

with at least nineteen-twentieths of the members of the profession; now, Sir, the Council of the College are proposing and you are supporting the proposition which is to place them *alone* in a lower class.

It is but a mockery to say that surgeons in actual practice have sufficient leisure to prepare for such an examination as that for the Fellowship; surgeons in want of a practice may do so, but those who are really actively engaged have too much on their minds and hands to permit them to do so.

You may perhaps say that those who were not members when the charter was granted have no claim to consideration; but, Sir, you are aware that the passing the examination is not the commencement of the course of study, but it is a proof of having already been engaged at least five years in the pursuit of professional knowledge.

Had the Council of the College, when the charter was granted, made known their by-laws relating to it, and created the members *then, instead of now*, fellows, placing all who had commenced their studies on the same footing with those who had completed them,—that is, providing that all on attaining a certain standing as members (provided they could show that they had commenced their studies prior to the date of the charter, or rather the publication of the new regulations) should become fellows without examination, then, Sir, those who entered upon their studies at a later period would have known in what position they would be placed, and might have shaped their course accordingly, and no injustice would have been done to them.

And now, Sir, if the College authorities obtain a new charter, or what is equivalent to it, an amendment of the old one, they ought in common fairness to place all those who have now commenced their studies, or shall have done so prior to the date of it, on the same footing as the old or new members, otherwise a great injustice will be done, and much ill-feeling must still prevail against that body, whom we all would wish to see the head and home of the profession. This is the course which has always hitherto been adopted by the College, and it has always been found to work well, being founded on justice; but there can be no justice in making a distinction between the member who became one in 1843 and him who became one in 1844, or any subsequent year.

Apologizing for troubling you with these remarks,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Chichester, April, 1851.

H. MARCH GRUGGEN.

THE PERVERTS OF THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I agree with every sentence set forth in the article on Globulism in *THE LANCET* of the 26th inst., and I cannot but think, that if the Council of the College of Surgeons be desirous of devoting that noble institution to the ends of science, it cannot consistently allow any fellow or member a place in it, who forfeits the oath of allegiance he has taken to the College, by practising homœopathy; and for the sake of consistency, the council should take immediate measures to remove all such practitioners. I presume the names published are those of men who have altogether deserted legitimate practice, and pursue that of homœopathy only; but what would you do with the man who pursues at the same time legitimate practice, homœopathy, and hydropathy, or any other pathy by which he can get money, setting everything at defiance that savours in the most remote way of science; such are, in my opinion far worse than he who, up to a certain time, has practised in a legitimate way, and then shifts entirely to the side of quackery and humbug? The latter sails under one colour, but the other under any that may suit his purpose. Surely such a man, if *not* removed from the *membership*, ought not to have the fellowship conferred upon him, although he may have been a member for the period proposed. I do therefore hope that the council will take care to exclude all such from the fellowship, the acquirement of which should not depend, entirely, upon the number of years a man has been a member, but should form, as far as possible, an honorary distinction. It appears to me absurd to allow a man, because he has been a member a certain number of years, (but who has openly declared his inability to perform any operation in surgery, and who at the same time practises homœopathy;) to be a fellow,—in point of fact he has not the most remote claim; clear and satisfactory proof should be required by some means, that every member who may on account of years be eligible, is so in every other respect also. I may possibly be blamed for advancing such an opinion, but

although I have been a staunch advocate, with others, for the alteration, that the Council of the College of Surgeons now appears willing to concede to its members, I am at the same time most desirous of supporting the true dignity of the College. It affords me (as it must do all others, who have been most strenuously fighting for the changes recently proposed by the Council) pleasure to find that the differences which have so long existed are fast approaching to an amicable adjustment. I am perfectly convinced it will tend to elevate the standing of the College of Surgeons, as well as that of its members, at the same time be of great public service.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

Croydon, April 30, 1851.

GEORGE BOTTOMLEY.

SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF MEDICAL MEN IN LONDON AND ITS VICINITY.

THE annual dinner of this Society took place last Saturday, 26th April, at the Thatched House, St. James's-street—the president, Sir Charles Mansfield Clarke, Bart., in the chair.

In proposing "Prosperity to the Institution," the CHAIRMAN said he not need tell those who were members, that this Society is mainly supported by itself and by the profession—not by the public. Yet to this there are some exceptions. The widow of the eminent sculptor, Sir F. Chantrey, has sent 10*l.* 10*s.*; the Bishop of London, 10*l.*; the trustees of the Cholmondeley Charity have voted a third grant of 50*l.*; a gentleman from Lynn sends 33*l.* The Lord Chief Baron Pollock and William Dover, Esq., who were present, had each given 5*l.*

CHIEF BARON POLLOCK, in returning thanks for the visitors, said, that the medical and legal professions had one branch of study in common—namely, medical jurisprudence—involving important questions of succession, and even of life and death. The public, no doubt, were more indebted to the medical profession than they felt, or had the gratitude to acknowledge. To them was entrusted, and safely entrusted, the health of wife and children, and the honour of families. To them the veil of domestic privacy was lifted. And though for their services all are entitled to gratitude and reward, yet some ministered largely to persons wholly unable to give due remuneration; and it was deeply to be regretted, that where the public service of the poor is concerned, their recompense is cut down to the lowest possible scale which competition and the contract-system can dictate. This is disgraceful and discreditable to a great nation: it is also very bad economy. No man in this profession he believed was less selfish, more ready to devote himself to the service of others, than their excellent chairman, or afforded a better example of such disinterestedness being rewarded by esteem and competence.

Sir CHARLES CLARKE also returned thanks in an appropriate speech.

Dr. A. J. SUTHERLAND returned thanks for the corporate bodies of the profession. The Society of Apothecaries gave an annual donation of fifteen guineas to this Society. He hoped the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons would follow so good an example.

Mr. WARE, V.P., returned thanks for the vice-presidents, treasurers, and directors.

Dr. WM. MERRIMAN, acting-treasurer, mentioned the case of a lady, with a very large family, whose husband had been suddenly cut off by cholera, but who by his membership had happily left her entitled to a provision, small, indeed, but decent, for herself and her children. He read a list of donations, amounting to about 200*l.*; and announced a legacy of 1000*l.* from the late Mr. Thomas A. Hewson, who was for many years a member of the Society.

Mr. WALSH, the secretary, in reply to an allusion to his active discharge of onerous duties, and the small sum received by him as the "paid officer" of the Society, said, that in such a cause, not to work heartily, quite irrespectively of the amount of pay, was simply impossible. The Society's usefulness could not be overrated.

Mr. PROPERT was called to the chair after Sir Charles Clarke had left it, and returned thanks for a compliment paid to him by Dr. Conolly, for his great exertions in founding a new institution for aged members of the profession and their families. The support and encouragement he had received were exceedingly gratifying. He had just received a grant of land well situated for a building; and in all applications for residence, he should be disposed to give a preference to members of this Society.

The music, under Mr. Turner's direction, was much commended, and cordial thanks were offered to the stewards.