

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

THE REMOVAL OF MICRO-ORGANISMS FROM WATER. By PERCY F. FRANKLAND, Ph.D., B.Sc. Proceedings of the Royal Society, No. 238. 1885.

DR. FRANKLAND, wishing to determine how far filters of different materials were capable of removing micro-organisms from water, instituted a series of experiments with waters fouled by the addition of small quantities of stale urine on similarly constructed filters, the materials having been reduced to a fine powder and effectually sterilised immediately before the observations were commenced. The number of micro-organisms in the water, before and after it had been passed through the filter, was determined by the well known bacterioscopic method of Koch; but, since the length of time during which any filter will retain its purifying powers is of the utmost importance, the observations were repeated after twelve days and at the end of the month. The results were interesting, and in some respects unexpected.

Animal charcoal, spongy iron, and common coke, completely sterilised water swarming with bacteria, not only on the first, but also on the twelfth day. After a month's continuous flow, the water that had passed the filter was found free in all. But, beyond that period, while that from the spongy iron was almost absolutely free, and that from the coke contained very few, the water from the animal charcoal exhibited nearly six times as many centres per cubic centimetre as it did before filtration.

Pure silver sand and powdered glass failed at the first trial to remove more than 90 per cent. of the micro-organisms, and the experiments were, therefore, not persevered with; and green sand, which is highly ferruginous, though at first perfectly successful, seemed soon to lose its power to a very great extent.

Since several of the above materials could not be supposed to exert any chemical action, Dr. Frankland, in a second series of experiments, endeavoured to determine the effect of simple agitation of the water with animal charcoal, spongy iron, coke, chalk, china-clay, and brick-dust, for about fifteen minutes. The chalk, charcoal, and iron subsided in five hours, the coke in forty-eight; but the clay remained suspended for a week. The coke alone completely removed all micro-organisms, though subjected to the severest test; spongy iron, animal charcoal, and chalk did so very imperfectly; while the clay failed entirely. Subsidence alone was found to have no power whatever on the numbers of centres in a cubic centimetre taken from the surface of the water, having increased fortyfold in forty-eight hours.

Clark's process for softening hard waters, as practised at the Colne Valley Water-Works, and in Gaillit's and Huet's modification, was tried on a small scale, and observations were also made on the water before and after treatment at the works at Bushey and at Mr. Duncan's wharf. In all cases, especially in those on the larger scale, the effects of the process in removing organisms were very satisfactory. Pasteur's filter completely sterilised ordinary Thames water, though the only chemical change consisted in the removal of a very small proportion of the total solids.

Dr. Frankland is now conducting observations on the number of centres in each cubic centimetre of the waters supplied by the metropolitan water-companies month by month; with a view to comparing the indications afforded by bacterioscopic and chemical examination.

COLD BANDAGING OF THE LEG IN INSOMNIA.—Dr. von Gellhorn has found the following plan very useful in inducing sleep in persons who suffer from insomnia. A piece of calico, about eighteen inches wide and two and three-quarter yards long, is rolled up like a bandage, and a third of it wrung out of cold water. The leg is then bandaged with this, the wet portions being carefully covered by several layers of the dry part, as well as by a layer of gutta-percha tissue, and a stocking drawn on over the whole. This causes dilatation of the vessels of the leg, thus diminishing the blood in the head and producing sleep. It has been found by Winternitz that the temperature in the external auditory meatus begins to fall a quarter of an hour after the application of the bandage; the decrease amounting to 0.4° Cent., and the normal not being again reached for from one and a half to two hours afterwards. The author has employed this means of procuring sleep for a couple of years, and finds it especially useful in cases where there is congestion of the cerebral vessels. Sometimes he has found it necessary to reapply the bandage every three or four hours, as it dried.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

ON Thursday, October 29th, a meeting of the Fellows and Members of the Royal College of Surgeons was held for the purpose of receiving a report from the Council of their transactions during the past collegiate year, the returns of the results of the College examinations, and the College receipt and expenditure. The chair was taken at three o'clock by Mr. WILLIAM S. SAVORY, the President. Twenty-two members of Council were present, namely, the President, the Vice-Presidents (Messrs. J. Wood and H. Power), and Sir James Paget, Sir Spencer Wells, Mr. J. Marshall, Mr. Lund, Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, Sir Joseph Lister, Mr. Bryant, Mr. T. Smith, Mr. Hulke, Mr. Christopher Heath, Mr. Croft, Mr. Sydney Jones, Sir W. Mac Cormac, Mr. Allingham, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Berkeley Hill, Mr. Durham, Mr. Macnamara, and Mr. Pemberton. The hall-porter counted 296 Fellows and Members, and this estimate does not include over twenty gentlemen who arrived after the meeting had commenced.

The PRESIDENT, in opening the proceedings, said the report, which was in the hands of the Fellows and Members, contained a tolerably full summary of the work which had been done by the Council in the past year, and it was now open for them to offer any observations or express any opinions upon it that they might please. The most regular course would be to take the resolutions in the order in which they had reached the College, and he would therefore call upon Mr. Sampson Gamgee to move the first resolution.

MR. SAMPSON GAMGEE, in moving the resolution, spoke as follows. Mr. President and gentlemen, on behalf of the Association of Members of this Royal College of Surgeons, I have been desired to move: "That, the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons not having accepted the principle that Members as well as Fellows should take part in the election of the Council, in the opinion of this meeting, steps should at once be taken to memorialise Parliament and the Crown, so as to secure, in the interest of the public and of the profession, the rights of representation in the administration of the College for its 16,500 legally qualified Members." Before addressing myself to the terms of the resolution, I have a very agreeable duty to perform, in tendering thanks to you, Mr. President, and to your Council, for having called this meeting of Fellows and Members. Two classes nominally, we are, in fact, one body, with a complete solidarity of aspirations and interests. We may differ as to details, but we have a common objective, the honour and prosperity of this College.

As practical surgeons we know that, in the management of all difficult cases, personal and theoretical pre-occupations must yield to the teachings of experience.

We have no personal objects to plead, no revolutionary measures to propound. It is a constructive, not a destructive, work on which we are bent. If we look into the past, it is in no angry spirit of recrimination, but to deduce those lessons of experience which may most safely guide us in a matter exceeding professional bounds; for this College is a British possession, and the issues we raise are national ones.

Our resolution affirms the right of the Members of this College to the College franchise, in the interest of the public and of the profession. Other matters have been debated; the mode of election of the president, the retirement of councillors, and the appointment of examiners. But, without prejudice, I hold those points *sub judice*, and as only capable of settlement after taking evidence of past working, and examining records and precedents.

No such elaborate investigation is needed to settle the rights of the Members of this College to the College franchise. At the close of last year the Fellows were 1,166; Members, 16,509. Why should the small minority control and exclude the vast majority?

The bulk of the money for the College support is provided by the Members. Take the year ending last midsummer.

The Members contributed	£17,204	15	0
Fellows	1,275	15	0

Year's excess by Members	£15,929	0	0
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In the last ten years the aggregate payments were—

Members	£124,008	0	0
Fellows	8,456	0	0

Decennial excess by Members...	£115,552	0	0
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It is one of the fundamental principles of constitutional government that taxation and representation go together; in other words, that those who find the money for the support of an institution, should have a proportionate voice in administering it. We leave to those who have the power, to prove why this College should be an exception to that sound old English rule.

The matters which come before this Council are largely of business requiring worldly wisdom and ripe experience. It cannot for a moment be sustained that the young man who the other day passed his Fellowship, at the allowed minimum age of 26, became *ipso facto* qualified to administer this College; and if he did so, why should he exclude Members of twenty, thirty, or more years' standing, who have worked at scientific research, published large records of experience, been admitted into the highest British and foreign academies and societies, may be in the commission of the peace and raised to high rank, yet are barred from participation in the management of this their College, purely and simply because Members?

If the examination of Members was in remote years imperfect, on whom lies the blame? When Thomas Wakley lived—first and most fearless of British medico-political reformers—what College most persistently opposed his far-seeing labours for the improvement of medical education and examination? When to his aid rose the simple-minded and straight-going Charles Hastings, which of the medical corporations, blindly and selfishly retrograde as they almost all were, fought the united medical press with firmest determination? Let the archives of this College supply the answer.

It has required more than a quarter of a century after the passing of the Medical Act of 1858 for the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons to take advantage of the enabling clause (xix) of that Act, and to combine in giving a double qualification in medicine and surgery. The scheme appears an excellent one, and reasonable hopes are entertained that it may realise the great desideratum of securing a medical degree for those who have passed the double examination. But are Members under that scheme, after being admitted into the profession through the portal of the palace to be erected on the Thames Embankment, still to be refused a voice in this College administration, because only Members?

If it be urged that the implied extension of the College franchise would swamp the existing one, we reply that extension of an educational franchise has never been proved to injure a College or an University. The extension of a franchise to responsible persons is a safeguard, not a peril, for the common good, and is no less equitably conservative in practice than it is progressively enlightened in principle.

It is as true socially as it is architecturally, that widening the basis strengthens the edifice. Let us glance at the electoral basis of this College. We are, happily, able to do so without fear of erring, because the figures have been supplied with the most prompt cordiality by Mr. Edward Trimmer, the College Secretary. The College had on its rolls in 1884, as already incidentally mentioned, 1,166 Fellows and 16,509 Members. Forty years ago, the numbers were: 440 Fellows, 7,992 Members; an increase of 726 Fellows, 8,517 Members. In the first decade of the period (1844 to 1854), the Fellows increased 498, the Members 7,861; but in the last decade, while the Members went on increasing by 4,437, the Fellows decreased by 129. This decline has been steady since 1864. Up to that date from 1844, the Fellows increased 750, but their numbers have fallen off by 134 from 1864 to 1884. Yet, with that vanishing constituency, it is in contemplation to petition the Crown to confirm and extend privileges to the exclusion of the Members, who have gone on pouring a swelling golden stream into the College coffers, and have grown in numbers in a ratio almost without a parallel amongst the higher educational institutions of the Empire.

But the wrong suffered by the great bulk of surgeons in civil practice is trifling, compared to that inflicted on the Members of this College who enter the public services. If you will turn to the forty-nine pages in Churchill's *Medical Directory*, in which are recorded the names of officers in the Naval, Military, and Indian Medical Services, and of the Mercantile Marine, you will there find the names of 819 men who have been sent out, under the authority of this College, to practise on Her Majesty's land and sea forces, and in sanitary charge of our merchant fleets throughout the world. Of that total of 819, only 41 are Fellows of this College, and 778 Members; in round numbers, the Members are 95 per cent. of the whole; and this immense proportion are denied the right of voting in the administration of the College.

Practically, this College disfranchises all those who, having obtained its diploma, devote themselves to the public service, however high their station, however spotless—nay, glorious—be their record.

In proof of the latter statement, let me trouble you with a few more figures. Of forty-seven military Companions of the Order of the Bath, and Companions of the Indian Empire in the profession, twenty-seven—more than three-fifths—belong to this College; but of the twenty-seven, only six—one-eighth of the whole—are Fellows; while seventeen, or nearly one-third, are disqualified, as Members, from taking part in the College administration. Yet amongst those Members, as such disfranchised, are K.C.B.'s, Honorary Physicians and Surgeons to Her Majesty, Inspectors-General of Hospitals and Fleets, and men who, to scientific attainments and consummate surgical skill, have added proof of heroes' mettle in the Victoria crosses on their breasts.

While we are discussing the affairs of this College under existing laws, let us not delude ourselves with the conceit that another Medical Bill can be dispensed with. It is a great public need, and, as such, Parliament will pass it. What that Bill may be in its entirety, no one can predict; but one thing is certain, it will embody the principle of direct representation. I say certain, because the firm stand made for that principle by the British Medical Association has been ratified by the profession, and by the Royal Commission on the Medical Acts. It has been embodied in Bills which have passed the House of Lords, and the first and second readings in the Commons; and there is no instance of retrogression, once such a general principle has been so far ratified by the legislature. The final *imprimatur* may be delayed, but it will be affixed. Under that principle, every qualified member of the medical profession will have a right to vote in electing the General Medical Council of the nation. That granted, can those who are Members of this College be denied a voice in its concerns? Is it to be maintained that educated and responsible men may be entitled to, and competent for, the imperial, and not the municipal, franchise?

In the present state of things, what chances are there of a new charter being obtained for this College? If report be true, some friends of the Council, dazed by the opposition which they have already encountered, are for abandoning the attempt. But the mere fact that so many years have elapsed since the last charter was obtained, is a strong presumptive proof why a new one should be sought, to meet the much altered requirements of the time.

If the Council should persist on going to the Crown on the present lines, anxious as the Members are for friendly adjustment, one course only would be open to them. It would then be for them to approach Her Majesty in Council; and their representation would not improbably embody the facts I have placed before you, and more evidence of like kind, which is available in abundance. According to official custom, our representation would be remitted to the College Council for their reply. They would, doubtless, have at command, through their Treasurer, eminent legal aid; but they would lack the first essential of a successful defence—a just foundation. In such a contest, it is not doubtful with whom the victory would rest; but we ask to be spared the necessity of winning it. We believe in grafting, not in uprooting; in development, not in revolution. We are here, not as antagonists, but as professional brethren.

It only remains for me, Mr. President and gentlemen, to thank you for the hearing which it has pleased you to accord me. It would be doing injustice to you, and to the case which I have had the honour of submitting for the 16,500 legally qualified Members of this College, if I attempted any rhetorical elaboration of the facts in evidence. Nothing can add strength to them; and on the basis of those facts I claim the votes of the Fellows and Members in this professional brotherhood. Whatever the issue of the day, for which many of us have toiled and waited long and patient years, this meeting will be memorable. Happily, the near future is bright, and big with hope. The College must, and will, grow in honour and usefulness, on the just and lasting basis of an intelligent, responsible, and united constituency.

Dr. ROBERT COLLUM, in seconding the resolution, said that he attended the meeting held last year, and was astounded to be refused a vote. He had been in the public service all his life, and he was never more shocked than he had been at that occurrence; in fact, he could not believe that the Council were serious in refusing it. He stated on that occasion that, if he were alone in going to oppose the charter, he should do so; and the Chairman told him he was at liberty to do it. The result of that proceeding was, that two or three gentlemen who spoke at that meeting met together and convened the meeting, the result of which they saw that day. He had received telegrams ever since he entered the room one telegram coming from Oxford, signed by the most eminent members of the profession; and another from Saffron Walden, from Mr. Stear, who said he was unable to attend the meeting, but the resolution to be proposed had his hearty support and sympathy. Other telegrams had been received from

Liverpool. Dr. Beardsley, from Guy's Hospital, telegraphed to say that he should have been glad to have been present to support the resolution. They had received hundreds of communications of the same kind. With regard to the report received from the Council, one-half of it, he said, was devoted to showing why they refused the just claims of both Fellows and Members, and the other half might be very easily disposed of. They had heard that there were 16,723 Members to 1,100 Fellows. Mr. Timothy Holmes and other Members of the Council were in favour of the resolution, and it was only a bare majority of the Council who refused the Members their just claims. Looking at the statement of accounts, they found that the fees paid to examiners during the past year amounted to £10,360 19s. The Council and Committee of Management received £323 8s. The salaries and wages amounted to £4,094, while fees and salaries took £14,779 5s. 3d. The income of the College was £25,866, of which there was a balance at the banker's of £3,464. The real expenditure was £22,402. The salaries in the Secretaries' office were £1,928, while the salaries for museum-purposes were £1,812, the difference between the two being £116. He had often been in the museum, but rarely saw more than one or two people going about; and clerks could be obtained for £100 a year. The next item was £467, devoted to the "burial of bodies, patients, and refreshments." He seconded the resolution, because it was approved of by Members all over the country; and he believed that the Council, by accepting it, would benefit themselves and the profession.

Dr. JOSEPH ROGERS said that, since he had paid his fee of twenty-one guineas, forty-three years ago, he had simply been utterly ignored by the Council and by the examining body of the College. They took his money, and they had spent it among themselves. They had continued from that date till the present moment to elect and re-elect each other, and had utterly ignored the great body of the Members from whom their income was derived. Forty-three years ago, in 1842, the Council had not their last charter, but they shortly afterwards obtained it by influencing Ministers of the Crown. The result was that they immediately elected 250 of their own personal friends as Fellows of the College, without payment, while he and every Member of the College then existent, if they came for the Fellowship, must pay ten guineas. If their Fellowship clothed him with golden raiment, he would not accept it on such degraded and insulting terms. They put upon him an indignity and a gross and abominable insult when they arbitrarily elected 250 men, and made them Fellows, whilst they rejected him and hundreds besides. He was going to show cause for what he said. He was known to the majority of those present to be the advocate of an amended system of medical relief to the poor. He held that the poor should receive the greatest possible consideration, but there were limits to that; and, therefore, when the Council, through their President, urged upon the Poor-law Commissioners, forty-four years ago, the absolute necessity that, in future, every medical officer who held a Poor-law appointment should have a double qualification, they should not have made that regulation retrospective. When he came up to that College, forty-three years ago, there were twenty-one men in the room who came up for examination, men of 45, 50, and 60 years of age, who had been dragged up to pass a nominal examination, and to be mulcted of twenty or twenty-one guineas, in order to swell the coffers of the College. That was the most wicked and abominable transaction that any body of gentlemen could ever have perpetrated upon the long suffering general practitioners of this country. He knew what a strain it was upon them to have spent that money; and, as regarded their examination, it was intended to be a farce, and the Council knew that it was a farce. They knew that those men who had never attended the surgical practice of a hospital, would not have the time to leave their practice and come up to London for that purpose; but they were allowed to come up and pass the examination, the Council being guided by one sole consideration, to mulct them of their money, that they might spend it among themselves. The present proceedings were a perpetuation of the same kind of thing, and he was ready to show the public that the College had abused its trust in the past, and, therefore, they had no confidence in it in the future.

Mr. KENNETH CORNISH said he thought it desirable that the petition to the Queen in Council, which had been prepared, and was now being signed by Members, should be read.

The PRESIDENT said such a proceeding would be more in order after the resolution had been dealt with.

Mr. GEORGE BROWN said that hitherto they had all been speaking on one side, and he should be exceedingly obliged if the Secretary would kindly let them know whether it was the intention of the Council to make any reply to the observations that had already passed. He was sure the President would say that it was scarcely treating that

large assemblage of Fellows and Members with the respect to which they were entitled to call them together, and to hear speeches such as they had heard, without making some sort of reply. He felt that there was a very great deal to be said for the Council in the matter.

The PRESIDENT said he could not represent the Council in the matter. He could only represent himself, and it was open to the Members of the Council, as it was to everyone in that theatre, to speak if they were in order.

Mr. BROWN said that, before making any remarks, he would give place to any Member of the Council who might think the observations which had been made worthy of a reply. After a pause, he said that he did not think there was anything to be gained by recrimination as to what had taken place at any previous period. The Members had come together, many of them from very long distances and at great inconvenience, to enter a protest against the Council going before the Privy Council to get a fresh charter, unless the rights of the Members of the College were properly recognised in that charter. It would be a great surprise to many people out-of-doors to know that, in this advanced age, there was a body of gentlemen who would stand up and endeavour to obstruct the exercise of the franchise by those who were justly entitled to it; and he felt confident that, if the Council asked the Government to grant them fresh privileges when the Government knew that what they asked was in opposition to the great body of the Members of the corporation, such a charter would not be granted. The Council, at the present moment, was not representative of the College of Surgeons, and it had not looked after the interests of the Members. The President and the Council recognised that, in times past, they had not done for the profession all that they should have done, and they were now attempting to remedy to some extent previous injustice, especially with regard to the single qualification which that Council had only conferred upon its Members in past times. That was an anomaly, because the general practitioners ought to have been able to receive from the College such a qualification as would have entitled them to have practised in every branch of medicine and surgery. Year after year the Council had allowed its qualification to be a partial one, and its Members had been driven from its doors, to go, it might be, to other corporations in England, Scotland, or Ireland, in order to complete their qualifications. The Council could easily have carried out such a resolution at any time during the last twenty years, either by itself or in conjunction with one of the other corporations, as would have enabled them to have conferred a complete qualification upon those who brought their money to it, and in not doing that they had neglected the interests of the Members. Another thing was, that they had not protected the legitimate rights and privileges of the Members, especially with regard to taking cognisance of the improper practices of those Members of the College who allied themselves with unqualified practitioners, by which means great injury had been done, not only to the hard-working members of the profession, but also to the general public. He himself, acting as the Secretary of the Medical Defence Association, had brought before the notice of the Council the conduct of Members of that College, in advertising themselves in connection with unqualified practitioners; and he thought that, if the Council had had a proper regard to its own honour, they would have prevented such alliances from taking place. If it were not in their power to take cognisance of such things, they might have obtained the necessary power from the Government. The Members were asking for nothing but that to which they were entitled, and they did not ask for it in antagonism to the Council. He doubted whether if they had the full franchise they could have elected a better body of gentlemen than those at present on the Council, for everyone of whom he had the greatest respect, but at the same time they would have better touch with each other. The Council would look after the interests of the Members, they would have the sympathy of the Members; and, that being so, he thought they would be doing themselves honour, they would be doing justice to the Members, and they would be advancing the interests of that great College, if they were to accept the resolution, and in any charter for which they might apply would seek for those powers which would enable them to confer upon the Members the privileges which they asked.

Mr. JOHN WALLIS MASON said he regretted that the wisdom of the Council up to that present moment in that assembly had not expressed itself otherwise than by silence. He should very much like, in common with the last speaker, to have heard something in justification of the course which they had taken in the embodiment of that report; but if they had not expressed their wisdom by speech that day, he presumed that they intended to say that it was represented in that report. There was one point to which he should like to call attention. The committee on the mode of election to the Council and other

matters, stated in the twelfth paragraph of their report: "The Committee beg to remind the Council that, on May 8th last, the Council adopted, *mem. con.*, a resolution, directing that an annual meeting of the Fellows and Members be called, to which a report from the Council should be presented, and that it is also provided that other meetings of Fellows and Members may be held either by direction of the President or Council, or on a requisition signed by thirty Fellows and Members, provided that the objects of such meeting be approved by the Council." He thought that the Members had been injured enough, and if that paragraph were allowed to pass without some comment, it would be simply adding insult to injury. They went on to say: "They are of opinion that these provisions of meetings of Fellows and Members are amply sufficient for the discussion of any matters affecting the interests of the College which are likely to arise. The Committee do not recommend the Council to adopt the proposals by which it is suggested that any alterations in the constitution, or in the by-laws, rules, regulations, or ordinances of the College should be subject to the approval of the Fellows and Members." Here again they asserted a wisdom which he did not suppose they possessed, and there was a spirit of irony in the paragraph of which, if they would permit him to say so, he thought they were rather ashamed; for, on turning to the conclusion of their report, they said that "in the paragraph respecting the meeting of Fellows and Members, they propose to substitute for the words, 'provided that the objects of such meeting be approved by,' the words 'with the consent of' the Council." They really felt ashamed of the fact that they must approve of the resolution which was proposed to be submitted to them, but they said that such resolution must be subject to their consent. That was watering it down very considerably, but he failed to see the distinction. It was a distinction without a difference; because, if they did not approve of the points that were to be brought before them, he did not suppose for a moment that they would grant a meeting. He thought this should not pass without a word or two of comment; and, after the very able address of Mr. Gamgee, and the observations that had been made by other speakers, he thought the Council could not gainsay the justice and the consistency of the right which they as Members had, and claimed, to representation on the Council. He stood there as a Member. He felt that his interest had not been cared for in the Council in times past, and that they were labouring under a sense of gross injustice in these times, when it was agreed that representation should go with taxation, and when it had been shown that the great bulk of the income of the College was furnished by the Members, and that £9,000 of that income went to the payment of examiners for the membership. They had come to the determination that they would bear with these wrongs no longer; and, if the Council did not yield, they must, in self-defence and in justice, not only to their own principles, but to the poor who were placed under their care, by some means, no matter what those means must be, go on advancing and advancing until they became a mighty force. They soon would attain that position, and the Council would then be constrained to yield to force, where they might now yield to consistency and to right. Possibly there were only a small minority of objectors on the Council. He honoured and respected every individual member of the Council, and he agreed that, if the Members had to re-elect the Council, they would very likely select the very men who were now upon it. He was not complaining of the men, but of the measures. He felt convinced that, if the members of the Council were to be canvassed in their individual capacity, they would most of them admit that the Members had justice on their side; but they knew that corporate bodies would do as corporations what they dare not do as individuals. He was speaking to a friend some months ago upon this subject, and telling him the relations that they bore to this question; and he replied, "Oh, the College take your money, and then they kick you out." He should not like to endorse that language, but they certainly took their money, and then barred them out. Hitherto, he had been silent upon this subject, but he intended to be silent no longer.

Mr. JABEZ HOGG asked whether, in discussing the report which had been placed in their hands, it was possible to alter any of the wording of the paragraphs, or whether they must take it as they found it without having the power to make any change or alteration.

The PRESIDENT said the report could not be altered, because it represented what had been done, but there ought to be, and he hoped there would be, the utmost freedom of discussion about it.

Dr. RALPH GOODING said he entirely agreed that this was not the time for recrimination. He wished to ask the Council, before that public assembly of Fellows and Members, who were the distinguished men who were disenfranchised. Had they not amongst them distinguished members of the profession, rising members of the Universities

of Oxford, Cambridge, and London, men who had distinguished themselves, not only in the army and navy and other public services, but who had rendered great service to the State and to the community at large? There were Members of the College who had taken First Classes without number, who had been laden with certificates of honour. But he would go beyond that, and ask, Had not many of those Members, distributed throughout every part of this great empire, done their work in good style, been of use to the community at large in every possible way, and in the end come to move in highest social circles? Dr. Rogers had said that, on a certain night forty-three years ago, he was on a perfect equality with the distinguished Council of that College; it seemed a sort of reflection upon members of the older universities and other distinguished Members of the College, that they should now be put on a lower footing. However, they did not want to dwell upon what had happened in the past, but only asked for their rights now; and he had sufficient confidence in the distinguished body of gentlemen now before them to believe that they would freely and voluntarily grant all that was asked.

Mr. GAMGEE, in reply, said it was not for him to cast any reflection or to pass any criticism on the speakers who followed him, but he must say that he had listened with some pain and regret to certain remarks that had been made, though no doubt such utterances were the natural outcome of assemblies which had suffered from a long and not very just repression. Many of the observations must have been made in a figurative sense; because, when gentlemen spoke of wrongs done by previous Councils, the illustrious men composing them had passed away, a large number of whom had left their acts for gratitude, while the majority had left noble traditions, which were personated in their distinguished successors. The remarks made with reference to expenses did not have his sympathy. As a profession, they thought that good service demanded good reward. When he thought of the men who composed the Council, and remembered the value of their time, and how long, like most of the Members, they had had to wait before their reputation had been recognised (because, even with the members of the Council of the College of Surgeons, fame often came before reward), he could not help feeling that those men deserved adequate remuneration. Such an institution as the College must employ able persons, and the payment must be good. He felt that, on this subject, the Members of the Association were with him, and he would repeat that they were not there to urge a destructive policy in whole or in part, but a constructive and improving policy. He was no politician, but as the air was now full of political talk, he might be excused a figure of speech. It had struck him that there were no such destructive Radicals as the *ci-devant* Conservative who did not repair, and there were no better Conservatives than the progressive men who said, "Hold fast to all that is good; repair as soon as you see the necessity." The question was, did they see the necessity? It had been said that the College ought to have made a reply. Well, to tell them the truth, he tendered, collectively and individually, his apologies to the distinguished members of the Council. They had his very sincere sympathy. They saw what was being prepared for them when they drew up that report, and it was a most ingenious document. It was called a report, but in reality it was minutes. He did not say that before, because he was for minimising difficulties. The Council had made no reply, but he had no doubt that, when the Council left the room (if he might venture to guess what was in the minds of such experienced Councilmen), they would all congratulate themselves upon how they had acted most skilfully that day. He was an inexperienced person, living and doing his work in a rather large provincial town; and he had not the experience of large affairs such as those gentlemen had; but, supposing that they had done him the honour of thinking for a moment that he had sufficient capacity to be at the council-table, and also that he might be capable of offering a suggestion as to what line of action they ought to take, supposing there were to be a large meeting, he should have said, "Gentlemen, let your President say what you say when you are in any difficulty, 'We are prepared to hear all you say,' but do not say a word." The meeting held a few months ago, he understood, was not a large one; but that could not be said of the present gathering. He confessed that he had been making one or two jocular remarks; for, if they did not have a joke, surgeons could not do their work; but now, in real earnest, he would say that they had before them a body of men of great experience. Let them look at that meeting. That meeting could not be stopped, for they had accepted a principle. The Council had called this a report; they had submitted it to the Fellows and Members. Between Fellows and Members there was no difference in principle whatever. Speaking for himself, he would willingly adopt the motto of the Frenchman, and be in favour of a lean arrangement rather than a fat decision. Com-

promise was the spirit of English life. If it were admitted that some day they must meet in consultation, by all means let them discover a *modus vivendi*—a *via media*—that should render possible a progression in friendship, but still recognise the principle which the Members sought to uphold.

The resolution was then put to the vote, and carried by a large majority, amid much enthusiasm.

Mr. NELSON HARDY said that he desired to move—

“That, in the opinion of this meeting, the multiplicity of medical schools in London, from which certificates are received, is an evil which demands the early consideration of the Council of this College.”

Mr. GEORGE BROWN thought this was a matter for the General Medical Council.

The PRESIDENT said that, unless there were a decided expression of opinion to the contrary, he should be glad to hear Mr. Nelson Hardy upon the subject.

Mr. NELSON HARDY then observed that it was fifteen years since a very distinguished Member of the College, Professor Huxley, called attention, in an address on medical education, at University College, to the evil arising from having so many medical schools in London, and pointed out that, so long as there were eleven of such schools dividing the students between them, and so long as men who taught such subjects as anatomy and physiology took the chair solely as a stepping stone to something else, so long would it be an impossibility for physiology to be properly taught in those schools. Professor Huxley expressed the opinion that the maximum requisite number of such schools was three, and he seemed to have hoped that the reduction to that number might have taken place by the common consent of all concerned, without bringing to bear any pressure from above. Hardly a month ago, another distinguished member of the College, Professor Schäfer, had pointed out the impossibility under the present system of a student learning his physiology in the same practical manner in which he learned his anatomy. Mr. Hardy then proceeded to quote Professor Schäfer on this subject, but was shortly assailed with cries of “Time, time,” and ultimately withdrew his motion, on the President declaring that he was in some doubt as to whether he ought to admit it.

Mr. JABEZ HOGG said they were informed in the report that, at a Council meeting held on November 13th, 1884, it was resolved: “That the selection of candidates for the examinerships in Anatomy and Physiology under the scheme be no longer restricted to Fellows of the College, but be extended to Members.” He asked whether any steps were taken to carry that resolution into effect, and what had been the result; because he observed, in reading over the names of those appointed very recently by the Council, that no Member had been so appointed. He should like to know whether any steps were taken to carry out that resolution of the Council.

The PRESIDENT: I do not quite catch the scope of your question. Do you ask whether any Members have yet been appointed by this College as Examiners in Anatomy and Physiology?

Mr. JABEZ HOGG: That is part of my question.

The PRESIDENT: Not yet; no Member has been appointed yet.

Mr. JABEZ HOGG: What steps have been taken to give effect to that resolution of the Council?

The PRESIDENT: Simply this; that these men are eligible now to become candidates, and their names are submitted on an equal footing with the names of Fellows, and those who are appointed to choose select those men whom they consider best qualified to be examiners.

Mr. JOSEPH SMITH, on behalf of the Association of Members of the Royal College of Surgeons, wished to ask what would be the effect of the almost unanimous vote that had just been taken, and when the Fellows and Members would hear from the Council with respect to it, and whether any reply would be sent to it, or any notice taken of the matter.

The PRESIDENT: I am sorry to say I am neither a prophet nor in the possession of the opinions of the Council, but the proceedings here to-day will be fully reported to the Council, and the Council will consider them.

Mr. SMITH said he was much obliged for that reply, but he should like to know if there was any probability that a reply of some sort, either for or against, would be forwarded to the Members.

The PRESIDENT: It will be considered at the next meeting of the Council, which is on the 12th of November; what the result of that consideration will be, I cannot tell you.

Mr. SMITH: But shall we receive a reply?

The PRESIDENT: I cannot tell you that.

Mr. PAUL SWAIN said he had wished to withdraw the resolution

of which he had given notice, but he had received a communication from Members and Fellows present desiring him to proceed with it. He therefore moved:

“That, in the opinion of this meeting, no alteration in the constitution or in the relations of the College, or in any of its by-laws or ordinances, shall be affected without the consent of the Fellows and Members convened to discuss the same.”

The resolution which had been agreed to covered pretty nearly the whole ground, but he could quite conceive that there was a certain rightness in moving the resolution of which he had given notice. Under ordinary circumstances, and in an ordinary meeting, a report, when it was put before a meeting, was put for adoption or rejection, and it was a most extraordinary thing that they should be called together from all parts of England to receive a report, without having power to modify that in a single word. He did not mean that it was meant in any way as an insult, because the Council would not be guilty of that; but it appeared almost a childish thing to bring a report before a body of gentlemen such as those assembled, and to give them every opportunity to discuss it, and then not allow that report to be altered in a certain item. He wished to draw attention to two points; first of all, to what he considered the improper way in which the Council had made serious alterations in the constitution of the College without the consent of the Fellows and Members; and secondly, to the fact that they had refused to make certain alterations which the Members had unanimously, and he thought reasonably, recommended. In the first place, with regard to the alterations which had been suggested, the whole conjoint scheme of examination might be very good or very bad; he believed it was conceived in a panic, and it was very fortunate that it was conceived well and not badly. But that was not the question; the fact remained that the scheme, which materially affected the College and all its Members and Fellows, had been carried out without any reference to them whatever. And then what followed? Directly the conjoint scheme had been carried, there arose the question of where the examinations were to be conducted. It was stated in the report that a site had been obtained for ninety-nine years, at the large annual rental of £2,000, and that on that site there was to be a building which was to cost between £20,000 and £30,000. Was it right and proper and constitutional that the Council should be enabled to spend those large sums without reference to those who had provided the money? That was merely one instance of the changes which the Council had carried out without appealing to the Members in any way. As to the suggestions of the Members, he would only take one as an illustration, namely, a modification which was considered proper and reasonable in the mode of electing a Court of Examiners, a modification which the Council had entirely neglected. He found, in the calendar for 1884, that there were nine Members of the Court of Examiners on the Council, and one Member of the Board of Examiners. There were four gentlemen who had held the posts of examiners, and three, if not four, who had asked for the post of examiner. The Council had power to appoint a Court of Examiners, and the Court of Examiners had actually been in a majority on the Council; so, to all intents and purposes, the Court of Examiners had the power to elect and re-elect themselves, and that, in the face of a resolution, which, he believed, was moved by Mr. Quain, deprecating that arrangement, and asserting that not more than one half of the Court of Examiners should be on the Council at the same time. He had been told that one of the great reasons influencing the Council in their stubborn resistance to all their demands, was the feeling that there was nothing behind them, that the country had not been very much aroused, and that the profession was perfectly satisfied with the behaviour of the Council. He read it in another way. He believed that the action of the Council in times past, and down to the present time, had alienated the profession from the College. A man having received his diploma, walked out of the doors of the College with the sense of being very much injured, and of having suffered many things from many men inside, and he washed his hands of College affairs ever after. Their ignorance with regard to College affairs was extraordinary. If anyone asked the first ten medical men he met in a provincial town who was the President of the College, they would probably not be able to tell him. The common inquiry used to be “How is Stone?” and now the question asked was, “How is Trimmer?” Men seemed to have got it into their heads that Mr. Trimmer was the College, and that the College was Mr. Trimmer. Their instincts might be true, and it was certainly evidence of the popularity of Mr. Trimmer, and of the assiduous way in which he performed his duties.

Dr. DANFORD THOMAS briefly seconded the motion, and said he believed that it had the general support of the Members of the College.

Dr. WARD COUSINS said he did not think that the present President and members of the Council were in any way to blame for the existing state of things. The College was a very old organisation, and it had hardly ever undergone any central modification. He had the most unabated esteem for the present members of the Council individually, but there was no reason against carrying out a much needed modification in the organisation of the College. Individual qualities did not show themselves when men met together in organic corporations. The qualities of a corporation were not the sum-total of the qualities of the individuals. He was a strong believer in the development of institutions by crisis, and there was certainly a crisis at the present time in the development of the Royal College of Surgeons—a crisis when an organic change became necessary. The present state of things was not owing to any fault of the existing officers of the College, but it was the fault of the Members who had not brought their reactionary force to bear on the centre of the institution.

The resolution was then put and agreed to *nem. con.*

Mr. PARKER YOUNG moved—

“That the meeting be adjourned until November 19th.” If the Members separated without any adjournment, they might not hear anything of the action that might be taken by the Council. It had been stated that the Council would discuss the subject on November 12th, and it would not be advisable to allow the matter to sleep after that time. If the Members met again on the 19th, a good deal of time and expense might be saved. Judging by the countenance of the members of the Council, he thought they were going to give the Members what they wanted. For his own part, he should be extremely sorry to see those gentlemen removed from the places they now occupied. If they would only listen to reason and to the force of public opinion, they would see that what the Members asked was justice and nothing more.

The PRESIDENT said he had no power to accept the resolution. The business for which the meeting had been convened had been disposed of, and no further meeting could be called without the assent of the Council, which was not in his power to give.

Dr. JOSEPH SMITH said it was in the power of a certain number of Members and Fellows to sign a requisition for the holding of another meeting, but an adjournment would save that trouble.

The PRESIDENT said he was governed by the laws of the College, and had no power to adjourn the meeting. He had that opinion from a legal authority.

Mr. G. BROWN said it was in the power of the meeting to requisition the President and Council to hold a meeting on November 19th, and he hoped that that course would be adopted, in order to meet the present difficulty.

Mr. YOUNG said he was quite willing to accept Mr. Brown's suggestion.

Mr. TWEEDY said that the by-law under which the present meeting was being held was framed to prevent Members and Fellows from meeting in that College; and, if it were now attempted to prevent an adjournment of the meeting under that old by-law, he for one would take steps to have it altered. It was framed many years ago, after the memorable contest with Mr. Wakley. He might be allowed to call attention to another matter, which was, that he had been informed that the library was closed that day to prevent Fellows and Members from holding a separate meeting. He wished to ask if that was the fact.

The PRESIDENT said they had better first dispose of the question before them.

Mr. TWEEDY said he did not see how it could be held that the meeting could not be adjourned.

The PRESIDENT said he thought the best way to meet the difficulty would be by means of another requisition, duly signed. The only other alternative would be by his taking upon himself the decision of the matter without consulting the Council, a course that he was loth to adopt. Personally, he had no objection; but he thought they would be more in order to have a requisition from the Fellows and Members.

A short consultation then took place between the President and the Members of the Council, after which

The PRESIDENT said it was the opinion of the Council that he might take the expression of opinion on the part of the meeting as a requisition. He would, therefore, ask the Members if they were of opinion that a further meeting should be held. [Nearly all hands were held up in the affirmative.] He would take that expression of opinion as a requisition for a further meeting. There might be some difficulty with regard to the exact date of the meeting, owing to the examinations and other business, but there should be no unreasonable delay in the matter.

Mr. CHARLES HAWKINS moved a vote of thanks to the President, and suggested that, if Members desired to know what had become of the funds received by the College, they might obtain the information they desired by walking round the museum and the library.

The motion was seconded by Dr. COLLUM, and unanimously adopted. The PRESIDENT having acknowledged the vote of thanks, the proceedings were brought to a close.

COLLECTIVE INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

A MEETING of the Collective Investigation Committee was held at the Holborn Restaurant on October 14th, at 5 P.M. The General Committee met at dinner at 6 o'clock, and proceeded to business at 7.30.

The Report of the Standing Subcommittee showed that a fair number of returns had been received during the past quarter, in spite of it being mainly vacation-time.

On the recommendation of the Standing Subcommittee, and with the sanction of the Council, it was resolved to proceed at once with the inquiries desired by the Collective Investigation Committee of the International Congress; and, in the first place, to issue a general paper of inquiry as to the geographical distribution of certain diathetic diseases, in order to open up the question of their etiology. Resolutions were taken having in view the closer union of the work of the Collective Investigation Committee with that of the annual meeting of the Association.

It was resolved to add to the Committee by co-optation, subject to the Council's approval: Dr. Barling, of Birmingham; Dr. Eddison, of Leeds; and Dr. Ward Cousins, of Southsea. Dr. Barr, of Liverpool; Dr. Dreschfeld, of Manchester; and Dr. Cavafy, were appointed extra members of the General Committee. Drs. Cavafy and Coupland, and Dr. Tyson, of Folkestone, were appointed to fill the vacancies in the Standing Subcommittee.

The Secretary reported that the representatives of the Therapeutic Section of the annual meeting had selected hamamelis and paraldehyde as subjects of investigation. The Committee suggested that the action of ergotin in arresting hæmorrhage might be added as a subject of inquiry.

LIST OF RETURNS RECEIVED DURING OCTOBER, 1885.

THE Committee desires to acknowledge the following list of returns received during the month of October, 1885.

Border Counties Branch: X, J. R. Hamilton, M.D. (2).
 Cambridge and Huntingdon Branch: X, Professor Humphry, M.D., F.R.S.
 Lancashire and Cheshire Branch: Chester District: VII, T. Holmes, M.D. (8); X, F. P. Weaver, M.D.; C. Jordison.
 Metropolitan Counties Branch: IV, A. Ogier Ward; X, J. F. Briscoe (2); J. B. James; H. C. Fox (3); W. Burton; XIII, A. C. Fletcher; W. B. Kesteven, M.D., F.R.C.S.; W. Coode Adams, M.B.; J. Harper, M.D.; G. E. Yarrow, M.D. (2); W. L. Heath, M.B., F.R.C.S.; J. F. Briscoe (11); J. Chalmers, M.D.; A. F. Stevens, M.D.; H. Steel, M.D.; F. H. Daly, M.D.; G. Haddow, M.B. (2).
 Midland Counties Branch: Nottingham District: II, H. Handford, M.D.
 North of England Branch: III, C. H. Milburn, M.B.
 North of Scotland Branch: X, J. Caldwell (2); H. McNicol, J.P.
 South-Eastern Branch: West Kent District: I, X (2), XIII (2), C. Boyce, M.B.
 East Sussex District: X, A. Johnstone, F.R.C.S.; S. Winter Fisher, M.D.
 Intemperance, E. Downes, M.D., F.R.C.S.
 South Midland Branch: X, T. S. Maguire.
 South-Western Branch: Isle of Wight District: III, W. E. Green.
 Shropshire and Mid-Wales Branch: X, T. L. Lloyd (2).
 Staffordshire Branch: XIII, W. H. T. Winter.
 Thames Valley Branch: X, T. W. Jeston, J.P.
 Worcester and Hereford Branch: X, E. Mathews.
 Yorkshire Branch: X, A. Maude.
 Channel Islands: Jersey: X, A. Godfrey, M.B. (2).
 Tasmania: Intemperance, C. S. Richardson.

MEDICAL MAGISTRATES.—Dr. Hutchinson, of Scarborough, has been placed on the Commission of the Peace for the North Riding of Yorkshire.—Mr. R. Arthur Prichard, of Conway, has been placed on the Commission of the Peace for the county of Carnarvon.

A CURIOUS MISTAKE.—The following anecdote is related as an actual occurrence in the American and Canadian journals. A young man, fresh from college, whence he came with honours and medals, was sent by his father, a practitioner of fifty years' standing, to attend a woman in labour. On making a digital examination, he found the os uteri undilated. After waiting an hour, there being no improvement, he applied belladonna ointment, and endeavoured to make forcible dilatation. At the end of another hour, there was still no dilatation; and, being alarmed, he went to his father for assistance; but, before they returned, the child was born. On examination, the father found that the child's anus was red and patulous, and was liberally besmeared with belladonna ointment. The young practitioner had met with a breech-presentation, and had mistaken the child's anus for an undilated os uteri.