

might be well, if all parties petitioning, would communicate to the medical press, that so the aggregate number may be known.

Number of members in Bath	54
Signed petition { Fellows .. 4 } 47
{ Members 43 }	
Refused to sign { Fellow.... 1 } 2
{ Member .. 1 }	
Ill	2
Out of town	2
Not asked	1

Of the seven comprised in the four last lines, I allow five as not signing, and two as signing; and this I think fair at least.

The Fellow who has refused to sign, is an elderly gentleman, on the eve of retiring from practice; and in his present isolation from his co-fellows and co-members, he enjoys simply the cold company of a retired member of the College, as they are the only two who actually refused their signatures.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

P. BALLANTINE FERGUSON, M.D.

Bath, May 3, 1845.

MEETING OF PHYSICIANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

The telling note of Dr. Williams, of Worcester, seems to render a meeting of pure physicians more desirable than ever; and, as of course, the meeting would really be one of physicians, not of general practitioners, so M.D. surgical operators would not be invited. Dr. Williams may be correct, anticipating its smallness, but the smaller in this empire the body of pure physicians is, the more strenuously should they combine to encourage each other, and to defend their position against the real and only enemy, the "doctor," who practises more than physic. The public, the legislature, should know, that it is not the title, but the practice which constitutes the practitioner; and that the office of physician in public institutions, if given to surgical operators, is unjustly, illegally, absurdly given. Since my last letter, I am assured of a lunatic asylum, to which a general practitioner has been appointed physician. The charity enjoyed the services of a surgeon already. To place another surgeon in office, merely because he is an M.D., is not to fill up the vacancy, but to exclude the fit officer, the pure physician.

Against such injuries as these the proposed conclave might devise some protection. At any rate, if it failed, it would be gratifying to encounter congenial spirits, who love more than the pelf of our profession, and who would not for base, pitiful selfishness, compromise the honour of their corps.

The Royal College stands at present in a position, which, I sincerely hope, will not expose it to ungenerous and factious hostilities. It is desirous of including within its fraternity *all* the *bond fide* physicians of England. But pray let the College have a little liberty of choice. Do not brutally force upon it "*all* the holders of Scotch diplomas; men who boast they have such, whilst they practise not merely as surgeons, but as apothecaries, apothecaries' assistants, chemists,

druggists, horse doctors." What ruinous improvidence to allow such to assume the rank and privileges of physicians in England? Who, with the *true* feelings of a medical practitioner, would wish to thrust this creed upon the gentlemen of the College? Who would wish to join their company? Perhaps, as many pure physicians as sympathise with Drs. Cardew, Williams, and myself, would publish in the Journal their names, and accelerate the synod.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT HULL, M.D.,

Extra Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians;
Physician to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

SYDENHAM SOCIETY.

The anniversary meeting of this society was held on Thursday last, May 1st, Dr. Paris, the President, in the chair.

From the report of the Council, it appears that a third volume for 1844-5 is on the point of being issued to the members, and among the works announced as in course of preparation, are those of Dr. William Hunter. The number of members now amounts to 2070. The following gentlemen were elected on the Council for the ensuing year:—President: Dr. Paris, F.R.S.; Vice-Presidents: Sir Alexander Crichton, M.D.; Dr. Alison; Dr. Hastings; Sir Benjamin C. Brodie, Bart; Sir William Burnett, M.D., F.R.S., K.C.H.; Dr. Davidson; Dr. Chambers, F.R.S., K.C.H.; Sir James Clark, Bart., M.D., F.R.S.; Sir Philip Crampton, Bart., F.R.S.; Sir Henry Marsh, Bart., M.D.; Sir James M'Grigor, Bart., M.D., F.R.S.L., and E.; Dr. Haviland; Mr. Hodgson, F.R.S.; Dr. Holland, F.R.S.; Dr. Kidd, F.R.S.; Mr. Travers, F.R.S.; Council: Dr. Arnott; Mr. Ancell; Dr. Clendinning, F.R.S.; Dr. Copland, F.R.S.; Mr. Erichsen; Dr. Forbes, F.R.S.; Dr. A. Farre, F.R.S.; Mr. Hilton, F.R.S.; Dr. Hodgkin, F.R.S.; Mr. Lane; Mr. Luke; Mr. Martin; Sir George Lefevre, M.D.; Mr. Drewry Ottley; Dr. Pereira, F.R.S.; Mr. Phillips, F.R.S.; Dr. Forbes Royle, F.R.S.; Dr. Sharpey, F.R.S.; Mr. Henry Smith; Mr. Solly, F.R.S.; Mr. Squibb; Dr. Th. Thompson; Dr. Wilson; Mr. E. Wilson, F.R.S.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

Gentlemen admitted Licentiates, April 24th, 1845 :—
R. M. Mann, Manchester; T. S. Barringer, London;
H. A. Newell, Hormead; T. Harrison, Halifax.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Dr. Starr; The Birmingham Pathological Society; and Mr. Newnham.

It is requested that all letters and communications be sent to Dr. Streeten, Foregate Street, Worcester. Parcels, and books for review, may be addressed to the Editor of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal, care of Mr. Churchill, Princes Street, Soho,