

March, is well calculated to excite these reflections; such insolence of place and assumption of power have rarely been exhibited with equal effrontery, and I cannot but think the worthy Editor has, in his efforts to perpetuate agitation, and thereby increase the sale of his publication, been led beyond the bounds of his usual sagacity. I should gladly learn on what grounds these self-elected potentates, Bottomley, Wakley, and Co., assure themselves of the undoubted support of 1300 Members and Fellows of the College of Surgeons, and I venture to predict that when they call their muster-roll, they will be astonished at the thinness of their ranks. The lover of novelty, the seeker of place, and those who, having nothing to lose, hope to gain something in the scramble, may be there; but depend on it, Sir, there are very many who would prefer to be door-keepers in the College of the immortal Hunter, to the possession of the highest honors in that of Bottomley and Co.

I am, Mr. Editor,

ONE OF THE THIRTEEN THOUSAND.

March 12, 1850.

To the Editors of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal.

GENTLEMEN.—I cordially agree with the principle avowed in the concluding paragraph of your leading article of the 6th instant, for the guidance of our Association in the present crisis of medical affairs, and though little disposed to take part in any controversy, I esteem it a duty to record my *non placet* against the lately published offer of the Council of the College of Surgeons to the older members of that corporation.

As no honour can result from the possession of the Fellowship obtained in the way proposed, the privilege of an elective voice would appear to be the sole good in prospect, to acquire which, the invidious inconvenience of a certificate of character (humourously treated by a correspondent in your last number) and the palpable injustice of paying ten guineas, are proposed. To the first of these, it is true, that I, as a member of a public service, am not exposed; but I contend for the principle—others are. To the second a vast number of my contemporaries and juniors were not subjected, on their election at the will of the Council. Now, if even-handed justice is to be awarded, this must not be. No fee should be demanded. To those gentlemen who have acquired the Fellowship by voluntary examination and purchase, the honour, with its attendant profit, may, it is possible, prove a sufficient reward for the outlay. Their case, however, I humbly opine, can in no way operate as a precedent against those, who, while they fully prize the corporate right of election, are not disposed to meet the pecuniary mulct required in exchange. Perhaps the simplest remedy, as the case now stands (for complicated indeed it is) would be to confer the elective franchise, without alteration of title, on all members whose standing on the College list is anterior to the Charter of 1843; but I am by no means certain that this concession would meet the evil. One thing is clear, that ere long, the onward progress of reform must claim the privilege for every member along with his diploma. The present anomaly will not be

tolerated by educated men surrounded by free institutions.

As to the formation of a College of General Practitioners, I confess that I am somewhat at issue with the opinions so often put forth in your leaders on this subject, though by no means a thick and thin advocate for that measure in the face of a better arrangement. Virtually, the profession is, to all intents and purposes, as palpably and definitely divided into three estates as it could possibly become by any ulterior legislation; moreover, in the present state of the negotiations, each licentiate of the projected new college must be a member of the College of Surgeons. There could not, then, occur any loss of *status*; on the other hand, increase of respectability must result from *enlarged education*—the avowed object of the Council of the National Institute; and as the representations of that body stoutly contend for the control of their curriculum in all its requirements, there can be no room for suspicion that its details would be disproportioned.

I might, and perhaps ought, to extend these short remarks to various other points, quite as salient as those selected; but as brevity is desirable, where so many, probably, will adopt the same mode of appeal, I shall conclude by reminding you, that many and serious objections exist against the ready solution of the difficulty, beyond the mere exclusion of obstetrics and pharmacy from the Council at Lincoln's Inn Fields; and further, that although it be most desirable that all surgeons should be incorporated and *emfranchised* in the College of Surgeons, this must be regarded solely as a step towards a vital reform and comprehensive remodeling of the whole machinery of our profession.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your humble servant,

G. E. FORMAN,

Surgeon, R.N., M.R.C.S., 1819.

Teignmouth, March 13, 1850.

Medical Intelligence.

TESTIMONIAL TO WILLIAM BUSH, ESQ.

We have much pleasure in stating that a very handsome silver library inkstand has been presented to the above gentleman, in the presence of the parochial Clergy, and a large number of the inhabitants of the parish of Weston, bearing the following inscription:—"Presented to William Bush, Esq., one of the medical officers of the Bath Union, by 456 contributors, consisting chiefly of the poor of Weston, with whom the subscription originated, in grateful testimony of the kindness, skill, and unwearied attention, with which he devoted himself to the service of the sick in that parish, during the prevalence of cholera in the year 1849." It is gratifying to remark, that the idea of presenting a testimonial to Mr. Bush emanated, in this instance, from the poor, many of whom experienced his valuable and zealous attention during the time of the late epidemic; but the subscription was by no means confined to this class, and we have reason to know that the same feelings of respect and gratitude towards