

Mr. HILLIER expressed his approbation of the report, and his desire to co-operate with the committee to obtain a separate incorporation, now that it appeared improbable that the College of Surgeons could be made the home of the general practitioner.

Mr. WAKLEY being generally called for, addressed the meeting at some length, chiefly with the view of urging on the committee the importance of attempting to incorporate the great body of the general practitioners in their legitimate and proper home, the College of Surgeons. He spoke in indignant terms of the proceedings of the Council of the College, chiefly in reference to their mode of obtaining the last charter, and their insolent and audacious answer to the committee. He contended at some length that a struggle for this desirable end should be made, and expressed his determination to attempt to gain it, even if he fought single-handed and alone, particularly as he believed that it was the wish of the greater number of general practitioners of this country to be incorporated with the College, and that if a proper attempt were made, it might easily be obtained.

Mr. CLIFTON made some observations, with the object of showing that however he deprecated the conduct of the Council of the College, the committee were not authorized to seek incorporation with that body. The committee had been charged by a public meeting with a certain duty, and that was, to apply to the Crown for a distinct and separate charter of incorporation for the general practitioners. They were not authorized to apply for incorporation with the College of Surgeons; and it was only to satisfy Sir James Graham that they made the effort, that the committee took upon themselves the responsibility of communicating with the Council.

Dr. SPARKE, Mr. STREETEN, Dr. WEBSTER, and others, addressed the meeting. After which, Mr. WAKLEY, with the view of ascertaining the real sentiments of the members present regarding incorporation with the College, or an independent incorporation, moved a resolution to effect this object. It having been seconded, considerable discussion took place on the subject. The committee proposed a resolution as an amendment, having no reference to the original motion. After remarks by various speakers,

Mr. ANCELL, the secretary, rose to explain that Mr. Wakley's motion could not legally be entertained. The meeting had been expressly called to receive and confirm the report, and to adopt measures respecting it. As an act of courtesy to Mr. Wakley, he for one would not object to the motion being put; but he begged to remind the meeting, that the committee had been especially appointed with the view of obtaining a separate charter of incorporation for the general practitioners. The committee, on its own responsibility, had communicated with the College of Surgeons, but they could not have taken another step in that direction without the sanction of the entire body of the Association.

Mr. WAKLEY here remarked, that if Mr. Ansell spoke with authority, and that if the committee had never had any other object in view but that of obtaining a separate and distinct incorporation for the general practitioners, he had been mistaken in the object of the Association, and begged to withdraw his motion.

Resolutions were then moved, seconded, and passed, to empower the committee to add to their number gentlemen selected from the general practitioners residing more than ten miles from the Royal Exchange, to carry out the opinions of the majority as expressed in the report, regarding the franchise and the eligibility for the election of councillors. Votes of thanks were then passed to the Apothecaries' Company, the press, and the various officers of the Association.

HOSPITAL REPORTS.

LEEDS GENERAL INFIRMARY.

CASE OF SEVERE LACERATION AND PENETRATING WOUNDS OF BOTH KNEE-JOINTS.

(Reported by Mr. SHACKLES.)

EMMA T—, of chlorotic appearance, and who had never menstruated, aged sixteen, scribbler at a wool-mill at Bramley, was admitted into the Leeds General Infirmary, on Saturday, May 25th, 1844, at one P.M., under the care of Mr. Smith, with severe laceration of both knee-joints. At about half-past eleven A.M., the same day, whilst passing a shaft, her pinafore was caught by some cog-wheels, and she was carried round an upright shaft, being forced between it and the wall, close to which the shaft was fixed. All her clothes were torn off, except her frock-waist and stays. It should be mentioned that, contrary to the usual custom, the wheels were not boxed off, the shaft having only been put up a day or two, and the boxes were not yet provided.

Present condition:—A lacerated wound, about three inches long, outside the right patella, which penetrates into the joint, easily admitting a finger under the patella. A large contused lacerated wound inside of the left knee, of which the integuments were much destroyed; the vastus internus muscle considerably lacerated; the patella very much ground down, as if rasped by a rough file; an opening into the joint an inch and a half long; synovia escaped, and mingling with the external coagulum. Mr. Smith detached a large piece of integument which was held on merely by a shred, and applied strips of dry lint to the whole extent of the wound. Upon this dry lint other strips of lint dipped in mucilage were placed, in this way completely preventing contact with the air; outside the whole a piece of oiled silk was placed. The same treatment was observed with the wound of the other joint. The patient was ordered to keep perfectly quiet on her back. In the evening she had fifty drops of tincture of opium administered.

26th.—Passed a tolerable night.

27th.—Severe pain in the abdomen, with flatus. Was ordered a rhubarb draught, a domestic enema, and solution of sulphate of magnesia.

28th.—One stool; easier, but abdomen tender.

29th.—Two free stools; much better; no pain in the knees; abdomen tender, with tympanitis. Pulse 105; tongue rather furred.

30th.—Bowels regular.

June 2nd.—Bowels regular; sleeps very well; very easy in both legs.

3rd.—Suppuration showing itself; bowels regular; tongue clean. Up to this period the dressings had never been moved, and Mr. Smith now ordered the lint, which was quite hard, to be covered for the night with cloths dipped in warm water and enveloped in oiled silk, in order to secure the easy removal of the dressings in the morning.

4th.—Dressings removed and soft dressings applied.

21st.—Dressed up to this period daily; no signs of constitutional irritation. For the first two or three weeks had an opiate administered at night; now discontinued. The wound contracting considerably in the left knee; that of the right nearly well; back sore from lying. Covered with a leather plaster.

July 8th.—Dressed with lint dipped in a solution of sulphate of zinc; the already cicatrized parts, round the wound, defended by narrow strips of soft dressing. The right joint healed completely; perfect use of the joint.

26.—Not looking quite so well, in consequence of having got up, and exercised it too much.

28th.—Poultice to continue a few days longer.

August 27th.—Cicatrix three inches and a half in length; six weeks ago was seven inches in length; limb perfectly movable; the removal of a very large piece of integument in the first instance, causing slight, if any, drawing up of the surrounding parts.

Oct. 1.—A small oval spot in the centre of the cicatrix yet unhealed, but gradually contracting. The girl has grown considerably during her stay in the infirmary, and looks remarkably healthy.

11th.—Made out-patient.

On making inquiries from time to time, it was learnt that on November 8th she menstruated for the first time, with menorrhagic symptoms. In a week or two, however, perfectly well.

Dec. 4th.—Came into the infirmary again, it being deemed advisable, as the cicatrix was not completely healed, and the sore had an unhealthy appearance. To have regular attendance.

April 1st, 1845.—The wound completely cicatrized over for the first time; during the last two or three months the edges of the sore having contracted very slowly, cicatrix very inconsiderable in size; the skin is tightly adherent to the upper surface of the patella, but the leg can be bent at a perfectly right angle with the knee, but not further; she walks well. The patient's diet, ever since the healing took a favourable turn, has been of a most generous kind, and she uniformly has had a very good appetite.

11th.—Discharged cured.

THE BATH PETITION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—With much pleasure I communicate to you that a spirit of unanimity has pervaded the members of the College of Surgeons residing here. A petition, embracing all the points set forth in THE LANCET of the 26th ultimo, has been forwarded to one of our city representatives, to present to the House of Commons.

Of fifty-four members, forty-seven signed it, including four fellows. Of the remaining seven, one fellow on the eve of

retiring from practice, and one retired member, *actually* refused their signatures. Two are too ill to entertain the subject, two are from home, and one has not been waited upon. Now, let three of the five latter-mentioned gentlemen be considered as not, and two as, signing, the proportion may be stated as ninety per cent. of the entire members, and eighty per cent. of the fellows. If petitions of a similar nature were to issue, equally supported by the fellows and members throughout England and Wales, surely their united voices so harmoniously blended together would secure the good aimed at, the embodiment of all in their own college on equitable principles, and prevent the evil which otherwise will inevitably ensue—a new incorporation.

I hope your call on the members to activity without delay, at this crisis of the struggle between the council of twenty and the body of thousands, may be responded to with an energy and unanimity equal to what has occurred here; and if so, our present hopes and wishes will be changed into a substantial realization.

Might it not be advisable for each party petitioning to inform the medical press of the numbers? So doing, the aggregate of petitioners may be known.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
P. BALLANTINE FERGUSON, M.D.

ON THE MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS, CHARACTER, AND REPUTATION, OF THE SCOTCH UNIVERSITIES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

STR,—I find from the perusal of a letter addressed to Sir James Graham,* and from other sources, that reports prevail rather extensively, more particularly among the medical teachers of London, that in the event of the Medical Bill being passed into law in its present state, a less amount of preliminary and professional education will be required of those educated at the medical school of Edinburgh than elsewhere.

This report, which has been very generally and industriously circulated in London, seems to be founded, in a great measure, on a particular clause of the Bill, (Clause 22,) which seems rather vaguely worded; and also upon evidence given a good many years ago before the Commissioners for Visiting the Scottish Universities—evidence which is quoted by Professor Quain in his pamphlet. It is to be regretted that no allusion has been made by this gentleman to a document printed and pretty generally circulated in the year 1839, in which are fully stated the views and opinions of the three medical bodies of Edinburgh—viz., the University, the Royal College of Physicians, and the Royal College of Surgeons, with regard to the education, general and professional, of candidates for the licence of general practitioners and for the medical degree, entertained by them at that time, and upon which the bodies intend to act.

I take the liberty of requesting that you will have the goodness to give publicity, in your widely-circulated journal, to the following extracts from the document alluded to, with the view of giving a contradiction to the reports now industriously circulating to the prejudice of the Edinburgh medical school.

The document is entitled, "Propositions relative to the Education and Privileges of Practitioners in the several branches of Medicine, and of Chemists and Druggists: agreed on by the Medical and Surgical Professors in the University, the Royal College of Physicians, and the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. March, 1839."

Extracts from Section I. of Practitioners.

"Clause 3.—That no person ought to obtain a licence entitling him to act as a general medical practitioner, who has not received a competent education in literature and science, studied in a recognised school of medicine or surgery, and undergone examination before a competent board or boards, on all the branches of medical education mentioned in the curriculum hereinafter specified."

"Clause 4.—That the degrees or licences granted by all public institutions which have heretofore been engaged in regulating the education, and ascertaining the qualifications, of those intended for the medical profession, (or by such new boards as it may be found expedient to establish for the same purpose,) should confer the right of acting as general medical practitioners, and of dispensing medicines in all parts of the British dominions: provided, first, the course of education required by these institutions or

boards be not in any case less, and in the cases hereinafter provided be superior, in extent and duration, to that which shall be determined on as necessary for obtaining a licence; and, secondly, that the examining boards of these institutions be so constituted as to afford a sufficient security that the members of whom they are composed possess the qualifications necessary to fit them for ascertaining by examination the proficiency of candidates."

"Clause 8.—That evidence should likewise be required from candidates for licences, who have not previously obtained the degree of A.B. or A.M., of their possessing an adequate acquaintance with Latin, and of their having received instruction in the elements of mathematics and in natural philosophy; and that it is highly desirable these branches should be studied previously to commencing the professional education."

"Clause 10.—That the final examination for the licence to practise should be divided into at least two parts, to be held on different days; and that in *Edinburgh* these examinations may be advantageously conducted by a joint board of fellows of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons."

"Clause 13.—That the course of study and the examinations for any degree in medicine granted by a university, ought to comprehend all the branches of knowledge stated above, and to imply a more extended education than is prescribed for the general medical practitioner."

"Clause 16.—That the superiority of university medical degrees should be further secured by the course of study required for it, embracing additional branches of science connected with medicine, and by enjoining repeated attendance on the more important departments."

"Clause 17.—That a certain portion of the study qualifying for the honour of a medical degree, should be prosecuted in some university which grants that degree, and that any such university ought to insist on attendance therein during a winter session, as preliminary and requisite to examination."

"Clause 22.—That the examinations should be held partly *vivâ voce*, and partly by exercises or themes; and that, in both respects, it should be made as searching as possible."

It is not my intention to enter into any argument or discussion as to the important information contained in this document, it being my intention merely to state facts, and I shall only add, that the propositions or resolutions were adopted by the University, the College of Physicians, and the College of Surgeons, of Edinburgh, in 1839, with the view of agreeing upon the great general principles upon which a medical Bill should be framed; that they are binding on all those bodies; and that no disposition or wish has ever been shown or expressed by any of them to withdraw from that agreement, but, on the contrary, that they are all anxious and willing to give full effect to the resolutions, on a Bill being passed for regulating the education, examination, and right of practice of medical men throughout the United Kingdom.

At the time these resolutions were agreed to, it was thought by all the parties who concurred in them, that, general principles being thus settled, the details of education, general as well as professional, might be advantageously postponed until the establishment of some competent authority, by means of which a methodical system might be laid down for the whole United Kingdom. To the opinion then entertained they still adhere; and they are glad to find that the medical Bill of Sir James Graham contemplates the establishment of a general board for this very purpose.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
S. C.

Edinburgh, April 28, 1845.

P.S.—I have been astonished to learn, since writing the above, by letters from London, and from articles which have appeared in some of the English medical journals, as well as in one of the newspapers, that a report has been circulating in London injurious to the character and reputation of the Scotch universities, to the effect, that it would be in their power, under the medical Bill, to confer medical degrees on candidates who had studied for only two years in a university, a power which, it is said, they would act upon. This report seems to me to have arisen from a misapprehension of a part of the 22nd clause of the Bill, in which it is stated that "it shall not be lawful for any university of the United Kingdom to confer any degree in the faculty of medicine upon any person unless he shall have been matriculated in the same university, and shall have duly attended the courses of public lectures prescribed by the same university to students in medicine at the seat of the same university, during at least two years after he shall have been matriculated in the same university," &c.

Now I have reason to know that it was never for a moment supposed by the universities of Scotland that a power was to be given to them by this clause, to confer degrees on any person,

* Observations on the Education and Examinations for Degrees in Medicine, as affected by the new Medical Bill &c., in a Letter to the Right Hon. Sir James Graham, Bart. By Richard Quain, F.R.S., Professor of Anatomy in University College, London, &c. 1845.