

suspended or expelled for violation of the Academy's regulations. As there is nothing whatever in these "regulations" of the faintest ethical import, it is evident that a Fellow can be suspended or expelled solely for a breach of certain routine rules. He may be a debauchee, or sot, a blackleg or a thief; but so long as he acts in accordance with these "regulations," the Academy cannot touch him; and if it attempted to do so, the defense that he had not violated the regulations would hold good in any court of law. There is not even the saving clause of "conduct unbecoming a gentleman" anywhere to be found.

Furthermore, it is not necessary, so far as any statutory provisions are concerned, that in order to belong to the Academy a person should be a *regular* graduate in medicine. So far as regards any restriction in the constitution or by-laws, a homœopath, eclectic, "physio-medical," "herb doctor," or any kind of a charlatan whatever, is entitled to become a Fellow if only he is the possessor of a diploma or license, and has resided in New York or its vicinity for three years. There is absolutely nothing said about what sort of a college or other body the candidate must have derived his diploma or license from; it is simply required that he "must have been a graduate or licentiate in medicine." It is noticeable that the committee on education, as well as that on ethics, has been entirely ablished.

Hitherto the Academy of Medicine, although many of its Fellows individually repudiated the National Code, has been entitled, as a body, to representation in the American Medical Association by reason of its technical adherence to the Code; but, of course, now that it has repudiated the latter in its corporate capacity, it has placed itself in the same anomalous position as the Medical Society of the State of New York.

P. B. P.

LAPAROTOMY FOR PELVIC ABSCESS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL:

Dear Sir:—I entirely agree with Dr. Christian Fenger in his remarks on Dr. Jackson's paper, in a recent meeting of the Chicago Gynecological Society, when he says: "The operation performed in Dr. Jackson's case I should not call a laparotomy at all, but simply an oncotomy. An abscess was opened, and the operation does not differ materially from the opening of a deep-seated abscess in any other region of the body, *e. g.*, in an extremity."

In the cases reported done in this country there was one performed by me in June, 1884. I think it was the first successful case of laparotomy for pelvic abscess done in this country. It will be found in the *Medical News*, for 1884. In this case the sac of the abscess was stitched to the abdominal wound, and then opened and drained. The woman is still living and in excellent health. I think this case was reported by Dr. Stone, my assistant, and is probably referred to in Dr. Fenger's list, given in his remarks.

Very respectfully, R. S. SURTON, M.D.

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STATE MEDICINE.

REGULATION OF MEDICAL PRACTICE IN IOWA.

The following Bill for an act to regulate the practice of medicine and surgery in the State of Iowa has been recently passed:

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

SECTION 1. That every person practicing medicine, surgery or obstetrics, in any of their departments, within this State, shall possess the qualifications required by this act. If a graduate in medicine such person shall present his or her diploma to the State Board of Examiners, for verification as to its genuineness. If the diploma is found genuine and is issued by a medical school legally organized and in good standing, of which the State Board of examiners shall determine, and if the person presenting and claiming such diploma be the person to whom the same was originally granted, then the State Board of Examiners shall issue its certificate to that effect signed by not less than five physicians thereof, representing one or more physicians of the schools on the board, and such certificate shall be conclusive as to the right of the lawful holder to practise medicine, surgery and obstetrics within this State. If not a graduate the person practising medicine or surgery within this State, unless he or she shall have been in continuous practice in this State for a period of not less than five years, of which he or she shall present to the State Board of Examiners satisfactory evidence in the form of affidavits, shall appear before said State Board of Examiners and submit to such examination as said board may require. All examinations shall be conducted in writing, and all examination papers, together with the reports and action of the examiners thereon, shall be preserved as the records of the board for a period of five years, during which time they shall remain open for inspection at the office of the said State Board of Examiners. Such examinations shall be in anatomy, physiology, general chemistry, pathology, therapeutics, principles and practice of medicine, surgery and obstetrics. *Provided*, that each applicant upon receiving from the secretary of the board an order for an examination shall receive also a confidential number which he or she shall place upon his or her examination papers so that when said papers are passed upon by the examiners, the latter shall not know by what applicant said papers have been prepared. That upon each day of examination all candidates be given the same set or sets of questions. It is further provided that the examination papers shall be marked upon the scale of one hundred (100) and that in order to secure a license, it shall be necessary for the applicant to attain such average as shall hereafter be determined by the State Board of Examiners. And if such examination be satisfactory to at least five physicians of said board, representing the different schools of medicine on the board, the board shall issue a certificate which shall entitle the lawful holder thereof to all the rights and privileges herein provided, and the physicians and the secretary