

but a small portion of the first vomited matter was collected, in which *arsenic was detected by the usual tests in large quantity*. The girl has assured me that the whole of the arsenic was mixed with the cake, that it was divided equally between her and her lover, and that they ate the whole of it. The man is, I believe, recovering, under the care of Mr. Higginbottom, senior, of this town.

SUGGESTIONS FOR A GENERAL MEASURE OF MEDICAL REFORM.

By MARTIN SINCLAIR, M.D., Manchester.

FELLOW OF THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH, AND MEMBER OF THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, ETC.

[In a lengthened communication on this subject, addressed to us last year, Dr. Sinclair proposes the following suggestions:]

I. That the Pharmaceutical Society, or some other body, should be empowered to exercise a supervision and control over "chemists and druggists," and to make regulations for the licensing of persons who intend to carry on that business.

College of Surgeon-Apothecaries.

II. That a charter of incorporation should be granted to the general practitioners of this country, under the title of "The Royal College of Surgeon-Apothecaries;" that the legal title of members of this college should be surgeon-apothecaries, and the conventional title be general practitioners of medicine, surgery, and pharmacy.

a. That the College of Surgeon-Apothecaries should be empowered to examine in, and grant licences or diplomas to practise, medicine, surgery, and pharmacy.

b. That the members (or fellows) of this college should be divided into two classes—viz., incorporated members and non-incorporated members; that both classes should pursue the same course of study, and undergo the same examination; that the government of the affairs of the college should be vested in the incorporated members; that the fee or entrance-money payable for the admission of the incorporated members should be double the amount payable for the admission of non-incorporated members; that the non-incorporated members should have the same right to practise the profession, and be equally eligible to public medical appointments, as the incorporated members; and that non-incorporated members may, at any future period of their life, be admitted as incorporated members, without being required to undergo any examination, upon producing a certificate from five incorporated members that their general and professional character is unimpeachable, and that they have complied, or are prepared to comply, with the by-laws of their college; and upon payment of the difference between the fee payable by the non-incorporated and incorporated members of the college.

c. That the following parties should be enrolled as members or fellows (if this latter designation be deemed preferable) of the Royal College of Surgeon-Apothecaries, without being required to undergo any examination, and upon paying an enrolment fee of ten shillings, provided the application to be enrolled be made within twelve months of the passing of an act of parliament to regulate the education and practice of the profession.

1. Persons who have been in practice in any part of the united kingdom of Great Britain or Ireland on or before the first day of August, 1815.

2. Persons who have held commissions as medical officers in the army, navy, or in the service of the honourable East India Company.

3. Persons who have obtained a diploma as surgeon together with the degree of M.D. or M.B.

4. Persons who have obtained a diploma as surgeon together with the licence of the Society of Apothecaries in London or Dublin.

d. That the following parties should be enrolled as members (or fellows) of the Royal College of Surgeon-Apothecaries upon undergoing an examination and paying a fee of £10, if within twelve months of the passing of an Act of Parliament as indicated above—viz.

Persons who have obtained a diploma in surgery only, should undergo an examination (*pro forma*) in medicine before the Court of Examiners of the College of Surgeon-Apothecaries, and should each pay a fee of £10.

Persons who have obtained a diploma in medicine only, should undergo an examination (*pro forma*) in surgery before the Court of Examiners of the College of Surgeon-Apothecaries, and should each pay a fee of £10.

e. After the passing of a general act of parliament, persons should be admitted to examination for the diploma of the college upon complying with the regulations of the college, and upon paying a fee of, say £25. I am of opinion that for the admission of new members of the college, one general, searching, and comprehensive examination will be amply sufficient to meet the requirements of the case; and that the fee for an incorporated member should be £50, and for a non-incorporated member £25. The election of the existing, or present, members of the profession to be enrolled as incorporated or non-incorporated members of the college can be regulated hereafter without any difficulty; and the only additional proviso respecting surgeon-apothecaries which I consider it necessary to advert to here is, that no member of the college who carries on business as a "chemist and druggist," should be permitted to practise or visit out of doors, and that he should be restricted to his legitimate business, within doors, and, as he possesses a medical qualification, that he be permitted to give advice and otherwise practise as a surgeon-apothecary in his shop; and that upon ceasing to carry on business as a chemist and druggist he should be forthwith empowered to exercise all the powers and privileges of members of the college.

College of Surgeons.

III. After the passing of any general act of parliament to regulate the profession, I am of opinion that the existing College of Surgeons should restrict admissions to their body, to fellows only, under the following regulations; and as the admissions to the fellowship will be fewer than to the old membership, the revenue of the college for the maintenance of the library, museum, &c., will be considerably decreased thereby; but to make up this deficiency, and to preserve the library, museum, &c., in a proper state of efficiency, the college would be perfectly justified in requiring a fee of £50 from a non-incorporated fellow, and of £100 from an incorporated fellow, of the college. Having premised these observations, I beg respectfully to suggest the following regulations as to admission to the fellowship of the college—viz.

a. That no person shall be eligible to be admitted a fellow of the college unless he shall have been admitted a member of the College of Surgeon-Apothecaries; nor unless three years shall have elapsed from the period of such admission; nor unless the candidate shall have complied with the other regulations of the college respecting the admission of fellows.

b. That the fellows of the college should be divided into two classes—viz., incorporated fellows and non-incorporated fellows; that both classes should &c. &c., as set forth in subdivision b, section ii. College of Surgeon-Apothecaries.

c. That all existing members of the college who have been twenty-five years in the practice of the profession, and who can produce testimonials from five fellows of the college that their general and professional character is unimpeachable, and that they have complied, or are prepared to comply, with the by-laws of the college, shall, upon the payment of £25, be admitted as non-incorporated fellows, and upon the payment of £75, be admitted as incorporated fellows of the college, without being required to undergo any examination; provided the application for admission to the fellowship be made within twelve months after the passing of any general act of parliament to regulate the profession.

College of Physicians.

IV. As a preparatory step to the passing of any general act of parliament to regulate the medical profession in the British empire, I would venture to suggest, with all due deference, that in the charter to be granted to the College of Physicians in London, the classification of members into fellows, licentiates intra urbem, licentiates extra urbem, &c., should be abolished, and that upon the passing of any act of parliament, as indicated above, all persons admitted as members of this corporation should be designated fellows, and that these should be divided into two classes—viz., incorporated and non-incorporated fellows; that the first class should pay an admission fee of £100, and the second of £50, and to existing members a reduction should be made from these amounts equal to the fee they have previously paid. Entertaining these views, I beg most respectfully to suggest the following regulations as to admission to the fellowship of the college—viz.

a. That no person shall be eligible to be admitted a fellow of the college unless he shall have been admitted a member of the College of Surgeon-Apothecaries; nor unless three years shall have elapsed from the period of such admission; nor unless the candidate shall have complied with the other regulations of the college respecting the admission of fellows

b. That the fellows of this college should be divided into two classes—viz., incorporated members and non-incorporated members; that both classes should pursue the same course of study, and undergo the same examination; that the government of the affairs of the college should be vested, &c., &c., as set forth in subdivision b, section ii. College of Surgeon-Apothecaries.

c. That all intra and extra urbem licentiates of five years standing, and all graduates in medicine of British universities of ten years standing, who do not practise as surgeon-apothecaries, who can produce testimonials from five fellows of the college that their general and professional character is unimpeachable, that they have complied, or are prepared to comply, with the by-laws of the college, shall upon the payment of the fee or part of the fee specified at the head of this section, be forthwith admitted as incorporated or non-incorporated fellows of the college, without being required to undergo any examination; provided the application for admission to the fellowship be made within twelve months after the passing of any general act of parliament to regulate the profession.

I may here embrace the opportunity of expressing my hearty and general concurrence in the several propositions as forming the basis of a general measure of medical reform, as detailed in *THE LANCET* for the 18th of March last, subject to the foregoing suggestions, and with a certain modification of the twenty-first proposition. Under this section, a person who may be registered as a surgeon-apothecary, and who may have legally and honourably obtained the degree of M.D. at a British university, will be precluded from affixing the epithet Doctor before his name; and this clause will act as a powerful discouragement to young men, when at college, prosecuting their studies to such an extent as to enable them to take the doctorate degree; an effect which, I feel confident in expressing, the framers of these "Principles" never contemplated. Now, I think that this restraint might be rendered inoperative, and a spirit of emulation excited in the younger members of the profession, if a provision were made whereby a practitioner might, in addition to registering himself in the college to which he belonged, insert in the register any other titles or degrees he may have obtained, and that he be permitted and authorized to prefix such titles or degrees before the title or qualification under which he may be legally registered. Thus, for example, a person who had obtained the degree of M.D., and who was registered as a surgeon, or as a surgeon-apothecary, might use the following prefix, and the doing so, I apprehend, could not excite any feeling of jealousy in the mind of the pure physician or pure surgeon.

Examples.

DR. WARDROP,
Surgeon.

DR. JOHN THOMSON,
Surgeon-Apothecary.

With respect to the fees suggested above, to be paid on admission as fellows of the College of Surgeons or College of Physicians, I may remark that the fee payable by freedom apprentices, as they are styled, to be admitted fellows of the College of Surgeons of Edinburgh is £130, and the fee payable by strangers is £250; each candidate is also subjected to additional expenses, which amount to about £25; and every fellow after admission, whether single or married, is compelled to pay annually the sum of £5 into the Widows' Fund of the college. For admission to the fellowship of the Edinburgh College of Physicians the fee is £100, exclusive of stamps and other dues, and for the admission to the licentiate ship the fee is £55, exclusive of stamps and other dues.

I would here remark, as perfectly coinciding with the foregoing suggestions, that the eminent members of the profession examined before the parliamentary committee in 1834 concurred in the proposition that every person should enter the profession by the same "portal," and that the education of every student, whatever branch of the profession he might prosecute thereafter, ought to be the same up to the obtaining of the first diploma or licence to practise the profession; and I cannot, in further illustration of this position, do better than refer my professional brethren to the evidence of Sir Benjamin Brodie, as given before the Parliamentary Committee on Medical Education in 1834, part second, more especially to question 5676, which is expressed in these words:—"You appeared to allude, in a former answer, to some general board, to be instituted for the regulation of the whole profession?—I was going on to say, that it seems to me desirable that there should be a general board, or royal commission, composed of physicians, surgeons, and practitioners in pharmacy; and that all persons, of every description, who wish to have a licence to practise in any part of the medical

profession, should be required, in the first instance, after perhaps, a three-years' course of study, (by which I mean *bonâ fide* study in attendance on lectures and hospitals,) to go up before that board for examination. Persons who got their licence from that board might be called licentiates in medicine and surgery; and this might be considered as a sufficient licence for what is now called a general practitioner or surgeon-apothecary. I say, what is now called surgeon-apothecary, because, in the present state of things, the name of apothecary ought to be banished. Then, I think that those who wish to obtain the higher degree in physic should, after three years more of study, go to some other board for examination—say, to the College of Physicians, they being properly organized for the purpose; and that those who wish to take a higher degree in surgery, after three years more of study, should go for a second examination to the College of Surgeons." We have thus, in the preceding extract, the constitution of the profession fully indicated by Sir Benjamin Brodie in full accordance with the foregoing suggestions, with the single difference, that instead of a royal commission or general board of all classes of practitioners being entrusted with the examination and licensing of general practitioners, that duty should be solely and entirely confided to the proposed new College of Surgeon-Apothecaries.

In concluding these remarks and suggestions, it may, perhaps, be considered presumptuous in a general practitioner to discuss a subject, the settlement of which rests with the rulers of the several colleges; but I can only offer as an apology for obtruding these remarks, a sincere desire to see the question of medical reform amicably and definitively settled in the next session of Parliament; and as I have had ample opportunities of witnessing the practice of the profession both in Scotland and in England, and as I have, moreover, given considerable attention to the several Bills which have been brought under the notice of Parliament since 1833, for the regulation of the affairs of the profession, I fondly hope that this communication may receive the favourable consideration of the College of Surgeons and of the College of Physicians, and that we may soon see introduced into Parliament, a Bill which will establish uniformity of education, uniformity of practice,* and uniformity of privileges in the medical profession throughout the British empire.

Manchester, 1848.

DESCRIPTION AND ENGRAVINGS OF

AN APPARATUS FOR CHECKING UTERINE HÆMORRHAGE.

By WILLIAM SLYMAN, M.D., Newtown, Montgomeryshire.

OF all the difficulties which surround the obstetrician in his practice, there are none which cause him so much anxiety, or are attended with so much danger to his patient, as uterine hæmorrhage.

Various modes of treating this alarming and often fatal accident have been practised; amongst others, injecting the uterus with simple or medicated injections has had its advocates. All agree upon one point, that to insure as speedy and as complete a contraction of the uterus as possible is indispensable, and with this view I venture to suggest what I conceive to be practicable, and, in many instances, applicable, for the accomplishment of so desirable an object.

I propose to have two bladders, or other dilatable sacs, connected by means of an elastic tube, with a stop-cock intervening, and capable of being separated from each other by means of a screw, or other contrivance. One of the bladders is to be filled with cold water, (in some cases air would suffice,) and an India-rubber or gutta-percha tube, of sufficient calibre to admit of the empty bladder being passed through it, is to be introduced into the vagina, and carried as far as the cervix uteri. The empty bladder is then to be introduced through this tube into the uterus by means of a stiff bougie, and then filled with the contents of the connected full one. The advantages are obviously these:—cold is introduced to act as a stimulus to the uterus, an uniform and equal pressure is maintained, the organ will be more under the control of external pressure; its size may be pretty fairly judged of by comparing the bulk of the injected bladder with the external appearance, so that internal hæmorrhage cannot take place to any amount without being perceptible. The amount of its contraction can be judged of by the quantity of fluid which

* Under the head of uniformity of practice I would include the adoption of a Pharmacopœia Britannica, instead of a pharmacopœia for each division of the empire, as exists at present.