

versities, colleges, faculties, and corporations, now empowered to grant titles to practice and medical honours, may be further authorized and required by Act of Parliament, to collate, arrange, and equalize these respective *curricula*—imposing a *minimum* of five years study, at recognized schools, on all students preparing for the profession, but fixing the age of 21 years as the earliest, for obtaining, by examination, the license of an apothecary, 22 for a surgeon or bachelor of medicine, and 25 for obtaining a doctor's degree.

The general *curriculum* so determined on for each class of aspirants, may then be submitted, previous to adoption, and from time to time, as the case requires, to the Home Secretary or the Lord Chancellor, for the time being—who are moreover to be empowered to appoint visitors when and as often as either of them may see fit. All holding such degrees, diplomas, and licences, granted as above, to be entitled to *equal rights* and *privileges*, according to their respective grades, throughout the three kingdoms and the colonies.

The registration of all such qualified members of the profession, as well as of those qualified and already in practice, may be effected, in rural districts, with the clerk for the county, and in boroughs, with the town's clerk, on the payment of a small fee annually—and these registries to be either open for inspection, or published every year, and to be held in law and social policy as the only authentic records of the qualified members of the profession in practice.

Such a legislative scheme as I have thus ventured to propound appears to disturb no existing rights, nor to impair the privileges of any of our several colleges and corporations, and therefore it may be held within the scope of attainment; for when we cannot obtain the more splendid but the more complicated, we may likely find ourselves in a better position with the more simple but the more practicable and ready measure.

Yours, &c.,

J. BLACK, M.D.

Manchester, Feb. 12, 1846.

ANECDOTA BODLEIANA: UNPUBLISHED
FRAGMENTS FROM THE BODLEIAN.

(Continued from page 91.)

EXTRACTS FROM DR. WILLOUGHBY'S PAPERS.

7thly. *Of the Flux, and by the by of the Temper of the country.*—The flux, both white and red, the usual reproach of this country, has of late years run so low in our bills, that it seems near extinct, all that perished of it in six of these years not exceeding 364, which will not amount to six in five weeks,—a small mortality. To what we owe this happy change is not easily determined, unless we impute it to a mending of the air since the draining of so many bogs, since English planters and their husbandry came among us. If that be the true cause, there is a great deal of work yet left for posterity; it is certain that our air is milder and less different from the temper of England than formerly, our winters not so rainy, and we have upon our bills fewer that die of consumptions than formerly; and whereas there is a great deal of bog lands yet left

in Ireland, our country is yet capable of being improved to a greater degree of salubrity: but that work is reserved for some public purse; it will be beyond the power of a few private fortunes to undertake so vast an expense. Such an army as was maintained in the time of a long peace during the reign of the late King Charles, would have been more serviceable to the public in such a work than unnecessary watching and warding; and by being kept in continual action, would have been hardened and made fitter for service in time of need, than by such a lazy life as commonly soldiers lead in time of peace. We discourse (but with how much truth I cannot tell,) of bottomless bogs. If any such thing be, I suppose they must lie about the West of Ireland, where a vast tract of sea, continually beating upon a low shore, hinders the earth from knitting, keeping it in a spongy loose texture; and that may possibly be the reason of so many bogs in Ireland more than in other countries of its bigness. Yet I will not lay the blame altogether upon Nature, and excuse my countrymen from contributing by their *laziness* to their own misery. It is so natural to them, that I cannot suspect but that it was as great in former ages as now; for I question not but some of what is now bog-land, was formerly woodland, and some under other husbandry, which by neglect of culture grew in time to have many broad patches of standing water. This so soured the glebe that it was unfit for any of those productions which other land yields for the service of mankind. A good numerous colony of Dutch (who have given such demonstrations of their industry at home,) would do us this service, and a great many others that we stand in need of, as the erecting of manufactures, and sowing new grains for the use of those manufactures, and others for pasture, sorts of husbandry which have been attempted by some few, but, like all novelties, fell again for want of followers. The quantity of unprofitable land now in Ireland would find work for a great army to reduce it to profitable, which, if undertaken by the Crown of England, would in time turn to its great advantage. The Romans, in time of peace, used to employ their armies in building of public inns, hospitals, and work-houses, in making of causeways, bridges, and vast aqueducts, and other structures of public use and greatness; and if the same were practised here, whenever it shall please God to restore this kingdom to the same peace and tranquillity it formerly enjoyed, the revenue of the Crown would quickly be sensible of the improvement; to which purpose I do humbly propose, that, whenever a Parliament is called in this kingdom, an Act may be made to oblige every proprietor, that will not improve his waste land himself, to make over four-fifths of it to the Crown, upon condition to have the last fifth improved to his hand at the charges of the Crown; and because order and discipline is very necessary to be continued in any body of men that live upon the King's pay, the soldiers that are employed in this work may be obliged to march out of their quarters in rank and file, with drums beating and colours flying, as in time of service, and in the evening to return home again in the same order. The advantages the Crown will receive by this project are many and great; as first, a great scope of new crown lands will be acquired, sufficient to maintain a numerous army, out of which great bodies may be drawn as often as occasion shall

require for foreign service; Ireland will thus be made a nursery of soldiers for the use of England. And when hospitals and work-houses are built, which ought to be the next thing after the improvement of the land, (since no country is fitter for them than Ireland, where provision is cheap, and navigable rivers and good sea-ports plentiful,) not only the army may be fed and clothed with the produce of their own labours, but their wives and children will be provided for in hospitals and work-houses. This will increase the people of the nation, at present much underpeopled; for, whereas women are afraid to venture upon soldiers, who, in the time of desperate service, run so many hazards of their lives; and officers are unwilling to entertain married men in their companies; both these objections are removed when the widows and orphans of such as perish in service are sure to be provided for in hospitals and work-houses. Trade would hereby be increased, and large warehouses furnished with commodities which may expect a good market; whereas, your scanty trader, who depends more upon the quickness than goodness of his return, is often fain to part with his goods at an under rate, because he cannot afford to be any longer out of his money. It will be argued that increase of husbandry in this kingdom will turn to no account, since what we have already does much exceed the consumption of the country. I answer, that the loss, if any, will fall first upon the private proprietor, and not upon the Crown; since the great consumption of the nation being the army, will be served out of the produce of crown lands, which therefore will never want a vent for their commodities; nor is it necessary, if workhouses be erected, that it should all lie under tillage and pasture; but it may be made to produce other things serviceable for manufactures. In the reign of the late King Charles, there was an Act of Parliament made for sowing such a quantity in every town land with hemp and flax, under a certain penalty. The collecting of the penalty was at first neglected, and in time it swelled to such a bulk, that it would have ruined the nation to have paid it all at once. It is a pity but that Act should be revived, and the great arrear forgiven, to free the people from the great fear they are in of having it one day demanded; but a severe injunction should be made to collect the penalty for the future, (which being small would be easily paid yearly,) or at least prevail with them to put the statute in execution. I have heard some say that in some town lands there would be no ground proper for hemp and flax, that others do not lie near good markets, where the manufacture can be disposed of on good terms. To all which I answer, that there are other places, where, if the manufacture were once begun, a great deal of more ground might with advantage be laid under the same crop, and would be so, undoubtedly, when manufactures increased amongst us. As for those other places, the loss will not be great for the country if they yield no profit, when in satisfaction of the statutes they are sowed with those seeds; for tillage and pasture, to which they are now converted, is already too great for the consumption of the nation.

(To be continued.)

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

NEW CHARTER.

It is stated that a new or amended Charter is about to be granted to the Royal College of Surgeons, to enable the College to do justice to its members, by conferring the fellowship upon such as are really entitled to this distinction, but have been excluded under the existing Charter. "From what we can learn," we quote from the *Medical Gazette*, "the only cause of delay at present, is the drawing of a fair and clear distinction between those who should have the fellowship granted to them *de jure* under the New Charter, and those who should be altogether excluded."

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

Mr. Anthony White has resigned his seat as a member of the Court of Examiners of the Royal College of Surgeons.

The Fothergillian Medal, for an Essay on the Pathology and Treatment of Scrofula, has been awarded to Dr. R. M. Glover, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

It is in contemplation to erect a statue at Rouen, to the memory of the late M. Flaubert, Surgeon-in-Chief of the Hotel Dieu, in that city.

Dr. M. S. Buchanan, of the Andersonian University, Glasgow, has announced himself as a Candidate for the vacant chair of Anatomy in the University of Edinburgh.

OBITUARY.

Died, on the 18th inst., at Heigham, Norfolk, aged 59, W. O. Locke, Esq., M.D.

At Paris, Dr. De Lens, Member of the Academie de Medecine, and formerly Inspector-General of the University.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

A Manual of Medical Jurisprudence. By Alfred S. Taylor, F.R.S., Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence and Chemistry in Guy's Hospital. Second Edition. London: Churchill. 1846. Fcap. 8vo. pp. 704.

Phrenology, its Nature and Uses: An Address to the Students of Anderson's University, &c. By Andrew Combe, M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, &c., &c. Edinburgh: Maclachlan and Stewart. 1846. 8vo. pp. 32.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Mr. J. C. Parker.

The continuation of Dr. Watson's paper on the Epidemic Fever of Liverpool next week.