

tions of the medical establishments of the United Kingdom would be thoroughly sifted, and wholesome corrections would follow of course. These are some of my reasons for preferring a parliamentary to a legal investigation, even if a single verdict were sufficient to detect and remove existing abuses in the College of Physicians. At all events, law proceedings would be expensive and tedious, while a parliamentary examination, however protracted, costs little excepting trouble and attendance. Having said this much, and offered some explanation of my motives for adopting the course in question, I beg, as a man of candour, to add, that I am ready to change it for any other which may be pointed out, and promises more effectually to promote the interests of medical men, and the welfare of the community.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Yours, &c. &c.

EDW. HARRISON.

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS SOCIETY

OF

SOUTHWARK AND ITS VICINITY.

At a numerous and very respectable meeting of general medical practitioners of Southwark and its vicinity, holden at the apartments of the Southwark Literary Society, Chester Terrace, Borough Road, Southwark, on Wednesday the 19th day of September 1832,

Jos. HOWELL, *Esq. in the chair,*

Resolved unanimously, that this meeting heartily approves of the resolutions passed on the 12th instant, at a meeting of several general medical practitioners in medicine, in Southwark and its neighbourhood; and that all the general medical practitioners now present, and being duly qualified to practise as such, shall, together with any gentlemen who are now absent, and who were present at the last meeting, form "The General Medical Practitioners Society of Southwark and its vicinity."

Resolved unanimously, that it is essential, not only to the interests of the general medical practitioners of Southwark and its vicinity, but also to the interests of the public at large, to put a stop, by all proper means, to the illegal practice of any branch of the medical profession by persons not duly qualified.

Resolved unanimously, that this meeting considers it an act of justice to itself, distinctly to state, that it is far from the object of this society to intrench upon the practice of either physicians or consulting surgeons, when confined to their respective depart-

ments, and conducted in a manner consistent with the gentlemanly views of a liberal profession.

Resolved unanimously, that a sub-committee, to consist of the chairman of this meeting, the honorary secretary, and Messrs. Coulthred, Evans, Hooper, Cox, and Taylor, shall be now formed, to prepare a set of laws for the regulation of the society, to arrange with the committee of the "Southwark Literary Society," for meeting at their rooms every Wednesday, and to report thereon at the next meeting.

Resolved unanimously, that this meeting at its rising shall adjourn until Wednesday, the 3rd October next, at eight o'clock in the evening precisely, at this place, when the report of the sub-committee shall be presented and considered.

Jos. HOWELL, Chairman.

The chairman having left the chair, the thanks of the meeting were voted to him for his very proper conduct in the chair.

J. PENFORD THOMAS, Hon. Sec.

ADDRESS OF THE SOCIETY.

This society has been instituted in consequence of the grievances constantly experienced by the general medical practitioners, by breaches of professional etiquette, and by infringements upon their rights and privileges.

It is necessary to put a stop to the positive evils and to the indirect inconveniences to which the general branch of the profession is subjected. The interferences of physicians and consulting surgeons with the practice of general practitioners, call for an immediate remedy. It has been declared by a resolution of the society, to be far from its object to intrench upon the practice either of physicians or of consulting-surgeons, when confined to their respective departments, and conducted in a manner consistent with the gentlemanly views of a liberal profession. In the profession of the law, counsel will not take a brief without the intervention of the attorney. Usurpation of general practice is an innovation upon the etiquette of the profession, and upon the rights vested by custom in the general practitioner. For physicians and consulting-surgeons knowingly to interfere with the practice of general practitioners, without even informing them of their visits, is, it is submitted, inconsistent with the views of an honourable profession.

Another evil, which it is the object of this society to check, is the illegal practice of medicine by persons not duly qualified. They deprive general practitioners of their fair earnings, and issue drugs to the public, with the medicinal administration of

which they cannot be entirely acquainted. At least, they cannot be supposed to be so much masters of the medical profession as those who have received a regular professional education, and have been duly examined as to their competency.

It is not the object of the society to institute or to encourage a monopoly. It is intended to promote fair and honourable conduct from the practitioners at large to one another—to encourage among them the exercise of harmony and good will—to diffuse useful medical information—to insist upon the rights vested in the members by the law of the land—to suppress illegal practitioners, and thereby protect the real interests of the public at large—and to require the due observance of medical etiquette between the physician and consulting-surgeon, and the general medical practitioner—in a few words, to render the profession within the sphere prescribed, honourable, useful, and respectable.

Such objects cannot, it is presumed, fail to meet with general approbation. A meeting of the society will take place on Wednesday next, 3rd of October 1832, when the attendance of all general medical practitioners favourable to the views of the society, is respectfully and earnestly solicited. The honorary secretary, Mr. John Penford Thomas, 20, Dover Place, New Kent Road, will readily afford any information required with regard to the society.

JAMES COULTHRED,
Chairman of the Committee.

CONDUCT OF SIR WILLIAM BLIZARD AT
THE LONDON HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg that you will make known to the medical men and students not immediately connected with the London Hospital, the insulting and uncourteous treatment they are liable to meet with from Sir William Blizard, should they be invited to, or induced to visit, that establishment. I shall describe to you the scene which occurred on Wednesday, the 12th inst., being the operating day at the hospital, as it affords a fair sample of every similar occasion.

It had been announced that Mr. Scott was to remove the superior maxillary bone from a poor woman (and which was done in a most masterly style). At one o'clock the door of the theatre was thrown open, and in we rushed, exercising towards each other, as is usual, more force than is compatible with decency. Having taken our stations, in walked Sir William. His first business was to take a general survey, and

inquire of those near him (as he cannot see very well himself) if any stranger is present. "Do you see any one here belonging to THE LANCET, gentlemen?" This is a very common and solicitous inquiry. Having then, upon this day, in a most rude manner catechised and commented upon one or two strange gentlemen, who had come to visit this important operation, as to the impropriety of their not confining themselves to their own hospitals, he took his station near the door, which he ordered to be closed, to the inconvenient exclusion of all fresh air, and all new comers, unless they could obtain admission under his immediate eye. Shortly after, Mr. Luke, one of the assistant-surgeons, entered with two strange gentlemen. Here was an invasion! Up started Sir William—"Who are these? who are these?" vociferated the senior surgeon. "Two gentlemen who have spoken to me," replied Mr. Luke, with his usual complacency. "But they have not spoken to me, Sir!" exclaimed the knight (expanding himself in a most fearful manner); "but no matter, Sir! no matter, Sir!" he added, hitching his right shoulder, and implying that he would not further disturb the operation, but would reserve his offended dignity to be expended in the ante-room.

This farce was no sooner ended than Sir William spied out Mr. Fuller, the surgical-instrument-maker, who you must be told, upon extraordinary occasions, usually attends at a side table, having upon it the instruments, in handing which to the operator he frequently makes himself useful. The valiant knight next pounced upon him, and having inquired who gave him leave to be there (the reply to which I could not hear), seized him bodily, and without even asking him to withdraw, absolutely wheeled him to the right about, and thrust him out of the room.

Thus, Sir, are our attentions diverted from the scientific proceedings of the moment, and thus are those gentlemen insulted, who, from a desire for information, may be induced to visit the London Hospital. And what, Sir, is the proximate cause of all this? A dread of THE LANCET! Truly, a monomaniacal dread of THE LANCET!

In addressing you, I beg to acknowledge the respect I entertain, and which is generally felt by the pupils, for Sir William, both on account of his long services and his age. It is therefore with pain that I see Sir William make himself the laughing-stock of a theatre full of young men, and forfeit that regard which a state of passiveness (most congenial to his powers) would secure to him.

To tell Sir William that a different state of things now exists to that which existed