

to the powers of the Supplementary Charter is widely, we may almost say universally, entertained by the body of graduates.

"We who address you have a double interest in the matter, as graduates and as members of University College. . . . As members of the college, we feel that it is entirely dependent on the university, and that if once the degrees of the latter cease to be valued and sought after, and at the same time can be more easily obtained by going to St. Andrew's, &c., the colleges connected with it must soon cease to exist. We feel, too, that to make this great change in the very nature of the university, without even consulting University College, was rather a breach of right than a mere neglect of courtesy. University College relinquished its title to be called the University of London on a certain understanding as to the constitution and privileges of the new university, which was to replace it. By the acceptance of this Supplementary Charter that constitution has been materially altered, without the sanction of University College, and in a manner the most detrimental to its interests.

"We remain, Sir, your obedient servants,

"F. J. WOOD, LL.D., Gold Medallist, and late University Law Scholar; C. J. FOSTER, M.A., LL.D., Gold Medallist, and late University Law Scholar; W. A. CASE, M.A.; J. G. GREENWOOD, B.A., late University Scholar; R. H. HUTTON, M.A., Gold Medallist, and late Flaherty and University Scholar; HENRY MATTHEWS, LL.B., University Law Scholar; WALTER BAGEHOT, M.A., Gold Medallist, and late University Scholar."

#### SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WESTMINSTER MEDICAL SOCIETY.

ON Thursday evening, (28th ult.) a special general meeting of the fellows was held, for the purpose of taking into consideration the question of amalgamation with the Medical Society of London. Professor MURPHY was in the chair, and about eighty fellows were present. We noticed several of the older fellows of the Society in the rooms, who have not of late joined in the ordinary business meetings. Among these were Mr. Pettigrew, and Dr. Addison, president of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, and one of the past presidents of the Society. A discussion of considerable length took place, in which the advantages of the union were fully canvassed.

The object of uniting the two Societies, as stated by Mr. Hird, was to establish an institution on a scale of usefulness and importance commensurate with the age and spirit of the times in which we live; and the elements at the disposal of these Societies, he considered, when united, would form a nucleus, from which might be developed an institution, liberal, enlightened, and based on such comprehensive principles as to be alike honourable to the profession and the country. The one Society possesses a magnificent library, and other valuable property—the other, a numerous list of the most active and distinguished members of the profession, and by uniting these elements, he believed a Society possessing advantages equal to any similar institution, either in this country or on the continent, might be formed. In addition to the discussions which form the attractive feature of the Westminster Medical Society, the amalgamated Society would possess the advantages of a reading-room and a circulating library; and he suggested the propriety of founding professorships or lectureships similar to the Croonian, Lumleian, and other professorships at the College of Physicians; the Hunterian, at the College of Surgeons; and the Fullerian, and other chairs, at the Royal Institution; so that the Society might rank on terms of equality with the most enlightened institutions in the country. These professorships should be annually conferred upon the most distinguished and useful fellows of the Society, and should take rank next to the presidency; and the subject of the lectures should be exclusively of a practical nature, and confined to medicine and therapeutics, surgery and obstetrics. The necessity for such comprehensive changes was proved by the fact of our ancient universities having experienced the necessity of revising their charters and curricula, in order to keep pace with the rapid progress of every department of science, and he hoped, if the amalgamation be accomplished, the Medical Society of London will not hold rank below any of the institutions for the promotion of general science.

In the course of the evening, several resolutions were carried unanimously. These had reference to the proposed amalgamation, and the terms on which the Medical Society of London could amalgamate. The property of the latter

Society is so held, that it cannot part with its name, and therefore the new Society will be called the Medical Society of London. It will enjoy the property and library of the Society, will meet somewhere in the neighbourhood of Savile-row, and on Saturday evenings.

A motion was proposed in the early part of the evening, which would have had some effect in embarrassing the council in their laudable endeavours to unite with the other Society, but as it met with no supporters, and only gave rise to some irrelevant conversation, and was eventually withdrawn, requires no further notice. The Society, having come to an unanimous vote, separated at a late hour.

#### MEETING OF THE CHESHIRE AND LANCASHIRE BRANCH OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

A SPECIAL general meeting of the members of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association was held at the Legh Arms Hotel, Newton, on Thursday, the 28th March, to take into consideration the question of Medical Reform.

The chair was occupied by Sir ARNOLD KNIGHT, M.D., of Liverpool, and subsequently by Dr. H. H. BROUGHTON, of Preston, in consequence of Sir Arnold Knight having to leave before the termination of the meeting.

The following resolutions were passed:—

1. Moved by Mr. DORRINGTON, of Manchester, and seconded by Mr. SOUTHAM, of Manchester—

That this branch wishes to express its concurrence with the general views advocated by the parent association on the subject of medical reform—viz., that in any bill which may be proposed to Parliament there shall be—1st. Uniform and sufficient qualification in every branch of medical science. 2nd. Equal right for all so qualified to practise throughout the whole extent of her Majesty's dominions. 3rd. The adoption of the representative principle in the formation of the council or governing body.

2. Moved by Dr. LYON, of Manchester, and seconded by Dr. BROUGHTON, of Preston—

That this meeting is of opinion that the proposed new Charter of the College of Physicians is one which, with a few modifications, would meet with the approval of the general body of practising physicians and of the profession at large.

3. Moved by Mr. NOBLE, of Manchester, and seconded by Mr. BURROWS, of Liverpool—

That the modification of the Charter of the College of Surgeons recently proposed by the Council is altogether insufficient to meet the views of the members of that body and the requirements of the profession generally.

4. Moved by Mr. M'KEAUD, of Manchester, and seconded by Mr. J. L. PRICE, of Standish—

That this branch is strongly of opinion that the Secretary of State should advise the Crown to enforce upon the Council of the College of Surgeons the necessity of examining and licensing the surgeons of this country to practise in every department of the profession, and of so altering the future conditions of examination for the fellowship, that no person shall be eligible who has not previously been admitted a member.

Upon this resolution, the following amendment was proposed by Dr. LYON, of Manchester, and seconded by Mr. FLINT, of Stockport—

That the College of Surgeons may be so modified by extensive changes in its constitution and the course of its examinations, as to become the proper board for licensing surgeons for general practice.

The amendment and original motion having been put to the meeting, the Chairman declared the original resolution to be carried.

5. Moved by Mr. BURROWS, of Liverpool, and seconded by Mr. KIRKMAN, of Manchester—

That this meeting is of opinion that it would be a great injustice to demand a fee of ten guineas from those gentlemen whom the Council of the College of Surgeons propose to raise to the fellowship in virtue of their twenty years' standing as members, inasmuch as no such fee was demanded from those upon whom the distinction was originally conferred.

6. Moved by Mr. SOUTHAM, of Manchester, and seconded by Mr. HATTON, of Manchester—

That this meeting is convinced that no modification of the Charter of the College of Surgeons will be accepted by the members which does not recognise the eligibility of surgeons in general practice to seats in the governing body.

H. H. BROUGHTON, M.D., Chairman.  
JOHN HATTON, Hon. Sec.

#### THE SHROPSHIRE MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of the Associated Physicians and Surgeons of Shropshire and North Wales, held in Shrewsbury, this 19th day of March, 1850, Dr. HENRY JOHNSON, president, the following resolutions were unanimously agreed to:—

- 1st. That a copy of the Memorial recently addressed to the Royal College of Surgeons, by this Association, be forwarded to the Lord Advocate, and that his lordship's attention and consideration be solicited to the same.
  - 2nd. That a Memorial be addressed to her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department, requesting that in any new Charter to be granted to the Royal College of Surgeons, provision be made for a more liberal extension of the franchise, and the admission of surgeons in general practice to the governing body of the College of Surgeons; and that such a reorganization of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons be effected as will ensure a uniform and efficient education to all, and prevent the evil of a new incorporation.
  - 3rd. That a deputation, consisting of J. Y. Arrowsmith, Esq., F.R.C.S.E., Shrewsbury; W. J. Clement, Esq., F.R.C.S.E., Shrewsbury; Peploe Cartwright, Esq., M.R.C.S.E., Oswestry; William Penny Brookes, Esq., M.R.C.S.E., Wenlock,—be appointed to present the Memorial to Sir George Grey, Bart., and to accompany the deputations appointed from Manchester and other places.
  - 4th. That the members of Parliament for the borough of Shrewsbury, E. H. Baldock, Esq., M.P., and R. A. Slaney, Esq., M.P., be invited to form part of the deputation, and to assist with their advice and influence.
- That these resolutions be published in the medical journals.

P. CARTWRIGHT, *Hon. Sec.*

#### AN ADDRESS TO SIR GEORGE GREY FROM THE SURGEONS OF ESSEX.

*To the Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart., M.P., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.*

The Memorial of the undersigned Members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, residing in the county of Essex,

Showeth,—That your memorialists are members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, having been admitted thereto in compliance with its laws—i. e., by following its prescribed curriculum of study, by undergoing its examination, and by payment of its fees.

That up to the year 1843, but *one* class of members existed in that College, all of whom were admitted upon the same terms, and were entitled to the same privileges. That in that year, the Council of the College surreptitiously (in so far as the members were concerned) obtained the grant of a new charter, by which certain of the members were separated from the rest by the title of "fellows," without any additional examination or the exhibition of any superior fitness for, or talent in, the exercise of the profession, by which act your memorialists feel that every then-existing member who was excepted from that arrangement suffered a grievous wrong and injustice.

That proof of the unsatisfactory nature of this arrangement is furnished by the fact, that at this very time the Council of the College are applying for an amendment of this very charter, and in order to quiet those of their members who are thus injured, propose to "sell" them the "fellowship" for "ten guineas," but to reserve to those of their number who practise "surgery" alone all the offices in the College.

These proposals your memorialists look upon as "insult added to injury." They submit that *every* member of the

College is entitled to equal *rights, privileges, and titles*, since all were admitted upon equal footing as regards duration of study, strictness of examination, and payment of fees.

Your memorialists beg therefore respectfully to urge—

1. That no further legislation in respect of the College be permitted until the views of its 12,000 members be ascertained in respect thereof, and that the Council be not allowed any undue influence therein.
2. That the legislature withhold its sanction from the establishment of any new medical or surgical college, or corporation whatsoever.
3. That the Royal College of Surgeons is sufficient for all the purposes of the regulation of the profession in this part of the United Kingdom, and that it be remodelled to render it efficient.
4. That the members of the College have a voice in the election of its officers, as well as in its general management.
5. That the sale of medical titles and honours be strictly prohibited in all colleges and universities in the United Kingdom.
6. That there exist but one standard of surgical qualification, and that the said standard be made uniform throughout the kingdom.

#### THE ARMY AND NAVY SURGEONS — THEIR CLAIMS TO MILITARY REWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS.

MEMORIAL TO SIR GEORGE GREY, BART., FROM W. P. BROOKES, ESQ., OF MUCH-WENLOCK.

*To the Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.*

The humble memorial of William Penny Brookes, of Much-Wenlock, in the County of Salop, Surgeon,

Showeth,—That your memorialist is much gratified to learn that it is the intention of her Majesty's Government to bestow honours on those medical officers of the army and navy who have most distinguished themselves. Your memorialist, however, is disappointed to find that the dignity it is proposed to confer is of a civil instead of a military order, and, as such, cannot be otherwise than unsatisfactory, if not valueless, to those who justly consider themselves entitled to the rewards usually bestowed on other military and naval officers.

Your memorialist begs most respectfully to remark, that the surgeons of the army and navy are, in a great measure, exposed to all the hardships, perils, and privations incident to combatant officers; that they are subject to the rigors of military or naval discipline and law, and bound to obey all the orders of their respective commanders, that during an engagement, the surgeon who would courageously and conscientiously perform his duty, must be near the scene of action, nay, often, as Mr. Guthrie has remarked, must be under fire, otherwise many a wounded soldier might die from loss of blood for want of prompt assistance. But the returns of the killed and wounded amply testify that the military surgeon is not exempt from the casualties of war; that, regardless of personal danger, and anxious, during battle, to be near his regiment, that he might render immediate succour to the wounded, he often falls himself whilst honourably endeavouring to save the lives of others.

Considering, therefore, not merely the professional services of military and naval surgeons, but the dangers and difficulties they have to encounter, and the faithful and fearless manner in which their respective duties are performed, your memorialist humbly and respectfully begs that you will be pleased to advise her Majesty to confer on those medical officers of the army and navy she may deem worthy of the honour, the Military, instead of the Civil Order of the Bath, as the most appropriate and acceptable reward for military and naval services, as most calculated to promote harmony and good feeling between the medical and other officers of the army and navy, and to strengthen the attachment of the regimental surgeon to a service which, for want of that powerful incentive to exertion, the cheering prospect of future honours, he too often quits at a time when his experience and matured judgment impart value and importance to his services.

Much-Wenlock, March, 1850.

W. P. BROOKES, M.R.C.S.E.