

THE UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM AND THE M.D. DEGREE.

SIR,—The discussion that has from time to time taken place in your columns as to the title "Dr.," and the demand there is amongst men already in practice for some way to gain undisputed right to the use of that title, has so far led to no practical result.

I am one of the many who suffer under what is to me an unfortunate disability in this matter. Unable to spend time and money during my student career for the attainment of a degree at the London University, and, being a student at a London school, shut out from the Scotch Universities, after some years of practice, I find that the M.D. would be of considerable service to me, and I am ambitious to wear an honourable degree. The disability is here: I must either wait till forty (ten years), or perhaps till fifty, for the chance of being one of ten at an University across the border, or pay a visit in ten years to the University of Durham, or take a journey to the Continent; in this last case, not being able to register my degree. At thirty, I am busily employed, and should have to scheme much to do systematic reading for an examination; and, by the time I am forty years of age, spare moments will be few, and my opportunities for cultivating the kind of practice I seek have greatly lessened, perhaps have gone. I have debated a visit to the Continent, but would cheerfully wait if there were any hope, at an early period, of the Universities of England coming to our help. I would venture a suggestion towards the removal of this disability. The University of Durham has already opened its doors to qualified practitioners, of fifteen years' standing and of the age of forty. The standard of examination seems a good one, and the degree one that might be worn with honour; but the concession does not go far enough. Cannot the University, without in any way deteriorating from the quality of the degree, throw it open to all medical men of eight or ten years' standing, after the fashion of the modified examination for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons? It would be a stimulus to work also to have, in connection with the examination, a pass-list and an honours-list; and it would be well to make some reduction in the fee, which, in the case of many with growing families and growing expenses, is at present almost prohibitive. Such alterations would enhance the value of the degree and increase the number of applicants. A move of this kind, on the part of the University of Durham, would confer a boon on many aspiring practitioners; it would tend to the increase of knowledge, by holding out a reward just at the time when the mind is most vigorous and practice is being shaped; and would most certainly not be unfair to men who earned perhaps a better degree, so far as extent of book learning is concerned, but with less matured mind and judgment.

I hope that this suggestion will gain the attention of those able to help.—I am, yours truly,
M.R.C.P.
April 5th, 1878.

THE COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

SIR,—Will you read the enclosed copy of correspondence relative to the coming election of the Council of the College, and give it space in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, with any remarks you may think right?—Yours sincerely,
GEORGE POLLOCK.

36, Grosvenor Street, W., April 11th, 1878.

Copy of Letter to Mr. Pollock.

"Edinburgh Chambers, 12, King Street, Manchester.

"Dear Sir,—There is a strong desire on the part of many distinguished Fellows of the College of Surgeons to see Mr. Lund elected to the forthcoming vacancy in the Council of the College as a representative of Provincial Fellows. He has for many years occupied a prominent, and of late a foremost, place among surgeons in Manchester, and for more than a quarter of a century has been actively engaged in lecturing and hospital work. His position in the scientific world, and his many and valuable contributions to surgical literature, are too well known to need mention by me.—Sincerely hoping you may be induced to sign the enclosed memorial, I am, my dear Sir, yours truly,
"April 5th, 1871."

"S. MESSENGER BRADLEY.

[Here followed a copy of the requisition to Mr. Lund, which was published in last week's JOURNAL.]

Copy of Mr. Pollock's Letter to Mr. Bradley.

"35, Grosvenor Street, W., April 11th, 1878.

"Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your circular relative to the election of Mr. Lund to the Council of the College of Surgeons. In reply, will you allow me to say that I have always steadily refused to be nominated for the Council, as I consider the 'certificate

of character' required by the Charter, and the usual canvassing that takes place prior to the elections to the Council, derogatory to the profession? The College of Physicians does not require or permit anything in the shape of the former, and would condemn, if not punish, anything approaching the latter.

"The canvassing that has been permitted and undertaken by some of the candidates for seats in the Council is really a disgrace to the Fellowship.

"Entertaining the feelings I do, you will understand my objection to signing any paper in reference to the coming election in behalf of any candidate. No one will be more pleased to see Mr. Lund a member of the Council than myself. I have the highest opinion of his work and worth as a surgeon. But, in my opinion, whatever that may be worth, his election should not be dimmed by private or public solicitation of votes.

"I think this subject one of so much importance, that I have enclosed copies of the correspondence to the medical journals.—Believe me, yours faithfully,
GEORGE POLLOCK.

"S. Messenger Bradley, Esq."

THE CIRCULAR OF THE MEDICAL REFORM COMMITTEE.

SIR,—It is very fortunate for me, as having to receive, read, and collate the answers to the circular issued by the Medical Reform Committee, that all who receive it do not reply at such great length as Dr. Gairdner, and do not consider it necessary to drag the career of the late Emperor of the French or equally irrelevant affairs into the arena.

Dr. Gairdner gives us his opinions about the late Emperor in a very offhand manner, and dismisses with a sneer the one ruler of France who, while proving himself the fast friend of England, raised the material prosperity of his country to such an unexampled pitch that, notwithstanding the extortionate exactions of Germany after her crushing defeat, France still remains one of the great powers of Europe, equally prepared with England itself for every eventuality.

Dr. Gairdner may or may not be aware that many of the wisest heads in Europe believe that France was saved from the Red Republic and Communism by the *plébiscite* which made the so-styled "Man of Sedan," the arbiter of the destinies of his country during a period of twenty years, and the founder of Italian unity.

I demur, however, *in toto* to Dr. Gairdner's attempt to place the members of the medical profession of the United Kingdom on a level with the ignorant peasantry and wild town-population of France. There is nothing in common between them but that instinct which, having guided the French to save their country from anarchy, will, I hope, also guide the profession in this country to bring something like order out of the conflict of interests and of disorder in which some of the licensing corporations have so long kept us.

The question of medical reform is not new to the Association. You, sir, have clearly shown, in your article in the JOURNAL of the 13th instant, that, but for the action of the Association, there would have been no Medical Act of 1858. The principles advocated by the Committee were advocated by the Association before the passing of that Act; they have been repeatedly approved and laid down since; they are included in the drafted Bill of the Association.

The Medical Reform Committee in the present day follows the example of the Medical Reform Committee in existence before 1858 in suggesting and printing a form of petition for the use of those, but of those only, who agree with the Committee. There seems no probability of Dr. Gairdner being beguiled into adopting it. Further, in issuing the circular the Committee had truly only one object. They desired to ascertain, as far as in them lay, the desire of the profession on the two points mooted, and for that reason did not confine it to the members of the Association. No better mode of proceeding could well be devised.

Well, the circular was cast forth. Dr. Gairdner replies, as he states, as 1-20,000th part of the profession. If the remaining 19,999 are to answer at equal length, my work becomes simply impossible. Dr. Gairdner has not made me a direct return; but, from his letter, I presume I am right in recording him thus.

1. Are you of opinion that the medical profession should be directly represented in the General Medical Council? *Answer*: Yes; but do not see how. *Ergo*, doubtful.

2. Are you of opinion that the establishment of a conjoint board for the granting of licences to practise all branches of the profession should be made compulsory in each of the three divisions of the kingdom? *Answer*: Certainly not.

I sincerely hope that all other members of the profession who agree with Dr. Gairdner, and who have not yet returned the circular, will be content with Dr. Gairdner's exposition of their case, and reply in the simple, short, and, to me, more satisfactory manner, which I have ventured to indicate.—I remain, dear sir, yours faithfully,

EDWARD WATERS, Chairman of the Medical Reform Committee.
Chester, April 23rd, 1878.

FATAL CASE OF CARIES OF EXTERNAL MEATUS.

SIR,—With reference to the case with the above title, published in the JOURNAL of last week, Dr. Gumpert, the physician in attendance on the patient, has kindly pointed out one or two inaccuracies in my report, which I had not seen since forwarding it for insertion last November.

I need hardly say that my opening remarks applied to this class of affections in a general sense, and by no means to Dr. Gumpert's diagnosis, which was perfectly accurate, and the full nature and gravity of the case pointed out to the relatives at once. The statement that this patient had syphilis is incorrect, and, together with the remark, that the illness began on Saturday (it was a day later), are errors for which my notes—written from memory on the day of the patient's death from Dr. Gumpert's account—are responsible. I regret that Dr. Gumpert had not an opportunity of revising the history of this case before publication.—I am, etc.,

F. M. PIERCE.

Manchester, April 24th, 1878.

MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—The following members of the College, having been elected Fellows at previous meetings of the Council, were admitted as such on April 18th.

Chevers, Norman, H.M. Indian Army, of Tavistock Road: diploma of membership dated January 8th, 1841.

Donald, Deputy Inspector-General John, of Wilmslow, Cheshire: September 4th, 1835.

Freer, Walter Carless, of Birmingham: October 5th, 1841.

At the same meeting of the Council, the following gentlemen were elected Fellows under Section V of the Charter of 18th Victoria, relating to members of the College of twenty years standing.

Fayrer, Sir Joseph, K.C.S.I., F.R.S., Granville Place, W.: diploma of membership dated July 9th, 1847.

Pemberton, Oliver, of Birmingham: April 12th, 1847.

The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted members of the College at a meeting of the Court of Examiners, on April 17th.

Andrew, John E., Victoria, Australia

Anand, George, Melbourne, Australia

Atkinson, John M., Winchester (London Hospital)

Berry, Frederic H., Anwell Street, E.C. (Guy's Hospital)

Colenso, Robert J., Phillimore Gardens (St. Bartholomew's Hospital)

Evans, Edward T., Llanfalon, Glamorganshire (Middlesex Hospital)

Fardon, Edward A., Droitwich, Worcestershire (Middlesex Hospital)

Giles, Bernard F., Canonbury (Guy's Hospital)

Higgs, Alfred, Leicester (London Hospital)

Lavis, Henry J. J., Stalbridge, Dorset (University College)

Lockwood, Charles B., Stockton-on-Tees (St. Bartholomew's Hospital)

Nicholson, James E., Tours, France (St. Bartholomew's Hospital)

Sylvester, George H., Tonbridge (St. Bartholomew's Hospital)

Four gentlemen were approved in Surgery; and, when qualified in Medicine, will be admitted members of the College. Five candidates, having failed to acquit themselves to the satisfaction of the Court of Examiners, were referred to their professional studies for six months.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, April 18th, 1878.

Burnie, William Gilchrist, Bradford, Yorkshire

Rickitt, John Dennis Thorpe, Wainfleet, Lincolnshire

Smith, Kenneth Rawlings, Oak Villa, Stamford Hill

Wells, Charles, Hillside, Stowmarket

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

BELGRAVE HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN—House-Surgeon. Applications to be made on or before May 15th.

BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, furnished apartments, and washing. Applications to be made on or before May 1st.

BROMYARD UNION—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Parish of Cradley. Salary, £50 per annum, and fees. Applications to be made on or before May 4th.

GERMAN HOSPITAL, Dalston—Honorary Assistant-Surgeon. Applications to be made on or before May 1st.

GLOUCESTER GENERAL INFIRMARY—Surgeon and Assistant-Surgeon. Applications to be made on or before May 30th.

GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL—Ophthalmic Surgeon. Applications to be made on or before May 6th.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, Great Ormond Street—Assistant-Surgeon. Applications to be made on or before May 16th.

LEITH HOSPITAL—House-Surgeon and Assistant-Surgeon. Salaries, £70 and £60 respectively, with board. Applications to be made on or before May 15th.

LIMERICK UNION—Visiting Medical Officer for the Workhouse. Salary, £75 a year. Candidates must be over 23 years of age, and must attend personally at the day of election; viz., May 8th.

LIVERPOOL DISPENSARIES—Three Assistant House-Surgeons. Salary to commence at £108 per annum, with fire, gas, and attendance. Applications to be made on or before the 30th instant.

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL, Commercial Street, E.—Two House-Surgeons.

SHEFFIELD PUBLIC HOSPITAL and DISPENSARY—Junior Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £50 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to be made on or before May 6th.

STROUD GENERAL HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £60 per annum, with board, furnished rooms, and washing, and £30 per annum in lieu of stimulants. Applications to be made on or before May 15th.

TAUNTON UNION—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator to the Churchstanton District. Salary, £52 per annum, and fees. Applications to be made on or before the 28th instant.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, London—Professor of Materia Medica. Applications to be made on or before May 15th.—Surgical Registrar. Applications to be made on or before May 6th.

VICTORIA HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, Chelsea—House-Surgeon. Salary, £50 per annum, with board and lodging. Applications to be made on or before May 18th.

WILT'S COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £110 per annum, with board, lodging, attendance, and washing. Applications to be made on or before May 15th.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

Names marked with an asterisk are those of Members of the Association.

*BODDY, H. W., M.B., appointed Assistant-Physician to the Clinical Hospital and Dispensary for Children, Manchester.

GHEDDARD, R. Henry, L.D.S.R.C.S.Eng., appointed Dental Surgeon to the Royal Albert Hospital, Devonport.

*MASSIAH, B. J., M.B., appointed Resident Medical Officer to the Convalescent Hospital, Cheadle, Manchester.

SOUTHAM, F. A., F.R.C.S., appointed Resident Surgical Officer to the Manchester Royal Infirmary.

STEELE, G., Esq., appointed Resident Medical Officer to the Manchester Royal Infirmary.

TOMKINS, Henry, M.D., appointed Resident Medical Officer to the Monsall Fever Hospital, Manchester.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

The charge for inserting announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, is 3s. 6d., which should be forwarded in stamps with the announcement.

BIRTH.

BIRT.—On April 15th, at Stourbridge, the wife of *George Birt, M.B., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

BINDLEY—JACQUES.—On April 12th, at Remenham, Henley-on-Thames, Philip Bindley, M.B.Lond., to Sarah Bessie, only daughter of the late William Jacques, of Clifton.

LAVIN—WIGAN.—On April 24th, at St. George's, Hanover Square, by the Rev. William Falconer, M.A., Rector of Bushey, Herts, assisted by the Rev. Charles Phillips, M.A., Vicar of St. Matthew's, Oakley Square, *Dr. Drury Lavin, late of Park House, Bushey, to Sophia Matilda, widow of Alfred Wigan, Esq., of Heatherden, Iver Heath.

DEATHS.

*JACKSON, Thomas Carr, F.R.C.S., on April 23rd, at 91, Harley Street, Cavendish Square, aged 55 years.

*MACPHERSON, Robert Samuel, M.R.C.S.L., L.K.Q.C.P.I., of Birmingham, on April 7th, aged 39 years.

MOORE.—On Easter Day, April 21st, at 40, Fitzwilliam Square West, Dublin, Ellie (Elsie), aged 23 years, the beloved wife of *John William Moore, M.D., and only daughter of the late John Ridley, M.D., of Moore Hall, Tullamore, King's County.

DONATIONS, ETC.—The Misses Brooke have given £500 to the Hospital for Incurables, near Dublin, which, with a previous donation, makes a total of £700 contributed to this institution.—The late Mr. William Coates has bequeathed £200 to the Belfast Royal Hospital, and £100 to the Belfast Hospital for Sick Children.

AN illuminated address was recently presented to Dr. Richard Lord by the Church Coppenthal Horticultural Society on the occasion of his leaving Crewe, where, besides being a very active member of the Society, he has occupied the position of Medical Officer of Health.