

NEWS AND TOPICS OF THE DAY.

MEDICAL REGISTRATION BILL.

[House of Commons, Tuesday, March 23rd.]

Mr. Brady's Medical Registration Bill was read a second time.

[March 28th.]

Mr. CRAWFORD gave notice that on the motion for going into committee on the Medical Practitioners' Bill, he would move as an amendment, that this House will on this day six months resolve itself into the said committee.

He presented petitions against the Bill, from the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association; from the Central Council of the same Association; from the medical practitioners resident at Worcester; and from the physicians and surgeons to the Worcester Infirmary.

Mr. BRADY'S REGISTRATION BILL. The following petition has been forwarded from the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh:—

"Petition of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh humbly sheweth,—

"That the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh have for many years past taken a deep interest in the question of medical reform, and have frequently petitioned Parliament in support of projected Bills for the better regulation of the profession.

"That the Royal College, on these occasions, gave their sanction to these intended measures of medical reform, because they contained at least two provisions regarded by the College as quite indispensable in every such measure, in order to satisfy the reasonable wishes of the profession, and the just demands of the public, viz., uniformity of medical education in the case of all candidates for license to practise, and uniformity of examination by all the licensing medical boards, so far as that is attainable by any Bill.

"That the Royal College observe that a Bill has been brought into Parliament by Mr. Brady, entitled 'A Bill for the Registration of qualified Practitioners, and for amending the Law relating to the Practice of Medicine in Great Britain and Ireland,' which contains no provisions for effecting the two important objects now specified, while it confirms and perpetuates to existing medical incorporations all their obnoxious privileges in respect of practice.

"That the College cannot but regard the enactment of a measure so defective in principle, and so circumscribed in operation, as fraught with consequences alike injurious to the interests of the profession, and to those of the public.

"The College, being strongly impressed with these convictions, trust that it may therefore please your honourable House to prevent this Bill from being passed into a law.

"And your petitioners will ever pray.

"Signed and sealed in name of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh.

"THOS. STEWART TRAILL, President.

"ALEX. WOOD, Secretary.

"Edinburgh, 21st March, 1854."

MR. HOUSELEY AND THE WAKEFIELD MEDICAL SOCIETY. On Thursday, the 23rd instant, the following resolutions were passed by the Wakefield Medical Society:

I. That Mr. Houseley having passed his youth and the earlier part of his professional career in Wakefield, is well known to many of us, and we bear willing testimony to the kindness of his disposition, to his honourable feeling and conduct, to his ability, industry, and professional attainments.

II. That from the evidence produced in the case of *Seward v. Houseley*, it appears to us that Mr. Houseley exercised great care in the treatment of the fracture, and that the unfortunate result was, in some measure, owing to circumstances over which the defendant had no control, and for which, therefore, he ought not, in strict justice, to be held responsible.

III. That in any view of the case the damages were excessive; and we cannot but feel that in awarding such heavy damages, the jury must have been, to some extent, influenced by the marked prejudice which seems to operate against the members of our profession whenever they have to appear in a court of justice, whatever be the capacity in which they appear there.

IV. That we cannot but regard with apprehension the results which may ensue, if such verdicts should become common results, fatal or injurious not only to the medical profession, but

also in some cases to their patients; for as there have been found some wretches so vile as to have committed murder, and that even on their own offspring, for the sake of the allowance made by the burial clubs, it is surely not too much to expect that the greater temptation held out by the hope of recovering large damages from the medical man, may induce others to interfere with the progress of the cure of injuries, that they might be able to found a charge of malpractice on the result.

V. That steps be taken in this neighbourhood to raise a subscription; and that the amount collected be placed in the hands of Mr. Proprietor.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS:—PASS LIST. Members admitted at a meeting of the Court of Examiners on March 3rd:—Charles Joseph Aldridge, Myddleton Square; Robert Henry Bartrum, Norfolk Crescent, Bath; Henry Critchley Brodrick, Hon. East India Company's Service, Madras; Thomas Beath Christie, Pembroke House, Hackney; Wm. Henry Day, Stratton, near Swindon; John Fox, Manchester; Arthur Peter Goulet, Australia; Jas. Ho Chee, Hon. East India Company's Service, Bombay; James Cochran Lay, New York; George Farbridge Stainthorpe, Newcastle.

March 10th:—H. Naunton Davies, Cymmer Works, Pontypridd, Glamorganshire; John Griffith, Army; William Harris, Waterford; William Henry Makin, Lancaster; Charles Frederick Mauder, Exeter; Benjamin Savage Robins, Dunsley Hall, near Stourbridge; John Short, Madras; James Prichard Thomas, Aberdare, Glamorganshire; John Craske Webb, Shaftesbury Crescent, Pimlico; George Wright, Manchester.

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