

them (the Fellows) in scientific and practical knowledge and attainments?" I put this question in all humility to myself, and not with reference to those gentlemen who drew up the protest.

Again; I do not partake of the opinion that it is an "affront to the respectable members of the College" to be invited to undergo another examination. Conscious as I am that the examination for the membership is no proof of any great surgical acquirements, I have thought it necessary to obtain the higher testimonial of a degree at the University of London.

Lastly, I entertain a very decided objection to the addition of any observation upon the answer of the council to the Regent-street Committee. The proceedings of this latter body have clearly shown that they were actuated by no spirit of sincerity in their application to the council; and it is to be feared that this application was not only calculated, but designed, to provoke such a contemptuous reply as was actually elicited.

I have the honour to be, Sir, with the greatest respect,

Your most obedient servant,

ROBERT BARNES, M.B.

Bulmer House, Notting Hill, May 19th, 1845.

ADMISSION TO THE COLLEGES "AFTER EXAMINATION."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I wish at this juncture to direct your attention, while it is yet time, to the expediency of omitting the words "after examination" from clauses 19 and 20 of the Bill. I hope and trust you will exercise your influence in Parliament for this object.

It is true, that existing legally-qualified practitioners in Scotland and Ireland will be entitled to practise in England; but an M.D. belonging to no College of Physicians, or only to that of Edinburgh or Dublin, will have no chance in competing with members of the London College for public appointments. In fact, the boasted equality of privilege, so far as existing practitioners are concerned, will only be *nominal*, not *real*. Moreover, by refusing to admit the great body of British physicians into their ranks, the London College will only perpetuate that estrangement which has too long existed, and numbers of physicians will still continue to practise (under sanction of Government) without the College licence.

The same remarks apply with equal force to the relation of surgeons and general practitioners now in practice with the London College of Surgeons.

I hope that, with your wonted ability and firmness, you will make a vigorous stand against the two proud Colleges in this respect. I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

M.D., M.R.C.S. ENG.

May 10th, 1845.

THE MEDICAL QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following is a copy of a letter I this morning received from Mr. Berkeley, M.P. for Bristol, in reply to one that I addressed to that gentleman on Saturday last, requesting his opposition to the proposed plan of Sir James Graham for the incorporation of the general practitioners, as well as to the passing of the Medical Bill as at present constructed.

I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,

ROBERT T. HAWLEY BARTLEY.

Stokescroft, Bristol, May 14, 1845.

"Berkeley House, May 13, 1845.

"SIR,—The course which I have commenced, as regards Sir James Graham's Surgery Bill, I intend to carry out. Presuming that you see the papers, I do not further explain. Without pledging myself to support any individual, I can nevertheless assure you, that to the present time I perfectly agree in the opinions expressed by Mr. Wakley.

"I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

"F. HENRY F. BERKELEY."

MR. GUTHRIE'S REPLY TO MR. DENHAM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Mr. Guthrie, writing to me on the subject of the letter I addressed to him last week, (LANCET, p. 596,) says, that he "trusts that the differences which have taken place between the Council and the members may yet be adjusted in a satisfactory manner."

No one can be more likely than Mr. Guthrie to be intimately acquainted with the sentiments of the College Council, and I sincerely trust that that gentleman's surmises about a "satisfactory" arrangement may be well-founded. At any rate, the members of the College will receive with pleasure Mr. Guthrie's statement,

and be urged by it, if possible, to more determined efforts to obtain their rights. Nothing but a firm and honest conviction of the injustice inflicted upon the members of the College by the late Charter could ever have induced Mr. Guthrie—himself a councillor—to oppose it as he has done. His statement, too, that we may "rely on his best endeavours for the advancement of the profession," will be received with pleasure by some thousands of his professional brethren, and induce them to look to his standard as a rallying-point.

Now, Sir, or never, is the time for the Council to review the past; and surely it is more than possible that they will do so when they find that the members would spurn the unholy thought of rendering the College an appendage to a drug shop. No such debased idea ever haunted the imagination of the members. Their aim and object are now, as they have ever been, to raise it to a more elevated place in the sphere of science; to behold in it a really national institution for the advancement of medical science, and the reward of intellect.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Hereford, May 27, 1845.

WM. HEMPSON DENHAM.

APPLICATIONS TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Allow me to suggest that gentlemen from the country who may be deputed to attend the proposed Aggregate Meeting in London, should be prepared with authority from the country surgeons to go to their parliamentary representatives, and explain to them their views on the subject of medical reform. They should also, while in town, often call upon members of Parliament, to urge the attendance of those gentlemen in the House of Commons on occasions in which questions relating to the reform of medical law may be discussed, and their co-operation required in favour of sound changes in that law.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

JOSEPH CURTIS.

Camden Town, May 26, 1845.

ENFRANCHISEMENT IN THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

WE have received an enormous number of communications, of which the following brief note is a sample, selecting it indiscriminately from the mass. Its publication, accompanied by this statement, will afford to our readers (as the communications have done to us) additional proofs of the opinions entertained in the profession on the subject of enfranchisement in the College of Surgeons:—

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Allow me to request you to add my name to those who wish to obtain enfranchisement in the College of Surgeons in preference to a separate incorporation, and, at the same time, to express my unfeigned regret at the conduct of the Hanover-square clique.

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD MOORE,

M.D., M.R.C.S.E., & L.A.H.L.

Thurlow House, Hackney-road, May 23, 1845.

THE AGGREGATE MEETING AND CONFERENCE, AND THE WORTHLESS COMMITTEE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I am one of those hundreds you describe, as "meditating their withdrawal from the National Association"—a step you consider imprudent. To determine this question, let us take for our text the offer which Sir JAMES GRAHAM has made us—that is, the establishment of a college, on an avowed basis of inferiority to the one to which we legally belong. Does any one doubt the estimation in which the public will hold this new abortion, let him observe amongst the provisions the three following:—

1st. It is *not* to furnish examiners to the board for preliminary examination; members of the two other colleges only being competent to that appointment.

2nd. Persons desiring to register as physicians, or as surgeons, are ineligible to present themselves for examination, before either college, until they shall have attained the age of twenty-six; but for the other, and consequently *inferior* college, they may apply at the age of twenty-two.

3rd. General practitioners are identified with *surgeon apothecaries*; who, in speaking of them, will not drop the surgeon?

Now this is a small sample of the terms which our committee have the modesty to inform us they have had no hesitation in accepting on behalf of the general practitioners; and when to this is added the fact, that, in conjunction with the Apothecaries'