injurious tendency of certain parts of the proposed bill.

The thanks of the meeting were voted to the Editor of *The Times* newspaper; to the Editors of the Medical Press; and to the Chairman and Secretary.

W. J. WICKHAM,
HON. SECRETARY.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND
SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

I am directed to transmit to you the following copy of Resolutions, and to request the favour that they may be inserted in the columns of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. H. R. HARRISON,
HON. SECRETARY.

Exeter Hall, October 7, 1844.

At a recent meeting of the Council, held to take into consideration the Medical Bill of Sir James Graham, it was unanimously resolved:—

I. That the Bill is exceedingly defective and illiberal in many respects, and if it should be passed by the Legislature in its present state, would be highly injurious to the public and the profession.

II. That it nevertheless recognizes and contains several important provisions founded on the great principles of Medical Reform, for which the British Medical Association has been strenuously contending since 1836; and that it would be inexpedient and unwise recklessly to oppose the entire measure, because it is defective in some respects, and illiberal in others.

III. That the chief defects of the Bill are:—1. The want of the true representative principle in the election of the ruling bodies in the medical corporations.—2. The absence of any provision for uniting the medical profession into one body, or faculty of medicine, upon the acknowledged principle that medicine and surgery, with their various subdivisions, (for the public convenience,) are but parts of one science, which can only be effectually taught as a whole.—3. The want of all effective protection to the public and the profession, against the evils arising from the practice of unqualified persons.—4. The unjust and illiberal constitution of the proposed Council of Health and Medical Education, in which the great majority of medical practitioners would have no voice, while the influence of the Home Secretary and the Government would be overwhelming.—5. The obvious effect of the Bill, in connexion with the Charters recently granted to the Colleges of Surgeons, would be to degrade general practitioners, and improperly to elevate pure surgeons and physicians.—6. The omission of any summary and inexpensive mode of enforcing penalties, (such as by information before two of her Majesty's justices of peace,) against those persons assuming medical titles, or falsely pretending to be on the proposed register.—7. The absence of any defined method of sufficiently making known to the public the names of registered practitioners.

IV. That the features of the bill, which the council recognise with satisfaction, and which, if properly carried out, would be beneficial to the profession, as well as to the community, are the following:—1. The appointment of a general Council of Health and Medical Education which, if justly constituted and judiciously worked, implies a greater concern for the public health than Government or Parliament have hitherto evinced.—2. The legitimate connexion for the first time of the profession with the Government, and thereby much readier access to Parliament, and to the Ministers of the Crown, through the Secretary of State for the Home Department.—3. The general superintendence of medical education, with uniform tests of qualification for practice.—4. The erection of the Council of Health into a Court of Appeal against any oppressive or unjust acts which may be committed by the medical corporations, and which have hitherto passed with impunity, and without redress.—5. The general registration of qualified practitioners.—6. The right to practice in all parts of her Majesty's dominions after being duly qualified and registered.—7. The provision against the assumption of medical titles by unregistered practitioners.—8. That none but registered practitioners can legally recover charges for medical or surgical advice, attendance, or operations, or for medicines prescribed or administered.

V. That the council having found, from previous experience, that all former attempts at practical legislation, by individual Members of Parliament, have failed; and this Association having, by deputation and correspondence, strongly urged upon Sir James Graham the propriety of Government undertaking the conduct of a bill to regulate medical qualifications and practice, upon liberal and broad principles, are of opinion that no measure would be likely to pass unless introduced by Government, and, therefore, that it is the duty of all medical reformers to endeavour to obtain such modifications of Sir James Graham's Bill, that it may be calculated to give satisfaction to the profession, and to confer the greatest amount of benefit on the public.

VI. That any medical bill which does not contain power effectually to restrain ignorant and unqualified practitioners from practising the healing art in any of its departments, will be most deceptive and injurious to the community, and most unjust to medical practitioners who have, at much cost of time and money, qualified themselves for the service of the public.

VII. That, therefore, separate and united representations should be made to Government and to both Houses of Parliament, setting forth the liberal and just principles which any medical reform bill ought to contain; and that the members of the profession, in their various localities, should immediately wait upon their respective representatives, to endeavour to impress them with the importance of the subject, and to gain their support to such a measure.

VIII. That the Council strongly recommend that deputations from the various organized Medical Associations, and from the different counties and towns where meetings have taken place on the subject of the bill, should hold a conference in London, at the commencement of the next Session of Parliament, or while the measure is before the Legislature, to adopt ener-