

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. EDIN., writes: May I be allowed to support Mr. Brodhurst's statement about the rejected of London going to Edinburgh? When I was a student at Guy's at least two men of my year who had been plucked at London University went to Edinburgh and graduated there. One of them was a most unfortunate man, who never, I believe, passed any London examination at his first attempt; he was plucked at his matric., he was plucked twice at his preliminary scientific, and I believe also at his first M.B., he was plucked at his first college; he finally gave up trying for the London degree, and went to Edinburgh, where he graduated five years after entering at Guy's. The other man was plucked five times at his matriculation, qualified L.S.A. 1873, M.R.C.S. 1874, M.B. and C.M. Edin. 1875. He never failed at any other examination. Both these were quite average men; putting this without any further statement might be misleading, and this is where Mr. Brodhurst seems to have erred. Both these men had to spend two years in Edinburgh in order to graduate. The inference that might be drawn from Mr. Brodhurst's evidence is that they went directly from the one university to the other. Residence is required at both universities. There is no doubt that both universities (Aberdeen and Edinburgh) give good degrees, but they are degrees that any student who works fairly may obtain; in London it is not so. I could give examples of others who have in like manner obtained the Aberdeen degree. I could give a list of quite a number of ordinary men in country practice who have never been heard of out of their own villages who have obtained the F.R.C.S. Edin. simply on the nomination of those who have already possessed the title. No person who knows anything of the subject could think of comparing the London and Edinburgh titles as being equal; only those do so who seek to strut in borrowed plumes. There is this to be said of the Edinburgh colleges, that they meet the requirements of men in practice who wish to take up higher qualifications or additional ones. I started in practice as M.R.C.S. only, intending to take a degree at a university. Circumstances prevented this, and although desirous of getting the L.R.C.P. Lond., I found that a stay in the metropolis for several days would be necessary. Instead of this I travelled in the night to Edinburgh, and got a special examination, returning again the next night, having been away from home for one whole day only. I had a very searching examination; they make it stiffer, I was told, for those who ask for a "special," for which an extra fee of £5 is required. I got my diploma, of which I confess I sometimes feel ashamed, and I never for one moment think that it is equal to the L.R.C.P. of London, though probably I may claim to be as well up in my profession as those who possess the latter, but my diploma does not guarantee it.

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