

diplomas a mere nullity, and draw from your funds to recruit the empty treasury of some college of physicians. The public will gain no advantage, nor will you, the graduates of Edinburgh;—who then will?—the impoverished College of Physicians, who, under their new charter, will secure the privilege of unjustly putting their hands into your pockets.

It is intended to send hence a petition to Parliament, or a memorial to Sir James Graham, or both, claiming a continuance of our present rights and privileges, without suffering the exaction of any other fee than that for registration; and it is to be hoped that many similar petitions will be forwarded by you, gentlemen, to secure yourselves from the evil that will ensue from any such retrospective operation of the new Medical Bill, or of new Charters, as there is reason to believe is intended.

My apology for intruding myself thus publicly on your notice is, simply, that your interests are in jeopardy, and I therefore hope to secure your indulgence.—I am, gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

P. BALLANTINE FERGUSON, M.D.

A Graduate of the University of Edinburgh of 1819.

#### QUERIES TO SIR JAMES GRAHAM.

1. Will the graduates in medicine of the University of Edinburgh, now in possession of their diploma, simply as such, on producing them to the Council of Health, be allowed to register as legal physicians?

2. Or will it also be necessary for such graduates to become fellows, associates, or licentiates, of some college of physicians, or of that college of physicians of that division of the kingdom in which they reside, and if such connexion with a college of physicians is obligatory on them, will any fee of admission be demanded, and of what amount?

14, Rivers-street, Bath, 18 March, 1845.

#### REGISTRATION UNDER SIR JAMES GRAHAM'S NEW MEDICAL BILL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—May I hope that you will give early publicity in the pages of your journal, to the following letter, which I addressed to Sir James Graham on the above subject, and also to the answer which I received to it?—Your obedient servant,

CHARLES CRADDOCK.

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

Sir,—As considerable doubt exists in the minds of medical men, as to the interpretation of Clauses 13 and 32 of the "Bill for regulating the Practice of Physic and Surgery," I should esteem it a favour if you would oblige me with answers to the following questions:—1st. Would members of the College of Surgeons, who hold also the licence of the Apothecaries' Company, be allowed to register as *surgeons* and also as *licentiates in medicine*; and if so, would the double fee be required for such registration?—2ndly. Would individuals who hold the diploma of the *College of Surgeons only*, and who have passed no examination whatever in medicine, be entitled to register as licentiates in *medicine* and *surgery*, and to recover for attendance on *medical* as well as on surgical cases? and, on the other hand, would individuals who hold only the licence from the Apothecaries' Society, and there are very many such practising as general practitioners, be entitled to register as licentiates in *medicine* and *surgery*, and to recover for attendance on *surgical* as well as on *medical* cases?

As meetings of the profession are about to take place, I think it very desirable that your opinion on these points should be ascertained.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

CHARLES CRADDOCK,

March 10, 1845.

Whitehall, March 17, 1845.

Sir,—I am directed by Secretary Sir James Graham to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, upon the subject of the Medical Practice Regulation Bill, and to acquaint you, in answer to the first query in your letter, that the Bill does not contemplate double registration, nor would anything be gained by it.

Members of the College of Surgeons will be entitled to register as surgeons, and being so registered, may practise as general practitioners if they please.

With respect to your second query, it is believed the number of those who have passed the Surgeons' College only, and yet practise generally, is not great. They will be entitled to register as surgeons, and to practise generally under the Bill.

Those who have the Apothecaries' licence only, will be entitled to register as licentiates, and to practise generally in surgery as well as medicine.

There is some inconvenience in this course, but not so great as would follow the opposite course.

Hereafter the Bill makes provision for complete examination in both medicine and surgery.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

S. M. PHILLIPS.

To Charles Craddock, Esq.,  
6, Chapel-place, Cavendish-square.

#### CORRESPONDENTS.

*H. M. S. F.*—If the University of St. Andrews can confer on its graduates the legal right to practise as physicians in any part of Scotland, however small, they will be able to register as physicians. It is not stated in the Bill whether the members of the Colleges of Surgeons of Edinburgh and Ireland, who undergo a general examination, will be admitted to register as licentiates in medicine and surgery. It would depend on the council to register them or not as surgeons. The Bill in its present state is very incomplete in these respects.

*Londonensis.*—All physicians, being members of British universities, which can give them a right to practise in any part of the kingdom, will be able to register as physicians. *Londonensis* will find, in clause 32, the provisions for the registration of those now in practice.

*P. S.* will be able to register as a licentiate in medicine and surgery, and to retain the word Surgeon on his door.

*An Old Subscriber* will be able to register as a licentiate in medicine and surgery, and to retain his present appointment.

*An Edinburgh Student.*—From the wording of clause 32, it would appear that the new Bill would not come into operation until the end of this session of parliament, so that all students who pass their examinations before that period will be able to register under clause 32.

*A General Practitioner.*—Foreign graduates who possess no British qualification will, most certainly, not be able to register.

*R. M. (Cornwall.)*—No foreign degree *alone* will entitle to register, without the licence of a college of physicians, and no foreign degree will entitle to examination before a college, unless obtained by residence. All graduates of British Universities having the power to confer a licence to *practise* in any part of the United Kingdom, will be able to register as physicians.

*A. B.*—The present members of the Apothecaries' Company will be able to register as licentiates in medicine and surgery in virtue of their licence. —Licentiates in Medicine and Surgery. Clause 20 only applies to those who after the passing of the Act undergo the tripartite examination.

*Avdp.*—The card forwarded to us is certainly a novel mode of attempting to get into practice, and anything but creditable to the gentleman who circulates it.

*Pater's (!) Son* will be able to register as a licentiate in medicine and surgery, and to retain his present title.

*Mr. Barrington's* note reached us too late to enable us to make the desired alteration.

*A Constant Reader (Zeta.)*—As a surgeon, or as a licentiate in medicine and surgery.

*Inquisitor* will be able to register as a surgeon. The Dublin midwifery certificate is not recognised in the Bill.

If a *Surgical Student* passes his examination at the College of Surgeons previous to the Bill's coming into action, he may, and most likely will, be admitted to register as a surgeon.

*T. R.*—The Irish Apothecaries' Company is not mentioned in the Bill.

*M. D. Edin., and F. R. C. P. E.*—It is only the British Universities that can give a *licence to practise*, somewhere or other, the graduates of which will be able to register as physicians. The graduates of the two bodies mentioned, although not named in the Bill as it now stands, will be most likely allowed to register as licentiates in medicine and surgery.

*Senex.*—We are not aware whether the University of St. Andrews can give a licence to practise or not. The fellows of the Edinburgh College of Physicians would only become associates of the London College on enrolment.

*A Subscriber (Kennington.)*—First. A licentiate of the Hall will be able to register as a general practitioner. Second. A member of the College will be able to register as a surgeon. There is no provision for double registration. Third. The registration qualification for poor-law appointments is not mentioned in the Bill.

*An Apprentice.*—What we stated with respect to the apprenticeship, referred more especially to the old Bill, by which the Apothecaries' Act was repealed. As in the amended Bill that Act is retained, it is evident that the apprenticeship to members of the Apothecaries' Company cannot be said to be destroyed. At the same time, apprenticeship not being recognised or demanded in the Bill, for any grade of the profession, it is evident that it would become a dead letter. Present apprentices will, most likely, have to conform to the regulations of the Bill, on graduating, whatever these regulations may be.

*A Subscriber.*—The suspicion of her having died from neglect ought to have induced the coroner to order a post-mortem examination.

The emendations of *M.D.* shall be fully considered.

A *Subscriber* would not be able, with his present qualification, to hold a poor-law appointment. Under the new Bill he would register as a licentiate in medicine and surgery.

*Chirurgus* (Northleach.)—The coroner was not obliged.

A *Constant Subscriber* (Heidelberg.)—Not as physician, but probably as a surgeon. The other question is answered in several other notices.

A *Constant Reader* is referred to the author of the paper alluded to in his letter. His address is affixed to his communication. We are satisfied that he will afford our correspondent every facility in the solution of his questions, as well as his assistance in the interesting history he proposes to compile.

We have received the letter from Dorchester, expressive of the disapprobation of the general practitioners of that town of the amended Bill, and their intention to prepare petitions against it to present to parliament.

No *Fellow*.—A. would be able to register as a surgeon, as a licentiate in medicine and surgery, or as both; B. would be able to register as a licentiate in medicine and surgery; and as to D., we do not see how he could register at all.

One in a state of *Uncertainty*.—As a surgeon, or as a physician. It is not known what the College of Physicians means to do with its extra licentiates.

A *Constant Reader*.—Those who possess double qualifications will not be able to register in a double capacity.

A *Constant Reader*, as a licentiate of the Apothecaries' Company, will register as a licentiate in medicine and surgery, and no doubt, as such, be allowed to occupy a poor-law appointment. The power will rest, however, with the council (clause 28.)

Mr. J. Pearce's paper was duly received, and shall be inserted as soon as possible.

The principle against which *Justus* inveighs has been considered. We agree with him, that the course pursued in this instance is unjust to those who have completed their medical and surgical education, but we doubt whether it will be possible to oppose it with any chance of success. None of the public associations appear inclined even to give an opinion on the subject.

Pat, a *Constant Subscriber*.—According to clause 32, University M.B.'s, if legally qualified by their M.B. degree to practise in any part of the kingdom, will be able to register as physicians. It is for those who hold such degrees to ascertain from their respective universities what legal rights have been conferred upon them. We should suppose that under the new Bill the *Inceptor* degree will replace that of M.B.; it will give power to register as licentiate in medicine and surgery. Our correspondent's London degree will enable him to register in the latter capacity.

We are not able to give Mr. H. L.—s the name and address which he requires.

Mr. B. Broadhurst's case has been received, and shall be inserted in an early number.

Mr. Meade's paper shall appear very shortly.

We have been requested to insert the following letter:—

"SYNCLONUS BALLISMUS OF MASON GOOD.

SIR,—A most obstinate case of the above disease has resisted for the last two years all treatment, physical and mechanical, that extensive experience and careful consideration could suggest. Will, therefore, some of your numerous readers favour me with any remedies which they have found useful either to mitigate or cure this distressing complaint?

Your insertion of the above letter in your widely-circulated Journal, will oblige, Sir, your obedient servant,

"WILLIAM PATTESON, M.R.C.S.

"Cecil-square, Margate, March 10, 1845."

A correspondent writes as follows, in reference to the paper of Y. Z., published in a late number of THE LANCET:—"Your correspondent has merely added to the old and well-known nitrate of silver injection, a syringe of a peculiar make, which he applies himself, thereby giving to the minds of his patients an air of empiricism in his treatment, but the advantages of which I cannot see over the common ivory or glass instruments. The antiphlogistic plan, he speaks of, is had recourse to by every well-informed medical man, when the inflammatory symptoms are high. Balsam copaiba merely robs the urine of its mucus, being possessed, I believe, of very little, if any, other virtue, nature doing a great deal towards the cure when not obstructed by intemperance or other means. I will conclude by giving a word of advice to your correspondent—namely, to be very cautious in the use of injections, even though the inflammation may be fast subsiding, and it not a first time for the patient to be suffering under gonorrhoea, should there be much discharge; otherwise the very prudent precaution of wearing a suspensory bandage will not at all times be sufficient to prevent orchitis.

"E. G."

The questions sent to us by the various correspondents, which are unnoticed this week, will be answered in the next LANCET.

Communications have been received from *Chirurgus*—A *Subscriber*—No *Fellow*—Mr. Charles Clough—Mr. Hyde Clarke—Y. Y.—Mr. F. Bastone—Dr. Brown (Boston)—Mr. W. Curtis—Dr. J. S. Campbell—A *Constant Reader*—D. E. L.—M.D. Edin.—Mr. R. Eager—J. T. P.—Beta—Vindex—Mr. Champneys—D. M. D.—Mr. J. Symonds—Mr. W. C. Radley—Dr. R. MacDonnell—A *Cosmopolite*.

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(Signed) DR. G. F. W. BALSER, Dean, and the other Professors of the Medical Faculty.

Giessen, 13th March, 1845.

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