political, will not apply in the medical world. We are not a mob, but a well-educated body of men, whose avocations make us reflective, and place us beyond the reach of designing persons, and of unworthy impulses. We therefore demand it as a right. We have devoted our lives to the welfare of society. We are the worst paid, the least privileged, at the same time the most indispensable of all the learned professions; yet we present the singular anomaly, that in a ratio with our utility and attainments are we degraded, dishonoured, and deemed undeserving of sharing in the government of our own institutions.

Our wrongs have never been sufficiently brought under the *public* eye. It will be our duty to urge them on the notice of members of Parliament and the community. They will be surprised to learn that there are nineteen graduating bodies differing widely from each other in their requirements of qualifications from candidates, as well as in their power of conferring titles. Not one having the power to give authority to practise in all the branches of medicine, or to protect the public from the danger and loss of life consequent on reckless ignorance and empiricism; instead of being beneficial to the public or to the profession, they have a directly opposite effect. They are marts for the sale of diplomas, pieces of machinery subservient to the purposes of self interest, usurped by the few to the injury of the many. If such corrupt bodies cannot be abolished, we would insist at least, as a protection for the public, that the examination in each should embrace the whole range of medical practice; that the licence should be uniform, and confer an equal right in every part of the British Empire; that the poor, as well as the rich, should be provided with competent advice in the hour of suffering. It is not generally known that any man can practise as a surgeon in these dominions. There is no law to prevent him, or to protect the public from imposition, or loss of life, or injury from his ignorance, or protect the regularly educated professional man from competition with such pretenders. If the council of the college had performed that duty, which they professed to hold in trust for the public and the profession, legislative enactments would long ere this have put an end to the evil. Pilots, who have proved their competency before the Trinity Board, are provided to steer our vessels through the dangers of our coast; even the engineers on our railways are required to give evidence of a knowledge of their avocation. Every precaution is taken to ensure the safety of *property* in this country; but *life*, which ought to be dearer than all, is left at the mercy of every quack who thinks proper to pursue a lucrative trade at the expense of the happiness and safety of the community.

You perceive our objects are simple; our

principles just, obvious, and incontrovertible. Division amongst ourselves has been the bane and parent of all the multifarious wrongs which we have endured, and has emboldened the monopolists in their aggravating exclusions and recent aggressions upon the rights of the members. Admonished by the fate and failure of previous efforts, we struggle only for what is attainable. In the present state of parties we cannot hope to advance at once from positive wrong to positive right.

We stepped not forward until further delay would have been fatal. The charters plainly indicate the principles of Sir James Graham's intended Medical Bill. We invoke the assistance of the whole profession. We must be prepared, if our apprehensions be realised, by simultaneous and combined exertions, to defeat such an enactment. We invite, we entreat, your co-operation; we are ready, most ready, to resign the post of honour to more distinguished men, who will consent to take their proper place at the head of our movement, and stand forward as the able and earnest advocates of the dignity and rights of their brethren; or if you prefer it we shall all move together on terms of full equality. Participation in wrong is our bond of union. We invite every legally-qualified practitioner to join us in the work of disenthralment. The enrolment fee will be merely nominal; numbers are wanted more than money.

Finally, the members of the committee respectfully announce that a

GREAT AGGREGATE MEETING OF THE PROFESSION

WILL BE HELD AT THE

CROWN AND ANCHOR,

ON MONDAY, THE 25TH OF MARCH, 1844,
when the attendance of members of the profession from every part of the country is most earnestly solicited.

The Committee also announce, that a SECRETARY is in attendance, daily, at the COMMITTEE-ROOM, CROWN AND ANCHOR TAVERN, from eleven to five o'clock, for the purpose of making an enrolment, at a nominal fee of one shilling, of the names of all legally-qualified physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of all graduates in medicine of foreign universities, requiring residence during the curriculum of study, as members of a

MEDICAL PROTECTION ASSEMBLY.

The Committee have likewise resolved that all *registered students* in medicine, belonging to the various schools and colleges, shall be entitled to admission and enrolment, gratuitously.

Signed by direction of the committee,

JOHN WILSON, Chairman,

JORDAN ROCHE LYNCH, Treasurer,

WM. SIMPSON, Hon. Secretary.