

within seven days after its close, the officer in charge transmit a duly authenticated copy thereof to the Registrar of the Branch Council of that division of the United Kingdom to which the body or bodies belong.

14. That the Registrar of the Branch Council lay the copy of the said Register before the Branch Council, in order that the Branch Council may take whatever steps may seem necessary to secure its accuracy; and that it be thereafter transmitted, with any remarks by the Branch Council thereon, to the Executive Committee.

15. That the licensing bodies shall have power to admit exceptions as to the time of registration, if satisfactory to them, and transmit lists of such exceptions to the Branch Council of the part of the United Kingdom in which such exceptions shall have been granted, with the grounds stated.

16. That the various educational and licensing bodies be requested to transmit to the Registrar of the General Council, returns, embodying any alterations which they may from time to time introduce into their courses of general study and examinations, which qualify for the registration of medical students; and that a copy of such returns be sent by the Registrar, as soon as convenient, to each member of the General Council.

II.—Professional Education.

17. That the age of twenty-one be the earliest age at which any professional licence shall be obtained.

18. That four years of professional study be required, after the examination in general education.

III.—Professional Examinations.

19. That the professional examinations be divided into at least two distinct parts; that the first be not undergone until after the termination of two years of study, and the final examination not until after the termination of four years of study.

20. That the first professional examination be conducted partly in writing and partly *viva voce*; and that such parts as admit of it be made as practical and demonstrative as possible.

21. That the second examination be conducted partly in writing, partly *viva voce*, and practically, so far as may be convenient and attainable.

22. That the professional examinations be held by the several licensing bodies (except in special cases) at stated periods, to be publicly notified.

23. That returns from the licensing bodies under Schedule A be made annually, on the 1st of January, to the General Medical Council, stating the number and names of the candidates who have passed their respective final examinations, and the number of those who have been rejected.

24. That it be recommended to all the examining boards that they should require from every candidate for examination before them a statement, signed by himself, whether he has or has not been rejected within three months by any of the examining boards included in Schedule A of the Medical Act.

25. That it is not desirable that any University of the United Kingdom should confer any degree in Medicine or Surgery, whether that of Bachelor, Doctor, or Master, upon candidates who have not graduated in Arts, or passed all the examinations required for the Bachelorship in Arts, or the examinations equivalent to those required for a degree in Arts.

9. Moved by Dr. Stokes, seconded by Dr. Embleton, and agreed to,—“That the Report of the General Committee on Education be adopted.”

10. Moved by Dr. Stokes, seconded by Mr. Teale, and agreed to,—“That copies of the Report on Education be transmitted by the Registrar to the various bodies mentioned in Schedule A, and also to the Commissioners of the Scottish Universities, and to each of the Scottish University Courts.”

11. Moved by Dr. Andrew Wood, seconded by Mr. Lawrence, and agreed to,—“That the best thanks of this Council are eminently due, and are hereby offered, to the Royal College of Physicians of London, for their obliging and courteous accommodation during the present session of the Medical Council.”

12. Moved by Dr. Andrew Wood, seconded by Mr. Lawrence, and agreed to,—“That a gratuity of ten guineas be given to the servants of the Royal College of Physicians of London.”

Confirmed—JOSEPH HENRY GREEN.

MINUTES OF ADJOURNED MEETING, SATURDAY, JULY 6TH, 1861.

Mr. GREEN, President, took the chair at five o'clock P.M.
Present—Mr. Arnott, Dr. Embleton, Dr. Storrar, Dr. Andrew Wood, Mr. Watt, Dr. A. Smith, Dr. Sharpey, Mr. Teale.
The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Correspondence.

“Andi alteram partem.”

THE LATE ELECTION AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

(LETTER FROM PROFESSOR FERGUSSON.)

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Three years ago a clamour was raised against me for alleged communion with homœopaths. In consequence of an urgent and courteous appeal on your part, I sent a note of explanation, which you did me the favour to publish in your number for May 8th, 1858. That explanation was accepted by some, but not by others, although, as far as I know, my name has not since been publicly associated with the subject until within the last few weeks.

Recent events at the College of Surgeons have given occasion to a revival of the clamour referred to, and my orthodoxy has been again challenged. I might refer to the note above alluded to, as my answer now, as it was then; but years make a difference in various ways, and I shall, with your leave, say a little more than when I last addressed you.

The fault of which I was accused three years ago, was that I had travelled in company with a homœopath to relieve a gentleman of retention of urine, when the regular surgeon in attendance had failed; and I was further accused of holding consultations with homœopaths. The former charge I admitted, and the latter I distinctly denied. In addition, I stated that “I had no faith in homœopathy,” and that “I gave no encouragement to homœopaths to consult me.” I added further that I never refused my surgical services in any important case where they might be required, and would hold my conduct unjustifiable if any evil or fatal result ensued from negligence or refusal on my part.

To all these views I hold as strongly now as I did at the time in question. I still do not consult with homœopaths; I still have no faith in homœopathy, and I still give no encouragement to homœopaths to consult me.

I never intended, and do not wish now, to have or leave room for any quibble on these points. I have been told that to meet a homœopath in any way in a case is to consult with him, and that, therefore, my denial is worthless; that such meeting amounts to a consultation. With those who take this view I at once plead guilty. I am occasionally consulted by homœopaths (as I know other surgeons are), and, hearing their history of a case in clearer terms than from the patient or a friend, I give my surgical opinion; with this the interview ends. From first to last there is not a word about homœopathy introduced; but should there be, I invariably let the patient know that I have no faith in such doctrine, and that I am giving my opinion solely as a surgeon.

I am not aware that I have met with any man who has stronger views, prepossessions, or objections against homœopathy than I have. No homœopath can say that I ever conceded to him one tittle on homœopathic principles; and as a public teacher of thirty-five years' standing, I appeal to my numerous pupils with the utmost confidence that they will free me from the imputation of having ever encouraged such doctrines.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM FERGUSSON, F.R.C.S.
George-street, Hanover-square, July, 1861.

HEALTH OF CHILDREN.—THE WHITECHAPEL INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Two letters having lately appeared in your journal with reference to the health of the North Surrey and Central London District Schools, and my attention having been drawn to them, I find on perusal that the communication from the Central London District Schools, forwarded by Dr. Goodchild, appears to cast some reflections, whether intentional or not, on the schools from which the St. Pancras children have been re-