mons, and he trusted that clauses would be soon introduced, or attempted to be introduced, securing a better remuneration to that part of the medical profession that was called upon to attend the poor. He hoped that every gentleman would feel the importance of signing petitions on this subject. The resolution was so concise, and yet so explanatory, that he need not say anything further on the subject.

R. L. Purching, Esq. of Walthamstow, seconded the resolution.

The Chairman explained that the clauses referred to embraced, first, the size of districts, by limiting those which were now too extensive; secondly, they also contended for the abolition of the system of "tender;" thirdly, they provided for something like a remuneration to poor-law medical officers. He had that evening been informed by Mr. Bottomley of Croydon, who had a large district under his care, that he received about 2s. 1½d. for each case of illness. From an examination of the expense of medicine in a large number of hospitals and dispensaries in different parts of the kingdom, it clearly appeared that that sum by no means paid for the cost of medicine alone; the average cost price for each patient was 3s. 3d.; the range was from 2s. 6d. to 4s., or even 5s. In some districts, where quinine was obliged to be largely used, it amounted to the latter sum. The immense size of the districts, and the paltry remuneration given, were injurious in the highest degree to the poor. With respect to the qualifications of the officers of unions, it was highly important that they should be members of the College of Surgeons, and licentiates of the Apothecaries' Company. It was also proposed, that in future paupers on a list should be at liberty, by having on order, bearing a certain value, from the overseers and guardians, to choose their own medical man from those in the neighbourhood who were duly qualified.* Nothing could be more satisfactory to the poor, or more just to the profession at large.

Bottomley, Esq., expressed a hope that the proposed clause would be carried.

The resolution was then put, and unanimously agreed to.

* This clause does not form part of those agreed to by Mr. Serjeant Talfourd.—Eos.

CONFERENCE ON MEDICAL REFORM.

Fifth Meeting of the Delegates, Tuesday, February 9, 1841.

Dr. FORBES, F.R.S., in the chair.

Provincial, Dr. Forbes, Dr. Macartney.

British, Dr. Webster, Mr. Davidson, Dr. R. D. Thomson, Mr. Evans.

North of England, Mr. Carter.

Cornwall, Mr. Grainger.

Glasgow, Mr. Farr.

The Secretary read a letter from Dr. Hennis Green, stating that he had resigned his office of delegate for the Provincial Association.

It was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Davidson, seconded by Mr. Grainger, "That all incorporated members of the proposed faculties should be entitled to vote in the election of the councils."

And on the motion of Dr. Forbes, seconded by Mr. Grainger, "That no one should be eligible as a councillor until he should have attained the age

of thirty years, and been a member of a recognised university or college, or of the faculty of medicine, for a period of not less than five years."

Mr. Carter proposed, and Dr. R. D. Thomson seconded, a motion, "That each councillor should be nominated by at least six electors." This was immediately acquiesced in.

Dr. Webster proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Carter, and agreed upon:—

"That the duties of the council should consist in regulating the internal government of their respective faculties, in protecting the interests of the members of those faculties, in superintending the examination of candidates for licences to practise; in granting those licences; in constituting a board of reference for her Majesty's Government in questions relating to public health, medical police, &c. &c.

"That the senate should regulate certain points, in which it would be essential that uniform arrangement should prevail in each part of the United Kingdom, as in framing such by-laws as might be required to regulate the three faculties irrespectively; in settling the qualifications of persons who were to be admitted as licentiates of medicine; in publishing a national pharmacopœia," &c. &c.

Dr. Macartney proposed that the number of the council in each country should be twenty-four.

Dr. Forbes seconded the motion.

Mr. Farr thought there should not be fewer than thirty-six for England; but that the number for Scotland and Ireland should not be fixed, until the sense of the profession in those countries was known respecting it.

Dr. Webster seconded Mr. Farr's proposition, which was agreed to.

Mr. Farr proposed that the number of the senate should be three.

This was seconded by Mr. Evans.

Dr. Macartney proposed that the senate should be composed of twenty-four members, eight from each division of the kingdom. This was not seconded.

Mr. Carter proposed that the senate should comprehend not fewer than nine persons, three from each country.

Dr. Forbes seconded the proposition.

The opinions were,

For a senate of nine persons—Dr. Forbes and Mr. Carter.

For three senators—Dr. Webster, Mr. Farr, and Mr. Evans.

Mr. Evans proposed that all persons should pay an admission fee of 2l. on being enrolled as members of the faculty, and that no fee should be subsequently payable for registration.

FEE FOR LICENCES.

Mr. Farr proposed that 20l. should be paid by every person, on receiving his licence, to the treasurer of the faculty. 5l., he thought, should be deposited by every candidate for examination, which should not be returned if even he were rejected.

Dr. Macartney seconded the motion, that 20l. should be paid on receipt of a licence, but that no money should be taken from a rejected candidate.

Mr. Evans agreed with the last sentiment. He proposed that 30l. should be the licence fee.

Dr. Webster seconded the proposition, and strongly urged that 10*l.* of that sum should be contributed towards an annuity fund, the remainder being handed over to the faculty.

Mr. Grainger thought 30*l.* would be most exorbitant; 20*l.* he considered sufficient, with an additional 1*l.* for a diploma stamp. At the end of an expensive education, 30*l.* would be a most excessive exaction.

Mr. Carter thought 30*l.* for a licence would occasion universal complaint; 20*l.* should be the utmost demand. The College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, received 7*l.* 7*s.* with each member. The former body had named 12*l.* 12*s.* as a maximum fee.

There were for Mr. Farr's motion, that 20*l.* be paid for a licence,—Dr. Macartney, Dr. Forbes, Mr. Grainger, Mr. Farr, and Mr. Carter.

For Mr. Evans's amendment,—Dr. Webster and Mr. Evans. It was agreed that the fee should be uniform in England, Scotland, and Ireland.

The meeting was adjourned to Friday, at six o'clock P.M.; and it was resolved that there should be a meeting on the following evening, at seven, to receive a statement, to be drawn up by the Secretary, preparatory to a conference to be solicited with the College of Surgeons. At the 6th and 7th meetings, no business of any importance was transacted.

Eighth Meeting of the Delegates, Tuesday Jan. 16, 1841, at Two o'Clock.

Present,—Dr. FORBES in the Chair.

Provincial, Dr. Forbes, Mr. Ceely.

British, Dr. Webster, Dr. M. Hall, Mr. Davidson, Dr. R. D. Thomson, Mr. Evans.

North of England, Mr. Carter.

South Devon, Mr. Smith.

Glasgow, Mr. Farr.

East of Scotland, Professor Sharpey.

Professor Sharpey was introduced as a delegate for the Eastern Medical Association of Scotland, and Henry Smith, Esq., for the South Devon Association.

The Secretary read a letter from the secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons, stating that the presidents and vice-presidents would be happy to confer with the delegates at four o'clock this day.

A letter was read from Mr. H. W. Rumsey, and a copy of clauses relating to parochial medical relief sent by him was laid upon the table. Mr. Rumsey expressed a desire that they should be submitted to the notice of the president of the Royal College of Surgeons. To this the delegates felt themselves obliged to object; they were going to the college on specific business, and could not entertain any other subject.

A letter was read also from Dr. Macartney, containing his resignation of the office of delegate, on the ground that "the delegates now sitting" do not, in the opinion of that gentleman, "represent the great body of the profession; and because he cannot approve of many parts of the plan of a Bill submitted to their discussion."

The statement to be laid before the College of Surgeons was then read, and unanimously agreed to.

Dr. Sharpey observed, that there were three points on which he would make a remark.

1. As to the councils, which he thought should contain a certain proportion of members, chosen by the corporate bodies.

2. The examining boards; those already existing might be made use of under certain restrictions, as for example, by the appointment of assessors—the plan of the Edinburgh College of Surgeons.

3. The imposition of a penalty upon unqualified or unlicensed practitioners. To this he objected; he thought sufficient protection would be afforded, if the public were to have the means of knowing who was and who was not a legally-authorized practitioner.

CONFERENCE WITH THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

The following gentlemen were then deputed to proceed to the college:—Dr. Forbes and Mr. Ceely, Dr. Webster and Mr. Davidson, Mr. Carter, Mr. Grainger, Mr. Smith, Dr. Sharpey, and Mr. Farr.

The delegates were received at the college by the president, Mr. Vincent, and the vice-presidents, Mr. Guthrie, and Mr. White.

The President having taken the chair, Dr. Forbes stated, that the delegates from the various medical associations, having reason to believe that certain changes were contemplated in the constitution of the medical colleges and corporations of this metropolis, and having been assured that the college were disposed to confer with them on the subject of medical reform, had requested this interview, for the purpose of learning if the council were willing to acquaint them with the proposed nature of those changes. The delegates would have no objections to state to the council the conclusions at which they had arrived on some of the main principles of medical reform. Their views were not, however, by any means unsusceptible of modification; they would be happy to receive and deliberate upon any suggestion which the college might offer, and would be glad to have the assistance and co-operation of the council in their endeavour to give effect to those principles which had been adopted almost universally by the members of the medical profession in Great Britain and Ireland.

The President said that the council had held a meeting on the day he had received the letter of the secretary to the medical conference, but that it had not been put into his hands until after the termination of the meeting. The presidents and vice-presidents of the college were empowered to receive deputations, and to confer with the government; he had, therefore, deemed it expedient to invite the medical delegates to the present interview, that time might not be lost, and that he might have an opportunity of communicating their sentiments to the council at its next meeting. He thought it necessary to explain, however, that anything which might be said by himself, or by his colleagues, at this time, must not be considered as official; the council knew nothing of this meeting. They had for some time been occupied with the consideration of certain changes; but as these were still under discussion, it would be improper to anticipate the decision of the council.

Mr. Guthrie thought the best course would be for the delegates to state what they were in want of in the shape of medical reform.

The opinions of the conference were then read.

Mr. Guthrie said that the incorporation of the profession would operate as a dose of arsenic to the college: it would destroy its existence altogether. The first opinion of the delegates was all that need be considered.

Mr. Carter observed that, in the opinion of the delegates an incorporation of the profession would not be attended with the result anticipated by Mr. Guthrie.

Mr. Guthrie said the new medical body could not be erected without destroying the old ones. The college was most anxious to remove any reasonable ground of complaint which might not involve its own removal, but it did not wish voluntarily to surrender itself to death.

Dr. Webster remarked that the establishment of the Apothecaries' Company, on its present footing, had not prevented the college receiving a much greater accession of candidates for its diploma, and consequent accession of funds, than it had received before the present charter had been granted to that company, and yet the latter was the only body in England which could enforce the possession of its licence. He thought the delegates would feel much obliged if Mr. Guthrie would state the nature of the reforms which were contemplated in the College of Surgeons.

Mr. Guthrie asked, what were the grievances of which Dr. Webster had to complain. He believed there was not one which the college was not anxious to see removed. It ought to be remembered, that the powers of the college were limited by its charter; it was not a governing body; it was a mere surgical establishment, and he thought it was honourable to surgery that it should have its own college. He was most anxious that this country should always have a college of surgery.

Dr. Webster complained of the conflicting and varied regulations of the several examining and licensing boards of the United Kingdom, and of the perpetual changes which were made in the curricula of study. There was no board in London which could conduct a proper examination of general practitioners.

Mr. Guthrie replied, that the sole business of the college was to examine in surgery. Those who wished to practise medicine went to the College of Physicians; those who would practise pharmacy, to Apothecaries' Hall; and those who intended to be accoucheurs, should be submitted to the examination of some other board. The president of the college was a *surgeon*; he required no examination in midwifery, and his attendance in the laboratory of his hospital gave him a sufficient knowledge of pharmacy for one who did not pursue that branch as a business. Country practitioners being called upon to practise all four departments, ought to undergo all four examinations; it did not follow, however, that he should be examined in all at one time, or under the same roof.

Dr. Webster was happy to hear Mr. Guthrie's admission, that an examination in *every* branch was requisite to form a general practitioner.

Mr. Smith thought it somewhat inconsistent that a country surgeon should have to undergo four examinations, while one was sufficient for a metropolitan consulting surgeon. It would be a great oppression if general practitioners were to be subjected to the ordeal of four boards.

Mr. Carter inquired how the fees would be re-

gulated in such a case. Would there be four distinct payments?

Mr. Guthrie said, by no means; the college was indifferent about the fees; one moderate fee would have to be paid for all examinations. Measures were in progress to form a complete scheme of examination through the medium of the present examining bodies; but to a representative medical faculty he could not consent: it would be a death-blow to the college.

Mr. Farr said, the college would be placed on higher grounds than before by the proposed change, if the council were chosen by the members. Licentiates of the new body would think it an honour to belong to the college.

Mr. Carter said, the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh saw nothing incompatible with the persistence of the present corporations in the construction of a representative governing body.

Mr. Guthrie observed, that the Edinburgh College had less to do than the London, and it probably expected to form the examining board for Scotland. It was different from this college; it was a college of medicine, midwifery, and pharmacy, as well as of surgery. The new board in England would examine in surgery, and it was absurd to suppose that its members would place much value on an additional and separate surgical diploma. An attempt had been made to assimilate the curricula of the London and Edinburgh colleges; but the latter would not consent to so long an hospital attendance by six months, as the London college deemed requisite. They were satisfied in Edinburgh with a lower standard of acquirement: hence the want of agreement between the two colleges. The idea of opening the college to the election of its officers by 14,000 would be preposterous; there would be no end of the trouble occasioned by supplying them with voting papers; and what assurance had they that proper men would be chosen? A medical practitioner, in some remote part of Cornwall, would, perhaps, form his opinion of his (Mr. G.'s) character from what was said of him in print, and he would not, consequently, be chosen as a member of council. A system of representation would, he believed, be adopted, but it would be of a limited character; the electors would, perhaps, have to undergo a second and higher examination as a qualification; he had, from the moment of entering the college, been in favour of a measure of this kind.

Mr. Grainger stated, that the profession generally was dissatisfied with the college; its own members were shut out from any share in its transactions; a better regulation of medical education was required than that provided by the present institutions. The profession was almost unanimous in wishing for a representative governing body, as the only remedy for the evils they now had to complain of.

Dr. Forbes thought the Apothecaries' Company should never have been entrusted with the care of medical education, or the licensing of medical men: there was an entire want of a proper board for examining candidates for medical practice, and the establishment of such a board would not be injurious to the colleges now in existence.

The President thought that the new board would have the effect of gradually destroying the old ones, and of creating but one class in the pro-

fession; he believed the high state of surgery in this country was owing to its being made a separate and distinct department, and being placed under the superintendence of its own college.

Mr. White thought the constitution of the London College of Surgeons could not be improved; he was unwilling that it should undergo the slightest alteration. It was a mistake to suppose that the council were irresponsible; they were responsible to government. True, they did not profess to examine candidates in all departments of the healing art; they were surgeons, they knew nothing but surgery; they had nothing to do with medicine or midwifery; and, as to pharmacy, they were not required to know what calomel was; its new name was foreign to their ears: they kept strictly to their own department. What was there to complain of in the college? He did not know of a single defect. If such could be pointed out, he was sure the president would exert himself to effect its removal. Did not the council contain the most eminent men in the profession? Had not their funds been usefully employed? Their museum had cost 15,000*l.*; it was then small. What was it now? The wonder of every one. Then their library, which a few years ago consisted of a few volumes, now contained no fewer than 20,000. And for whose benefit had all this money been spent, and these improvements made? For the profession. The museum was open to all; the library was closed against none, although the books could not be removed from the room. The education of medical men was greatly superior now to what it used to be; their attainments were higher; their examinations better. The college had joined the physicians and apothecaries in framing new schemes, not because it thought itself in need of amendment, but that it might not refuse to unite with them in their views and proceedings.

Dr. Webster complained of the Apothecaries' Company. Sir Benjamin Brodie had stated to him, that the examinations of the present bodies were not sufficiently practical. He wondered that the college had never attempted to defend its members against the prosecutions of the Apothecaries' Company.

Mr. Guthrie said the company had abandoned prosecutions. There was nothing, in fact, in the shape of abuse which the three London corporations were not willing to amend; but they wished to take their own way of doing it. They were preparing a Bill to Parliament, and the only difference between their plan and that of the delegates was, that they would try to prolong their own existence, and not erect a new establishment, which was to serve *instead* of the old ones; the latter might be subservient to the proposed end.

SMALL-POX.

A correspondent at Warrington informs us that on Sunday evening last, three children born of the same parents were interred in one grave, having died of casual small-pox. Yet, while facts like this are occurring throughout the country, every obstacle is thrown in the way of the diffusion of vaccination by the so-called guardians of the poor.

SURGICAL REGISTRY.

THE Council of the College of Surgeons, London, being desirous of furnishing a correct list of their members, have issued a notice requesting that each member will transmit to the Secretary a statement, containing his name at full length, address, and date of diploma, in order that it may be compared with the chronological list. The member should also state, in a similar manner, if he have a degree in medicine, or the licence of the Apothecaries' Company.

USE OF SULPHUR OINTMENT IN SMALL-POX.

NEARLY two years have now elapsed since one of the Editors of the *PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL* endeavoured to direct the attention of the London Medical Society to the treatment of small-pox pustules with mercurial plaster. Some of the members promised to give the plan a fair trial, but we have never heard that any experiments were performed by them. Within the last few months this plan has been frequently noticed in the *English Medical Journals*, but it would appear from the experiments of Dr. Midaveine, that sulphur possesses the same efficacy as mercury in arresting the development of the small-pox pustule. Dr. M. employs an ointment composed of two to two and a half drachms of flour of sulphur to an ounce of lard, and with this rubs lightly, thrice a day, all parts of the body on which pustules exist. The nearer the pustules are to the period of their first appearance, the greater the chances of success; the papulæ then contract, become dry, and fade away. Even in confluent small-pox the patient quickly recovers his appetite, and asks for food. We should, however, remark that Dr. Midaveine employed the sulphur ointment in sixteen cases only, and of these twelve had been vaccinated.—*Gaz. Med.* No. XV.

A MEDICAL PEER.

IT is reported in the best informed circles of Paris, that M. Double is about to be elevated to the dignity of a Peer of France. Rumour also connects with his name those of Baron Larrey and M. Orfila.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON.

List of Gentlemen admitted Members on April 16, 1841.—William Burford Norman, William Toogood, George Francis Keys, Richard Davison Pritchard, Richard Oxford, Charles Mott, James William Young, Alexander Thorn, Henry Mortimer Rawden.

Printed by THOMAS IBOTSON, of 105, St. Martin's Lane, in the Parish of St. Martin in the Fields, and GEORGE JOSIAH PALMER, of 20, Regent Square, in the Parish of St. Pancras, at their Office, No. 3, Savoy-street, Strand, in the Precinct of the Savoy; and published by JOHN WILLIAMS RUMSEY, at his Residence, No. 6, Wellington-street, Strand, in the Precinct of the Savoy.—Friday, April 23, 1841.