which expresses, in detail, various objections to the proposed measure.

Not wishing to weary you with a communication of unnecessary length, and believing that nothing we can say will better deserve your full consideration than the document referred to, we desire to record our entire concurrence in, and to adopt as our own, the sentiments so well put forth in the Manchester Memorial, and earnestly beg you to accord to the arguments therein stated that deep attention which their importance, and the temperate tone in which they are propounded, so justly merits.

We would only suggest, in addition, that while the health of the public imperatively requires that all persons permitted to practise the united profession of medicine and surgery should be qualified in both branches of their art, the same consideration of public welfare, no less than the respectability of the profession, demands that any legislation upon this subject should have a tendency to discourage, for the future, the connexion generally subsisting between the functions of the medical adviser and the trade of pharmacy,—so far, at least, as long-established prejudices will allow, and without interference with the rights of existing practitioners.

Holding this view, we need hardly say how entirely we differ from those who would create, in addition to our already too numerous colleges, a new institution, for the purpose, as it appears to us, of perpetuating a combination, to which we would gladly do all in our power to put an end.

We submit this suggestion, with all deference, to your consideration, in the full conviction that we are thereby consulting the true interests, both of the profession and the public; and will merely, in conclusion, repeat, most respectfully, our earnest hope that you will not commit yourself to the measures proposed by the conference of delegates, but allow to the well-considered objections of the Manchester memorialists that weight to which we believe them to be entitled.

J. BARON, M.D., F.R.S.	WILLIAM BELL.
J. ALLARDYCE, M.D.	CHARLES PRENTICE.
W. R. BERNARD, M.D.	S. E. COMYN, M.D.
ÆNEAS CANNON, M.D.	C. B. KER, M.D.
W. CONOLLY, M.D.	T. J. COTTLE.
W. P. BROOKES, M.D.	ROBERT NEWMAN.
THOMAS WRIGHT, M.D.	WILLIAM DALTON.
G. BAGNALL, M.D.	W. H. HOOPER, M.D.
E. ACWORTH, M.D.	JAMES WYATT.
A. W. GABB.	JAMES FORTNOM.
SAMUEL DAVIES, M.D.	E. FRICKER.
C. F. ELCUM.	CHARLES EDWARDS.
WALTER CARY.	DAVID HARTLEY.
FREDERICK HYETT.	GEORGE ARNOTT.
COURTLAND S. SHAW.	T. R. COLLEDGE, M.D.
W. T. SHELDON.	JOHN ORRELL.
C. T. COOKE.	J. S. WILLIS.
CHARLES FOWLER.	C. ROBINSON, M.D.
G. FORD COPELAND.	W. GIBNEY, M.D.
CLEMENT J. HAWKINS.	J. H. PEEBLES, M.D.
AUGUSTUS EVES.	

Cheltenham, April, 1849.

MEMORIAL OF THE WOLVERHAMPTON MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

At a meeting of the medical practitioners residing in Wolverhampton and its vicinity, (convened by public advertisement,) held April 18th, 1849, at the South Staffordshire General Hospital, Dr. TOPHAM in the chair, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

Proposed by Mr. John FOWKE, and seconded by Mr. EDWARDES,—“That this meeting considers that a measure recently proposed to be brought before the legislature, entitled ‘Outline of a Bill for regulating the Profession of Physic and Surgery,’ is highly objectionable; as tending to degrade the general practitioners of medicine and surgery in this kingdom, and to prove injurious to the best interests of the public.”

Proposed by Mr. DEHANE, and seconded by Mr. CARTWRIGHT,—“That a memorial be presented to her Majesty’s Secretary for the Home Department, together with a petition to the House of Commons, representing the views of the practitioners of medicine and surgery in Wolverhampton and its vicinity; in opposition to the creation of a College of General Practitioners; and expressing their conviction that the establishment of such additional examining board is totally unnecessary, as the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, if properly modified, contain all the elements requisite for examining and licensing in every branch of the profession.”

Proposed by Mr. HASLEHURST, and seconded by Mr. COLMAN,—“That the memorial and petition which have been read by Dr. BELL, be adopted, and that the memorial be transmitted to her Majesty’s Secretary of State for the Home Department. That Mr. THORNL, one of the members for the Borough of Wolverhampton, be requested to present the petition to the House of Commons; and that Mr. Villiers, together with the members for the southern division of the county of Stafford, be requested to support the prayer of the petition.”

Proposed by Mr. DUNN, and seconded by Mr. GATIS,—“That the resolutions of this meeting be advertised in *THE LANCET*, *Medical Gazette*, *Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal*, and in the *Staffordshire Advertiser*, and *Wolverhampton Chronicle*.

Proposed by Mr. CHARLES UNDERHILL, and seconded by Mr. WRIGHT,—“That Dr. Topham, Mr. EDWARDES, Dr. BELL, Mr. GATIS, and Mr. WRIGHT, be appointed a committee to carry these resolutions into effect.”

Proposed by Mr. EDWARDES, and seconded by Mr. COOPER,—“That the thanks of this meeting be given to Dr. Topham, for his able and efficient services in the chair.”

(Signed,) JOHN TOPHAM, Chairman.

South Staffordshire General Hospital, April, 1849.

* * In a note accompanying the above report, our correspondent informs us—“The meeting (which was convened by public advertisement) were unanimous in adopting all the proposed resolutions. There was not one dissentient voice to the expression of opposition to the establishment of a third college; nor was a single member of the Institute present; such an animal not appearing to exist in this locality.”

MEMORIAL TO SIR GEORGE GREY, BART., BY GRADUATES IN MEDICINE PRACTISING AT MANCHESTER.

To the Editor of *THE LANCET*.

SIR,—Will you allow me to request the insertion of the accompanying Memorial to Sir George Grey, in the columns of *THE LANCET*, at your earliest convenience, as we in Manchester are in hopes that a similar course may be adopted in other large towns.

We feel grateful to you for your unceasing advocacy of our rights, and the efforts you have made to rouse the graduates engaged in general practice to a sense of the condition in which this monstrous Bill will place them.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Oxford-road, Manchester, April, 1849.

J. AIKENHEAD, M.D.

SIR,—A meeting of members of the profession who hold the degree of M.D., and are engaged in general practice, took place on Saturday, the 14th instant, at the St. James’s Coffee House, in this city, to consider the provisions of the Medical Reform Bill about to be laid before Parliament, and the proposed new Charter to the London College of Physicians.

Dr. J. G. HARRISON was voted to the chair; and, after the objects of the meeting had been fully explained, it was proposed by Dr. AIKENHEAD, seconded by Dr. SINCLAIR, and carried unanimously,—“That the following Memorial be presented to Sir George Grey, Bart., her Majesty’s Secretary of State for the Home Department:—

To the Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart. &c., her Majesty’s Secretary of State for the Home Department,

The Memorial of the undersigned Medical Practitioners, resident in Manchester and the vicinity thereof, respectfully sheweth,—

That your memorialists, concurring in the general tenour of the Address recently presented to you by the medical practitioners of this city, would now draw your attention to some of the details of the proposed measure of Medical Reform, which they conceive will operate injuriously to their interests.

That your memorialists—having, in addition to their surgical diploma, obtained the degree of doctor of medicine from universities legally empowered to confer the same—have been engaged for many years as general practitioners of medicine, and have uninterruptedly used their academic title, without violating any known law or custom.

That your memorialists, having seen the “Outlines of a Bill for regulating the Profession of Physic and Surgery,” which, it is stated, has been submitted to you by “a conference of delegates from the principal medical corporations in London, and the National Institute, as likely to be acceptable to the profession at large,” find that, by the provisions of that Bill, every medical practitioner who has obtained the degree of doctor of medicine is precluded from, and is rendered liable

to a penalty for, using his academic title, unless he be registered as a "physician."

That your memorialists strongly object to the enactment of these provisions, as infringing on their rights as university graduates, and as tending to check the education of medical men in the higher departments of the profession. By the regulations of the Army, Navy, and East India Company's Medical Boards, a favourable consideration is to be given to gentlemen who hold the degree of M.D.: whereas, by this Bill, those who intend to engage in civil general practice, will be discouraged from entering on the prolonged term of education, and more extended course of study, necessary to obtain the degree in British universities.

That your memorialists find this absurd anomaly existing in the Bill—that while every general practitioner in Scotland and Ireland, who has obtained the degree of M.D., will be permitted to use his academic title, without any restriction whatever, the possessor of the same degree in England—in order, it is said, to distinguish the pure physician from the general practitioner—will be liable to punishment, should he presume to use that title, which he has honourably obtained, by examination after protracted study, and by payment of a large sum to the government in the form of stamp duty.

That whatever course it may be deemed expedient to adopt for the future, your memorialists would strongly remonstrate against the restrictive clauses of this Bill being extended to those already engaged in practice. They conceive that the enactment of any *ex post facto* law, which would deprive them of a single right or privilege, would violate every principle of equitable legislation.

That your memorialists have learnt that by the new Charter which it is proposed to confer on the London College of Physicians, every British graduate in medicine, who has given up the practice of pharmacy, and who practises medicine only, may be admitted a member of the London College of Physicians, and may register as a physician without any examination, provided such admission and registration take place within twelve months of the grant of the Charter; but that if the application for admission be delayed beyond this period, every applicant will be required to undergo another examination before, and to pay an admission fee of fifteen guineas to, the London College of Physicians.

That your memorialists, on entering the profession, contemplated ultimately practising as physicians; that their general and special education was conducted with this view; and that by the proposed Charter they are recognised as qualified physicians, if they register as such within the year of grace: yet, should they continue, for a few years longer, to cultivate their art in the extended field of general practice, they are declared by this same Charter *unqualified* to act as physicians, except on submitting to the degradation of a fresh examination, and being mulcted in another fee—a conclusion so utterly opposed to common sense, that your memorialists can regard this scheme only as another instance of the exclusive spirit and selfish policy of the London College of Physicians.

That your memorialists would respectfully submit that every individual who, when the Charter is granted, has obtained the degree of doctor of medicine from any British university legally empowered to confer the same, should, upon ceasing to practise pharmacy, be allowed to register as a physician, at any period he may think proper, and without any further examination whatever.

That your memorialists gratefully acknowledge the efforts made by you to bring to a satisfactory conclusion the long-agitated question of medical reform; but they respectfully assure you, that no measure can be acceptable to the profession, which does not maintain the rights and privileges of all those now engaged in practice. They would therefore respectfully but urgently entreat you, to withhold your assent to the introduction before Parliament of any Bill which will deprive graduates in medicine of British universities of their right to append to their names on the register any academic title they may possess: and, in any new Charter conferred on the London College of Physicians, to provide that all who now hold the degree of Doctor of Medicine, shall, at any future time, on resigning the practice of pharmacy, be entitled to register as Physician, and, on payment of a reasonable admission fee, to enrol themselves as members of the London College of Physicians.

And your memorialists will ever pray, &c.,

Name, _____

Address, _____

Moved by Dr. BATES, seconded by Dr. RAYNER, of Stock-

port, and resolved unanimously — "That the memorial be printed, and a copy addressed to every graduate in medicine engaged in general practice in Manchester and the neighbouring towns,—who is requested to append his signature, and to return it to the Secretary *pro tem.*—and that the Chairman, Dr. HARRISON, be authorized to sign the memorial on behalf of those who thus signify their approval of the same."

Should you concur in the prayer of this memorial, you will be good enough to sign this copy, and return it to me, if possible, by return of post.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. AIKENHEAD, M.D., Sec., *pro tem.*

The memorial has been signed by Drs. Harrison, Bowman, Clay, Sinclair, Bates, White, Lund, Wainwright, Goodwin, Jepson, Crighton, Welsh, Aikenhead, (Manchester,) Rayner, (Stockport,) Murray, (Oldham,) Lees and Woollam, (Ashton,) Hinxman and Chadwick, (Bury,) Chadwick, (Bolton,) Buckley, (Rochdale,) Brady, (Nantwich,) and others, numbering upwards of thirty.

MEDICAL REGULATION IMPROVEMENT BILL.— PETITION FROM HALIFAX.

THE following is a copy of a petition to Parliament, agreed to at a meeting, which has received the general assent and signature of the profession at Halifax, and its adjoining townships.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the Medical Men of Halifax humbly sheweth,—

That the undersigned duly authorized practitioners in medicine and surgery would call the attention of your honourable House to the evils arising from the anomalous state of the laws affecting the medical profession.

That no one can carefully peruse the evidence taken before the Parliamentary Committee of the last session on this subject, nor witness the sad effects of the prevalent indiscriminate prescribing and dispensing of medicine by unqualified persons, but must be sensible of the necessity of a revision of those laws which ought to regulate medical practice, and protect the public welfare.

That your petitioners are of opinion that the documents entitled "the Principles," agreed upon by the recognised heads of colleges of the various branches of the profession, and the "Outlines of a Bill for Regulating the Practice of Physic and Surgery," submitted by a conference of delegates to Secretary Sir George Grey, contain the elements of an improved system of government; but they think that the creation of a new College of General Practitioners, as proposed therein, would be superfluous were such modifications and alterations introduced into the constitution of the College of Surgeons of England as would embrace collectively, in the proposed register, all those entitled, by the possession of a double qualification, to practise in that department, or as general practitioners.

That your petitioners approve of a distinctive classification of the profession according to the actual position of its members, and they are of opinion, that a measure thus framed will ultimately become the means of correcting many of the evils complained of, and afford some protection to the public against unauthorized pretenders.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable House will early give them your assent to a medical bill on a sound basis.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Your remarks on the medical departments of the Indian armies accord with the views of all Indian medical officers who prefer the respectability of their service to their individual interests.

The only way to render the Indian medical services really efficient is to abolish the present medical boards, and to adopt Mr. Martin's suggestion of appointing a director-general at each presidency, who shall be responsible to the government