

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

SIR JAMES GRAHAM'S MEDICAL BILL.

A VERY large meeting of the Medical Students of this College—Dr. A. T. THOMSON in the Chair—was held in the Anatomical Theatre, on Thursday last, when several of the senior students moved and seconded a series of excellent resolutions, in admirable argumentative speeches. We shall report the resolutions in the next LANCET.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Editor of *The Times* and Mr. WAKLEY for their exertions in the cause of medical reform. The motion was carried amid enthusiastic acclamations. Seven hands were held up against it. Between two hundred and fifty and three hundred gentlemen were present.

WOOLWICH.

To the Right Honourable Sir James Graham, Bart., &c. &c.

The humble memorial of the undersigned legally-authorized medical and surgical practitioners of Woolwich, in the county of Kent,

SHEWETH—

That your memorialists feel grateful for your taking into consideration the present anomalous state of the medical profession, and for introducing a Bill into Parliament to regulate the practice of Physic and Surgery throughout the United Kingdom.

That your memorialists having carefully considered the clauses of the said Bill, are of opinion that the operation of the measure would be more satisfactory to the profession and beneficial to the public if provision were made therein that a part of the Council of Health be chosen from that class of medical practitioners to be termed licentiates in medicine and surgery, inasmuch as they are by far the most numerous, and being entrusted with the health of a great majority of the public, consider they should have a share in making those laws by which they are to be hereafter governed.

Your memorialists respectfully declare their belief, that the relaxation of any existing penalties on unlicensed practice would tend to degrade and injure properly-educated and qualified practitioners, by admitting to competition with them a multitude of ignorant pretenders to medical and surgical knowledge, who, by insuring immediate payment, would elude that part of the Bill which incapacitates them to recover in a court of law.

Your memorialists also consider, that the public would be greatly injured by not possessing a full and efficient protection against unlicensed practice, and that the poor, the unwary, and the credulous, would be left unprotected against the artifices of ignorant and reckless empirics.

Finally, your memorialists beg to express their conviction, that the insertion of a clause, during the progress of the Bill in committee, whereby the "visiting, prescribing, or treating diseases or bodily injuries, for gain or emolument," might be made a misdemeanor, punishable by fine or imprisonment, would render the Bill just to the profession, and additionally safe to the community at large.

John Butler
Thos. Hallifax, M.D.
Josh. Clarke
J. S. Turner
W. Dakin
W. Denne

J. H. Allinson
Robert Gant
W. Caryl
W. Locke
R. B. Penny
Augustus Prater

THE BEDFORDSHIRE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of the Bedfordshire Medical Association was held at the General Infirmary, Bedford, on Wednesday, the nineteenth instant, to take into consideration Sir James Graham's amended Medical Bill—ISAAC HURST, Esq., in the chair.

A letter from Sir James Graham was read, announcing, in reply to an inquiry on the subject, "that members of the college of surgeons holding the apothecaries' licence will be entitled to register as *surgeons*, and under that name to *practise* equally in both medicine and surgery."

It was resolved unanimously, that petitions be presented to parliament in favour of the general principles of the Bill, but praying for the following amendments—viz.

That in Clause 2, provision shall be made that the whole or a part of the six persons to be appointed to the council by the crown should be licentiates in medicine and surgery. That in Clauses 19 and 20 the words, "after examination" be omitted. That in the place of continuing to the Apothecaries' Society the power of prosecuting illegal practitioners, a clause be inserted providing for the summary punishment of such unqualified persons.

PROTEST, MEMORIAL, AND PETITION,

OF THE

MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN MANCHESTER.

To the President, Vice-Presidents, and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

GENTLEMEN,—We, the undersigned, members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, residing in Manchester and Salford, hereby record our indignant protest against certain recent proceedings of the council of the College.

We have delayed to the present period any combined expression of sentiment with respect to the conduct of the council, in executing the provisions of the late charter, earnestly hoping that, on ascertaining the all but universal feeling of dissatisfaction prevalent, they would, themselves, have adopted measures which would have led to a rectification of the grievous wrong which members of the College have sustained.

We beg to remind the council that, prior to the grant of the new charter, all members possessed identity of surgical honours, so far as these rested upon any testimonials obtained from the College; that their motives in complying with its educational requirements, in submitting to its examination, and in purchasing the diploma, were the recognised fact that, by so doing, they received the highest surgical attestation accessible at the time to the English student. Now, however, by recent arbitrary acts of the council, *membership* of the College, once a just pride and boast, has been made to constitute the badge of inferiority.

We do not hold that, in carrying out the provisions of any charter, it would have been advisable, or even practicable, for the fellowship to have been extended at once, and without any reserve, to all the members; but we do maintain, that nomination to that distinction should have been guided by some well-defined and intelligible principle, applicable alike in every case, and that it should have been attainable, from the first, under uniform conditions, by every then existing member of the College, without any renewed examination or further payment, beyond some nominal sum towards defraying expenses incidental to the grant and execution of the charter.

We reject with scorn the insulting proposal for gaining the fellowship by additional purchase, after submitting to another examination as to surgical acquirement; a proceeding to which others have not been subjected, whose nomination to the fellowship was preceded by qualifications differing in no respect from our own. The proposal itself we regard as one which, for every reason, no present member of the College can accept without deep degradation.

Finally, we think it right to avow our fixed and unalterable resolution to persevere in the employment of all legitimate means for effecting restitution of our just professional rank and privileges; whereby alone, we conceive, can "the dignity and welfare of the College" be maintained, accordant with the terms of the oath administered to all on admission to the membership.

We have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient humble servants.

To the Right Hon. Sir James Graham, Bart., Secretary of State for the Home Department.

SIR,—We, the undersigned, members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, residing in Manchester and Salford, desire to preface the memorial which we now present to you, with an expression of our obligation for the patient attention you have given to the interests of the medical profession, amidst your important and multifarious engagements.

Fully sensible of the difficulties of your position with respect to any details affecting medical legislation, we have hitherto delayed to address you, in the confident anticipation that the council of the College to which we belong would voluntarily have retrieved the flagrant error it has committed towards the great majority of the members, and have thereby restored to them the rank and privileges in the College of which they have been so arbitrarily deprived. Disappointed in this expectation, we yet hoped to have found in the "Bill for Regulating the Profession of Physic and Surgery," recently introduced by you into the House of Commons, an efficient remedy provided for the grievous wrong perpetrated against us by the council of the College; and more especially did we expect this, from observing the liberal spirit which you, Sir, displayed in your speech on introducing the measure.

As, however, so far as our rights in reference to our College are concerned, there is no difference between your present Bill and the one you brought before the House at the close of the last session of Parliament, we are compelled, by a strong sense of the duty we owe to ourselves, and a wish to preserve the interests of