

HEADS OF A NEW CHARTER,

Nos. I. & II.

Heads of a New Charter for the College of Surgeons, London, or General Practitioners.

No. I.

QUALIFICATIONS, in the first instance.

The right to be incorporated shall be enjoyed by every possessor of a diploma, or licence to practise as a physician, surgeon, or apothecary, in any part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; or whose right to practise was confirmed by the statute of 1815. *Subsequently*, an admission into the Corporation should only be obtained by examination, conducted before the regularly appointed examiners of the College.

THE COUNCIL, OR GOVERNMENT

To be not more than sixty in number, nor less than forty. One half to be selected from practitioners residing within ten miles of the metropolis; the other half, from practitioners in the country. One *President*, to be elected by the members of the Incorporation, generally. The *meetings* of the Council to be open, and the Council to be bound to convene meetings of the Incorporation on the requisition of — members, and to hold one such general meeting in every year, without any requisition from the members. The Council to be empowered to frame *by-laws*, for the government of the College, and for the guidance of *pupils* (intending to become candidates) during the period of their studies, and to regulate the *subjects of their examination*; also for the expulsion of members who may have violated the rules and ordinances of the College.

Qualification of the Councillors.—That they be members of the Incorporation, one-third (consisting of equal proportions of town and country practitioners) retiring annually.

THE ELECTORS

To consist of all the members of the Incorporation who are not suffering disqualification from any legal penalty, or who may not be disqualified by the *by-laws* of the Incorporation previously sanctioned by the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Voting.—The system of ballot, or voting papers, to be adopted.

THE AUDITORS.

Three to be chosen at the time of electing the Councillors, annually.

THE COURT OF EXAMINERS

To consist of not more than eighteen, nor less than twelve persons. Those chosen may or

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No. II.

MEMBERS TO BE INCORPORATED, In the First Instance.

Every gentleman who was in actual practice previous to the 1st August in the year 1815, and every licentiate of the Apothecaries' Society, also every member of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons in England, Ireland, or Scotland.

Every doctor or bachelor in medicine of any university of the United Kingdom, and every fellow or licentiate of any college of physicians in the United Kingdom, who shall have been respectively in actual practice as a general practitioner in England or Wales at the period of the granting of the charter, and who shall be enrolled a member within twelve months from the date of the Charter.

Subsequently,

Such persons only as shall have been duly examined and certified, and shall have brought themselves within the scope of the Charter and the *By-Laws*.

GOVERNING BODY.

One President,

To be elected by the Council triennially, and to be eligible for re-election.

Three Vice-presidents,

To be elected by the Council from their own body by ballot, and one to go out every year, but not to be eligible for re-election for a year. And

A Council to be composed of Sixty Members,

One half practitioners resident within ten miles of the Royal Exchange, the other half country practitioners resident beyond that distance.

No member to be eligible as a member of Council under fifteen years' standing as a general practitioner.

The first President, Vice-Presidents, and Council, to be nominated in the Charter, and to hold their offices for three years.

All future members of Council to be elected by members of the College whose diploma or licence shall bear date not less than five years previous to the day of election.

After the expiration of the first three years, one-third of each branch of the Council to go out of office annually, and the vacancies to be filled up in equal proportions from the same branches, but the retiring members not to be eligible for re-election for a year.

may not be members of the College. The members of the Council to be ineligible.

The Examinations.—To be conducted by the Examiners, under the direction of a body consisting of not less than twelve of the councillors, who shall decide upon the admission or the rejection of the candidates. The examinations to be open to the profession. The examinations in *Anatomy* to be conducted on the dead body; and the examinations *generally*, to embrace the whole range of the science, in its three great divisions of medicine, surgery, and midwifery.

RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES.

All the members of the Incorporation to be entitled to practise in any part of Great Britain or Ireland, and in all places under the dominion of the British Crown; and to possess, fully, the rights, privileges, and immunities which are now conferred by an Act of Parliament or Charter of the Crown on any incorporation of medical practitioners in the kingdom.

PENALTY.

And to be provided, in an Act of Parliament confirmatory of the powers of the Charter, that any person falsely pretending to be a member of the said College, and practising medicine, in any of its departments, for gain and profit, shall, for every offence, be subject to conviction and punishment before two magistrates.

THE CHARTER

To be granted, *at first* to individuals named therein, and, *afterwards*, to their successors, according to the conditions therein provided.

The election to be by ballot, and decided by a majority of votes without proxies.

The Council to have the power of directing the course of study for the future members of the College.

The Council to have the power of framing *by-laws*, rules, and ordinances, with power of administering oaths for the regulation of the affairs of the College, subject to the revision of the law officers of the Crown.

The Council to have the power of appointing and dismissing all stipendiary officers.

The fees to be payable upon the examination of candidates, as well as the annual contributions of members, to be defined in the Charter.

COURT OF EXAMINERS.

The Council to elect annually a Court of eighteen Examiners.

No member of Council to be eligible for that Court.

No member of the College to be eligible as an Examiner under ten years' standing from the date of his diploma or licence.

The President or one of the Vice-Presidents to preside at every meeting of the Court of Examiners, but not to have any vote.

Diplomas to practise as general practitioners to be granted under the College Seal.

With a Common Seal, and power to sue and be sued, and power to hold lands and tenements not exceeding the value of five thousand pounds per annum.

NEW CHARTER OF THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The accompanying paper cannot appear in its proper place before the 1st of April. May I hope that the importance of its subject will obtain for it the advantage of earlier publicity in the pages of your journal? Your obedient servant,

JOHN FORBES.

March 12, 1845.

(From the British and Foreign Medical Review for April, 1845.)

The Bill for enabling her Majesty to grant New Charters to certain Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons. Ordered to be printed, 25th Feb., 1845.

THIS Bill enables her Majesty to grant new charters to the Colleges of Physicians of London, Edinburgh, and Dublin, and to the College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. It gives no information as to the character of the charters to be granted; and as none of these have been as yet laid before parliament, the profession generally must, for a time, remain ignorant of their respective provisions. The only one of the intended charters, of the contents of which we possess any knowledge, is that of the College of Physicians of London; and it is with great concern—we may, indeed, say, as a member of that body, it is with no slight feeling of shame—that we announce to our brethren beyond the pale of the college, that it contains one most important clause which, in our humble opinion, not only vitiates all that is good in it, (and it contains much that is good,) but stamps it, as a charter, as in the highest degree illiberal and unjust, alike unsuited to the spirit of the present time, and unworthy of the institution whence it emanates. The provision to which we refer is *the limitation of the fellowship to a small number of the members of the corporation*. At the moment