of any other Science in the foresaid College: And, particularly, with full power to them to examine Candidates, and to do every other thing requisite and necessary to the graduation of Doctors of Medicine, as amply and fully, and with all the solemnities that the same is practised and done by the Professors of Medicine in any College or University whatsoever. And it is hereby further provided and declared, that two only of the said Professors of Medicine shall at one time have the privilege of voting with the other Professors in College affairs; and that these two enjoy the privilege of deliberating on, and voting in the affairs of general concern to the College, whereanent the Professors have been in use to deliberate and vote, in manner after directed, viz.



The said Andrew Sinclair, Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, and the said Andrew Plummer, Professor of Medicine and Chemistry, are hereby appointed and privileged to deliberate and vote with the other Professors in their College affairs, from the day of their admission till the first day of March 1727 ; and that the said John Rutherford and John Innes, Professors of the said branches of Medicine, from the said first day of March 1727 years, enjoy the same privilege for the succeeding year ; And so the said Professors are to have the said privilege by turns yearly, during their respective lives, and their continuing to profess and teach Medicine in the said College ; and that this Act shall take place *ad vitam aut culpam* : And it is hereby to be understood, that if their numbers be diminished by death or otherwise, the survivors continuing to profess and teach Medicine shall enjoy the foresaid privileges : And lastly, it is hereby expressly provided and declared, that the said four Professors, or any of them, shall not have any fee or salary for their professing and teaching Medicine, as said is, by virtue of this present Act, or in time coming, which shall be payable out of the revenue or patrimony which does or may at any time hereafter belong to this City, whereanent these presents shall be a warrant.

## No. II.

MEMORIAL of DR. HAMILTON, Professor of Midwifery, to the SENATUS ACADEMICUS of the University of Edinburgh, dated December 26. 1815.

*Respectfully Sheweth,*

THAT the Memorialist had the honour of being appointed, as Professor of Midwifery, a Member of the Senatus Academicus on the 12th of April 1800.

That when Lectures upon Midwifery were first given in this University by the late Dr. Young, the principal object of the Course was



the explanation of the act of Child-bearing, and that the Lectures accordingly were attended only by those who were to be employed in the profession of delivering Women.

That the Memorialist's Father considerably changed the nature of those Lectures, by extending his Remarks to many of the diseases of Women and Infants, which were not included in the Courses of Teachers of the Practice of Physic.

That, in the further advance of Medical Knowledge, the Memorialist has for several years given a very full account of the diseases of Women, and of Infants and Children.

That, in thus extending the Subjects of his Lectures, the Memorialist had no intention of encroaching on the Duties of the Professor of the Practice of Physic, but merely complied with the gradual changes which have taken place in the exercise of the Profession, by which, in great cities, the treatment of the diseases of Women and Children is confided to Practitioners of Midwifery.—That this division of labour has led to the most beneficial improvements in the management of such diseases; and that, by the annexed Table of the Contents of his several Lectures, it is shown, not only that the Memorialist does not treat of the same subjects with the Professor of the Practice of Physic, but also that the Diseases which he does describe, require the attention and study of every person engaged in general Practice.

That in consequence of the Memorialist thus comprehending in his Course a view of the Diseases of Women and Children, the Medical Students now consider attendance on his Class to be necessary, in order to enable them to enter upon the Practice of Physic; in proof of which, the number of Midwifery Students has advanced in proportion as the Memorialist has extended his plan, and is now fully double what it was when he was appointed Professor, the number for the current year amounting to Four hundred and twenty-three.

That the Memorialist, when he became a Professor in the University, found that the Senatus Academicus consisted of Four Faculties,



viz. Theology, The Arts, Law, and Physic, and that the Professor of Midwifery did not belong to any of them.

That the Memorialist was fully aware that the original purpose of the different Professors being divided into distinct Faculties, must have been the promotion of Learning, by securing for the Students such a co-operation between the several Teachers, as should furnish a proper Course of Instruction, and by providing competent Judges in the several branches of Literature and Science, to decide on the qualifications of those Students who should claim from the University Literary Honours.

That notwithstanding his conviction, that on these principles he had a title to claim admission into the Medical Faculty, the Memorialist was most unwilling to agitate any question which might give rise to a difference of opinion among his Colleagues, from the dread of the evil consequences of such controversies.—Accordingly, the Memorialist has been nearly Fifteen Years a Professor, without ever taking any steps to assert what he considers his just Claim ; and he is now reluctantly forced to do so by occurrences which he could not have foreseen, and over which he had no control.

That he is therefore obliged to represent to the *Senatus Academicus*, that his exclusion from the Medical Faculty can benefit neither the University in general, nor the said Faculty in particular, while it may prove most injurious to the Medical Students, and to Society at large. And instead of offering any hypothetical arguments in illustration of this representation, he refers directly to the following facts :—

*First*,—Certain Members of the Medical Faculty, in the year 1800, soon after the appointment of the Memorialist, made application to the *Senatus Academicus* to have the hour at that time dedicated to the Midwifery Lectures, viz. Three o'clock, appropriated to the Clinical Lectures, the consequence of which would have been, compelling the Students to attend Six Days of the Week at Five o'clock, instead of Two Days, the ordinary meetings of the Clinical Class, for the avowed purpose of saving each of the Clinical Professors the trouble of lecturing at that hour twice a week, for three months, once in two years.



*Secondly*,—The Medical Faculty some time ago decided, that the Fees of Graduation should be very considerably augmented, while they did not provide for the Candidates that extension of Medical Knowledge, which the changes in the exercise of the Profession have rendered necessary, and which Lectures on the Diseases of Women and Children supply.

*Thirdly*,—Within these few days, the Medical Faculty resolved, and publicly announced, without any concurrence of the Senatus Academicus, and without any communication with the Memorialist, that the Medical Students should have Holidays from the 22d of December to the 3d of January. This measure, as the Memorialist apprehends, is extremely injurious to the Students; because, from the limited time within which the Midwifery Course is comprehended, it is always impossible to explain properly the different subjects included in it, without some Extra Lectures. The Memorialist, by this resolution, has therefore been reduced to the unpleasant dilemma, of either swerving from his duty, by curtailing his Lectures, or of subjecting nearly Two Hundred Students, the amount of his present audience, to the task of attending his Lectures when the other Medical Classes are not open, or to the loss of his Observations on subjects of great practical importance, viz. the Feverish Diseases which occur in the Childbed state.—He need not add, that he has followed the path of his duty, and has decided to lecture during the Holidays.

*Fourthly*,—The Medical Faculty occasionally examine and pass Theses for Medical Degrees on subjects which are not explained by any of the Members of the Medical Faculty, but which form part of the Memorialist's Lectures. By this it is possible that Candidates may publish, under the sanction of the Medical Faculty, opinions on practical subjects which are in contradiction to those taught by the Memorialist, and which may be most prejudicial to Science and to Society.

*Fifthly*,—The Medical Faculty, in examining Candidates for the Doctor's Degree, must necessarily put questions relative to the subjects of the Memorialist's Lectures, as the annexed Table unequivocally proves; for, in the present state of Medical Practice, no man ignorant



of the Diseases of Women and Children can exercise the Profession. But it is evidently preposterous for any Faculty to expect knowledge on subjects which are not taught by any of its Members.

The Memorialist begs leave most explicitly to declare his solemn conviction, that the Members of the Medical Faculty, for whom he entertains the highest respect, and with several of whom he has the honour of being in habits of intimacy and friendship, have not been aware of the above injurious consequence of his exclusion from that Faculty, and would have readily, upon due explanation, avoided some of the measures of which he has such reason to complain.—But it is evident, that unless he had been a Member of the Medical Faculty, he could have had no opportunity of making such explanation.

That the Memorialist has no access to know the precise period at which the Medical Faculty of this University was instituted; but he has reason to believe, that for some time before the year 1767, it consisted of Five Members, viz. the Professors of Anatomy, Botany, Chemistry, Theory and Practice of Physic; and that in the year 1767, *Materia Medica*, which had hitherto been conjoined with Botany, was made the subject of a distinct Course of Lectures, and the Professor was admitted a Member of the Medical Faculty,—which affords a proof that there is no statute limiting the number of that Faculty.

That the Memorialist, from all these considerations, now claims admission into the Medical Faculty of this University, on the grounds, That his Lectures relate to some of the most important branches of the Practice of Physic, without a knowledge of which no man can exercise the Medical Profession with usefulness, or even safety, to society, and which are not taught by any of the Members of the Medical Faculty: That the exclusion of the Professor of Midwifery from the Medical Faculty is injurious to the interests of the Medical Students; and that already, in the year 1767, the number of the Medical Faculty was increased, and with acknowledged benefit to the University.

That the Memorialist takes the liberty to appeal directly to the *Senatus Academicus* in support of this Claim, in preference to applying to the Medical Faculty, from his unwillingness to furnish any occasion



for difference of opinion amongst the respectable Members of that Faculty, and from the conviction that it belongs entirely to the Senatus Academicus to decide upon this Claim.

That if it appear to the Senatus Academicus, that the Memorialist ought rather to have made this application to the Right Honourable the Patrons of the University, he ventures to solicit from their justice the concurrence of the Senatus Academicus in such an application.

### No. III.

**COPY—LETTER** to the MEMBERS of the SENATUS ACADEMICUS of the University of Edinburgh, dated January 15. 1816.

GENTLEMEN,

AT the Meeting of the Senatus Academicus, held on the 1st of January 1816, Dr. Hope made some remarks upon my Memorial, to which I was not allowed to reply. As, however, those remarks were evidently founded upon a misapprehension of the nature, both of the Claim made in that Memorial, and of the duties and privileges of my Professorship, I deem it necessary to take this method of explaining the views by which I was actuated in presenting that Memorial. The question which it has fallen to my lot to bring before the Senatus Academicus, was originally a very simple one, viz. Whether a Professor, on whom the Patrons have conferred all the privileges and immunities enjoyed by the other Professors of the University, should be excluded from the Four Faculties into which the Members of the Senatus Academicus are divided. But it has led to a discussion of the very first importance to the improvement of Medical Knowledge, and of course to the reputation of this University as a School of Physic, which, in my opinion, cannot be too minutely investigated, nor too deliberately determined upon.

Perhaps it may have been from the hurried manner in which my Memorial was drawn out, that the Medical Faculty have totally misunderstood the nature of my Claim; and therefore, to remove all doubt



upon the subject, it is incumbent on me to declare explicitly, that it never was my intention to interfere with the patrimonial interests of the present Members of the Medical Faculty. My feelings as a Gentleman would have prevented my doing so, even although the nature of my engagements should have left me at leisure to have taken a share of the laborious duties in examining Candidates for Medical Degrees, which they now perform. The statement in the Memorial, page 3, "That my exclusion from the Medical Faculty can benefit neither the University in general, nor the said Faculty in particular, while it may prove most injurious to the Medical Students, and to Society at large," exhibits the principles on which my claim is founded, and the extent to which it goes. In the Faculty of Arts, which consists of a number of Professors, there are only two Examinators; and whatever the usage of the Medical Faculty may have hitherto been, there is no express statute of the University (in so far as I know) enacting, that each Member of that Faculty should be an Examiner; and even if there were such a regulation, there could be no difficulty in altering it.

But it is to the remarks made by Dr. Hope, and apparently sanctioned by the other Members of the Medical Faculty, on the duties and privileges of the Professorship of Midwifery, that I am most anxious to solicit the serious attention of the Senatus Academicus. That they were stated by Dr. Hope *in bona fide*, I believe sincerely; and it is upon this understanding alone, that I take this method of reviewing them. For the very flattering compliments which Dr. Hope did me the honour to pay to me as an individual, I beg leave to return my best thanks. I feel that they are quite unmerited; and with the opinion of the nature of my Professorship, and of the claim I have brought forward, which Dr. Hope avowed, I can find no expression to convey to him the sense I must entertain of his partiality and kindness to myself.

Throughout the whole of his address, Dr. Hope assumed that the word Midwifery has no other than its literal meaning, and that a Teacher of that Art has nothing else to do than to explain the treat-



ment of the process of Child-bearing. But the Members of the Senatus Academicus well know, that the titles of the different Professorships neither express nor limit the duties of the Professors.

Thus Anatomy literally means the Art of dissecting the Body ; but this definition by no means expresses the nature of the Anatomical Lectures which have been long given in this University. Dr. Monro senior added, with great advantage, Lectures on the functions of the body, and on the changes produced by disease ; and it may be truly said, that at this moment every part of the civilized world derives benefit from the admirable Lectures which were given by that eminent man.

On the other hand, when Chemistry was first taught at this University, Pharmacy constituted a very considerable portion of the Course. The genius of Dr. Black led him gradually to curtail this branch of instruction ; and his successor, whose Lectures are well known to be superior in every respect to any ever delivered upon the same subject, though he retains Pharmacy on his ticket, is said to bestow still less time upon that subject than Dr. Black did. These examples are quite sufficient to prove, that the duties of the Teachers of this University are not limited by the literal sense of the titles of their Professorships ; and it is not necessary for the present purpose to show how much injury must have accrued to Mankind, and to Science, if Dr. Monro senior had been obliged to confine himself to the dissection of the Human Body, and if Dr. Black had been compelled to take up the time of many Lectures in giving minute directions on the Art of Pharmacy.

These very obvious considerations might have led the Medical Faculty to have conjectured, that the Professor of Midwifery might have something else to explain than the Art of Human Parturition ; and a very little inquiry might have convinced them, that the Diseases of Women and Children form as natural a part of Lectures on Midwifery, as Physiology and Pathology do of Lectures on Anatomy. Accordingly, in Dr. Cooper's Syllabus, published in London in 1766,—in Dr. Leake's Plan of his Course, published at the same place in 1767,—and in Dr. Spence's Text-Book to his Lectures on Midwifery, published in



this City in 1784, the Diseases of Women and Children are enumerated at pretty considerable length.

Whatever may have been the circumstances which originally led to the Institution of the several Professorships in this University, the object of them all must have been public instruction ; and nothing could promote this more effectually, than a proper division of duty amongst the individual Teachers of each particular branch of Education. In the Science of Medicine, this is perhaps more necessary than in any other ; for the Phenomena of disease are so varied, their Causes are so obscure, and their Treatment so uncertain, that there are natural obstacles to the perfection of that Science, which do not obstruct the progress of other Sciences. It must therefore, it might be supposed, be highly advantageous to the Students, if the Diseases of Women and Children were taught by one Professor, while the Practice of Physic in general should be taught by another ; and it must be of infinite importance to mankind, that, in a great city, some Physicians should limit their attention to one particular department.

But Dr. Hope and the Medical Faculty consider this part of the Lectures of the Professor of Midwifery to be an encroachment on the privileges of the Professor of the Practice of Physic, and a very large part of Dr. Hope's address was intended to enforce this allegation. Were it my object to enter into a controversy upon this subject, I could have no difficulty in pointing out, that all Dr. Hope's illustrations were inapplicable ; but the purpose of this Letter is that of explanation. I cannot, however, pass over one illustration—that which related to the proposal, formerly referred to the Senatus Academicus, respecting the Institution of a Professorship on Conveyancing. Dr. Hope alleged that those parts of the Lectures upon Midwifery, which relate to the Diseases of Women and Children, bear the same analogy to Lectures on the Practice of Physic, which Lectures on Conveyancing would have done to those on Municipal Law.

It is not necessary to remind the Members of the Senatus Academicus, that analogical reasoning is generally inconclusive, and that it is very difficult to compare the subdivisions of one science with those



of another. But if analogy be referred to on this occasion, it appears to me, that Lectures on Conveyancing have a nearer affinity to Lectures on Pharmacy, than to any other department of Medical duty. Thus the operations of Conveyancing are mechanical, and are performed by clerks or apprentices, and their forms are established by certain usages, and regulations of Courts of Law, which were formerly recorded in style-books, and are now printed. In the same way, the operations of Pharmacy are performed by the shopmen or apprentices of Surgeons and Apothecaries, and the exact method of conducting them is directed by publications called Pharmacopœiæ.

On the other hand, Lectures upon the Diseases of Women and Children seem to me to be analogous to those on Municipal Law; for they have the same relation to the Practice of Physic, which those on Municipal Law bear to Civil Law.

It will be readily conceded, that the Patrons of this University have a right to appoint a Professor to lecture on the Diseases of Women and Children, and it can scarcely be denied that such a Professorship might be highly useful. The modifications of human diseases are so varied, and so obscure, that no individual Teacher of the Practice of Physic, whatever his talents and industry may be, can possibly do full justice to every subject, within the compass of a single Course of Lectures.—That this is not a speculative assertion, every man who ever studied Physic at this University might be brought to attest. The late Dr. Cullen, who introduced a revolution in the Practice of Physic, and whose writings will continue to benefit mankind as long as written language remains, dedicated his whole time and attention to the exercise of his Profession, and the improvement of Medical Science, and yet never gave a complete Course of Lectures on the Practice of Physic. What he could not accomplish, viz. the Diseases of Women and Children, it might therefore be most proper for the Patrons of the University to appoint another Professor to teach. Such an Institution, by enabling the Professor to limit his attention to one department of Practice, would necessarily secure for the Profession a more accurate view of the phenomena and nature of the Diseases of



Women and Children, than could possibly be given by any person in general practice; while, by withdrawing the account of those diseases from the Professor of the Practice of Physic, they would leave him more leisure to attend to general diseases.

What has been thus hypothetically supposed, has in fact been done by the Patrons of the University; for the Commission which I have the honour to hold, actually entitles me to lecture on the Diseases of Women and Children. The words are, "To profess the said Art in as large an extent as it is taught in any City or Place where the said Profession is instituted;" and the date of the Commission is April 9. 1800. In London, for a long time before that period, Lecturers on Midwifery taught the Diseases of Women and Children. Of this innumerable proofs could be adduced, but the following must appear quite sufficient:—Dr. John Clarke, in the year 1815, addressed Commentaries on some of the Diseases of Children, "To the Medical Students who, in the *last thirty years*, have attended the Lectures on the Diseases of Women and Children in the School founded by Dr. Osborn and Dr. Denman." All the Profession knows, that the Lectures on Midwifery by Dr. Osborn and Dr. Denman attracted Students from every part of England.

But I should do injustice to the liberality of the Honourable the Patrons of this University, if I did not advert more particularly to the tenor of my Commission. It appoints me "Professor of Midwifery in this City's College, *ad vitam aut culpam*, with power to profess the said Art therein, and within the City, Liberties, and Privileges thereof, in as large an extent as it is taught in any city or place where the said Profession is instituted, or as the said Dr. Alexander Hamilton did profess and teach the same, and with the same privileges and immunities which the other Professors in the said College do enjoy, or that are known to appertain to a Professor of Midwifery in any other well-regulated City or College." More liberal terms than are thus expressed, could not have been granted. They secure for me the same privileges which the other Professors of the



University enjoy, and also every right which may be necessary to enable me to discharge, in the most competent manner, all the duties of my own particular Professorship. The expediency and utility of putting my Class on this footing can, in my humble opinion, be as little questioned, as the power of the Patrons to grant my Commission on such terms probably will be. Minds influenced solely by the consideration of what is best for the interests of education, and of the University established under their superintendence to promote those interests, could not readily sanction any such monopoly in teaching as should preclude or circumscribe the full and complete discussion of every subject manifestly essential in promoting the knowledge and improvement of what relates to so important a Profession as that of Physic.

There are two parties totally overlooked in the opposition made to my Claim, whose interests require some little consideration:—I mean the Medical Students, and the Public at large. The former are entitled to have every possible information on the phenomena and nature of all the diseases which afflict the human body, and the latter have good reason to expect some improvement in the Practice of Physic from those on whom they bestow their confidence. But if the doctrine held out in Dr. Hope's address had been acted upon by the Patrons of this University, and Lectures upon Midwifery had been limited to the explanation of the act of Human Parturition, as the Medical Faculty seem to suppose that they should be, the knowledge of the Practice of Physic, in so far as it regards the Diseases of Women and Children, must have remained in a very low state at this University.

Dr. Hope's allegations, that I had encroached upon the duties of the Practice of Physic, were sanctioned by a letter from that Professor, in which he asserted, that he was accustomed to treat incidentally, or fully, on *forty* of the subjects comprehended in the sketch of my Lectures printed along with the Memorial; and he added, that such subjects did not require a knowledge of Midwifery to be intelligible.—On that letter I shall only remark, that no injury can arise from the Professor of the Practice of Physic, and the Professor of Midwifery, treating of some



of the same subjects, because each must give a different view. For example, the Professor of the Practice of Physic must give a full account of Phthisis Pulmonalis; but the Professor of Midwifery, in alluding to that disease, has only to refer to the Professor of the Practice for the full description, and to point out to the Students how it is to be distinguished from the Cough and Emaciation which frequently attend the early months of Pregnancy, and how it is to be recognised in the puerperal state. Again, in treating of Measles, the Professor of Midwifery would be wasting the time of his Pupils, if he were to enter into any extended detail of that disease. His duty is, to point out the marks by which, in young children, Measles may be distinguished from other diseases which imitate it, and to show the treatment adapted to the disease at that period of life, which is very different from that which is useful in adults.

That it requires no knowledge of Midwifery, in its literal sense, to treat many of the diseases which form the subjects of my Lectures, is one point at least on which the Professor of the Practice of Physic and I cordially agree; but it must be a self-evident proposition, that if any individual of competent acquirements dedicate, as Professor of Midwifery, his time and his attention to the consideration of those diseases, he must be enabled to give a better account of them than one whose Profession it is to practise Physic in general.

But this question of encroachment may perhaps be understood more clearly by considering it in another point of view. Let it be supposed, for the sake of argument, that it were decreed that no Professor should, under a high penalty, treat of any subject included in the Lectures of another; and that each Professor should limit his instructions strictly to the particular branch of Education expressed by the title of his Professorship: The Professor of Agriculture, in that case, would be obliged to confine himself to a description of the routine of the labour of the Husbandman; and if he should venture to repeat any of the Course, as at present given with so much applause, he might be fined at the instance of the Professors of Botany, of Natural History, of Natural Philosophy, of Chemistry,—and, in so far as relates to the



Covenants of Leases, of the Professor of Municipal Law. In the same way, if the Professor of Moral Philosophy should extend his Lectures beyond the mere boundaries of Ethics, and should enter on any of those kindred speculations which relate to the intellectual faculties of man, the Professor of Logic would justly complain that he interfered with his privileges. On the same principle, the Professor of Rhetoric would be wonderfully circumscribed in the subjects of his Lectures; for if he were to attempt to delineate any of those important processes of the human mind which render us capable of persuasion, such as the Laws of Attention, Memory, and Reasoning, the operations of Fancy, the nature and influence of the Passions, &c., he would be very justly accused of encroaching upon the duties of other Professors.

The same reasoning might be applied to every other distinct Professorship; but perhaps the effects of such regulations would be principally injurious to society in the Department of Physic. Thus it may be asked, what benefit could be derived from Lectures on the *Materia Medica*, if the Professor were interdicted from introducing any subject relating to Botany, to Natural History, to Chemistry, and to the Practice of Physic? If the Professor of the Theory of Physic were under the necessity of expunging from his Course every subject treated of by the Professors of Anatomy, of Chemistry, of *Materia Medica*, and of the Practice of Physic, there can be little doubt that the Professorship would be nominal in every sense of the word. The effect of this regulation upon the Professor of the Practice of Physic himself would not be unimportant. He could neither describe the Anatomy nor the functions of any part affected with disease, nor could he explain the doses, nor the modes of exhibiting the Medicines, required for the cure of human maladies.

The reasoning of Dr. Hope and the Medical Faculty upon the duties of the Professor of Midwifery certainly proceeds upon a speculation of this kind; and admitting it to be in the power of that Faculty to establish such regulations, the Medical Students would naturally ask, from whom they are to obtain a knowledge of the Diseases of Women and Children? The Professor of the Practice of Physic has voluntarily



avowed, that out of above *One hundred and sixty subjects* relating to that department of Medical Knowledge, he treats incidentally or fully of *Forty* only. The Professors of Botany, of Chemistry, of the *Materia Medica*, and of the Theory of Medicine, cannot be expected to give any detail of the Diseases of Women and Children; and although the Professor of Anatomy told the *Senatus Academicus* that he was accustomed to point out the diseased changes upon the Uterine System, he did not allege that he explained either the symptoms or the cure of the Diseases produced by those changes.

If the Medical Faculty had brought forward a charge against the Professor of Midwifery, for neglecting to explain the Act of Human Parturition, and taking up the time of the Students in describing diseases treated of by other Professors, they would have had just grounds of Complaint; but their accusation of his encroaching upon the Practice of Physic, in a department of the Profession untaught by any other Professor, must excite not a little surprise, and is very inconsistent with the former principles and practice of that Faculty; for in the year 1777 they unanimously agreed to petition the Patrons of the University to appoint Dr. Monro Professor of Surgery, as well as of Anatomy, because he had, for several years, added to his usual Course, with great advantage to the Students, a View of the Principles of Surgery. On the same grounds, if my Commission did not entitle me to lecture upon the Diseases of Women and Children, I might have applied to the Medical Faculty for their sanction to be appointed Professor of that department; and I should scarcely have expected any effectual opposition from the Professor of the Practice of Physic, unless he could have shown that his Course of Lectures did actually comprehend all the subjects generally understood to belong to the Practice of Physic, and also an account of the Diseases of Women and Children.

This argument might be extended much farther; for I might proceed to inquire into the practical purposes for which the different Medical Professorships were instituted; and I should have no difficulty in proving, that these were the investigation of the Nature and Cure of Human Diseases, and that, in this respect, the duty of the Professor of



Midwifery is inferior only in importance to that of the Professor of the Practice of Physic. But what has been remarked, is quite sufficient to establish the proposition, that unless the Medical Faculty can satisfactorily show that the Diseases of Women and Children ought to remain untaught at this University, and that the Medical Students should resort for information on such subjects to London, and other cities and places where Midwifery is properly professed, the Course of Lectures I have the honour of giving is of essential utility, both to the Medical Students, and to the Public at large.

In preferring my claim to be one of the Members of the Medical Faculty, I have been actuated entirely by the conviction, that my exclusion from that Faculty may be prejudicial to the Medical Students; and in my Memorial, instead of urging any hypothetical arguments in support of this proposition, I appealed to certain facts. These Dr. Hope bestowed much pains in controverting; but, as his reasoning did not convince me, I must be permitted to recall the attention of the Senatus Academicus to the remarks which he made.

*First.*—He asserted that if I had belonged to the Medical Faculty, there would have been no occasion to have applied to the Senatus Academicus for permission to take my hour of Three o'clock for the Clinical Lectures; because, by a regulation of the Medical Faculty, whenever a vacancy happens in a Professorship, the youngest remaining Professor has the privilege of choosing the vacant hour, and therefore my hour would have been taken without any scruple. But it must be evident that this rule cannot apply to the Clinical Lectures, because these consist of the whole Medical Faculty, as at present constituted; and a Collective Body can never be the youngest Professor. Clinical Lectures are an extra Class, and are given twice a week during the Winter by two different Professors, who undertake that important and laborious duty in rotation; and if any exertion upon my part could tend to promote the profits, or contribute to the conveniences of those Professors, they should not be wanting. But my duty to the Students led me to oppose an arrangement which must have been so injurious to them; for if there be one hour in the whole day more in-



convenient than another, it can scarcely be doubted that it ought to be appropriated rather to a Class which meets twice a week, than to one which meets six times. I regret that Dr. Hope has forced me to repeat this argument, because I am now compelled to remind the Senatus Academicus, that the Medical Faculty applied to the Senatus for my hour of Lecture for the Clinical Lectures, at a time when it was known that I was absent from Edinburgh ; and that they urged this claim so strenuously, that a Memorial, the reading of which occupied above forty-five minutes, was presented to the Senatus upon the subject, the writer of which concluded with a threat, that if my hour were not obtained, he would never give another Clinical Lecture. Notwithstanding all this, not a single Member of the Senatus Academicus voted for this proposal of the Medical Faculty ; and I repeat my assertion, that this attempt to put the Students to so much inconvenience could never have come before the Senatus Academicus, if, as a Member of that Faculty, I had had an opportunity of discussing the subject with the other Professors.

*Secondly,* The argument that the Medical Faculty had resolved to increase the Fees of Graduation, without providing for the Candidates any extension of Medical Knowledge, was not much dwelt upon by Dr. Hope, and I do not wish to press it very strongly. I certainly think that Medical Honours are dispensed too cheaply, and that the Examinators are well entitled to a more liberal allowance for their trouble than they have hitherto had ; but I must be permitted to think at the same time, that there are some branches of education, besides those established as necessary by the Medical Faculty, which the Candidates should be obliged to attend. It is impossible to avoid contrasting the conduct of the Medical Faculty on this occasion, with that of the Royal College of Surgeons, who, in new-modelling their Regulations for conferring Surgical Honours, showed the greatest anxiety to secure an ample and liberal course of education for the Candidates.

*Thirdly,* The third reason urged in my Memorial, that the Medical Faculty, by having determined to give Holidays at Christmas, and by announcing this resolution to the Students, without the concurrence of



the Senatus Academicus, and without my knowledge, had done an injury to the Medical Students, was rather humorously parried, than seriously answered, by Dr. Hope. Of the fact there can be no doubt, because Dr. Hope himself, on Monday, 18th December, regularly announced to his Class, according to my information, that *he and his Colleagues* had agreed to give Holidays. That this resolution was injurious to me individually, as well as to the Students of my Class, who are to all intents and purposes Medical Students, there can be no doubt; because it countenanced an invidious distinction between the Professor of Midwifery, and the Professors belonging to the Medical Faculty; and because it subjected the Students of my Class to the inconvenience of attending my Lectures when the other Classes were not open, or of losing my observations on some very important practical subjects.

Dr. Hope very truly said, that he could have furnished me with better arguments against the granting of Holidays than those urged in my Memorial; evidently forgetting, that it was not the purpose of my Memorial to discuss that question, but to show that my exclusion from the Medical Faculty had led in that instance to injurious consequences.

I could have no idea that it was in contemplation to give Holidays to the Medical Students, because the custom had been abrogated for many years, for reasons which appeared most cogent.

No man can admire the unremitting assiduity and the unwearied zeal, uniformly displayed by Dr. Hope in the exercise of his Academic duties, more than I do, and no man can more cordially assent to the reasonableness of his enjoying a few days recreation during the festive season of Christmas; but I am sure that his mind is too liberal to entertain a wish to obtain that recreation at the expense of others; and that had he been aware of the injury to the Students of the Midwifery Class, and to myself individually, done by the resolution of the Medical Faculty to grant Holidays, he would have acted otherwise.

Dr. Hope alleged, that if I, like the other Professors, gave a single Course of Lectures during the Winter Session, I could have suffered



no inconvenience from the Holidays, and he indulged in a little pleasantry on the hardship of my pocketing twice Four Guineas, while the other Professors receive that sum only once. But this, like many other good stories, ceases to be a joke when divested of its embellishments. It must be quite evident, that a double fee is only paid by those Gentlemen who attend both Courses during the Winter Session; and as the fee is a Guinea less for each successive Course the individual attends, no Student can pay *twice Four Guineas*. The fact is, that since the year 1800, the average number of second Course Students who have feed the Spring Course of Midwifery amounts to forty-one. As it is evident, therefore, that my giving two Courses during the Winter, and being thereby compelled to have several extra Meetings, in order that I may exhibit a full view of every subject, is not productive of much emolument, it may be asked, Why I continue to do so, especially since the Medical Faculty, in the year 1800, recommended that I should not?

From the time that Midwifery was taught at this University, it was customary for the Professor to give two Courses during the Winter, because several Gentlemen who required a certificate of qualification to practise Midwifery could not attend this College more than one Winter. When I succeeded to the charge, I could not have deviated from this established usage without abridging the privileges of the Students; and I feel too sincerely the favour with which my services as a public Teacher have been uniformly received, to think of any innovation by which I could save myself trouble at their expense.

*Fourthly*,—The remarks which Dr. Hope made upon the subject of the Theses published under the sanction of the Medical Faculty were perfectly new to me, and in direct contradiction to the popular rumours upon the subject: But I have no doubt that he was correct when he asserted, that the Medical Faculty do not at all interfere with the doctrines the Theses contain. How far this measure may be proper, as it regards the credit of the Candidates themselves, the reputation of this University, and the improvement of Medical Knowledge, I shall not inquire; but I may be permitted to say, that if any Theses on the



subjects of my Lectures were submitted to my examination, I should not hesitate to exert the privilege of Censorship.

*Fifthly*,—Dr. Hope fully admitted, that in examining Candidates for Degrees, the Medical Faculty do put questions respecting the Diseases of Women and Children. If those questions be confined to the forty subjects of which the Professor of the Practice of Physic treats incidentally or fully, about One hundred and twenty complaints described in my Lectures on the Diseases of Women and Children must remain unnoticed ; and it will not be easy for the Medical Faculty to prove that Physicians can with safety be ignorant of such disorders. If, on the other hand, the Medical Faculty put questions on subjects not incidentally nor fully treated of by the Professor of the Practice of Physic, they require knowledge from the Candidates which they give them no opportunity of acquiring. On either supposition, the fifth fact and inference in my Memorial are fully established.

It cannot fail to strike the Members of the Senatus Academicus, that much harm may be done to the Candidates by their being questioned on a branch of education they are not required to study. But this is tender ground, and I shall pass over it as lightly as possible, because I am convinced that the present Examinators perform their duty with strict fidelity and honour. Since the Medical Faculty have hitherto supposed, (though most erroneously, as I trust they will now admit,) that the only duty of my Professorship is to teach the mode of treating the Act of Child-Bearing, they cannot be acquainted with those deviations from the ordinary practice in the management of many of the Complaints of Women and Children which I am accustomed to recommend ; and, consequently, the answers of the Candidates who may have attended my Lectures may be neither intelligible nor satisfactory to them.

Dr. Hope, proceeding upon the misapprehension that I claim to be an Examiner for Medical Degrees, was at particular pains to point out the inconvenience which would follow, if the number of Examinators were increased. In this I cordially agree with him ; and I have no doubt that at some future period the numbers will be diminished.



When the present generation passes away, it is very possible that two of the Chairs now filled by Members of the Medical Faculty may be given to Professors who are not Physicians. There are many able Botanists who never studied Physic; and there may be future individuals, like Professor Leslie and Sir Humphry Davy, who might well aspire to the Chemical Chair, though they be not Physicians.

But although the number of Examinators should be diminished, it is little probable that the course of instruction necessary for the Candidates for Medical Honours will ever be abridged, and the chance is, that it will be extended. It is impossible that the Medical Faculty can be so illiberal as to decide, that no Class shall be necessary but that of an examiner; and if they could be supposed capable of such a decision, public opinion, and the interference of the *Senatus Academicus*, would effectually counteract it. In the present constitution of the University, the existing Members of the Medical Faculty are the Trustees appointed by the *Senatus Academicus* for reporting the individuals qualified for Medical Degrees; but the same power which appointed them, it can scarcely be doubted, can control or modify the exercise of their duties.

The concluding remark of Dr. Hope being rather a personal one, I should have been most willing to have passed by. He alleged that I had asserted, that in great cities Practitioners of Midwifery engross the practice on the Diseases of Women and Children; and he instanced, that of the present Members of the College of Physicians, amounting to about twenty, only two, or at the utmost three, practise Midwifery. This misapprehension has probably arisen from a hasty perusal of the following expression in my Memorial, viz. "In great cities, the treatment of the Diseases of Women and Children is confided to Practitioners of Midwifery." If the expression had been *solely confided*, Dr. Hope's comments would have been well founded; and when it is mentioned, that of the twenty Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians to whom he alluded, five have been or actually are engaged in the Practice of Midwifery, the inaccuracy in his statement will appear singular. It is unnecessary to revert to the advantages which



must arise from particular Physicians limiting their practice to the Diseases of Women and Children; but it must be evident that they could not do so, if they did not possess the public confidence.

It is with regret that I have already trespassed so much on your indulgence; but I cannot close this Letter without adverting to the original question, which I have been compelled to bring before the Senatus Academicus. It is, Whether my exclusion from all the Four Faculties, and especially from the Medical Faculty, be not a direct contravention of the Privileges and Immunities conferred upon me as Professor of Midwifery by the Honourable the Patrons of this University. With the firm persuasion, that the Patrons did not intend that the terms of my Commission should be nugatory, and with the feeling that I hold that Commission for Public purposes in a Public Institution, by which I am bound in duty to maintain all the Rights, Privileges, and Immunities which appertain to it, I have appealed, in the first instance, to the justice of my Colleagues, and confidently expect an impartial decision. The limitation of this claim, by which I personally decline any concern in the Duties of the present Members of the Medical Faculty, in relation to the examination of Candidates for Medical Degrees, I have voluntarily made, in deference to them individually. But as I have no right to renounce any Privileges attached to my Professorship, I must be permitted to enter my Protest, that this concession shall not be held to prejudice in any respect the future interests of the said Professorship, or of my Successors in Office.— I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, your most obedient humble Servant,

JA<sup>s</sup>. HAMILTON JUNIOR.