

that official eminence to which they have improperly, and unfortunately for society, been raised.

Whatever is to be done by practitioners to get rid of this odious regulation must be done quickly, and we hope to see, in a very few days, a Meeting of the Profession announced, having for its chairman some member of the College, whose name will give consequence and importance to the proceedings.

#### THE CHARTER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON.

George the Third, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all to whom these presents shall come, Whereas our royal predecessor, King Edward IV. by certain letters patent, under the great seal of England, bearing date the 24th day of February, in the first year of his reign, did, at the supplication of the Freemen of the Mystery of Barbers of the city of London, using the mystery or faculty of surgery, grant to them, among other things, that the said mystery, and all the men of the same mystery of the said city, should be one body and perpetual community, and that two principals of the same commonalty, of the most expert men in the mystery of surgery, might, with the assent of twelve, or eight persons at the least, of the same community, every year elect and make out of the community, two masters, or governors, being the most expert in the mystery of surgery, to oversee, rule, and govern, the mystery and commonalty aforesaid.

And whereas by an Act of Parliament made and passed in the 32nd year of the late King Henry VIII. entitled for Barbers and Surgeons, after reciting, that, within the city of London, there were then two several and distinct companies of surgeons, occupying and

exercising the faculty of surgery, one company called the Barbers of London, and the other company called the Surgeons of London. It was thereby enacted, that the said two several and distinct companies of surgeons should from thenceforth be united, and made one entire and whole body corporate, and one commonalty perpetual, which at all times thereafter should be called by the name of the Masters or Governors of the Mystery and Commonalty of the Barbers and Surgeons of London; and by the same name to implead and be impleaded before all manner of Justices, in all Courts, and in all manner of suits.

And whereas in and by certain letters patent, under the great seal of England, bearing date the 15th day of August, in the fifth year of the reign of his late Majesty, King Charles I. reciting, that the men of the same companies enjoyed divers liberties and franchises within the city of London, the suburbs and liberties thereof, by virtue of divers Acts of Parliament, and divers charters, and letters patent, his said Majesty did grant and confirm unto the said Masters and Governors of the mystery and commonalty aforesaid, and their successors, all and singular the manors, messuages, lands, tenements, customs, liberties, franchises, immunities, jurisdictions, and hereditaments, whatsoever, which the men of the said companies then held, used and enjoyed, by any lawful means or title whatsoever: and his said late Majesty did thereby give power to the said corporation, to make annual elections of Masters or Governors of the said commonalty, whereof two to be professors in the art and science of surgery; and also to elect and constitute ten of the freemen of the said society to be examiners of surgeons in London.

And whereas by an Act of Parliament, made and passed in the 18th year of the reign of our late royal grandfather, King George II. intitled "an Act for making the surgeons of London and the Barbers of London, two separate and distinct corporations," It was enacted, that the said union and incorporation of the Barbers and Surgeons of London, made and effected by the aforesaid Act of the 32nd year of King Henry VIII. should, from and after the 24th day of June, 1745, be dissolved and declared void and of no effect; and that such of the members of the said united company who were freemen of the said company, and admitted and approved surgeons, within the rules of the said company, and

their successors, should, from thenceforth, be made, and they were thereby made and constituted, a separate and distinct body corporate and commonalty perpetual, which at all times thereafter were to be called by the name of Master, Governors, and Commonalty of the art and science of Surgeons of London, and by the same name might implead and be impleaded, before all manner of Justices, in all Courts, and in all manner of actions and suits, and take to them and their successors, lands, tenements, rents, or hereditaments, not exceeding the yearly value of 200l. in the whole.

And whereas we are informed that the said Corporation of Master, Governors, and Commonalty of the Art and Science of Surgeons of London, hath become and now is dissolved: And whereas it is of great consequence to the commonweal of this kingdom, that the art and science of surgery should be duly promoted: And whereas it appears to us, that the establishment of a College of Surgeons will be expedient for the due promotion and encouragement of the study and practice of the said art and science, now we, of our special grace and mere motion, and at the humble petition of James Earle, Esq. the late master, and divers other members of the aforesaid late corporation of surgeons; have willed, ordained, constituted, declared, given and granted, and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, do will, ordain, constitute and declare, give and grant unto the aforesaid James Earle, and unto all the members of the said late company or corporation of master, governors, and commonalty of the art and science of surgeons of London, having been admitted and approved surgeons, within the rules of the said company; and also unto all such persons, who upon, or since, the dissolution of the said corporation, shall have obtained letters testimonial, under a seal purporting to be the seal of the said late dissolved corporation, authorizing them to practise the art and science of surgery; that they, from henceforth for ever hereafter, shall be and remain by virtue of these presents, one body corporate and politic; by the name of **THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON**, and by the same name shall and may have perpetual succession, and a common seal; with power to break, alter, and make anew, the said seal from time to time, at their will and pleasure; and by the same name shall and may implead, and be impleaded, before all manner of

Justices, in all Courts, and in all manner of actions and suits; and shall be at all times and for ever hereafter persons able and capable in Law to take, purchase, possess, hold and enjoy, and shall and may take, purchase, possess, hold and enjoy, a Hall or Council-house, with its appurtenances, situate within the Cities of London or Westminster, or within one mile of either of them, for the use and purposes of the said College; and also any other lands, tenements, rents, and hereditaments wheresoever situate, lying and being; not exceeding together with the aforesaid hall or council-house, and its appurtenances, the yearly value of one thousand pounds in the whole; without incurring any of the penalties in any statute of mortmain, or any thing, in any statute of mortmain, to the contrary notwithstanding.

And it is our further will and pleasure, that nothing in these presents shall be construed to give the corporation of the City of London any power or jurisdiction over the said College hereby established and incorporated; and that no person, by virtue of these our letters patent, constituted or ordained, or hereafter to be admitted a member of the said college, shall be thereby entitled to any franchise belonging to the Freemen of the City of London.

And it is our further will and pleasure, and we do hereby, so far as we lawfully can or may, grant and ordain, that the said Royal College of Surgeons hereby incorporated, shall and may exercise and enjoy all and singular other the gifts, grants, liberties, privileges and immunities, possessions, real and personal, whatsoever and wheresoever, herein before-mentioned, or by any Act or Acts of Parliament, or by any letters patent, of our Royal Predecessors, Kings and Queens of England; given, granted, and confirmed unto, or otherwise lawfully acquired by, and belonging to the said late Master, Governors, and Commonalty of the Art and Science of Surgeons; or any of them, and not hereby altered, taken away, changed, or abridged, made void, or annulled.\*

\* The privileges which the Members of the Corporation obtained at different times, from the first incorporation of the body by a Charter, in the reign of King Edward IV. were, Liberty to practise Surgery, to the exclusion of unqualified persons; and the exemption, which were granted to them, were from the offices of Watch and Ward; from Juries and Inquests; and the bearing of armour. These were granted, at different periods, by Charters of the 24th of February, 1st Edward IV.; 6th

And it is our further will and pleasure, that the College of Surgeons hereby established, shall be liable to, and shall perform, such duties as the late dissolved Corporation of Surgeons was at any time heretofore liable to, and did perform, by virtue of an act made in the 25th year of the reign of our Royal Grandfather, King George II., intitled, "An act for the better preventing the horrid crime of murder."

And further we will, that the said College shall, and by these presents they are required to purchase or provide a proper room, house, or building, with suitable conveniences, within four hundred yards, at the farthest, from the usual place of execution for the County of Middlesex, or the City of London, and the Suburbs thereof; for the purpose of more conveniently dissecting and anatomizing the bodies of such murderers as shall at any time hereafter be delivered to them by virtue of the last mentioned act.

And it is our further will and pleasure, that it shall and may be lawful, to and for the said College, hereby established and incorporated, from time to time in the manner hereinafter mentioned, to elect, choose and appoint, twenty-one persons to be the court of assistants of the said College: of which court of assistants ten persons shall at all times be constituted and appointed examiners of surgeons for the said College; and of such ten persons one

shall be Principal Master, and two others shall be Governors; to be respectively qualified and admitted in such manner, and to continue in the said offices respectively, for such time or times as by these our letters patent is hereinafter ordered and appointed. And it shall and may be lawful for the Master and Governors of the said College, or for one of them, together with ten or more of the Members of the said court of assistants for the time being, when and as often as to any one of the Master or Governors shall seem meet, to hold courts and assemblies, in order to treat and consult about, and concerning, the rule, order, state, and government of the said College. And also that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Master and Governors, and court of assistants so assembled, or the major part of them, to make, ordain, confirm, annul, or revoke, from time to time, such bye-laws, ordinances, rules, and constitutions as to them shall seem requisite and convenient, for the regulation, government, and advantage of the said College: so as such bye-laws, ordinances, rules and constitutions be not contrary to law; and in all such cases as shall be necessary, be examined, approved of, and allowed, as by the laws and statutes of this realm is provided and required: and also to transact and ordain all such other matters and things as the Master, Governors and court of assistants, of the late dissolved Company or Corporation, of the Master, Governors, and Commonalty of the Art and Science of Surgeons of London, might heretofore lawfully do, transact, or ordain."

And further we will, that Charles Hawkins, esq. one of our principal serjeant surgeons, shall be and he is hereby constituted and appointed the first Master of the said College of Surgeons: and that William Long and George Chandler, Esquires, shall be, and they are hereby constituted and appointed, the first Governors of the same: And that the said Charles Hawkins, William Long, and George Chandler, together with Joseph Warner, William Lucas, Samuel Howard, and William Cooper, Esquires, the said James Earle, Thomas Keate, Esquire, the Surgeon General to our Forces, and Charles Blicke, Esq. shall be, and they are hereby constituted and appointed, the first examiners of Surgeons for the said College. And also that the said Charles Hawkins, William Long, Charles Chandler, and Joseph Warner, Jonathan Wathep,

of December, 15th Henry VII.; 12th of March, 3d Henry VIII.; 31st of January, 2d James I.; and 15th of August, 5th Charles I.; and by Acts of Parliament, of the 5th and 32d Henry VIII. and 18th George II.

But as all these rights and exemptions were fully confirmed and established by the Act of the 18th George II.; it is thought unnecessary to enumerate any of the earlier authorities; and that it will be sufficient to state, that by the Act of 18th George II. it was enacted, "That the Company of Surgeons, made and incorporated by that Act, and their successors, and all such who then had been, or thereafter should be examined and approved, pursuant to the rules of the said Company, should be entitled to practise freely, and without restraint, the Art and Science of Surgery, throughout all and every his Majesty's dominions, any Law or custom to the contrary notwithstanding."

"And it was further enacted, that all and every the freemen of the said corporation, and who had been, or thereafter should be examined and approved, pursuant to the rules and orders of the said Company, and every of them, for so long time as they should use and exercise the Art or Science of Surgery, and no longer, should and might, at all times thereafter, be freed and exempted from the several offices of constable, scavenger, overseer of the poor, and all other parish, ward, and leet offices; and of and from the being put into, or serving upon, any Jury or Inquest."

Esquire; the said William Lucas, Samuel Howard, William Cooper, James Earle, and Charles Blicke, Thompson Forster, Esquire, John Birch, Esq. the said Thomas Keate, John Heavyside, John Howard, William Bizard, and Henry Cline, Esquires, David Dundas, Esquire, the other of our principal Serjeant Surgeons; and such three other persons as shall be elected to that office on the day whereon the court of assistants of the said College, hereby incorporated, shall first meet, after the date of these our letters patent, or at a court of assistants to be holden within one month then next after; shall be and they are hereby constituted the first court of assistants of the said College of Surgeons, hereby incorporated and established.

And it is our further will, that the said master and Governors shall respectively hold and enjoy their said offices of Master and Governors from henceforth until the first Thursday in July next after the day of the date of these presents; and from thenceforth until a new election of a Master and Governors of the said Corporation shall take place, as is hereinafter expressed.

And we also will, that the said persons, so before named and constituted examiners of surgeons of the said college, and their successors in that office, duly chosen, nominated, or appointed, and that the said persons so before named and constituted assistants of the said college, established by these our letters patent, and their successors in that office, duly chosen, nominated or appointed, shall respectively hold and enjoy their said offices during their natural lives, or until they shall be lawfully removed out of the said offices for any reasonable cause.

And it is our further will and pleasure, that the two principal serjeant surgeons to us, and to our heirs and successors, and the surgeon general to our forces, and to the forces of our heirs and successors, if they or any of them, at the times of their appointments respectively, shall not be members of the courts of assistants and examiners of the said college, shall be from time to time admitted members of the said court of assistants, and also examiners of the said college hereby incorporated, when and so soon as any vacancy shall happen, from time to time, after the appointment of every such serjeant surgeon, or surgeon general respectively, in preference to all other persons.

And further it is our will and pleasure, that the masters and governors of the said college, hereby incorporated and established, or one of them, together with the assistants of the said college, hereby nominated, or the major part of them, shall, within thirty days next after the date of these our letters patent, meet at such place at which the persons, members of the said late corporation, shall have usually held their meetings, for the space of six months next before the day of the date of these presents, or at such other place within the cities of London or Westminster, or within one mile of either of those cities, as the master or governors, or any two of them, hereby constituted, shall in that behalf, by notice to be by them given and published in the London Gazette, fourteen days before the day of holding such meeting for that purpose, appoint; and shall then and there hold a court of assistants, for carrying into effect these our letters patent; and at such court the said master and governors, examiners and assistants, or such of them as shall be then present, shall administer unto each other respectively, and each of them shall take the respective oaths following, that is to say, the said master and governors shall take the following oath:—"You do swear that, according to the best of your skill and knowledge, you will discharge the several trusts and powers vested in you as master (or governor, as the case may be) of the Royal College of Surgeons in London; and that you will diligently maintain the honor and welfare of the said college; and in all things, which shall in any sort concern your office, you will act faithfully and honestly, without favour or affection, prejudice or partiality, to any person or persons whomsoever.—So help you God."

And that each of such examiners and assistants shall take the following oath, that is to say:—"You do swear, that so long as you shall remain in the office of examiner (or assistant as the case may be) of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, you will diligently maintain the honor and welfare of the said college; and in all things relating to your office, and with all manner of persons, act equally and impartially, according to the best of your skill and knowledge.—So help you God."

And no person hereby appointed, or hereafter to be elected master, governor, examiner, or assistant of the said college, hereby established and incorporated, shall proceed to act in the ex-

execution of such office, until he and they shall have taken the respective oath and oaths herein before-mentioned, which shall be duly administered to them respectively, at a court of assistants to be holden in pursuance of these our letters patent.

And we further will, that the master, governors and assistants, for the time being, of the said college, hereby made and established, shall, upon the first Thursday in the month of July next after the date of these our letters patent, or within one month then after, and upon the first Thursday in July, in every succeeding year, or within one month then after, meet in the place which shall from time to time be used, or appointed to be used as their hall or council-house, or as near to such hall or council-house as conveniently may be; and then and there elect, chuse, and appoint out of the examiners, by the majority of votes of such of the court of assistants as shall be then present, one person to be principal master, and two other persons to be governors of the said college, for the then succeeding year; and then and there also, in like manner, chuse and appoint one or more of our principal serjeant surgeons, or the surgeon-general of our forces, if not already an examiner or examiners of surgeons of the said college; or otherwise shall chuse and appoint out of their own body, some other person or persons, to be examiner or examiners of surgeons for the same college, in the place and stead of such examiner or examiners as shall have happened to die, or have been removed from the said office of examiner in the then next preceding year, unless such vacancies in the office of master or governor, and in that court, shall have been previously filled up within the then preceding year, which it shall be lawful for the said court of assistants to do, at any special court to be held for that purpose. And also in like manner chuse and appoint, out of the members of the said college established by these presents, some person or persons to be of the Court of Assistants of the said College, in the place of such person or persons who shall have happened to die in or have been removed from the said office of one of the court of assistants in the then next preceding year; unless such vacancies in that court shall have been previously filled up within the then preceding year; which it shall be lawful for the said Court of Assistants to do, at a special court to be held for that purpose.

And it is our will and pleasure, that the Master, or one of the Governors, together with ten assistants at the least, shall be at all times sufficient to constitute a Court of Assistants for the purpose of such elections, or for the purpose of transacting any other business belonging to the said Court. But no Court of Assistants shall be holden for the special purpose of electing any person to be Master, Governor, Examiner, or Assistant; without seven days previous notice to be given for that purpose, by summons to the members of the Court of Assistants for the time being.

And furthermore it is our will and pleasure, that if at any time or times hereafter, it shall happen that the Master and both the Governors of the said college hereby established, shall die, or become incapable of acting before the election of a new master and governors, according to the provisions herein before contained, that then, and in every such case, it shall and may be lawful for the senior member of the Court of Assistants, who shall be capable of attending, to summon, to convene, and hold a Court of Assistants, which shall be held as soon as may be next after the death or incapacity of the last of such of them the said Master and Governors, who shall be so dead or incapable of acting; and that at such Court, a Master and Governors of the said college shall be elected for the remainder of the then current year; and that it shall and may be lawful for the senior assistant of the said college who shall be then present, to preside at and hold such Court, and to administer to the new Master and Governors, who shall be then and there elected, the oath appointed to be taken by the Master and Governors of the said College as aforesaid, any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding; And in case it shall so happen that on the day appointed for the ordinary election of Master and Governors for the ensuing year, the Master and both the Governors shall be dead, or incapable of attending, the senior member of the Court of Assistants, who shall be present at the Court of Assistants to be held for the purpose of such election, shall preside at, and hold such Court, and administer to the new Master and Governors, who shall then and there be elected, the oath appointed to be taken by the Master and Governors of the said college as aforesaid, any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding and in case it shall at any time happen,

that the persons who shall assemble at the day and place appointed for any Court of Assistants to be holden in pursuance of these our letters patent, shall not be capable of holding such Court, by reason of the absence of any of the members of the Court whose presence shall be required for that purpose, it shall be lawful for the senior member present to adjourn such Court to a future day, provided that no such adjournment shall be made until after the expiration of one hour, at the least, from the hour appointed for holding such Court.

And it is our further will and pleasure, that after the day of the date of these presents, no person except those who before the day of the date of these presents were Members of the late Corporation of Surgeons, established by the said act, made and passed in the eighteenth year of the reign of our Royal Grandfather, King George II.; and also excepting such persons as shall have received such letters testimonials as aforesaid, under a seal purporting to be the seal of the late dissolved Company or Corporation of Surgeons, shall be capable of becoming a Member of the said College hereby established, unless he shall have obtained letters testimonial of his qualification to practise the art and science of surgery, under the common seal of the college hereby established; but every person who shall hereafter obtain such letters testimonial, under the common seal of the college aforesaid, shall thereby, by virtue of such letters testimonial, become and be constituted a member of the said college, subject to all the regulations, provisions, and bye-laws of the said college.

And it is our further will and pleasure, that from and after such day on which the court of assistants of the college hereby established shall first meet, in the manner before-mentioned, the Examiners of the College of surgeons hereby established, shall and they are hereby required from time to time, upon request to them made by the commander-in-chief of our forces, and by the Lord High Admiral or Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral, or any other officer of us, our heirs or successors, properly authorised to examine every person who shall be a candidate to be appointed to serve as a surgeon or assistant surgeon in any regiment, troop, company, hospital, or garrison of soldiers, in the service of ourselves, our heirs or successors, or to serve as a surgeon or surgeon's

mate, appointed on board any ship or ships in the service of ourselves, our heirs and successors, or any other service in which we, our heirs, or successors, shall think fit to employ any person to act in any such capacities, and shall accept and receive for each such examination, from the persons so examined respectively, such fee or reward as shall from time to time be allowed by such officer or officers of us, our heirs and successors, as shall be authorised to require such examinations, to be had respectively, and no more; and shall also in like manner examine all surgeons' instruments to be used in our service, which they shall be required in like manner to examine, and shall return such instruments, when examined; to such person or persons as shall be appointed to receive the same, with such certificate, in such form, and properly sealed up, or otherwise authenticated in such manner as the officer or officers, from time to time, to be appointed by us for such purposes, shall require; and taking for the same examination such fee or reward as shall be allowed from time to time by such our officer or officers respectively, and no more.

Provided always, that the fees or rewards from time to time to be appointed as aforesaid, for the examination of any such person or instruments as aforesaid, shall not be less than the fees or rewards heretofore paid for the like examinations respectively.

And further we will that no court or courts for the examination of any person or persons touching their skill in surgery, shall ever be held but in the presence of the master or one of the governors, and five of the members, at least, of the court of examiners of the said college, hereby established and incorporated as aforesaid.

And it is our further will and pleasure, that the members of the said late corporation, and such other persons who, since the dissolution thereof, shall have obtained such letters testimonial under a seal purporting to be the seal of the late dissolved company or corporation as aforesaid; and who shall be willing to become and be members of the said college hereby established and incorporated, shall testify their acceptance of these our letters patent, and their consent to become members of the said college, by signifying such their acceptance and consent in writing to the court of assistants, within six calendar months after the date of these our letters patent, who shall cause such acceptance and

consent to be entered in certain books to be kept for that purpose, at the hall or council-house of the said college; and the said Court of Assistants are hereby required to keep such books, and have such entries made therein accordingly.

And it is our further will and pleasure, that such and so many of the members of the said late corporation, and of such persons as shall have obtained such letters testimonial as aforesaid, as shall not, within the time aforesaid, signify in manner aforesaid, their acceptance of these our letters patent, shall not be deemed or be members of the said college, unless they shall be duly admitted to be members thereof by the said Court of Assistants, upon special application made to them for that purpose.

Provided always, that if any of such persons shall happen to be beyond the seas at the date of these our letters patent, it shall be lawful for such persons respectively to signify their acceptance thereof, in manner aforesaid, within six calendar months after they shall return respectively to this Kingdom.

Nevertheless it is our will and pleasure, that the Master, Governors, and Assistants, of the college hereby established, and herein before specially named and appointed, shall and may proceed to hold a court for the purpose of carrying these our letters patent into execution, as aforesaid, without having testified their assent to, and acceptance of, such letters patent, by any writing, or by any entry to be made in manner aforesaid.

Witness his Majesty, at Westminster, the 22nd day of March, in the fortieth year of his reign.

BY WRIT OF PRIVY SEAL,  
WILMOT.

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*De la MOELLE EPINIERE et de ses MALADIES, Ouvrage couronne par la SOCIETE ROYALE de MEDECINE de MARSEILLE, dans sa seance publique du 23 Octobre 1823. Par C. P. OLLIVIER Docteur en Medecine, &c.. Paris 1824. 8vo.*

*Treatise on the Spinal Marrow and its Diseases, to which the prize was adjudged by the Royal Society of Medicine, of Marseilles, at a public meeting held on the 23d of October, 1823. By C. P. OLLIVIER, Doctor of Medicine, &c. Paris, 1824. 8vo.*

No one who has paid the

least attention to the state of medical science in Europe, during the few last years can fail of being struck at the unwearied exertions which our continental neighbours have been making towards its improvement. To enumerate the individuals who have been thus usefully engaged would be to mention a long list of names, many of which are familiar to our readers; or to recapitulate the improvements which they have effected in the different branches of medicine, would occupy a far larger space than we could at present spare. suffice it to say, that from the manner in which their exertions are directed, they must ultimately tend to promote the great object for which medicine as a science exists—the discovery of means by which disease may with certainty be relieved. To arrive at any thing like certainty in the practice of medicine, we must first possess a clear conception of the nature of the diseases we meet with, and this can only be obtained by close attention to the symptoms which disease presents in its different stages—minute observation of the appearances which are to be found after death, then (these being accurately recorded) by careful comparison of the one