



Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

TWELFTH

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The Council have to report that since their election on the 5th of June, 1854, they have held 28 meetings, at which the number of attendances of each member of Council was as follows:—

	MEETINGS.
The President, Charles Benson, attended	... 25
The Vice-President, Sir Philip Crampton,	.. 2
Alexander Read,	.. 19
Arthur Jacob,	.. 26
Thomas E. Beatty,	.. 20
William Hargrave,	.. 26
Andrew Ellis,	.. 20
Robert C. Williams,	.. 22
Leonard Trant,*	.. 10
Robert Adams,	.. 12
James Barker,	.. 20
William Colles,	.. 27
John H. Power,	.. 23
Hans Irvine,	.. 20
James S. Hughes,	.. 17
Edward Hutton,	.. 18
Robert Pentland,	.. 12
Samuel G. Wilmot,	.. 18
Robert G. H. Butcher,	.. 20
Augustus E. Tabuteau,	.. 16
Robert Mayne,	.. 22

The Council have to report that two Candidates were admitted to the Fellowship, and 79 gentlemen received Letters Testimonial, during the year. Three Licentiates obtained the Diploma in Midwifery. Seven Candidates for Letters Testimonial were rejected. One Fellow and Eight Licentiates died since the date of the last Report, and the entire number now upon the Lists of the College amounts to 417 Fellows and 887 Licentiates.

The Council beg leave to submit an Abstract of the Income and Expenditure of the College for the year ending 5th April, 1855, and they place upon the Table a detailed account of the particulars of Receipts and Disbursements during that period.

* Mr. Trant was elected on the 14th of November in the room of Dr. MacDonnell, resigned.

ABSTRACT of the Totals of Income and Expenditure under

Income.

To Balance from Account, ending 5th April, 1854,	£618 0 2
Fees on Registration of 79 Pupils,	414 15 0
Ditto on Matriculation of 37 ditto	9 5 0
Ditto from 85 Candidates for Letters Testimonial, ..	1786 0 0
Ditto <i>4</i> ditto for Fellowships,	42 0 0
Dividend on £1500 $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent Stock, half-year to April,	23 13 4
Ditto on £2000 ditto Stock to October,	30 12 1
Interest on Brinkley's Mortgage, half-year 1st May, £200, less £5 16s. 8d. Income Tax,	194 3 4
Interest on ditto, half-year to 1st November, £200, less £11 13s. 4d. Income Tax,	188 6 8
Fines on Councillors for non-attendance	2 10 0
	2,691 5 5

CARMICHAEL FUND.

DR. 1854.		CR.
To Cash balance, 5th April, £140 19 7	By Cash in Bank, 5th April, 1855,	£233 8 0
Interest to July, 1854, on £2797 3 per cent. Consols, and on £297 8 6 ditto, Interest on above to 5th January, 1855,	46 4 2 46 4 3	
	£233 8 0	£233 8 0

each head, from the 6th April, 1854, to 5th April, 1855.

Expenditure.

Incidentals	..	..	..	..	£424	17	8
This is composed of Fuel, Candles and Soap, Gaslight, Printing and Stationery, Painting, Glazing, Repairs, Servants' Clothing, &c.							
Taxes,	..	..	..	..	253	19	9
Library,	..	..	..	..	365	10	10
Museum, including gratuities to Curator,	..	..	..	..	43	5	9
School,	..	..	..	..	112	17	10
Insurance of Premises against Fire,	..	..	..	..	29	5	0
Surgical Society,	..	..	..	..	21	15	4
Remuneration to Examiners,	..	..	..	..	345	17	9
Repaid six Candidates for Letters Testimonial who had been rejected,	..	..	..	..	126	0	0
Repaid two ditto who withdrew,	..	..	..	..	42	0	0
Repaid one ditto who overpaid,	..	..	..	..	1	0	0
Repaid two ditto for Fellowship, who withdrew,	..	..	..	..	21	0	0
Secretary of Council, for expenses in London while employed on business of the College,	..	..	..	..	65	2	0
Purchase of £500 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Stock,	..	..	..	..	472	7	10
Salary of Secretary of Council,	..	..	..	..	100	0	0
Ditto of Curator of Museum,	..	..	..	..	60	0	0
Ditto of Registrar,	..	..	..	..	55	0	0
Ditto of Library Clerk,	..	..	..	..	54	12	0
Retiring allowance to Dr. Hart, one year, to 1st March,	..	..	..	..	50	0	0
Wages of House Servants,	..	..	..	..	139	7	0
Superannuation allowance to C. Dixon,	..	..	..	..	31	10	0
Subscription to Patriotic Fund,	..	..	..	..	100	0	0
Total Expenditure from 6th April, 1854, to 5th April, 1855,	..	..	..	..	£2915	8	9
Balance on 5th April, 1855,	..	..	..	..	393	16	10

£3,309 5 7

7915.8.9
1172.7.10

It will be observed that since the date of the last Report the Council have invested £472 7s. 10d. in $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. stock, and that the funded property of the College now amounts to £2000.

LIBRARY.

The Council have to report that 25 Journals and 60 other works, in all 100 volumes, have been added to the Library during the year; also that 605 volumes have been bound. A Catalogue of the newly purchased Books is laid upon the table.

The following gentlemen have contributed to the library during the past year, viz.—Mr. Hughes, Mr. Butcher, Mr. Johns, and Sigr. G. Barberisi. The following donations have also been received, viz.—The London Pathological Society's Transactions, vol. 5, from the Council of the Society; Catalogue of Birds in the Museum of the East India Company, 1 vol.; London University Calendar for 1855; Report of the Condition and Progress of the Queen's University in Ireland.

The number of readers in the Pupils room during the past year has been 276.

The following valuable Books were purchased at the sale of the late Mr. Conway's library, the majority of which have been placed in a handsome bookcase, provided for them in the upper library:—

Mexico-Aglío's Antiquities of Mexico, comprising Fac-similes of Ancient Mexican Paintings and Hieroglyphics preserved in the Royal Libraries of Paris, Berlin, Vienna, the Vatican, &c, 7 vols., tall folio, half crimson morocco, gilt backs; also, the Supplement, in whole crimson morocco, with Lord Kingsborough's Arms, stamped on the sides.

Champollion, Monumens de L'Egypt et de la Nubie, 4 vols. Atlas, folio, superb in half crimson morocco, richly gilt.

Description de L'Egypt pendant L'Expedition de L'Armee Francaise, 9 vols., folio, with plates in 10 vols., Atlas, folio, to match the preceding work, and equally magnificent.

Denon, Voyage dans la Basse et la Haute Egypte, royal 4to., with folio Atlas of plates, half Russia, proofs on Indian paper.

Pinkerton's Voyages and Travels, 16 vols., 4to.

White's Voyages, 1 vol., 4to.

Chandler's Travels in 1776, 1 vol., 4to.

Digby's Treatise of Bodies, 1 vol., 4to.

Pallas's Travels, 2 vols, 4to.

Thevenot's Travels, 1 vol., 4to.

Berry's History of Guernsey, 1 vol, 4to.

Anson's Voyages round the World, 1 vol, 4to.

Salt's Travels, 1 vol., 8vo.

Labillardiere, Voyage in Search of La Perouse, 1 vol., 4to.

Grieve's History of Kamschatka, 1 vol., 4to.

MUSEUM.

In relation to the Museum, the Council have to report that the late Curator, Mr. William Carte, having been appointed to the Medical Department of the Army, this office became vacant in July last.

The usual advertisements, calling upon Candidates to offer themselves for this situation, were inserted in the public papers, and although a lengthened period of six months was given for preparation for the ordeal, no applicant appeared.

The deficiency which would otherwise have existed, has, however, to a considerable degree, been supplied by the kind co-operation of Mr. Alexander Carte, the former Curator of the Museum, who having been applied to, consented to undertake the supervision of the collection, until such time as the Council might be enabled to procure the services of a gentleman every way qualified to discharge the duties of this important office.

Mr. Carte reports that the labelling of the preparations in the Anatomical department has been continued, and that some valuable donations have been received during the year, viz., from the President, Professor Benson, Professor Hargrave, Robert Adams, Esq., Joliffe Tuffnell, Esq., and Captain Kellett, R. N., C. B., by whom a skeleton of the Musk Ox (Ovibos Moschatus), brought from the Arctic regions, was presented.

The Student in Comparative Anatomy and Natural History, appointed by the Council, has been duly instructed, and has made reasonable progress.

The number of Visitors to the Museum during the year, has been, including Students, 2011.

The Upper Library has been painted and put into thorough repair.

CARMICHAEL PRIZES.

Five Essays, in competition for the Carmichael Prizes, were placed in the hands of the Council, and three gentlemen having been selected by ballot to act as judges, the following Report was received from them on the first Monday in May, the day fixed by the will of the Founder:—

“The Judges of the Carmichael Prize Essays have to report that Five Essays were forwarded to compete for the Prizes.

“That these Essays were carefully read over by them, and frequent meetings held, at which the merits of each were carefully canvassed.

“Two of these Essays are of a superior class to the others, but none of them, in the opinion of the Judges, completely fulfil all the conditions prescribed by the late Mr. Carmichael, as set forth in the printed instructions.

“The Judges do not, therefore, feel justified in recommending any of the Essays for a Prize. The grounds upon which they have come to this decision are set forth more fully in the separate Report they have drawn up of each Essay.

“ROBERT C. WILLIAMS.

“WILLIAM HARGRAVE.

“O'BRIEN BELLINGHAM.”

The Council having considered the Special Reports here alluded to, it was Resolved that the Prizes be not awarded to any of the Competitors. The detailed report is laid upon the table.

The active prosecution of the war and the unhappy circumstances

Carmichael Prizes

*Army Surgeons, admis. as Licentiates
Licentiates
Line Curriculum*

attending it, having occasioned a large demand for military surgeons, the Council, acting in unison with the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, passed the following Bye-law on the 11th August:—

“With the view of facilitating the supply of Surgeons for the Army and Navy, during the continuance of the War, Candidates for Letters Testimonial of the College who may not have been educated in strict conformity with the Bye-laws of this College, shall be admitted to an examination, provided they satisfy the Council of the College that they have gone through a course of education fully equivalent to that required by the Bye-laws of the College, now in force.”

This Bye Law having received the assent of the Queen, the following Ordinance was framed to regulate its operation:—

“Resolved—That Candidates will be admitted to Examination under the provision of the Bye-Law passed on the 11th of August, 1854, on their presenting a Certificate or Letter from the head of the Medical Department of the Army or Navy purposing to employ them, signifying such intention when they have been proved competent.”

On the 2nd of March of the present year the Council further addressed a letter to the Secretary for War, tendering the co-operation of the College with the administration of the Army, for the furtherance of the Medical service.

Several Bills affecting the interests of the Surgical profession have been before Parliament during the year. In the Session of 1854 an attempt was made by the Poor-Law Commissioners calculated, in the opinion of the Council, to effect the destruction of the County Infirmaries and remaining Fever Hospitals in Ireland. The Bill presented by the Commissioners with that view was strenuously and effectually opposed by the Council, and a similar Bill introduced during the present Session has (the Council have reason to believe) proved abortive. Late in the Session of 1854 a Bill for the extension of the privileges of Medical Graduates of the University of London was adopted by Parliament. This measure originally contained provisions which would have interfered gravely with the rights of the Colleges of Surgeons. These were opposed by the Council in conjunction with the Colleges of Surgeons of England and Scotland, and were ultimately expunged, doubts upon the subject to which they referred being removed by the insertion of a proviso, “that the privileges conferred by the Act on Graduates of Medicine shall not be construed so as to extend to the practice of Surgery, Midwifery, or Pharmacy.” In the Irish and Scotch Militia Bill clauses were introduced defining the qualifications of Medical Officers in Militia Regiments to be the same as should be required in the case of similar officers in the Army, and substituting that definition for the limitation, with respect to the Irish Militia, of qualification by Letters Testimonial of this College. The clauses were adopted, but their operation was subsequently restricted by a Royal Warrant, dated the 6th of October, 1854, in which it is ordered that “no Medical Candidate who has not passed his examination at the Royal College of Surgeons of London, Edinburgh, or Dublin, shall be eligible for the Commission of Assistant Surgeon” in the Army. During the course of these transactions the Council received the kindest assistance from

Bills in Parliament

Messrs. Grogan and Vance, the Members for the City of Dublin, who were found at all times ready to give their attention to the interests of the College.

This being the year for the triennial visitation of the Queen's College, Cork, the President, in his official capacity of Visitor, attended thereat.

On the arrival of the Earl of Carlisle in Dublin, the President and Council, accompanied by several Fellows, attended him with an Address, which, with his Excellency's answer, is subjoined:—

“ To His Excellency George William Frederick,

“ EARL OF CARLISLE, K.G., LORD LIEUTENANT GENERAL, AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND.

“ May it please your Excellency, We, the President, Council and Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, beg leave to approach your Excellency to offer our congratulations upon your arrival in Ireland, to assume the high office of Representative of Her Majesty the Queen in this Kingdom.

“ In doing so, we refer with pleasure to the period when we had an opportunity of being acquainted with your Excellency in another position, in discharging the duties of which your kindness and good feeling towards Irish Institutions were well known to us.

“ Impressed with these recollections we now venture to express with confidence our hope, that in the conduct of our own department of the public service we shall merit and receive the advantage of your Excellency's support and favour.

“ The circumstances in which the nation is now placed throw new responsibilities upon the bodies charged with the education of the members of the Surgical Profession, which it shall be our pride and pleasure to endeavour to fulfil to the utmost of our power, to the advantage of the public service.”

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ The Address of the President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, cannot fail to give me a very lively satisfaction, whether I refer to the considerate terms in which it is couched, or to the merits and services of the eminent body from which it proceeds.

“ To these I feel that it is not in my power accurately to render the justice which is their due; they are best attested by the relief which they are habitually privileged to afford to suffering humanity,

“ Your noble profession acquires even a higher interest and value when we remember the additional exertions to which your associates and pupils are liable amidst the scenes of distant conflict, and I doubt not that you will continue so to train them as may best qualify them to alleviate the miseries of war, as well as to temper those evils from which not even the most peaceable periods can hope to be exempted.”

Address to Lord Carlisle

Election to Council.
Protest of Fellows

On the 7th of December, 1854, the following requisition signed by twelve Fellows was presented:—

"To the President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

"We, the undersigned, request that you will convene a Meeting of the Fellows at as early a period as possible, to take into consideration an assumed illegal practice in the recent election of a Member of Council in the room of John MacDonnell, Esq., resigned, as well as to determine the force and nature of the Report of Council as annually placed before the Fellows."

In compliance with this requisition a Meeting was convened upon the 21st of December, and the subject having been referred for consideration to the Council, it was—

"Resolved—That the Finance Committee, with such Members of Council as wish to attend, be empowered to confer with the Solicitor of the College in reference to the objections made by certain Fellows to the proceedings of the Council, and to report respecting any alterations that may be deemed necessary in the forms used in conducting the Elections and Meetings of the College."

Conferences were accordingly held with the Solicitor, who having carefully examined the charters, and maturely considered the subject submitted to him in all its bearings, have advised the Council to the following effect:—

Dublin, Offices, 5 Dawson-street.

DEAR SIR,

10th May, 1855.

In reference to our conferences as to the mode of convening Meetings of the College, I beg to mention I have very fully considered the subject and examined the Charters, and it appears to me that the usages of the College in convening Meetings are quite in accordance with the spirit and intention of those Charters. But as I understand some doubt has been suggested as to the correctness of the present practice, it would, of course, be competent for the party entertaining such doubt to have the question decided by his taking legal proceedings in the Court of Queen's Bench against the College.

The precise nature of such proceedings it is not my province to point out; but they would be attended with a good deal of expense and risk to the party bringing the case forward.

Should the Council wish to relieve themselves from all possibility or question of doubt, it might be well to consider whether some Bye-Law, under the authority of the 7th Section of the last Charter, may not suffice.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully,

HENRY MAUNSELL, Esq.,
Secretary of the Council, &c.

JOHN LITTON.

By order of the Council,
H. MAUNSELL, Secretary.

11th May, 1855.