

receiving such confirmation. Mr. Cowper's bill also reforms, without destroying, the existing medical and surgical corporations, and enables those institutions to accept new charters of incorporation. The only objections to the bill are, that it does not give to those bodies exclusive privileges, and does not attempt to define what is a physician, surgeon, or apothecary. With regard to the first objection, it must be admitted that with the example of the municipal bodies before us, it would be inconsistent with the spirit of the age to perpetuate evils that are incompatible with progress; and, as to the second, the attempt would be absurd, even if it could be carried out. *Cui bono?* It would not prevent Mr. Lawrence attending a case of consumption, or Sir Benjamin Brodie prescribing in a case of gout or stomach disease. Neither would it prevent a leading physician in a certain London hospital successfully treating club foot.

"It has been repeatedly advanced in *The Observer*, that all legislation with regard to the medical profession must be based on two first principles; to secure to the public duly qualified medical and surgical practitioners; and secondly, for the interests of the public, to protect those practitioners in the exercise of their professional callings. It must be borne in mind that medicine and surgery, as a science, is one and indivisible. Circumstances occasionally create distinctions, and the necessity always will exist of certain practitioners devoting their time more particularly to one special department. The bill of Mr. Cowper recognises all that is necessary for the benefit of the profession and interests of the public, and it adopts the principles advocated in *The Observer* when it states, that 'it is expedient that the qualifications of persons seeking to enter the medical profession, should be tested and declared by competent authorities, and that persons requiring medical aid should be enabled to distinguish qualified from unqualified practitioners.' Mr. Cowper's bill, whilst it establishes no separate distinction, furnishes an answer to this question, Who are legally qualified practitioners, and where is the boundary line of the medical profession? These are matters which the interests of the public and the profession require to be settled; but there is no need of an attempt to separate, by legal definitions, the branches into which the medical profession naturally divides itself, and the question, who is a physician, a surgeon, and an apothecary, is left to be answered by the corporate institutions who have authority by royal charter or by statute. The public have practically no difficulty in distinguishing between the general practitioners and the consulting surgeon and the consulting physician, and require no help from legal enactments. They might, on the contrary, be misled by any attempt to define, in the strict language of an Act of Parliament, the distinctions which exist in the profession by usage and conviction as much as by law. That a few only of the medical corporations of the United Kingdom are desirous to promote sound reform there is no doubt; and of the few, that which is most prominent in this onward march is the College of Physicians of London. That body is most desirous of amending those laws which have for years kept it as an almost unapproachable body, and in which its licentiates have no voice or control. Of the bill of Lord Eliocho it is unnecessary to say a word, for by all ranks and grades in the profession it is ignored; and as to the bill of Mr. Duncombe, it is a most undigested proposal. It is behind the age, inasmuch as it seeks to add to the evils already existing, by promoting an addition to the great sources of the evils of society and the medical profession, by the institution of another corporate body; and in other points, it is deficient in those practical securities for the public welfare which characterise the other propositions now under the consideration of Parliament."

REPUDIATION OF HOMŒOPATHY. The following resolution was passed by the Southampton Medical Society, on December 4th, 1855:—"That a homœopathic practitioner should not be met in consultation by a member of this society under any circumstances."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

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.

CLERICAL HOMŒOPATHY. We are prevented by pressure of matter from noticing this subject in the present number. We shall endeavour not to forget it next week.

To CONTRIBUTORS. The Editor would feel glad if Members of the Association and others, would cooperate with him in establishing as a rule, that in future no paper for publication shall exceed two pages of the Journal in length. If the writers of long communications knew as well as the Editor does, that lengthy papers *always* deter the reader from commencing them, this great evil would never arise. Brevity is the soul of medical writing—still more than of wit.

POSTAGE OF MANUSCRIPT AND PRINTED MATTER.

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Communications have been received from:—MR. J. S. GAMGEE; MR. HOLMES COOTE; DR. DAY; MR. J. H. GRAMSHAW; DR. WILLIAM ADDISON; MR. JAMES HAWKINS; MR. AUGUSTIN PRICHARD; MR. T. HOLMES; DR. R. U. WEST; MRS. WHIPPLE; MR. T. UNDERHILL; DR. C. H. LEET; MR. R. KERSWILL; MR. JAMES CARRUTHERS; REV. J. MC BEAN; DR. INMAN; MR. J. J. POPE; MR. G. V. IRVING; MR. R. S. STEDMAN; DR. W. HENDERSON; MR. O. PEMBERTON; MR. CROSBY LEONARD; MR. J. A. LOCKING; DR. ADAM MARTIN; DR. C. H. JONES; MR. GRIFFIN; MR. W. SELF (with enclosure); DR. T. SKINNER; MR. W. C. MATTHEWS; SIGMA; OBSERVER; FAIR PLAY; MR. J. C. CLENDON; DR. STEWART; DR. STONE AND MR. WILSON; MR. KESTEVEN; DR. BUCKNILL; MR. W. HOAR; DR. CAMPS; and THE REV. JOHN GARRETT.

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By W. T. GAIRDNER, M.D., F.R.C.P.,
Lecturer on Practice of Physic, Edinburgh.
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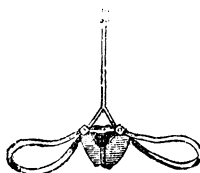
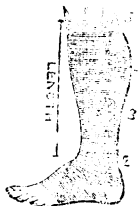
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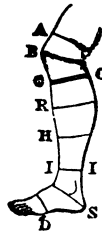
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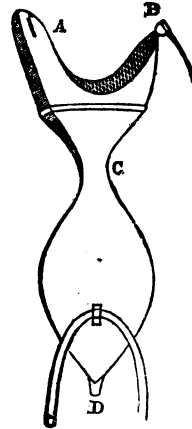
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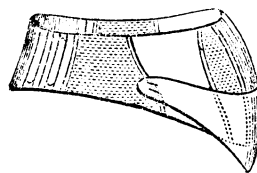
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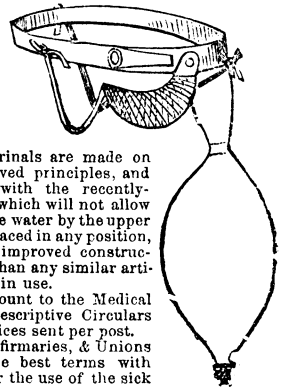
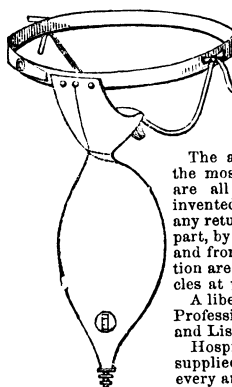


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