

that if the alterations above stated, and others of a similar nature suggested in that letter, were made in the internal constitution of the College, it was the intention of her Majesty's government to propose a measure to Parliament whereby the powers and privileges of the College, as an *examining* body, would be greatly increased. According to the advice thus tendered, and with the sanction and co-operation of the law officers of the crown, the College proceeded to prepare, with considerable pains and expense, the draft of a new Charter, embracing the alterations which it had itself proposed, as well as those suggested by Sir James Graham. The College has ever since been waiting for an Act of the legislature to enable it to accept this Charter. It deeply regrets that, meanwhile, the general Bill, in conjunction with which the new Charter was to have been accepted, has, in many respects, been materially altered.

As the Bill was originally framed, the College was required indeed to surrender the examination all Scotch and Irish physicians; but it was authorized to superintend the examination of all persons, of whatever grade, who should seek to obtain in this country a licence to practise medicine. And as the College was instituted for the promotion of medical science, it does indeed seem proper that to it should be entrusted the duty of testing the qualifications of all those who are to have the sanction intended to be given by the Bill of being qualified to practise medicine, just as to the College of Surgeons was to be entrusted the duty of testing the qualification of persons to practise surgery. In the Bill, as previously framed, and even in its amended form, this idea is carried out in regard to general practitioners in Scotland and Ireland; for to the respective Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, in each of those parts of the United Kingdom, is entrusted the function of examining general practitioners. And the College believes that such a principle, if carried out in England, would ultimately give satisfaction to the great body of general practitioners throughout England and Wales, as well as tend to the advantage of the public.

By the amended Bill, however, the authority to examine general practitioners is no longer given to the College of Physicians of England, although it is still given to those of Scotland and Ireland. Nor, in the opinion of the College, is anything like an equivalent for it afforded by the 17th clause of the Bill as amended, which clause prescribes only a *preliminary* examination before a joint medical and surgical board.

It does not appear to the College to be at all a proper arrangement, that persons who have undergone a previous examination by physicians and surgeons, should be examined subsequently, in medicine and surgery, by general practitioners.

It is a further and a great objection to such double examination, that it must operate as a discouragement to medical education in England, since in Scotland and Ireland a single examination will be sufficient to qualify for practice.

With respect to the new incorporation, made known in the amended Bill by the name of "the Royal College of General Practitioners in Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery of England," the College, without objecting to the incorporation of the general practitioners, would press upon the attention of Sir James Graham, that as the College of Physicians was specially founded for the promotion of medical science and for the regulation of medical practice, there are strong objections to the assumption by this new institution of the title of the "Royal College of Practitioners in Medicine."

Nor is it to the assumption of a title only that the College sees reason to object. It must object, even more strongly, to the latter part of the 32nd clause, which gives to general practitioners the right to fill *ALL medical and surgical offices*, and thus confides the highest duties of the profession to the members of that class which is required to pass through the least extended education, and which is admitted to practise at the earliest age.

In offering the foregoing observations, the College is so fully convinced of Sir James Graham's desire to maintain a high standard of education for physicians, as well as to support the College in the discharge of its proper functions, and even to extend, if possible, its sphere of utility, that it cannot doubt that the remarks which a sense of duty has dictated will be received with the candour and the attention which the College has met with from Sir James Graham on every occasion.

There are other points in the Bill, of minor importance, to which the College is also desirous of requesting Sir James Graham's attention.

With respect to the constitution of the Council of Health, if the representative principle is to be retained, at least in part, there ought not to be two members of it returned by the College of General Practitioners, since one member only is to be returned by each of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons.

In clause 27, "For securing efficiency of examination," Sir James Graham has yielded to the wish of the College, that none

but professional persons should be allowed to be present at the examinations. The alteration, however, which has been made in the composition of the Council, seems to render it even more desirable than before, in order to obviate some possible jealousies and interferences between the different orders of the profession, that no one should have an absolute right to be present at the examinations, unless deputed by the Council for that purpose.

As regards the arrangements for general registration, the College observes with satisfaction that the register is now expressly ordered to be received as evidence in courts of law. It does not seem, however, sufficiently clear, whether the supplemental register provided by the amended Bill is intended to contain the names of *all* persons now legally practising, as well those with general as those with only local privileges. Those, also, who are entered on the supplemental register, should be required to send in annually their names and places of abode, as ordered by a previous clause with respect to the register.

In some points the Bill has been amended to the satisfaction of the College. In particular, the College approves of physicians and surgeons being compelled to enrol themselves in the College of the country in which they practise, under the penalty of being struck off the register. Also of a penalty for false pretences of qualification being imposed by clause 38, not only on persons unregistered, but on those also who should use a name or title belonging to a class in the registry to which they do not belong.

In conclusion, the College ventures to express a hope that Sir James Graham may find it possible to modify the Bill in accordance with the views which have now been respectfully offered. For thus, in the judgment of the College, it is likely to be productive of greater advantage to the profession and the public than can justly be expected from it under its present form.

FRANCIS HAWKINS, Registrar.

PETITION AGAINST THE MEDICAL BILL AND THIRD COLLEGE.

To the Honourable the Commons, &c.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Members of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, acting as General Practitioners at WEST BROMWICH, in the County of STAFFORD, sheweth—

That your petitioners have read with feelings of deep regret the amended Physic-and-Surgery Bill brought into your honourable House by Sir James Graham.

That your petitioners are of opinion that a College of Physicians and College of Surgeons are amply sufficient for the protection, education, and government of the whole medical profession of England and Wales.

That they beg to express their firm conviction that the institution of a third and inferior College for the general practitioners of the kingdom would be a serious public and professional calamity.

That in earnestly desiring that the general practitioners should be enfranchised in one institution, your petitioners are firmly of opinion that this object should be carried into effect by their incorporation in the College of Surgeons of England.

That your petitioners complain that by the partial and capricious distribution of the fellowship made by the Council of the said College under the new Charter lately granted to them, the unanimity of the profession has been destroyed, and your petitioners deprived of that position they previously occupied as part of the commonalty of the same College.

Your petitioners therefore pray your honourable House that the further consideration of the present Physic-and-Surgery Bill be postponed to another session, and that an inquiry be instituted by your honourable House as to the operation of the Charter lately granted to the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

W. B. Dickinson, George Allarton, J. W. Savage, William Jackson, Charles Starkey, Henry Haines, Charles T. Male, T. W. Davies, Edmund Colchester.

CARNARVONSHIRE.

A PUBLIC meeting of the medical practitioners of Carnarvonshire was held at Carnarvon on the 18th ultimo, when the following resolutions were unanimously passed:—

1st. That this meeting cannot refrain from expressing its disapprobation of the principles on which the Physic-and-Surgery Bill of Sir James Graham has been constructed.

2nd. That this meeting views with apprehension the proposed institution of a third college, as tending to the degradation of the general practitioner, who is neither admitted to act at the pro-

visional examining board, nor allowed to register himself as a surgeon, and they think it would be far more conducive to the honour of the profession that all general practitioners be incorporated in the College of Surgeons, more especially the present members of the college, who have a legitimate right to be enfranchised in that college which has derived its principal support from their contributions.

3rd. They consider the late partial distribution of the fellowship, and the exclusion of the present members of the College of Surgeons from all participation in the government of their own institution, as justly claiming from parliament an inquiry into the operation of the charter last granted to the college, and they feel assured that the safety of the public and the credit of the profession equally require a strict and summary protection against unlicensed practitioners.

4th. They approve most highly of the contemplated aggregate meeting in London, and pledge themselves to promote its objects by every means in their power.

5th. That this meeting cannot separate without expressing its sense of the deep debt of gratitude which it owes to Mr. Guthrie for the noble manner in which he has advocated the rights of the profession, and consented to come forward to preside at the aggregate meeting.

7th. That this meeting begs to express its obligation to Mr. William Roberts for the handsome and kind manner in which he has met the wishes of the profession of this county by presiding over it.

8th. That one or more deputies (to be hereafter named) be appointed and authorized to represent the medical practitioners of Carnarvonshire at the aggregate meeting to be held in London, under the presidency of G. J. Guthrie, Esq.

9th. That a subscription of not less than 10s. each be entered into for the purpose of defraying the expenses.

Signed by

William Roberts, Carnarvon.	Augustus H. Churchill, Bangor.
T. B. Haslam, ditto.	John Roberts, ditto.
W. R. Williams, ditto.	Robert Hope Jones, Conway.
Robert Jones, ditto.	Abraham J. Williams, Pwllheli.
Hamilton A. Roberts.	Rowland Williams, Tremadoc.
John Richards, Bangor.	

DECLARATIONS IN FAVOUR OF ENFRANCHISEMENT IN THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

To Thomas Wakley, Esq. M.P.

SIR,—I have much pleasure in informing you that at a public meeting of the members of the medical profession, residing in the borough of DEVONPORT and EAST STONEHOUSE, held on the 19th inst., a unanimous vote of thanks was passed for your untiring zeal in the cause of medical reform, but more especially in the defence of the rights of the general practitioners.

I beg further to state, that at the same meeting it was unanimously resolved to forward a requisition to Mr. Guthrie to preside at the aggregate meeting of surgeons to be held in the ensuing month; as, also, a petition to parliament, together with a memorial to Sir James Graham, requesting "that a full inquiry may be instituted into the government and management of the College of Surgeons of England, and the effects produced by the last new charter, and that they," (the petitioners,) "in common with every member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, may have full power to elect their governing body;" but adding that, "if corporate rights are not to be acquired in that College, then they are decidedly of opinion that a third College—one of perfect legal equality with the existing College of Surgeons—should be incorporated upon the representative principle, by which means the governing power of the College may reflect the character of the constituent body."

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH MAX, Hon. Sec.

Devonport, June 29th, 1845.

PROCEEDINGS AT TONBRIDGE AND BRIGHTON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Being desirous of giving publicity to everything connected with the subject relating to the Surgeons of England, I am induced to state what transpired at a meeting of the south-eastern branch of the Medical and Surgical Association, held on the 27th of June, at Tonbridge. After the usual routine business of the day, the subject of the present state of affairs was introduced by Mr. Martin, of Reigate, fellow of the College of Surgeons, who, in the most flattering terms, eulogized the conduct of the National Association, followed by Mr. Wallace, of Carshalton, master of the Apothecaries' Company, and most strenuously supported by

Mr. John Cordy Burrows, of Brighton, who read several extracts from the "Transactions" of the committee of the Association, relative to the views which they had thought proper to take of the Medical Bill and Charter, and the effect those measures would have on the surgeons of this country, thereby misleading many of the provincial surgeons who were present, and who had not given the subject sufficient attention to enable them to form an opinion on the subject, therefore coming to the conclusion that what was advanced by the triumvirate was perfectly correct. The construction which Mr. Burrows put upon some of the clauses of the Bill was this—That those who were surgeons prior to the passing of the Act would still be able to retain that title; and that, in fact, the Bill and Charter would raise the position and standing of the medical men of this country. After these and other such statements, it was moved by Mr. Martin that a petition be presented to the House of Commons, praying that the Bill should be passed this session. A memorial, also, was proposed to be sent to Sir James Graham, to the same effect, and a vote of confidence passed to the committee of the National Association, all of which motions were recommended by the chairman, Mr. West, of Tonbridge, to be carried unanimously, collectively, and, he hoped, without disunion, to which I could not agree. I opposed each resolution, and was most happy to find my views ably supported by that excellent surgeon, of Tonbridge Wells, Mr. Hargraves, as well as by Mr. Sopwith, and Mr. Power. There were present thirty-three gentlemen, of whom twenty-eight voted, fifteen for each resolution, and thirteen against. I feel assured that had the subject been well understood by the majority, they would have seen, that by the passing of the Bill in its present shape, the surgeons of England must be so thoroughly degraded, that it would have had scarcely a supporter besides the three gentlemen who spoke in favour of the resolutions.

With respect to Mr. Burrows, of Brighton, who had addressed one of the meetings of the National Association, and stated that he was a delegate from the surgeons of Brighton, I beg to state that I was informed by that eminent surgeon, Mr. Laurence, of Brighton, that a meeting was called there, at which only thirteen medical men were present, out of 110 surgeons practising in the town; so that Mr. Burrows represented thirteen instead of the 110. I was also informed that the majority of the surgeons of Brighton would follow the example of those at Lewes, and present a petition against the Bill, and against incorporation in an inferior College, and would support the requisition to Mr. Guthrie, and the holding of the aggregate meeting.

I am, sir, your very obedient servant,

GEORGE BOTTOMLEY.

Croydon, July 1st, 1845.

ELECTION OF A LONDON MEDICAL OFFICER TO THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY CLUB.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—A case lately occurred in the parish of Paddington, which shows the gross manner in which the medical profession is treated by the public generally, and exemplifies the inefficient state of the laws under which the medical body is misgoverned. Some six weeks since it was made known to the medical gentlemen residing in the neighbourhood of the Great Western Railroad, that a vacancy in the office of surgeon to the Club on that line, (one including the porters and labourers,) would occur on the 22nd of June. The distance to be visited extended from Paddington to about ten miles down the road. And in the by-laws of the Club it was stated that the candidates must be members of the College of Surgeons. The power of election was vested in a committee of twelve members, for whose inspection all testimonials were desired to be sent to the committee-room a fortnight before the election would take place. It was also stated that from non-efficient medical attendants having previously been appointed, whom they had been obliged to discharge, they now intended that their physician (who holds that office to the whole line) should be the party on whose opinion they should rely in the election. Eight or nine medical men sent certificates to this meeting, and one of the committee on that evening stated that many of the members (porters, &c.) had expressed a wish to be allowed to elect their own medical man, and he proposed that the voting should be thrown open to them. This was allowed, and the consequence was, that the candidates, if they wished to stand any chance of success, were obliged to canvass all the members. This some agreed to do, others declined it, feeling confident that such persons could not be competent judges of their acquirements. But there was one in particular, who fully understood why this proposition was made, he being an intimate friend of the proposer, and his medical attendant, and he well knew that with the committee generally he stood no chance, as they would be guided by the certificates and their physician. This friend was no less a