will be supplied hereafter by Fellows admitted on examination, it will be obvious that the framers of the Charter did not intend that the Fellows to be thus nominated should greatly exceed the number of three hundred.

The Council entered on the duty assigned to them by these provisions of the Charter with a full sense of its invidious nature. They were aware that of those, not included in the list of Fellows, a considerable number would feel and express dissatisfaction. But they have done what was required of them to the best of their ability, and have made the selection altogether on public grounds, without favour or prejudice, and uninfluenced by private motives. The following statement will sufficiently explain the principles on which they have acted.

The great majority of the Members of this College are less engaged in the practice of Surgery than in that of Medicine, Midwifery, and Pharmacy, and many of them have arrived at well-deserved eminence in these latter departments of the Medical profession. But the Council, keeping in view the objects for which the College was especially established, have felt it their duty, in the nomination of Fellows, to regard chiefly the qualifications of Members as practitioners in Surgery, or as improvers of those sciences which tend to its advancement.

1. In accordance with this principle, they placed in the list of Fellows the Surgeons of all the Hospitals in England and Wales which are recognised by them as schools of Surgery; and they did so under the conviction that the Surgeons of large Hospitals have the best opportunity of experience in Surgery, and that they are the persons principally consulted in private practice, and referred to by other practitioners, in surgical cases.

2. But they were aware that in several parts of the kingdom there are Members of the College having considerable reputation as Surgeons, and called into consultation in surgical cases by the practitioners in their neighbourhood, although they have no connexion with Hospitals; and the Council thought it right to place the most eminent of such persons on the list of Fellows. In executing this part of their duties great circumspection was required, lest improper names should be inserted and proper ones omitted. In this respect the list is incomplete, there being individuals of this class whose claims are still under consideration.

3. Not being well acquainted with the qualifications of Military and Naval Surgeons, and being at the same time desirous of doing justice to them, the Council applied for assistance to the heads of their respective departments; and many of the names included in the schedule of Fellows are the result of this application.

4. There are in London several practitioners in Surgery, who, though not connected with Hospitals, were considered eligible to the Council under the former Charter and according to former usages, and the Council therefore thought that they ought to be admitted to the Fellowship. Many of these gentlemen are well known and much esteemed by the profession; and the question was, not whether they should be elevated to a new position, but whether they should be displaced from one which they had previously occupied.

5. Some individuals have been placed on the list of

Fellows from having distinguished themselves in cultivating the kindred sciences of Anatomy, Physiology and Natural History. The Council cannot but regard such persons as ornaments of the College, and it will be gratifying to them to find others of the same class who may be added to the list.

6. Other names have been inserted for special reasons, being principally those of Teachers who had been recognised by former acts of the Council, or of persons holding important public offices. Among the latter are four Senators of the University of London.

The Council are empowered to nominate an additional number of Fellows before the expiration of the first year from the date of the Charter. This will enable them to supply the deficiencies of the former list, in anticipation of which it is evident that this clause was introduced. In the future nomination of Fellows, the Council see no reason why they should depart from the general principles on which they have hitherto acted; though they will make it their object to omit the name of no individual who is held in esteem by the other Members of the College for his surgical experience and scientific attainments. For those who are not yet so distinguished, there is an honourable method of obtaining the Fellowship by examination.

In conclusion, the Council take the liberty of observing, that no alteration in the Charter, nor any legislative enactment, can materially change the condition of those who have been for some time established in practice. In the Medical profession each individual makes his own place in society; intellect, knowledge and integrity being equally appreciated and respected in every grade and station. If the changes introduced by the present Charter are to have the effect of elevating the character of the Surgical profession generally, it will be in the next rather than in the present generation; and if the elder practitioners are interested in these changes, it is less on their own account, than on that of their sons and successors.

By order of the Council,

EDMUND BELFOUR,

Secretary.

Lincoln's Inn Fields, May 25, 1844.

SURREY BENEVOLENT MEDICAL SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

On behalf of the "Surrey Benevolent Medical Society," I have to request the favour of you to cause the following resolutions to be inserted in the next number of your Journal.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

PETER MARTIN, Secretary.

Reigate, May 28, 1844.

The printed statement of the Society of Apothecaries, recently published, having been circulated for perusal among the members of this Society, and a copy thereof presented by the President to the half-yearly general meeting of the Surrey Benevolent

Medical Society, held at Epsom, on Monday the 27th instant:—

It was moved by Dr. Mayd, of Epsom, and seconded by Edward Westall, Esq., of Croydon, and resolved unanimously,

That the thanks of the Surrey Benevolent Medical Society be tendered to the Society of Apothecaries, for their very satisfactory statement.

That it is the opinion of this Society that the whole Medical Profession, but more especially the great body of General Practitioners, is deeply indebted to the Society of Apothecaries, for the able, upright, and efficient manner, in which it has carried out the objects, and enforced the provisions of the Act of 1815.

That under its administration of that Act, the education of the General Practitioner has been greatly improved, his moral and intellectual character elevated, his influence in society proportionally increased, and his respectability and dignified position more fully established in public estimation.

That Medical Science has advanced, and a vast increase of professional knowledge has resulted from its cautious, but steadily increased scale of requirement from candidates for the license, and its wise development of the power with which it was invested by that Act, and that incalculable benefits have resulted to the public from the honest and able manner in which the Society of Apothecaries has discharged the difficult and responsible duties imposed upon it by the legislature.

That the President do, on behalf of this Society, communicate this resolution to the Society of Apothecaries, with an assurance of warm participation in the grateful feelings which it is believed are generally entertained towards it by the great body of the Medical Profession.

STATEMENT OF THE SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

In the statement which the Society of Apothecaries have just published on the subject of their administration of the Act of 1815, there are two features which cannot be overlooked, namely, the great modesty with which they have drawn up their case, and the triumphant and convincing manner in which they have established their solid pretensions to the confidence of the general practitioners of the united kingdom.

Out of the mouths of their very enemies they have extorted reluctant praise—one strong proof of their undeniable merit, while the simple plain statement of their proceedings under the Act of 1815, up to the present time, furnishes a record of services, as yet too little appreciated by the public, but whose beneficial influence and moral effects have been in silent operation for nearly thirty years, and have raised the medical profession from a very equivocal, to a really high standard of respectability.

Could it, then, Sir, have been believed that a Secretary of State should undertake a plan of Medical Reform, and actually frame a Bill with such a purport, without once conferring with a body of men who had been for a quarter of a century the honest and upright, and now, the universally acknowledged able and

efficient executive of a Parliamentary enactment; which, through their means has conferred incalculable advantages on the public, and diffuse throughout the kingdom, and very far beyond its limits, all the blessings resulting from a vast increase of medical knowledge.

Yet, Sir, such is the fact; our Home Secretary has not condescended to ask a question, much more, advice, from any individual of that respectable body, but has presumed to enter upon this most important and difficult undertaking in, apparently, happy ignorance of its existence; or, in case of denial as to the latter charge, he has offered to the great body of the profession a most unjustifiable and deliberate insult, in this supercilious indifference to the present regulations for general medical education.

Former experience of the medical operations of Sir James Graham, has no tendency to inspire us with confidence, either in his wisdom or good intentions. We have only to look back upon his very recent transactions, with regard to the College Charter, to feel suspicious of any interference threatened by him. And it now behoves the general practitioner to be on the alert, and prepare himself for strenuous resistance should his present or future interests, his respectability and standing in society, be increased or endangered by the new project.

There must be no hesitation, no reluctance to come forward; there must be a combined force to show irresistible strength, and a sincere and zealous co-operation to defeat jobbery, and to secure a genuine medical reform.

The general practitioner must not entrust his interests to the hands of others; he must not allow any other grade to interfere in his education, or acknowledge any power to control his practice that does not emanate from members of his own rank. He must admit of no superiority in, or dictation from, or amalgamation with, any other body of men, claiming exclusive and separate privileges from himself.

In short, he will not only compromise, but swamp his present respectability, by allowing his qualifications to be tested by examination in any Court which does not consist of properly qualified general practitioners.

But, it may be asked, under whose banner should the general practitioner contend? Had I ever any doubts of the principles which swayed the Society of Apothecaries, or the zeal or integrity with which they enforced to their utmost power, the provisions of their Act of 1815, their late publication would have effectually removed them. And I now appeal to my brother practitioners, whether they can do better than at once cordially unite with that respectable body, so long and so fully tried; and from their chartered position, and recognized authority, so capable of taking the lead, and requiring nothing but powerful co-operation to ensure success. As the Home Secretary is shortly to favour us with his plan, we have no time to lose; we must be up and stirring, and prepare for action; and I hope, Sir, that you will not only sanction this appeal with your approbation, but add to it your own powerful influence, to render it effectual.

I remain, Sir, your humble servant,

ALFRED HARDWICKE, M.D.,

A Retired General Practitioner.

Kensington; May 25, 1844.