

in the constitution of the medical profession in these kingdoms, have taken the subject into their consideration, in the hope of contributing to the removal of some of the difficulties with which it is surrounded, and of laying the foundation of an effectual and salutary reform.

The governor and company have been for a long time desirous of a general amendment of the laws which regulate medical affairs; but, in consequence of the divisions which have hitherto prevailed among the different presiding bodies, they despaired of effecting any arrangement which would have been commensurate with the wants of the profession as a whole, and had to restrict their attention to such changes as appeared to be called for in their own department. Their views on this subject are embodied in the draft of a bill, which they are prepared to submit to the wisdom of the legislature, and with regard to the nature of which, all that is necessary here to be stated is, that it is in conformity with the principles which they now wish to promulgate as the basis of a more general measure, the period having at length arrived when, through the concurrence of the different medical corporations, a full and comprehensive reform may be expected.

The governor and company, in delivering their opinions on so important a subject, wish to premise, that while they give a ready assent to the faulty constitution of the existing corporations, they entirely disbelieve they have operated injuriously upon the public, or that they are incapable of adaptation to the wants of the profession; they must express their regret, therefore, that any bill should have been introduced into Parliament having for its object the superseding or annihilation of these institutions, which, with all their alleged imperfections, have sedulously administered to the wants of the people, and provided well educated practitioners in every department of the healing art; and it cannot be too much urged that the grievances complained of have reference principally to the well-being of the profession itself, and that the public are only interested in the changes sought, so far as they are calculated to engender a better spirit of co-operation and harmony in the medical community.

The governor and company, however, representing a numerical majority of the practitioners in Ireland, are not the less sensible of the magnitude of the interests at stake, or less disposed to aid in a consummation so greatly to be desired; but, while professing to have these objects in view, they must dissent from a large portion of their brethren who would seek for those objects in the establishment of a "one faculty of medicine," in place of the tripartite representation which has so long existed, convinced by long experience that excellence in the respective departments can only be obtained by sectional separation, and that the appointment of respective institutions to preside over the branches of "physic," "surgery," and "pharmacy," is founded in wisdom, and advantageous to the public.

The governor and company consider that the real grievances under which the profession labours, arise, in the first place, from the irresponsible constitution and unequal privileges of the corporate bodies; and, in the second, from the

want of uniformity of education and reciprocity of rights among the members of the respective departments in the three kingdoms.

The governor and company accordingly propose the following legislative changes:—

1. A full extension of corporate rights and advantages to the licentiates belonging to each branch of the profession.

2. The establishment of uniform curricula of study for England, Ireland, and Scotland.

3. The institution of a "General Board of Superintendence and Control" in each kingdom—to be composed of an equal number of representatives from each branch of the profession, and to be elected annually by voting papers, (as proposed by Mr. Warburton,) whose duty it should be to regulate education—to appoint censors to attend on the different boards of examination—to grant licenses for practice to (but not examine) those presenting diplomas from the different corporations—to recognise teachers and schools—to keep and publish registries of the qualified, and to act in general as a court of appeal and board of health.

4. "Diplomas in medicine" to be granted only by universities and colleges of physicians, "diplomas in surgery" by colleges of surgeons, and "diplomas in pharmacy" by the apothecaries' halls.

5. A license for "general practice" to be granted *in future* only to candidates presenting the joint diplomas of the College of Surgeons and Apothecaries' Hall.

6. A right to recover professional charges to be conferred on those holding the license of the board, and not upon others.

7. Individuals holding the license of the board to be alone eligible to fill situations in the army and navy, and public institutions.

8. The establishment of an Apothecaries' Hall in Edinburgh.

9. The rights and privileges of existing practitioners to be saved in the most full and ample manner.

By order of the Court of Directors,
GEORGE ATKINSON, Secretary.

Dublin Medical Press.

BOOK RECEIVED.

Medical Relief for the Labouring Classes, on the Principle of Mutual Insurance. By H. W. Rumsey. Parker, London.

MEDICAL CONFERENCE.

In the abstract of the proceedings of the Medical Conference, contained in No. I. Vol. II., some observations, at page 18, line 16 from the bottom, are attributed to Dr. Cowan, which were made by Mr. Carter.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have been compelled to defer our reports of the "British Medical and North of England Associations."

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