SUBSCRIPTION

TO PAY THE FINE AND LAW EXPENSES OF
MR. W. COOKE, OF EXETER.

	£	s.	d.
Amount already advertised....	199	14	0
<i>Per Mr. Braithwaite, Hereford.</i>			
Dr. Bleek Lye, Hereford	1	0	0
Dr. Hughes	0	10	0
Mr. Griffiths	1	0	0
Mr. Beavan	1	0	0
Mr. Cam	0	10	0
Mr. Pateshall	0	10	0
Mr. John Griffiths	0	10	0
Mr. Eyre	0	10	0
Mr. Price	0	10	0
Mr. Braithwaite	0	10	0
Mr. Jennings } Students	0	2	6
Mr. Cookesley }	0	2	6
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— Lovell, Esq., Sawbridge- worth	£ 6	15	0
	0	10	0

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN DR. HARRISON
AND THE CENSORS OF THE COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS.

No. I.—*Copy of the Censors' first Communi-
cation to Dr. Harrison.*

July 6th, 1827.

WE, the Censors of the Royal College of Physicians, London, having received information that you are practising physic within the city of London, and seven miles of the same, do hereby admonish you to desist from so doing, until you shall have been duly examined and licensed thereto, under the common seal of the said College, otherwise it will be the duty of the said College to proceed against you for the recovery of the penalties thereby incurred.

WILLIAM LAMBE,
J. COPE,
H. H. SOUTHEY,
CORNWALLIS HEWETT.

College of Physicians, Pall Mall East.

A board for examining persons who have the requisite qualifications, will be holden at the College on next Friday, 13th July, 1827.

To Dr. Edward Harrison, Holles-street.

No. II.—*Copy of Dr. Harrison's first Answer to the Censors' Communication.*

Holles-street, 7th July, 1827.

Gentlemen,—I had last night the honour of receiving a communication, purporting to

be signed by *you*, as the Censors of the Royal College of Physicians, London, wherein you are pleased to admonish me to desist from practising physic within the city of London, and seven miles of the same, until I shall have been duly examined and licensed thereto, under the common seal of the said College; and alleging that, otherwise it will be the duty of the said College to proceed against me for the recovery of the penalties thereby incurred.

Before I answer the above communication, will you have the goodness to point out to me the authorities under which you act, and the penalties to which you allude?

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your very obedient humble servant,

EDWARD HARRISON.

To Drs. Lambe, Cope, Southey,
and Hewett, Royal College of
Physicians, London.

No. III.

2, King's-road, Bedford-row,
9th July, 1827.

Sir,—Being senior Censor of the College of Physicians, I opened your letter of the 7th instant, which I shall lay before the Board at their next meeting. I think it right to inform you, that such meeting is appointed for Friday next, at three o'clock, where you may appear, *if you think proper*, and obtain whatever information the Board may think it their duty to communicate to you. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM LAMBE.

Dr. Harrison, Holles-street,
Cavendish-square.

No. IV.

Holles-street, July 12th, 1827.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of Monday last; and I have only to repeat the request made by my former letter.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your very obedient humble servant,

EDWARD HARRISON.

Dr. Lambe, 2, King's-road, Bedford-row.

No. V.—*Copy of Censors' second Communication to Dr. Harrison.*

College of Physicians, July 19th, 1827.

Sir,—We, the Censors of the Royal College of Physicians, London, having taken into consideration the request made in your letter of the 7th July, 'to be informed under what authorities we act, and what are the penalties to which we alluded'—have to inform you, that *we act under the authority of our Charter, confirmed by Parliament 14th*

and 15th Henry VIII., which is well known, and has been repeatedly enforced.

WILLIAM LAMBE,
CLEMENT HUE, vicarius for Dr. COPE,
H. H. SOUTHEY,
CORNWALLIS HEWETT.

There will be a Censor's Board held at half-past four o'clock on Thursday next, 26th July, at which, *if you think proper*, you will have an opportunity of appearing.

Dr. Edward Harrison, Holles-street.

No. VI.—*Copy of Dr. Harrison's second Answer to the Censor's Communication.*

Holles-street, July 23d, 1827.

Gentlemen,—After acknowledging the favour of your letter of the 19th instant, informing me 'that you act under the authority of your Charter confirmed by Parliament 14th and 15th Henry VIII.; I beg leave to observe, that I can no where find the title of 'Censors of the Royal College of Physicians,' mentioned in that statute; or their right to examine Graduates of Universities recognised. And what is no less relevant in this case, it does not appear to confer the power of constituting two different classes of physicians, under the denomination of Fellows and Licentiates. Such is the result of a careful examination of the above-named act. But if you can point out particular clauses in it by which the title and powers in question are distinctly given, I shall feel obliged by the communication.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your very obedient humble servant,

EDWARD HARRISON.

To Drs. Lambe, Cope, Southey,
and Hewett, College of Physicians, London.

No. VII.—*Copy of Censors' third Communication to Dr. Harrison.*

College of Physicians, July 26, 1827.

We, the Censors of the College of Physicians, have received your letter, bearing the date of July the 23d, 1827, and have nothing to add to our last communication, excepting that the next Censors' Board for examining all persons, *who have the requisite qualifications*, will be held at the College of Physicians on the 1st of next October, at four o'clock, P. M.

WILLIAM LAMBE,
J. COPE,
H. H. SOUTHEY,
CORNWALLIS HEWETT.

No. VIII.—*Dr. Harrison to the Censors of the College (delivered August 6th).*

Holles-street, Aug. 4th, 1827.

Gentlemen,—In reply to your communication, bearing date of the 26th of July, I

desire to state that I was led in my last letter to propose three questions for your consideration, with the view of encouraging amicable discussion, and of producing, if possible, a conformity of sentiment between us. As my conciliatory efforts have been frustrated by your uncompromising answer, I beg to inform you, that, having bestowed no inconsiderable attention upon the constitution of the College of Physicians, I am led to conclude, that the privileges and powers granted to it by the statute 14th and 15th of Henry VIII. are not now in existence, or at least are no longer available for College purposes. Upon the consideration generally of the other insurmountable difficulties and objections to the exercise of your monopoly, I shall think it unnecessary to enter, unless the paramount one can be removed.

Intelligent and enlightened physicians, as well as gentlemen learned in the law, entertain similar opinions to my own. I have also reason to know, that even among those who formerly ranked with the highest of the Fellows, the boasted authority of the College was denominated a mere 'Brutum fulmen.' As I had not lately met with opposition from any of the Fellows, in the exercise of my professional duties, I concluded that I should be suffered to pursue them without further molestation,—until I was roused from my deceptive quiet, and forced into the field by your colleague, Dr. Chambers.

Fortified with the concurring approbation of accomplished lawyers, and physicians, I thought that I could not bestow greater service upon the medical profession, to which I am enthusiastically devoted, than by bringing all disputed matters formally into open court, under a conviction that, however they may be decided, the interests of the faculty and of the public will be essentially promoted by the investigation.

Actuated by these motives, I have tendered to the College for a series of years, through some of its Fellows, opportunities of examining legally their pretensions to interfere with me, or my practice.

I am unwilling to suppose that the gentlemen who now compose the 'Royal College of Physicians,' and for whom, individually, I entertain every respect, are less desirous than myself to come at once to the points at issue between us, without the introduction of those foreign topics which have hitherto embarrassed the question, and prevented a satisfactory decision.

Acting on public grounds only, and for the advantage of our common profession, I pledge myself that, if proceedings are instituted, they shall on my part be carried on without unnecessary irritation or excitement.

In pursuance of the great objects for which I contend, I now declare, that I do not recognise your authority as 'Censors of the Royal College of Physicians,' and shall therefore decline your invitation to offer myself at your Licensing Board 'on the 1st of next October.'

I have only to add, in concluding my correspondence, that Messrs. Tennant, Harrison, and Tennant, of Gray's Inn, are my solicitors. To them I refer you, in case of your choosing to institute proceedings against me. They are furnished with instructions to give every facility to a legal investigation of your assumed privileges; but they are directed neither to compromise my rights nor those of my professional brethren.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your very obedient humble servant,

(Signed) EDWARD HARRISON.

For Drs. Lambe, Cope, Southey,
and Hewett, College of Physicians.

THE COLLEGE JESUIT IN DISGUISE, OR THE
FELLOW IN THE LICENTIATE'S MASK.

"If zeal for the good of the public induces them (the College) to prosecute, the public will feel and say that they ought to have done so long ago."
JESUIT IN DISGUISE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I entirely agree with the "disinterested bystander," that "if zeal for the good of the public induces them (the College) to prosecute, the public will feel and say that they ought to have done so long ago." But he may make his mind quite easy on this matter; whichever way they may act, the public, he may be assured, are not such egregious dupes as to entertain any doubts upon the subject. It would be both more honourable and more wise on the part of the College openly to avow that their real motive is to preserve their monopoly, than to make those ridiculous pretensions to public virtue, which, coming from an incorporation, are regarded by the world at large with derision, and the profession of which can excite, even in their own minds, only ideas of self-disesteem. The world is neither in its infancy nor dotage.

Such is the perversion of intellect worked, in the course of time, by the constant operation of exclusive privileges, that the monopolists of the College of Physicians, like all other monopolists, doubtless regard the people and the profession of no other value, than as they administer to the inte-

rests or gratification of their body. It is thus that they are considered by our "disinterested bystander." "Let us imagine for a moment," says he "that my advice is taken, that Dr. Harrison's sins (supposing them to be such) are overlooked; in what respect is the College worse off than they were? He has been practising for at least ten years in London." No matter, then, how many of the King's liege subjects may be slain by the independent physicians, for want of the virtues imparted by the miraculous licence of the College, provided the College themselves suffer no detriment, there being still a sufficient number of sick left alive to remunerate their labours.

Let us examine the other alternative which this writer presents. "But, Sir, supposing my advice is not taken, that Dr. Harrison's challenge is accepted, the action entered for trial in Westminster Hall, and the lawyers in their wigs are arranged 'in terrible show;' it will, I presume, be conceded to me that the verdict will be for either plaintiff or defendant." Not quite so fast, if you please, Mr. "Disinterested bystander." Previous to a verdict being obtained, it is necessary that the parties should be enabled to plead. And how is this to be effected upon the present occasion? I should like to see the Attorney-General and Mr. Brougham introducing their clients into Westminster Hall, under their various aliases. "Walk in, Messrs. 'President and College, or Commonalty, of the Faculty of Physic in London;' walk in Messrs. 'President, Fellows, and Commonalty of the King's College of Physicians in the city of London;' or walk in, Messrs. 'President and Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians in London.' Gentlemen, please to take your places." Now, Sir, if the validity of all these titles should be disputed, the discussion must take place previous to trial; and if it should be disputed successfully, (to return the "bystander" some of his innumerable "ifs") the College would be turned out of Court for want of a title. This would not be a verdict for the defendant; but it would be much more, it would be the annihilation of the plaintiff.

I shall, however, suppose, *causa argumendi*, that the College are not at once annihilated, but enabled, by some legal quibble or stratagem, to proceed to trial, and allow the position of the "disinterested adviser" that "the verdict will be either for plaintiff or defendant. If Dr. Harrison gains his action," he proceeds, "either from a flaw in the indictment (a very conceivable case) or on the merits, the consequences are serious." To the monopoly of the College, they would be undoubtedly disastrous, but most beneficial to all the world besides. "I will not stop to investigate them, (the