

to be examined, *first*, by the College of General Practitioners, and *then* by a joint board, formed by the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons. In *Ireland* he is to be examined separately, before the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, and there no *third* College will tax him. In *Scotland*, the candidate fares as he does in Ireland. There is no third College in *that* country, and if he be successful in his examination, he becomes a licentiate of the COLLEGE OF SURGEONS in that country. In *England* the candidate who has passed his examination before the COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS, acquires not a single medical or surgical right except that of *going before a Board formed out of two other Colleges*, where he will again be taxed, in the shape of *fees*! Thus the practitioners who are to belong to *the same class* are to be licentiates of the COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, in Ireland and Scotland, and MEMBERS OF A COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS in England! Although such a plan *may* be rational and simple, *we* can discover in it neither reason nor simplicity. If the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of *Scotland* and *Ireland* be capable of conducting the examinations of gentlemen who are to be general practitioners, whence the necessity of creating a *third* College in *London*? And *such* a College as the Bill makes of it! After the candidate has been examined in the projected institution, his licence, or diploma, or certificate, or whatever else it may be called, is not to empower him to prescribe, medically, a dose of salts, or to exercise a single function as a practitioner in medicine. Medically, he is **NOBODY**; and that nonentity he remains until he has obtained his diploma from the joint Board formed out of the two Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons.

Thus the supreme power which the general practitioners *now* exercise, as an examining body, at the Apothecaries' Hall—where the curriculum of education, and the qualifications and extent of the examinations, are uncontrolled by any of the Colleges of Pures—are to be relinquished, for the purpose of promoting the stupid contrivance for establishing a thing called a "NEW COLLEGE," in which OFFICES are to be created for the needy adventurers who are speculating on the credulity and imbecility of their dupes!

Although in the clauses which refer distinctly to registration the titles of PHYSICIANS, SURGEONS, and GENERAL PRACTITIONERS are alone mentioned, yet in the enacting provisions of the Bill, it will be perceived that there are to be PHYSICIANS, UNIVERSITY PHYSICIANS OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE, LICENTIATES OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE, FELLOWS OF THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, LICENTIATES OF THE COLLEGES OF SURGEONS OF SCOTLAND AND IRELAND, and GENERAL PRACTITIONERS; and in the supplemental charter there will necessarily occur the title of APOTHECARY. Into that charter all the existing medical practitioners, physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries, must be content to be thrust, or be enrolled in the NEW APOTHECARIES' HALL, as GENERAL PRACTITIONERS.

Assuredly the profession will awaken to a sense of the danger to which it is exposed by the interested intrigues of selfish corporations, and persons who are actuated by equally

unworthy motives. Infinitely preferable would it be both for the public and the profession if *no* change were to be made in our medical laws, than that such a system as is devised in this Bill should be introduced as the NEW MEDICAL CODE, or CONSTITUTION, of this country. If the profession will but view the whole question with that calm and attentive deliberation which its importance deserves, we cannot fear the result of their reflections; but there is much to apprehend from apathy and misplaced confidence.

THE MEDICAL QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT.

WHEN SIR JAMES GRAHAM, on the day after his last Medical Bill had been delivered to the members of the House of Commons, was informed that Mr. WAKLEY had given notice of a motion for the introduction of a Bill in the next session of Parliament, for amending and consolidating the laws relating to the profession of Physic and Surgery, and the practice of Pharmacy, the Right Hon. Gentleman said, "Well, I am glad of it." And, with much liberality, he added, "Should the Bill receive the general support of the profession, the Government will render every assistance in the endeavour to pass it into a law." After such a declaration, from a Minister who has bestowed so much mental labour on the subject, if the profession should fail to agree amongst themselves to the principles and leading provisions of a measure for their own government, it is not likely that the public will entertain a very favourable opinion of the discernment, temper, or judgment, of the medical practitioners of this country. Certainly it must be acknowledged, after the liberal promise of Sir JAMES GRAHAM, that if a bad and defective Bill be enacted into a law, the source of such a misfortune will be found in the apathy of the profession.

THE NEW LUNATICS-ACT.—KEEPERS OF HOUSES IN WHICH SINGLE LUNATICS ARE CONFINED.

UNDER neither of the Lunacy Acts which have been passed before the present session of Parliament, had the Metropolitan Commissioners of Lunacy power to interfere with the treatment of the wretched lunatics who were confined *singly*, their authority only extending to the licensed houses in which *two* or more lunatics were received and retained. By the new Act, however, the houses in which single lunatics were confined, are brought, to a considerable extent, within the operation of the law. The persons keeping them are required to comply with several important provisions that are to be found in CLAUSES 90, 91, and 92 of the new statute, which we here print, *verbatim*. The Commissioners being fully apprised of the necessity of immediate exertion in this new and important department of their duties, they have, with praiseworthy promptitude, already issued the following notice:—

"LUNATICS.—The immediate attention of all persons receiving to board or lodge in any house, (other than an hospital, a county asylum, or a licensed house,) or taking care or charge of a single person as a lunatic, idiot, or person of unsound mind, is directed to the 90th and 91st sections of the Act 8 and 9 Victoria, c. 100; and notice is hereby given, that they will be required forthwith to make the necessary returns, and to observe the other regulations prescribed by the Act. By order of the Commissioners in Lunacy.

"R. W. S. LUTWIDGE, Secretary.

"12, Abingdon-street, Westminster, August 15, 1845."

The subject is one which, we trust, will engage the attention of medical practitioners, who should embrace the earliest opportunity of making the keepers of single lunatics aware of the noy and responsible situation in which they are placed by the new enactment. The following are the clauses to which the notice of the Commissioners immediately refers :—

CLAUSE 90.—*No person excepting a person deriving no profit, or a committee, to take charge of a single lunatic, excepting upon such order and medical certificates* as aforesaid, and under certain obligations.*—And be it enacted, that no person (unless he be a person who derives no profit from the charge, or a committee appointed by the Lord Chancellor) shall receive to board or lodge in any house, other than an hospital registered under this Act, or an asylum, or a house licensed under this Act, or under one of the Acts hereinbefore repealed, or take the care or charge of any one patient as a lunatic, or alleged lunatic, without the like order and medical certificates in respect of such patient as are hereinbefore required on the reception of a patient (not being a pauper) into a licensed house; and that every person (excepting a person deriving no profit from the charge, or a committee appointed by the Lord Chancellor) who shall receive to board or lodge in any unlicensed house, not being a registered hospital or an asylum, or take the care or charge of any one patient as a lunatic or alleged lunatic, shall, within seven clear days after so receiving or taking such patient, transmit to the secretary of the commissioners a true and perfect copy of the order and medical certificates on which such patient has been so received, and a statement of the date of such reception, and of the situation of the house into which such patient has been received, and of the christian and surname and occupation of the occupier thereof, and of the person by whom the care and charge of such patient has been taken; and every such patient shall at least once in every two weeks be visited by a physician, surgeon, or apothecary, not deriving, and not having a partner, father, son, or brother, who derives any profit from the care or charge of such patient; and such physician, surgeon, or apothecary, shall enter in a book, to be kept at the house or hospital, for that purpose, to be called "The Medical Visitation Book," the date of each of his visits, and a statement of the condition of the patient's health, both mental and bodily, and of the condition of the house in which such patient is, and such book shall be produced to the visiting commissioner on every visit, and shall be signed by him as having been so produced; and the person by whom the care or charge of such patient has been taken, or into whose house he has been received as aforesaid, shall transmit to the secretary of the commissioners the same notices and statements of the death, removal, escape, and recapture of such lunatic, and within the same periods as are hereinbefore required in the case of the death, removal, escape, and recapture of a patient (not being a pauper) received into a licensed house; and that every person who shall receive into an unlicensed house, not being a registered hospital nor an asylum, or take the care or charge of any person therein as a lunatic, without first having such order and medical certificates as aforesaid, or who, having received any such patient, shall not within the several periods aforesaid transmit to the secretary of the commissioners such copy, statement, and notices as aforesaid, or shall fail to cause such patient to be so visited by a medical attendant as aforesaid, and every such medical attendant who shall make an untrue entry in the said Medical Visitation Book shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

CLAUSE 91.—*The copy of the order and certificates, and the notices and statements with respect to every lunatic received into an unlicensed house, to be entered by the Secretary in a private Register, to be inspected only by the private Committee and persons authorized by the Lord Chancellor.*—And be it enacted, that the secretary to the commissioners shall preserve every copy transmitted as aforesaid of the order and certificates for the reception of any patient as a lunatic into an unlicensed house, and every statement and notice which may be transmitted to such secretary with respect to any such patient as aforesaid, and shall enter the same (in such form as the private committee shall direct) in a book to be kept for that purpose, to be called "The Private Register," and such private register shall be kept by such secretary in his own custody, and shall be inspected only by the members for the time being of the said private committee, and by such other persons as the Lord Chancellor shall, by writing under his hand, appoint.

* By two previous clauses of the Act it is provided, that no person, being, or represented to be, a lunatic, shall be received into or detained in any licensed house, without a written order, and two medical certificates, signed by two medical practitioners, who are to specify any fact or facts upon which they have formed their opinion that the person to whom the certificate relates is a lunatic or an idiot.

CLAUSE 92.—*Members of the Private Committee to visit unlicensed houses receiving a single patient, and report.*—And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for any one member of the said private committee, on the direction of such committee, or of any two members thereof, (of whom the one member aforesaid may be one,) at all reasonable times to visit every or any unlicensed house in which one patient is received as a lunatic, (unless such patient be so received by a person deriving no profit from the charge, or by a committee appointed by the Lord Chancellor,) and to inquire and report to the said private committee on the treatment and state of health, both bodily and mental, of such patient; and a copy of every or any such report shall be entered in a private register, to be kept for that purpose, by the secretary of the Commissioners, and another copy thereof shall, if such private committee think it expedient, be laid before the Lord Chancellor.

THE *Times*, followed by all the daily and weekly political press of London, is decidedly opposed to the scheme for degrading the medical profession, by establishing a NEW APOTHECARIES' HALL, and there is not now a single medical journal in Great Britain or Ireland, which is not directly hostile to that irrational project. There is offered at this time to the controlling authorities of the six Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, a splendid opportunity for fixing the laws relating to the profession of Physic and Surgery, on a sound and noble basis. Let us hope that the offer which peculiar circumstances have thus presented to those learned bodies will not be slighted or inconsiderately rejected. It may never occur again in this country.

THE MEDICAL CONVOCATION.

FREEMASONS' TAVERN, TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1845.

A general meeting of the Committee was held this evening, GEORGE BOTTOMLEY, Esq. of Croydon, in the chair. After some routine business had been transacted,

The CHAIRMAN addressed the Committee, and stated that from the communications which he was receiving from his professional brethren in various parts of the kingdom, and from his personal intercourse with them lately at meetings of the profession at Sheffield and elsewhere, he believed that the best possible feeling prevailed, and that there existed a strong desire to bring the long-agitated question of medical reform to a final adjustment. Some opposing opinions were entertained relative to the provisions of the Supplemental Charter, but if the members of the College of Surgeons acted, generally, with a desire to effect an amicable settlement of their differences with the Council, he considered that the obstacles before them were rather apparent than real. Many were of opinion that the members of the College should be reinstated in the position they held before the Charter of 1843 was issued. Others thought such an arrangement impracticable. Then there were various proposals relating to the admission to the fellowship in future years. The periods had ranged from five to twenty years. For himself, he might state that he considered the last named term too high, and the first named too low. In granting the fellowship there were two objects in view; one being to confer professional distinction, the other, to establish the right of voting for an elective Council. If there were no second examinations, the fellowship would then be conferred on members of a certain standing, and would bestow not only a valuable electoral right, but would be an acknowledgment that the parties receiving it had maintained an unsullied private and professional character during the years in which they had practised as members. (Hear, hear.) The opinion, he believed, was universal, that the system of election, by rotation, into the Council should be abolished, that country practitioners should become eligible—(hear, hear)—and that the insult which had hitherto been offered to surgeons who were engaged in the important practice of midwifery should no longer disgrace the provisions of the College charter. (Hear, hear.) Other opportunities would be afforded both to him and them for considering the provisions of the fourth Bill of the Government, just published; but he thought it right to embrace the earliest moment after meeting them, for stating that he hoped that the Bill, in its present form, would never become the law of the land. He felt convinced that nearly all the influential and respectable members of the profession would