

"The number of medical men engaged in Obstetric practice probably equals the number engaged in the practice of either Medicine or Surgery. They comprise a considerable number of the graduates of the University of London; of the fellows and licentiates of the College of Physicians, and fellows of the College of Surgeons; and the great body of members of the College of Surgeons and licentiates of the Society of Apothecaries. The M.B. degree of the University of London, and the licence of the Society of Apothecaries, are the only qualifications which offer any guarantee of the fitness of their possessors to practise in this department.

"The College of Surgeons has instituted a special examination in Midwifery, but the Medical Council cannot fail to observe that the possession of this licence is entirely voluntary, and that any fellow or member of the College may practise Midwifery without having passed any examination in this subject. On the other hand, the licence in Midwifery may be given to persons who are neither members of the College, nor possessed of any other qualification. Such licentiates in Midwifery may engage in general practice without any qualification in Medicine or Surgery. This special licence in Midwifery is derogatory to the position of the Obstetric practitioner, as tending to revive his supposed inferiority to the practitioner of Medicine and Surgery, which inferiority it has been the province of progressive science to remove. The social effect of the Midwifery licence is felt the more severely, since it has been proposed by the College of Surgeons to institute a special licence in Dentistry, with which it would in future be associated as apart from regular Medical qualifications.

"The Council of the Obstetrical Society believe that the interests of the profession, and the welfare of the public, demand that the standard of education and examination for those who are engaged in the practice of Midwifery, should be as high in this department, as that which obtains in Medicine and Surgery. Speaking of the large numbers occupied in the general practice of Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery, they venture to assert that in the actual responsibilities of the practitioner, Midwifery is equally important with Medicine or Surgery. The reputation of the medical attendant, and the safety of the patient, depend as often upon a knowledge of Midwifery, as upon an acquaintance with the sister branches of the healing art.

"The Council respectfully suggest that the attendance on Lectures on Midwifery by the student, should equal the attendance required on Medicine or Surgery. They beg to express their deliberate conviction that it is quite impossible to teach the principles of Midwifery in a single three months' course of lectures. As regards Practical Instruction, the Council suggest that Lying-in-Hospitals, the Maternity Departments of general hospitals, and other institutions be in future recognised as schools of instruction in Practical Midwifery, and that a specified and sufficient attendance upon them, similar to the attendance upon medical or surgical hospital practice, should be required from all students. As regards Examination for Licences, Diplomas, and Degrees, they further suggest that all candidates should, as in the Continental schools, be tested in Midwifery to the same extent as in Medicine and Surgery.

"Signed on behalf of the Council,

CHARLES LOCOCK, *Honorary President.*

EDWARD RIGBY, *President.*

GRAILY HEWITT, } *Honorary Secretaries.*

THOS. H. TANNER, }

53, Berners Street, August 1st, 1859.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"*JE LE PANSAY, DIEU LE GUARIT.*" A correspondent has objected that this sentence was incorrectly quoted in Dr. Vose's address, as the words "pansay" and "guarit" do not exist in French. Certainly they are not to be found in modern French; but the orthography of the quotation belongs to the sixteenth century, the period at which Paré flourished.

DEFERRED MATTER. Dr. Beale's Lecture, the Report of the Cornwall Medical Society, and various letters and other articles, are in type, but have been deferred in order to make room for the report of the proceedings of the Medical Council.

NOTICE.—DR. WYNTER will feel obliged if the Associates will address all Post Office Orders in payment of Subscriptions, to the Publisher, MR. THOMAS JOHN HONEYMAN, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C., "Bloomsbury Branch"; and he would also feel obliged by their sending all communications respecting the non-receipt of the Journal, to the same address; as both these matters are out of the province of the Editor.

ANONYMOUS CORRESPONDENTS should always enclose their names to the Editor; not for publication, but in token of good faith. No attention can be paid to communications not thus authenticated.

Members should remember that corrections for the current week's JOURNAL should not arrive later than Wednesday.

Communications have been received from:—DR. FRANCIS HAWKINS; MR. T. HOLMES; DR. HYDE SALTER; DR. LIONEL BEALE; DR. G. M. HUMPHRY; DR. W. NEWMAN; DR. A. P. STEWART; MEDICUS; DR. MC EWEN; DR. HENRY PORTER; MR. R. M. CRAVEN; DR. KIDD; MR. HAYNES WALTON; DR. CHEVALLIER; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; DR. S. W. J. MERRIMAN; DR. J. B. NEVINS; DR. R. H. TAYLOR; DR. H. Y. WHYTEHEAD; and MR. J. B. CARTER.

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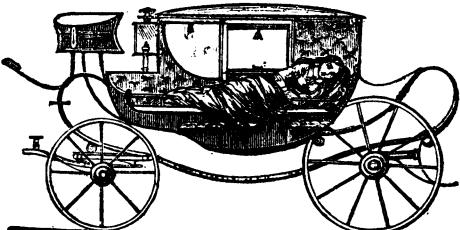
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