

tions completely restored. The only medicine which she took, was a daily dose of the saline chalybeate water. I should venture to recommend a trial of this plan of treatment, which possesses the advantage of being less painful and inconvenient than the application of moxas.

I scarcely know whether I ought to occupy your time and space with so comparatively insignificant a case; which I certainly should not have done, had it not been brought to my recollection by Dr. Buel's narrative.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your faithful servant,

GEORGE KENNION, M.D.

Harrowgate, May 22, 1844.

STATEMENT RELATING TO THE CHARTER
LATELY GRANTED BY HER MAJESTY TO
THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF
ENGLAND.

The Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England feel that the time is arrived when it is proper for them to offer some observations, in explanation of the principal changes which the Charter, lately granted by her Majesty, has occasioned in the constitution of the College, and on the ultimate effect which these changes may be expected to produce in the condition of the Surgical profession. They avail themselves of the opportunity thus afforded to state the principles on which they have hitherto acted, and those on which they propose to act hereafter in the exercise of the new duties which this Charter has imposed upon them.

The Bye-laws which may hereafter be made for the government of the College will not be valid until approved of by the Crown.

The Members of the Council will be elected, not for life, but for a limited term of years.

When vacancies occur in the Council they will be supplied, not by the Council, but by the new body of Fellows, who will elect the new Members from among themselves.

Fellows of the College, who are not Members of the Council, will be equally eligible to the Court of Examiners with those who are; and future Examiners will hold their office only during the pleasure of the Council.

One object of her Majesty's Advisers, in establishing the Class of Fellows, was to create a sufficient Constituency for the election of the Council. The same end might have been attained by simpler means, such as giving the franchise to members of a certain standing in the College; but another and expressly avowed purpose was to promote a spirit of emulation among Surgeons, to afford additional inducements to exertion in the cultivation of science, and thus to increase the utility and elevate the character of the Surgical profession. After the expiration of one year from the date of the Charter, no one will be admitted into the rank of Fellows, until he has undergone a strict and lengthened examination, not only in practical surgery, but also in the collateral sciences. They who aspire to become Fellows, without having been previously Members of the College, will be required to have gone

through an extended course of professional study in Hospitals and Schools, and to be at least twenty-five years of age. But the Fellowship will not be limited to Candidates of this description; and they who, not having had the same advantages of education, have been admitted as members at twenty-one years of age, may, after having been engaged in Practice for a certain number of years, represent to the Council that they have continued to study their profession as a science, and claim on these grounds to be examined for the Fellowship. Thus any individual, however limited his means of improvement may have been in early life, may raise himself by his own industry and talents to the same rank in the College with those who were in the first instance more fortunately situated. No one who desires to attain the Fellowship can complain that it is not within his reach, or that he is prevented from becoming an Elector, or a Member of the Council, or of the Court of Examiners.

Candidates for the Fellowship at twenty-five years of age, will have had the opportunity of obtaining a liberal general education, previously to entering on the studies peculiar to their profession; and it is reasonable to expect that the example of such well-educated persons will influence those, whose preliminary education has been imperfect, to supply the deficiency by devoting to the acquirement of various knowledge and the general cultivation of the mind a portion of the leisure which falls to the lot of every young practitioner.

The course to be pursued in the future admission of Fellows is sufficiently obvious; but the new Charter imposed upon the Council another task of much greater difficulty, that of selecting, from among the many thousand Members of the College, a limited number of individuals to be nominated as Fellows in the first instance, so as to form an immediate constituency for the future election of Members of the Council.

The following provisions of the Charter, on this subject, give to the Council the absolute power of nomination, without conferring on any description of Members the right to be so nominated.

"The Council of the said College, with all convenient speed after the date of these Our Letters Patent, and before the expiration of three calendar months from the date hereof, and in such manner as the said Council shall deem best, shall elect to be Fellows of the said College any such number of persons, being Members of the said College, and not being in the whole less than 250 nor more than 300, as the said Council shall think proper."

"It shall also be lawful for the Council of the said College, at any time or times, after the expiration of the said three calendar months, and before the expiration of one year from the date hereof, by diploma or diplomas under the seal of the said College, and in such form as the said Council shall think fit, and without any fee, to appoint any other person or persons, being a Member or Members of the said College, to be a Fellow or Fellows of the said Royal College of Surgeons of England."

When these passages of the Charter are considered in reference to each other, and in combination with the circumstances that the nomination of Fellows by the Council is only a temporary expedient, designed to provide, in the first instance, that Constituency which

will be supplied hereafter by Fellows admitted on examination, it will be obvious that the framers of the Charter did not intend that the Fellows to be thus nominated should greatly exceed the number of three hundred.

The Council entered on the duty assigned to them by these provisions of the Charter with a full sense of its invidious nature. They were aware that of those, not included in the list of Fellows, a considerable number would feel and express dissatisfaction. But they have done what was required of them to the best of their ability, and have made the selection altogether on public grounds, without favour or prejudice, and uninfluenced by private motives. The following statement will sufficiently explain the principles on which they have acted.

The great majority of the Members of this College are less engaged in the practice of Surgery than in that of Medicine, Midwifery, and Pharmacy, and many of them have arrived at well-deserved eminence in these latter departments of the Medical profession. But the Council, keeping in view the objects for which the College was especially established, have felt it their duty, in the nomination of Fellows, to regard chiefly the qualifications of Members as practitioners in Surgery, or as improvers of those sciences which tend to its advancement.

1. In accordance with this principle, they placed in the list of Fellows the Surgeons of all the Hospitals in England and Wales which are recognised by them as schools of Surgery; and they did so under the conviction that the Surgeons of large Hospitals have the best opportunity of experience in Surgery, and that they are the persons principally consulted in private practice, and referred to by other practitioners, in surgical cases.

2. But they were aware that in several parts of the kingdom there are Members of the College having considerable reputation as Surgeons, and called into consultation in surgical cases by the practitioners in their neighbourhood, although they have no connexion with Hospitals; and the Council thought it right to place the most eminent of such persons on the list of Fellows. In executing this part of their duties great circumspection was required, lest improper names should be inserted and proper ones omitted. In this respect the list is incomplete, there being individuals of this class whose claims are still under consideration.

3. Not being well acquainted with the qualifications of Military and Naval Surgeons, and being at the same time desirous of doing justice to them, the Council applied for assistance to the heads of their respective departments; and many of the names included in the schedule of Fellows are the result of this application.

4. There are in London several practitioners in Surgery, who, though not connected with Hospitals, were considered eligible to the Council under the former Charter and according to former usages, and the Council therefore thought that they ought to be admitted to the Fellowship. Many of these gentlemen are well known and much esteemed by the profession; and the question was, not whether they should be elevated to a new position, but whether they should be displaced from one which they had previously occupied.

5. Some individuals have been placed on the list of

Fellows from having distinguished themselves in cultivating the kindred sciences of Anatomy, Physiology and Natural History. The Council cannot but regard such persons as ornaments of the College, and it will be gratifying to them to find others of the same class who may be added to the list.

6. Other names have been inserted for special reasons, being principally those of Teachers who had been recognised by former acts of the Council, or of persons holding important public offices. Among the latter are four Senators of the University of London.

The Council are empowered to nominate an additional number of Fellows before the expiration of the first year from the date of the Charter. This will enable them to supply the deficiencies of the former list, in anticipation of which it is evident that this clause was introduced. In the future nomination of Fellows, the Council see no reason why they should depart from the general principles on which they have hitherto acted; though they will make it their object to omit the name of no individual who is held in esteem by the other Members of the College for his surgical experience and scientific attainments. For those who are not yet so distinguished, there is an honourable method of obtaining the Fellowship by examination.

In conclusion, the Council take the liberty of observing, that no alteration in the Charter, nor any legislative enactment, can materially change the condition of those who have been for some time established in practice. In the Medical profession each individual makes his own place in society; intellect, knowledge and integrity being equally appreciated and respected in every grade and station. If the changes introduced by the present Charter are to have the effect of elevating the character of the Surgical profession generally, it will be in the next rather than in the present generation; and if the elder practitioners are interested in these changes, it is less on their own account, than on that of their sons and successors.

By order of the Council,

EDMUND BELFOUR,

Secretary.

Lincoln's Inn Fields, May 25, 1844.

SURREY BENEVOLENT MEDICAL SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

On behalf of the "Surrey Benevolent Medical Society," I have to request the favour of you to cause the following resolutions to be inserted in the next number of your Journal.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

PETER MARTIN, Secretary.

Reigate, May 28, 1844.

The printed statement of the Society of Apothecaries, recently published, having been circulated for perusal among the members of this Society, and a copy thereof presented by the President to the half-yearly general meeting of the Surrey Benevolent