

the president, the honorary secretary (himself an F.R.C.S.E.), and the members of the Gloucestershire Association, is deserving of the highest praise, and is well worthy of imitation by every branch association in the kingdom. They have taken the trouble to meet, to pass and publish their resolutions, and both to memorialize the Home Secretary and to petition Parliament; and we do not know a more efficient mode of making themselves heard in the right quarters. We trust we shall have to record many other county meetings, the effect of which upon the great peccant body, the College of Surgeons, cannot but be most salutary. Again we commend the Gloucestershire meeting as an example to the medical practitioners throughout Great Britain.

#### PETITION OF THE SURGEONS OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

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

The humble petition of the undersigned members of the Gloucestershire Medical and Surgical Association,

Sheweth,—That the charter granted to the College of Surgeons in 1843, forms an insurmountable obstacle in the path of medical legislation, and that no attempt to adjust, by Act of Parliament, the difficulties of this subject, can be successful or satisfactory, until the injustice perpetrated by that obnoxious measure be done away with.

That the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, if rightly organized, are quite sufficient for the requirements of the profession in this country, and that the proposed creation of a new corporation, for the enrolment of the general practitioners, is uncalled for by any necessity, and that such new institution would be alike injurious to the interests of the profession and the public.

That the parties who have undertaken to appear, on the part of the general practitioners, in the conferences which have led to the proposal of a new corporation, have no title whatever to be considered as representing the views and opinions of that great body of the profession.

That the foregoing statements of opinion are copies of certain resolutions proposed at a special general meeting of the Gloucestershire Medical and Surgical Association, held at Cheltenham, on the 20th instant, and passed unanimously.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray, that as a preparatory step to any measure for the regulation of the medical profession, the provisions of the charter granted to the College of Surgeons in 1843, and the manner in which they were carried out, may undergo a searching investigation, and that your honourable House will be pleased to reject any Bill concerning the medical profession which shall tend in any way to perpetuate the injustice inflicted by the said charter upon the great body of the members of the College of Surgeons.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Signed on behalf of the members of the Gloucestershire Medical and Surgical Association,

THOMAS WRIGHT, M.D.,

President of the Association and Chairman of the Meeting.

JOHN WILLIAM WILTON, F.R.C.S.E.,

Gloucester, July 21st, 1848.

Honorary Secretary.

At a special general meeting of the members of the Gloucestershire Medical and Surgical Association, held at Cheltenham, on the 20th day of July, 1848, "To take into consideration the proposals for a measure of medical reform, lately published, as resulting from a conference of parties representing the metropolitan corporations and the general practitioners, and intended as the basis of an act of parliament for the regulation of the profession,"—Thomas Wright, Esq., M.D., president, in the Chair, the following resolutions were carried unanimously:—

1. That the charter granted to the College of Surgeons in 1843, forms an insurmountable obstacle in the path of medical legislation, and that no attempt to adjust by act of parliament the difficulties of this subject can be successful or satisfactory until the injustice perpetrated by that obnoxious measure be done away with.

2. That the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, if rightly organized, are quite sufficient for the requirements of the profession in this country, and that the proposed creation of a

new corporation, for the enrolment of the general practitioners, is uncalled for by any necessity, and that such new institution would be alike injurious to the interests of the profession and the public.

3. That the parties who have undertaken to appear on the part of the general practitioners, in the conferences which have led to the proposal of a new corporation, have no title whatever to be considered as representing the views and opinions of that great body of the profession.

4. That this Association pledges itself to oppose, by all means in its power, the adoption of any legislative measures which may tend to perpetuate the injustice inflicted upon the members of the College of Surgeons by the Charter of 1843.

5. That a memorial be forwarded to the Secretary of State, and a petition presented to the House of Commons, embodying the foregoing resolutions; and that a committee be appointed for the purpose of drawing up such memorial and petition, and giving publicity to the proceedings of the meeting.

J. W. WILTON, F.R.C.S., Hon. Sec.

#### PETITION OF SURGEONS OF BRISTOL, &c.

*To the Honourable the Members of the Commons of England and Ireland appointed a Committee to Investigate and Report on the subject of Medical Reform.*

We, the undersigned members of the medical profession, respectfully and earnestly entreat of you not to countenance or to recommend to parliament any measure of medical reform which shall not have for its main objects—

1. The maintenance of all our rights and privileges as members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

2. The establishment of an uniform system of medical education and test of qualification in each division of the United Kingdom.

3. The protection of the medical profession and the public against the practice of any branch of medicine by unqualified persons.

We also implore you not to consider your investigation complete, until some members of the College of Surgeons aforesaid, totally unconnected with corporate favours, have been examined by you, and to recommend to parliament to hasten the passing of some measure of medical reform worthy a liberal, enlightened, and learned profession, that thereby the heart-burnings which have so long existed, to the detriment alike of the public and the medical profession, may be set at rest.

And, as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray, &c.  
(Here follow sixty-four signatures.)

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE CONVENTION OF POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS, JULY, 1848.

WANT of space prevents our publishing, as requested, in the present week, the whole of this Report, but in order that its principal portions may be before the whole profession without delay, we present to our readers the following

##### ABSTRACT.

The committee appointed at the convention of poor-law medical officers, held at the Hanover-square Rooms, on Wednesday, October 27th, 1847, consider it right at this period to place a report of their proceedings before their constituents and the profession generally.

The resolutions passed at the convention have been considered by the committee as "instructions" or "suggestions," by which to shape their proceedings. They may be summarily stated as follow:—

1.—That the highest qualification of a cultivated mind and professional capability, with great expenditure of time and physical strength, are perpetually called into operation through the poor-law surgeon for the benefit of the sick poor; that the present system is so essentially faulty, that the surgeon is invariably unfairly dealt by, and the sick poor are more or less injured.

2.—That the payment given by boards of guardians is utterly out of proportion to the duties, exertions, and expenses which devolve on the medical officer, as well as to the advantages conferred on the suffering paupers.

3.—That to remedy these grievances the convention pledges itself, by its standing committee, to use the most persevering and temperate means, to collect and digest information on the subject; to memorialize the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Poor-law Board, and to communicate