

A. Wood, it was decided to send the report to the bodies which conferred dental licences.

The following letter addressed to the Registrar was read :

43, Duke-street, Toronto, February 19th, 1879.

SIR,—I wish to inform you of the result of a legal demand for registration made by me on the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, with which Council you, I believe, have had some correspondence on the subject of reciprocal registration.

The demand for registration made by me on the ground of my being a registered practitioner of the United Kingdom having been refused, I determined to test the legality of such a refusal in the Courts, and I accordingly applied for and obtained a rule *nisi* in the Court of Common Pleas. The rule having been served on the counsel for the Council, they, after mature deliberation, advised the Council to register me without any delay, as I was undoubtedly entitled to registration without examination in virtue of my English registration. Thus the disagreeable necessity of either running the risk of prosecution or going up for an examination in every branch has been done away with, at least as far as I can do it; and it now remains with the British Medical Council to complete the work. The third section of the Medical Act Amendment Act for 1868, in which colonial registration is provided for English registered practitioners, only provides for it "on payment of the fees, if any, that are required," leaving it possible, though undoubtedly against the spirit of the Act, for the Council here to charge a prohibitory fee, which, I believe, they are talking of doing; so that what is wanted is a clause added for the purpose of preventing the demand for an unreasonable fee, or one at all in excess of the regular fee charged to the members of the profession who obtain their degrees &c. in the colony. I would earnestly request your consideration of this very important matter, and trust that I have made the matter quite clear.

I remain, yours very sincerely,

E. H. BALDWIN.

On the motion of Mr. Simon, it was agreed to request the President to bring the letter under the notice of the Colonial Office, as alleging an endeavour to introduce into the colony a system of differential registration fees to the disadvantage of English practitioners.

Mr. TEALE brought forward the following memorial from the Obstetrical Society of London :—

GENTLEMEN,—On behalf of the Obstetrical Society of London we beg to urge upon you the insufficiency of the time now allotted to the study of midwifery and the diseases of women at the English medical schools in accordance with the regulations of the licensing bodies, and to press upon you the necessity of ensuring in any conjoint scheme of medical examination an adequate time for the study of these subjects. In the scheme now proposed by the English corporations, the space allotted to these subjects is three months only—a time quite inadequate to their extent and importance. Evidence of this has been recently supplied by the Royal College of Physicians in a circular sent to the various medical schools, dated January 30th, 1879, which contains the following resolution :—

"That the College represents to the various medical schools the defective knowledge concerning the use of obstetric instruments evinced by candidates who present themselves for the College licence, and ask their co-operation in promoting a more accurate knowledge of these subjects."

We are of opinion that the only means capable of rendering the teaching of obstetric medicine efficient is to make a longer study of the subject compulsory. This is the opinion of the teachers of midwifery generally. Moreover, a similar conclusion was arrived at by the committee of the Medical Council appointed on June 26th, 1868, "to consider and report on various subjects of medical education, &c.," for, in their report, the following passage occurs: "We are decidedly of opinion that the present space allotted to midwifery in the regulations of some of the licensing bodies is too short, and that, as was formerly the case, it should extend over one winter session, and that instruction in practical midwifery should also be extended."

In the schools of Scotland and Ireland the recommendation of the committee is in force, and the subject is taught during a winter session. The present—when a conjoint scheme of examination seems likely to become law, and when medical legislation occupies Parliament—appears to be a fitting time for effecting those changes which are necessary for the efficient teaching of the subjects in question; and we would respectfully beg the General Medical Council to approve of no scheme of medical examination which does not make provision for a six months' course of study of obstetric medicine.

We have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your most obedient servants,

W. S. PLAYFAIR, M.D., President.

JOHN WILLIAMS, M.D.,

CLEMENT GODSON, M.D., } Hon. Secs.

To the General Medical Council,
London, March 18th, 1879.

Dr. HAUGHTON said the University of Dublin always required six months' course of lectures in midwifery, but in the early part of 1868 he received a letter from a graduate of the University which very much astonished him. A large number of the young men who passed through that university had the same fighting taste that most Irishmen possessed, and preferred to enter the army. One of those who had passed the army examination wrote to him to say that he had charge of a troop-ship going to New Zealand, and during the voyage four soldiers' wives were delivered. The first three were delivered with the help of the other wives on board, who knew a great deal more about it than the doctor did; but the fourth turned out to be a difficult case, and the woman and child both died. The gentleman wrote to him strongly urging that the regulations of the University

should be altered, and that no men should be allowed to graduate without having a practical knowledge of midwifery. The University immediately adopted the recommendation, and from the 22nd October, 1868, every graduate had been required to attend a six months' course of lectures in midwifery, and also another six months in a lying-in hospital or maternity, or to have attended thirty cases of labour.

Dr. HUMPHRY moved the adoption of the report of the Executive Committee on qualifications for registration under the Dentists Act. Last year the Council referred to the Executive Committee to obtain information respecting the education and examination in dentistry required by the licensing bodies in the three divisions of the kingdom. They were also requested to obtain information with respect to the courses of study and examination to be gone through by applicants for diplomas in dentistry in foreign or colonial universities. That was a matter of considerable difficulty, but information had been obtained with regard to fifteen institutions, which granted such diplomas in dentistry. They were all in America. The Executive Committee had gone through the information, and decided that they would not recognise any diplomas that were obtained after less than three years' study. In doing that they found they were quite in accord with the general feeling of those in America who had most considered the matter, and they had come to the conclusion that the only two bodies whose diplomas they could recognise were the University of Harvard and the University of Michigan. With regard to the others they could not obtain sufficient information. He therefore moved that the report of the Executive Committee be received and adopted.

Dr. A. WOOD seconded the motion.

After a few remarks from Mr. Macnamara the motion was agreed to.

A discussion next took place as to the necessity for having in the Dental Register a column for additional diplomas, degrees, licences or letters, and it was ultimately decided to omit the column in the forthcoming Dentists' Register.

The following letter was read by the registrar :—

Austin's Court Farm, near Lichfield,
Dec. 24th, 1878.

SIR,—I consider I have a claim to be registered under Section 37 of the Dentists Act (1878), for which purpose I submit a copy of my indenture, which I have sent in accordance with instructions sent to me by the secretary of the Dental Reform Committee, who informs me that he is sure my case will be dealt with in a liberal spirit, and that I was to state my case in full to you.

Supposing I had only been apprenticed for four years, I should have been entitled to register, but by serving five I am excluded from it; nevertheless, a pupil serving four years, and commencing after me, would be entitled to register, therefore I think you will agree with me that my case is a very *hard one*, and, in the true meaning of the Act, I am equally entitled to it.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. J. C. MILLER, Esq.

ARTHUR COXON.

On the motion of Dr. HUMPHRY, seconded by Dr. A. WOOD, it was agreed, "That Mr. Arthur Coxon be allowed to be registered under the 37th Section of the Dentists Act on application at the termination of his apprenticeship."

Dr. A. SMITH then moved the customary resolutions empowering the Executive Committee to act until the next meeting of the Council, and tendering the thanks of the Council to Dr. A. Wood for his services as chairman of the Business Committee, to the treasurers, Dr. Quain and Dr. Pitman, and to the President.

The session of the Council then terminated.

OSTEOTOMY FOR GENU VALGUM AND VARUM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Since certain gentlemen have lately found it difficult to determine priority in the above operation, I may possibly help them to a conclusion on the matter. On Oct. 9th, 1876, Mr. H. Taylor, of Guildford, by my advice and in my presence, divided the femur (with Maunder's chisel) transversely just above the condyles, with an admirable result. I possess photographs of the young man both before and after operation.

I am, &c.,

C. F. MAUNDER.

Queen Anne-street, Cavendish-square, W., March 30th, 1879.