

1549. Do you know whether by law there is more than one faculty there?—There is a Bill under discussion at this moment in the French Chambers, having relation in part to this subject.

1550. Is not the physician and surgeon the same person?—The physician and surgeon are perhaps more closely blended in practice in France than in England; but I cannot speak with exactness on the subject.

1551. The separation is just such a separation as I was asking you about; it is by law one faculty, but in great towns a division of labour takes place, in the same way as it does in other branches of trade.

1552. Monsieur Dupuytren practised surgery exclusively?—I believe so. The United States I believe to be the country where the practice of medicine and surgery are most closely blended.

1553. You have examined into that?—Yes, but my examination was a very cursory one.

1554. Will you state the conclusion at which you arrived?—I believe that the combination of medical and surgical practice is the general usage in the United States; and that the licence to practise includes this combination, in some of the States at least. In the great cities there, as elsewhere, I apprehend that the natural practical distinction between physic and surgery has grown up and been recognised, though less definitely perhaps than in England.

1555. There is one faculty there, is there not?—Yes.

1556. Does not the American medical school stand high?—I should rank it next to the English on the whole; but I am speaking on partial information on a wide subject.

1557. Colonel *T. Wood*.]—Do not the most eminent men in America become well known to the public there?—Yes. From the constitution of society in other respects in the United States they are much more closely on a level with the highest classes than medical men can be here.

1558. *Chairman*.]—Are there persons at New York of eminence in the profession, to whom, nevertheless, one would never think of going in a surgical case?—I best know the medical practitioners in Boston, and here, undoubtedly, men who bear the title of Doctors of Medicine, and have graduated as such, are the most eminent surgical practitioners of the city. But I presume and believe there are others who are more especially consulted in cases strictly medical in their nature.

1559. Sir *J. Graham*.]—Do we owe any great discovery in medicine or surgery to the American school?—The discovery of the application of ether in surgical operations may be said to be due to an individual of the American school, if such phrase may be used.

1560. Are there any writings of any eminent American physicians or surgeons which are regarded as standard works?—Not so known here; but there are many very valuable works written by physicians of the United States.

1561. *Chairman*.]—Did you ever attend their schools?—No; and I would be understood as speaking on very limited information.

1562. Mr. *Aldam*.]—Is there not an advantage in this American system, that the individual chooses the line he is to follow, after he has had some experience, and therefore after he is able to judge what line he is fitted for?—I would not be understood as formally describing any American system, because what I know upon the subject is derived from a few weeks' residence only, in particular parts of the United States.

1563. Are there not some advantages in a man choosing the branch of the profession which he will follow, at a somewhat advanced period of life?—No doubt; and chiefly in regard to literary education. A young man entering upon his preliminary education need not absolutely determine what line he shall hereafter follow, though after a certain time it will become expedient to do so.

1564. There would be an advantage in a man in the first instance following a complete range of academical study, and afterwards choosing the branch of the profession that he will enter upon?—This must be taken with limitation as to time.

1565. *Chairman*.]—Some of the gentlemen who have been before us have mentioned, as one important point for the physicians, foreign travel; and they have gone so far as to say that the education of a medical man of the highest class was not complete unless he had seen foreign medical schools. What is your opinion upon that?—I believe such travel to be highly advantageous. In the early part of my own professional life, I spent, as a traveller, several months in the army hospitals in the Peninsula.

1566. Do you think that an important part of the education of a physician?—Yes; not an essential part, but an important part.

1567. Do you agree with those gentlemen who have said that they thought that if there were only one faculty, that part of education would be almost entirely given up?—In so far as the existence of one faculty tends to depress the whole character of the profession, I believe it would be less probable that medical men would have the opportunity of travelling, and visiting the foreign medical schools. The most advantageous time for travelling, to a medical man, is when he has finished his medical studies; that is the time at which he is best able to appreciate the diversities of practice existing in different countries.

1568. *In the medical schools of London and Paris are there not a considerable number of students from the United States?—Yes.*

1569. *The circumstance of their not having any legal distinctions in the medical profession does not prevent them from going there?—It does not; but I may remark that there are many motives which lead Americans of all professions to visit Europe. I would repeat that I cannot speak with any exactness of medical distinctions and usages as they exist in the United States.*

Monday, June 21st, 1847.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Acland.	Mr. F. French.	Right Hon. T. B
Mr. Aldam.	Sir James Graham.	Macaulay.
Mr. Bannerman.	Mr. Hamilton.	Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Dennistoun.	Sir R. H. Inglis.	Colonel T. Wood.

THE RIGHT HON. T. B. MACAULAY IN THE CHAIR.

William Lawrence, Esq., F.R.S., called in, and examined.

1570. Sir *J. Graham*.]—You are President of the College of Surgeons?—I am.

1571. How long have you been a member of that College?—I cannot say exactly; a great many years; I suppose about forty years.

1572. In latter years several attempts have been made to legislate with respect to the medical profession; have you seen the last Bill introduced in the present session, purporting to be a Bill for the amendment of the law regulating the practice of medicine?—I have.

1573. Have you formed an opinion favourable or unfavourable to that Bill?—I have formed an individual opinion unfavourable to the Bill.

1574. I have before me the petition presented to the House of Commons against that Bill, on behalf of the college over which you preside, signed by you as president; do the objections contained in that petition set forth the general outline of your individual objections, or are they objections entertained by the college to which you have affixed your name ministerially as president?—They may be taken in both senses; the petition itself as the petition of the president and vice-presidents, for it was considered necessary that the petition should be sent in at a short notice, within a certain time, and the notice was not sufficiently long to allow the council of the college to be summoned, and their collective opinion to be taken on the subject; but the petition so sent in has been subsequently approved by the council as expressing their sentiments; indeed, the council had previously met and resolved on opposing the Bill, considering it injurious to the college and detrimental to the profession; and it was in virtue of that resolution, and a further direction from the council to the president and vice-presidents to act in the matter as circumstances might seem to require, that the petition in question was sent in by the president and vice-presidents.

1575. Then not only officially have you signed the petition, but individually you entertain the objection set forth in that petition?—Certainly.

1576. Are you opposed in principle to a registration of medical practitioners in England and Wales?—I do not see any objection to a registration of medical practitioners that should set forth the qualifications under which they practise.

1577. A registration setting forth the qualifications under which they practise would necessarily also set forth the classes into which the medical profession generally is now divided?—Unquestionably; I should consider that the only kind of registration which would give the public proper information. Such a registration as is proposed in this Bill, in my opinion, would delude the public; it would lead them to form erroneous opinions.

(To be continued.)