



Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

THE Council have to report, that since their election on the 2nd day of June, 1851, they have held thirty-two meetings, at which the number of attendances of each Member of Council was as follows:—

MEETINGS.		MEETINGS.	
The President attended ..	29	Mr. Barker,	.. 30
The Vice-President ..	28	Mr. Colles,	.. 26
Sir Philip Crampton, ..	7	Mr. Power,	.. 13
Mr. Read, ..	19	Mr. Lipsett,	.. 29
Mr. Cusack, ..	11	Mr. Macdonnell,	.. 26
Mr. Jacob, ..	32	Mr. Corr,	.. 25
Mr. Tagert, ..	29	Mr. Stapleton,	.. 29
Mr. Ellis, ..	23	Mr. Bevan,	.. 31
Mr. Williams, ..	23	Mr. Irvine,	.. 26
Mr. Rynd, ..	16	Mr. Hughes,	.. 18
Mr. Adams, ..	19	*Mr. Beatty,	.. 10

THE Council have to report, that one Candidate obtained the Fellowship of the College, and 44 gentlemen were examined as Candidates for Letters Testimonial, during the year. Of these latter, 43 were admitted Licentiates. Five Licentiates obtained the Diploma in Midwifery. Five Fellows, and three 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 668 Licentiates.

The Council beg leave to submit an Abstract of Income and Expenditure for the year ending 5th April, 1852, and they place upon the table a detailed account of the particulars of Receipts and Disbursements during that period.

*Elected 8th December, 1851, in room of Mr. Power resigned.

ABSTRACT of the Totals of Income and Expenditure under

Income.

To Balance from Account ending 5th April, 1851,	..	..	£667	0	4
Fees on Registration of 41 Pupils,	..	..	215	0	0
Ditto on Matriculation of 25 ditto,	..	..	6	5	0
Fees from 46 Candidates for Letters Testimonial and two ditto for Fellowship,	..	..	1023	15	0
Additional Fee from Dr. John Toler on coming to reside in Dublin,	..	..	10	10	0
Dividend on £1000, 3½ per Cent. Stock,	32	10	0
One Year's Interest on Brinkley's Mortgage,	400	0	0
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Total Amount of Income from 6th April, 1851 to 5th April, 1852,			1688	0	0

32/4

each head, from 6th April, 1851, to 5th April, 1852.

Expenditure.

Incidents,	£231 13 3
This item is composed of Fuel, Candles and Soap, Gaslight, Printing and Stationery, Painting, Glazing, Cleansing, Repairs, Servants' Clothing, &c.	
Rent and Taxes,	273 12 1½
Library,	107 3 11
Museum, including gratuity to Curator, ..	42 2 11
School,	122 13 7½ ✓
Insurance of Premises against Fire, ..	29 5 0
Surgical Society,	18 9 0
Remuneration to Examiners,	166 13 9
Secretary of Council, for expenses in London while employed on business of the College, ..	103 19 0
Repaid two Candidates for Letters Testimonial, who had been rejected,	42 0 0
Ditto two Candidates for Fellowship, who withdrew,	31 10 0
Salary of Secretary of Council,	100 0 0
Ditto of Curator of Museum, 3 months, ..	12 10 0
Ditto of Registrar,	55 0 0
Ditto of Library Clerk, 3 months and 6 weeks, ..	14 5 0
Wages of House Servants,	136 4 6
Superannuation allowance to Christopher Dixon, late dissecting-room Porter,	32 2 0
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Total Amount of Expenditure from 6th April, 1851, to 5th April, 1852,	£1519 4 1
Balance to credit of College, 5th April, 1852,	835 16 3
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	£2355 0 4

Med. Charities Bill
Passed
The Council have to report, that 31 Journals, and 68 other works, in all 91 volumes, have been added to the Library during the year. A catalogue of these books is laid upon the table.

In consequence of the resignation of Mr. Carte, no additions have been made to the Museum during the year.

Sanction of the College
At the periodical meetings of the College held in September, 1851, and January, 1852, the Council informed the Fellows of the principal occurrences of interest to the profession which had taken place subsequently to the annual meeting last year. In September they reported:—"that since the presentation of their Annual Report, the Medical Charities' Bill, which was then under the consideration of Parliament, has been passed into a law. The measure has been modified by the omission of the clauses relating to the establishment of District Hospitals, and its scope is now limited to provisions for Dispensary Relief. As the Act is not to come into operation until the 1st of October, the Council can offer no opinion as to its working, which, however, they confidently hope may be beneficial to the medical profession and the public. The progress of the bill through both Houses of Parliament was carefully watched by the Council, through the agency of their Secretary, and they are happy to be able to state that a renewal of the attempt made last year to create a Parliamentary medical qualification for Apothecaries was signally defeated. The amendment to that effect, proposed by Mr. Reynolds, was rejected by a majority of 65 to 6, and the Council take this opportunity of expressing an opinion that the thanks of the College are due to Sir William Somerville, and to the honorable members for the University of Dublin for the active and efficient support given by those gentlemen to the interests of the medical profession, in connexion with this matter.

"In reference to the appeal to the Quarter Sessions, upon the claim of exemption of the College Buildings from local taxation, which was pending at the date of the Annual Report, the Council regret to have to inform the College, that an unfavourable decision was given by the Recorder."

In January the Council stated:—"that since the Periodical Meeting in September, their attention has been drawn to an attempt made to infringe upon the privileges of the College, as the authority entrusted by the State with the superintendence of the Surgical Profession in Ireland, which demands the serious consideration of the whole body. The matter here alluded to, is the announcement by the Board of Trinity College, of a design to grant a diploma in Surgery to undergraduates of low standing who may attend the lectures of, and be approved of, by the Professors of the University. In reference to this matter, the Council have applied for legal advice, and have taken other steps, upon which, as they are yet incomplete, they do not feel themselves in a position to report with more explicitness at the present meeting.

"The Council have to inform the College, that a draft of a Supplemental Charter proposed to be obtained by the College of Surgeons of England, has been submitted to them by the Council of that body. Into this instrument certain provisions are introduced, to which the Council would wish to direct the attention of the College, as affording an example, that might, perhaps, be followed with advantage. One of these provisions is the

power of enrolling members of other Colleges of Surgeons, *ad eundem*, which in some cases that have fallen under the notice of the Council, would have been beneficial to the interests of the profession. The Council now, however, throw the matter out, merely with a view to its consideration, and especially in connexion with a grievance which has fallen heavily upon some old Licentiates who were absent, in the public service or otherwise, at the time of the operation of the power of enrolment granted by the Charter of 1843, and who were unable to make application within the limited period prescribed."

In reference to the attempted violation of the privileges of the College of Surgeons by the Board of Trinity College, the Council beg leave to report, that they have obtained the following opinion from two eminent Queen's Counsel, which, with the subjoined statement, they have caused to be printed and circulated among those persons or bodies to whom it was desirable to communicate correct information on the subject:—

OPINION.

"We have examined the Charters and Statutes of Trinity College and we do not find that they confer any express authority on the University to give a qualification for Surgical practice, or that they make any special provision of means for obtaining such a qualification.

"In the Charter of Elizabeth, (ch. 34, Eliz., and Literæ 13, Car. I.) power is given to grant Degrees "*in omnibus artibus et facultatibus*," and as it may be urged that Surgery is an Art or Faculty, and reached by these general words, we think it reasonable to inquire whether, at the time when the College was established, it can be supposed to have been one of the 'Arts and Faculties,' to which that Charter was intended to have reference. And when the condition of the Surgeon of that time, and the object and character of University Degrees are considered, there appears to be, at least, grave reason for doubting that such a person could have been in the contemplation of those who framed the Charter.

"The Barbers practising Surgery constituted a Guild in London and obtained a Charter from Edward IV. Other Surgeons, not Barbers, having begun to practise were afterwards incorporated with the Barbers' Company, and although Surgery is in the Statutes of Henry VIII., and subsequently described as an Art, a Faculty, or a Mystery, the business of a Barber receives the same designations. Thus, by the 32 Henry VIII., c. 42, s. 7, it is provided, that any person, not being a Barber or Surgeon, may keep in his house, 'as his servant, any person being a Barber or Surgeon, which shall and may use and exercise those Arts and Faculties of Barbbery or Surgery in his master's house, or elsewhere, by his master's license, or commandment,' &c. The Charter of Elizabeth was granted not many years after the passing of this Act, and the position in which its provisions show the Surgeon to have stood would seem to justify the conclusion, that his Profession could not have been regarded as a liberal Art or Faculty, entitled to the recognition of a University, more than the occupation of the Barbers to which the same description was applied.

"The 32 Henry VIII., c. 40, s. 3, (Eng.) describes the science of

Physic as including a knowledge of Surgery, and authorises those who are admitted by the President and Fellowship of Physicians to practise that science in all its parts.

"But the question remains—Whether Surgery in itself was then considered as an Art or Faculty within the proper care of a University?

"As there is doubt upon the original meaning and application of the words to which we have referred, it will be right further to inquire, in what way those words have been practically interpreted by the University itself.

"We find that the 18th chapter of the *Literæ*, 13 Car. 1., entitled "*De admittendis in Collegium Professionibus jurisprudentiæ et Medicinæ*," after reciting that "*Professiones jurisprudentiæ et Medicinæ et Chartæ foundationis istius Collegii et Collegiorum apud Anglos receptis legibus consentaneæ sint*," provides that one of the Fellows shall apply himself to the Profession of Jurisprudence, and another to the study of Medicine. But there is no reference to Surgery as the subject of special attention.

"Again, in the "*Consuetudines seu Regulæ Univ. Dublin*," we find (cap. 5) the form of admission to the Degree "*Doctoratus in Medicina*," provisions (cap. 10) for obtaining Degrees "*in Medicina*," and supplications for Degrees of Bachelor and Doctor "*in Medicina*;" but we do not discover any reference to any Diploma in Surgery.

"Amongst the Charters and Statutes of the University to which our attention has been directed, we do not know that there is any other specific allusion to the Medical Profession; but, by the Act 25 Geo. III. c. 42, which was passed "for establishing a complete School of Physic in this Kingdom," it is recited, amongst other things, that three University Lectureships had been many years theretofore established for the teaching of Anatomy, Surgery, Chemistry and Botany, and it is enacted that there shall continue to be three University Professors for like teaching, to be supported at the expense of the University. This Act was repealed by the 40 Geo. III. c. 84, which was passed at the instance of the President and Fellows of the King's and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland, for the good government of the College and the advancement of the School of Physic in the Science of Medicine, and, by it the three University Professors were continued. But, in neither of those Acts is there any reference to, or recognition of, a right to grant Surgical Diplomas in the University.

"We have not discovered in the Charters, Statutes, and Documents submitted to us, any other matter connected with the relation of the University to the Medical or Surgical Profession, and the matter seems to stand thus:—That there is not any power expressly given to that body to grant Diplomas in Surgery; that, if it possesses a peculiar right to grant such Diplomas, that right depends on implication arising from its authority to confer Medical Degrees, or on the meaning which may be attached to the words, "*Artibus et Facultatibus*," in the Charters; and that it has not in its own acts or formularies, until within a very recent period relied upon any such implication, or put upon those words a construction favorable to the establishment of such a right.

"We now advert to the second object of the quere:—

"The College of Surgeons was established in 1784, by Royal Charter, which stated, as the grounds for incorporating it, that the regulation of

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the Profession of Surgery was of the utmost importance to the Public, and highly necessary to the welfare of mankind; that the Public sustained great injuries from the defects in the system of Surgical Education in Ireland, and that the regularly educated Surgeons of the City of Dublin found themselves incompetent to establish (from the want of a Charter) a liberal and extensive system of Surgical Education. The College was therefore incorporated 'to provide that a due and seasonable regulation might be made, and that an apt, proper and legal corporation might be constituted and established in the City of Dublin, of regular, able, and experienced Practitioners in Surgery, endowed with powers, jurisdictions, and privileges, convenient and requisite for the purpose aforesaid.' The Charter proceeds expressly and in terms to give the College power to examine Candidates for Diplomas, and to confer them under its common seal.

"It is remarkable, that this Charter was granted a short time before the statute 25 Geo. III, c. 42, was passed for establishing a School of Physic; and it does not, as that statute does, concern itself with the University Professors, or deal with Trinity College as affording the means of supplying Surgical Education or conferring Surgical Diplomas. The contrast between the Charter and the Statute, in this respect, is material, as appearing to indicate, that the Sovereign and the Legislature did not then consider the University empowered or qualified to provide for the instruction of the Surgeons of the Country, though it had long interfered with the education of the Physicians.

"Another Charter was granted in 1828, to the College of Surgeons by George the 4th, which recited, that the design and intention of His Royal Father had the most beneficial influence by improving the Profession of Surgery, and thus promoting the welfare of the Nation at large, and particularly by providing a sufficient number of properly Educated Surgeons, as well for the service of the Public in general, as for that of the Army and Navy. This second Charter gave to the College additional powers and immunities.

"Exclusive privileges were conferred on the College of Surgeons by the 36 George III, c. 9, s. 3, which enacted that no person should be eligible to a County Infirmary or Hospital who had not obtained its Letters Testimonial, and the provisions of the Statute are repeated and enforced by the Grand Jury Act, 6 & 7 Wm., 4, c. 116.

"Thus, the right of the College of Surgeons to grant Diplomas is, in no degree, equivocal, but explicitly given by Royal Charter for the declared purpose of maintaining a liberal and extensive system of Surgical Education in Ireland. Another Royal Charter affirms its eminent success after the experience of a great number of years; and the Legislature endows it with peculiar and important privileges, which it ought not to possess if its utility to the Public and the Profession be not very considerable indeed.

"We have deemed it proper to consider thus in detail the subject matter of the quere in both its branches, and the conclusion we have arrived at is—that, whilst the words "*in omnibus Artibus et Facultatibus*," in the Charter of Elizabeth may be comprehensive enough to embrace the Profession of Surgery as it now exists, there is not evidence of any intention on the part of the framers of that Charter to confer on Trinity College any

specific right to grant Diplomas in Surgery; and that, although, in the absence of prohibitory legislation, the University may assume to grant such Diplomas, certifying the fact of attendance at certain lectures by its students, and the opinion that they are qualified to practise Surgery, the holders of those Diplomas or Certificates will derive from them legally no special rights or privileges, such as belong to the Practitioner who has received the Letters Testimonial of the College of Surgeons, under the Statutes to which we have adverted.

"J. D. FITZGERALD,
"THOMAS O'HAGAN."

STATEMENT

"ON BEHALF OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND, IN
REFERENCE TO THE PROPOSED GRANTING OF SURGICAL DIPLOMAS
BY TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN.

"AN announcement having been published, stating that the Provost and Senior Fellows of the University of Dublin had "resolved that a Diploma in Surgery be given to such Students as are matriculated in Medicine, and have completed at least one year in Arts" in Trinity College, the President and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, consider it necessary to submit the following Statement:—

"1. After a careful examination of the Charters and Statutes which define the powers and authority granted by the Crown or Parliament to Trinity College, the College of Surgeons finds that they contain no provision whatever enabling the Provost and Board of the University to give certificates entitled Diplomas in Surgery.

"2. The Charters granted to the College of Surgeons by her present Majesty and her Royal Predecessors, for the purpose, as they express, of "providing a sufficient number of properly educated Surgeons, as well for the service of the public in general, as for that of the army and navy," appear to be entirely disregarded by the Provost and Board as evidence of the intention of the Crown to entrust this duty to the College of Surgeons exclusively; notwithstanding that these Charters make the most ample provision for the licensing of Surgeons, while the Charters of Trinity College do not contain a single expression indicative of any capacity in that body to discharge a similar duty.

"3. That the intention of these Charters was really what they so unequivocally express, is put beyond doubt by the fact that, not only during the wars ending in 1815, but even up to the present hour, the duty of examining Candidates for appointments in the army and navy, has been entrusted to this College, whenever the public service required such assistance; Trinity College, at the same time, never having sought or obtained a similar acknowledgment.

"4. That the authorities of the University of Dublin themselves, never supposed or believed that they enjoyed any power to grant Diplomas in Surgery, or that it was desirable or expedient that they should do so, is obvious from the fact, that they never attempted to pursue such a course

from the foundation of the College in 1592, until the present time, a period of two hundred and sixty years; and that for one hundred and ninety-two years preceding the incorporation of the College of Surgeons in 1784, while this kingdom remained without any means of educating or creating Surgeons, except the service of an apprenticeship, they never considered themselves authorized to provide for that deficiency, by the granting of any surgical certificate.

"5. The passing of an Act of Parliament in 1796, providing that no person should be appointed Surgeon to a County Infirmary, except Licentiates of the College of Surgeons, is an additional proof that the University made no claim to any similar privilege; and their concurrence in the bills brought into Parliament in 1844 and 1845 by Sir JAMES GRAHAM, then Secretary of State, for "Regulating the Profession of Physic and Surgery," affords still stronger evidence of a similar nature. These bills contain no provision whatever recognizing any claim of the kind, or saving any right to exercise such a power.

"6. Respecting these bills, it is necessary to add, that one of the principal objects contemplated in them was the diminution of the number of corporate bodies granting medical or surgical diplomas, purporting to be licenses to practise; yet, the Board of Trinity College, although consenting parties to so desirable an arrangement, and availing themselves of the opportunity thus afforded them, to effect important changes in the School of Physic, now attempt, not only to perpetuate, but to increase the evil complained of. On the evidence afforded by these bills, introduced by the then Secretary of State for the Home Department, and sanctioned by the Government, this College relies to prove that at that date there was no difference of opinion as to its exclusive authority to grant Surgical Diplomas in Ireland, and that the authorities of the University never dissented from that understanding.

"7. As many may be led to assume that a public body, constituted as Trinity College is, could not take the step complained of by this College, without ample authority to do so; it must be recollected, that the Provost and Board, several years ago, pursued a similar course with regard to the medical profession, that it now pursues towards the surgical; on that occasion they undertook to grant a medical diploma to matriculated medical students who had never graduated in arts, calling it a *Testimonium*, and conferring it as an authority to practise. After some years the holders of these Diplomas having discovered that they had no legal value, the further issue of them was discontinued.

"8. The President and Council have to observe, that it is evident from numerous Royal Charters and Acts of Parliament, as well as from usage and common consent, that a well-defined and unquestionable authority to grant licenses or diplomas to practise surgery, has been for many years found necessary for the safety of the public, the administration of hospitals and dispensaries, and the service of the army and navy; and equally evident that any violation of a provision so obvious and so salutary, must prove dangerous to society, and highly injurious to the character of the surgical profession.

"9. They have also to observe, that however lightly the exercise of the

Address to Lord Eglinton

Royal Prerogative may be esteemed elsewhere, when adverse to particular interests, this College (indebted for its existence to the unquestioned power of the Crown to incorporate educational institutions) relies with confidence on its Charters as the foundation of its authority. For although these Charters may sometimes be found insufficient to restrain other corporations, or even unchartered bodies, from usurping its functions in defiance of them, all who respect the source from which they are derived, will give them the support to which they are entitled.

"10. Under these impressions, the President and Council entertain a conviction, that all departments of the public service will feel bound to give effect to the intentions of her Majesty and her Royal Predecessors in this behalf, by a firm refusal to recognize as a qualification to act as Surgeon any certificate or diploma liable to be employed as a substitute for the genuine diplomas, granted by this or any other College of Surgeons; and they rely with confidence on the cordial co-operation of all regularly educated and duly licensed Surgeons, and especially of the Fellows and Licentiates of this College, to aid and assist them in their efforts to prevent the standard of surgical qualification being lowered in this country, or the adoption of any innovation which may raise doubts hereafter as to the professional character of surgical practitioners.

"LEONARD TRANT, PRESIDENT,
"ALEXANDER READ, SECRETARY.

*"Royal College of Surgeons,
April 30, 1852."*

The Council have to report, that on the arrival of the Earl of Eglinton in Dublin, they waited upon him, accompanied by a large number of Fellows, and presented an Address, His Excellency's answer to which, they now lay before the College:—

"MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,

"I feel much satisfaction at receiving these expressions of regard from a body so respectable, and so useful to the community.

"Men of your profession have, perhaps more than any other, been found ready and able to do their duty under the greatest difficulties and the most trying circumstances, and I well know that the Surgeons of Ireland, inferior as they are to none in ability, will never be found wanting when the public service is in question.

"I will give my best attention to the state of the Medical Institutions in this Country, and bestow that interest on the subject which its importance so well deserves."

The privilege of awarding the Sugden Prize, which is enjoyed alternately by this College and the King's and Queen's College of Physicians, having fallen to this body in the present year, the Council have proposed the subject of "Hypochondriacal Insanity, its Pathology and Treatment;" for the best Essay on which, to be presented before the 1st of October next, the sum of Twenty Guineas will be awarded.

The Council have also to report, that they have offered the office of

A. C. Channing Esq.

Curator of the Museum to the competition of the Fellows and Licentiates of the College, and that they have fixed the emoluments at a salary of £60, with a contingent gratuity not in any year to exceed £40. The election has been fixed for the 2nd of August.

In conclusion, the Council beg leave to call attention to the improvements they have made in the decoration and furniture of the Board Room, which are now placed in a suitable and handsome condition.

By order of the Council,

H. MAUNSELL,

SECRETARY.

20th May, 1852.

Univ. of Dublin
Dub. Medical Dept.
Recognition by Army authorities
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Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Appendix to the Ninth Annual Report.

THE Council having been informed that it had been stated publicly by some of the Professors of Trinity College, that the diploma in Surgery, proposed to be issued by that institution, was recognised by the authorities of the Army, Navy, and East India Company, as a qualification for medical appointments in those services, it was thought necessary to send a deputation to London, to inquire into the accuracy of the statement, and to confer with the Council of the College of Surgeons of England in reference to the whole matter. Mr. Williams and the Secretary were accordingly charged with this duty, and the Council beg leave to lay before the College, as an Appendix to the Annual Report, the following short account of their proceedings.

"The Deputation beg leave to report that they were received with the utmost possible kindness by the authorities of the College of Surgeons of England, and that the following Resolution was passed by the Council of that body as speedily as was consistent with their forms of business :

"Resolved—That the President and Vice-Presidents, and any member of the Council whom the President may wish to be associated with him, be authorized to communicate with the Army Board, the Navy Board, or any other public body having the power to give appointments in the public service, in support of the recommendation of the Dublin College of Surgeons, that the qualification in Surgery for the appointments in the public service should emanate only from the Surgical authorities hitherto recognized."

"In accordance with this resolution, Mr. South, President, and Mr. Caesar Hawkins, Vice-President, accompanied the deputation to wait upon Dr. Smith, Superintendent of the Army Medical Department, with whom the subject of the alleged recognition of the Surgical diploma of Trinity College, Dublin, was discussed at very considerable length. In the course of this interview Dr. Smith stated that he had not made any formal change in the regulations for admission to medical commissions in the army, which require candidates to possess diplomas from one of the three Royal Colleges of Surgeons, or from the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. Neither had he made any appointment of a candidate not possessing one of these diplomas. What he had done, he said, was, at the urgent solicitation of a Professor in Trinity College, to place upon his list the name of the gentleman who has lately received a diploma in Surgery from that institution, and he did so with a view of affording an opportunity for testing the legal right of Trinity College to take the course it had entered upon,

of which he had informed the Professor alluded to, with an intimation that his view should be made public. Of the mischievous effects to the public service, and to the general public that must follow from a multiplication of diploma-giving establishments, Dr. Smith expressed a very strong sense. Of the state of the law which, though it specially endows the Colleges of Surgeons with the privilege and duty of qualifying Surgeons for certain public institutions (as gaols in England and County Infirmaries in Ireland), yet does not expressly restrain any corporation or even individual from granting surgical diplomas, he did not appear to be clearly informed, and it was explained to him by the members of both deputations. It was also strongly represented to Dr. Smith that both Colleges of Surgeons would gladly co-operate with the Universities or take any other feasible measures for the improvement of the preliminary education of students, the chief obstacle in the way of which, had been found to lie in the unnecessary number of licensing bodies already in existence, and which would not fail to be very much increased by the multiplication of such bodies that would certainly follow upon an encouragement of the encroachment proposed by Trinity College. To this solution of the question it seemed to the deputation that the mind of Dr. Smith strongly inclined.

“In a conversation which the deputation previously had with the Secretary at War, that gentleman stated, in accordance with what was said by Dr. Smith, that no formal alteration had been made in the regulations; and that he (the Secretary at War) had merely sanctioned a relaxation of strict rule in order to put Trinity College upon the same footing as Oxford and Cambridge, an indulgence which, it was represented to him, he could not as an Irishman refuse. Upon inquiry, it was found that the alleged privileges of those English Universities have no real existence. It is true that their statutes contain instructions, ludicrous in their wording, for licensing surgeons; but these have long since fallen into desuetude, and were originally a form of that ecclesiastical assumption which has induced Bishops very recently to engage in the manufacture of Medical and Surgical Licentiates. In the recent report of the Commission of Inquiry into the state of Oxford University, so far from any countenance being given to interference with the duties of the Colleges of Surgeons, the practical teaching of Medicine in the University is pointedly discouraged.

“The deputation also waited upon Sir William Burnett, the Director-General of the Medical Department of the Navy, and upon Dr. Scott, the Medical Examiner of the East India Company. The former gentleman produced a copy of the regulations for the admission of Medical Officers of the Navy, by which a diploma or certificate of one of the three Royal Colleges of Surgeons or of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow is distinctly required. In these regulations Sir William Burnett said he had made no change. It is but right to add that he expressed himself as being in a very high degree satisfied with the manner in which the College of Surgeons in Ireland has discharged the duties entrusted to it.

“Dr. Scott said that the several Royal Colleges of Surgeons had discharged their duty irreproachably, that he thought it vexatious and unjust that they should be invaded by Universities giving Surgical Diplomas, that

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the precedent set by Trinity College would, if established, be most pernicious as, by necessity, the Queen's University, London, Durham, and all the Scotch Universities would do the same, and thus aggravate the mischiefs of multiplication of licensing bodies. Feeling thus, he had advised and would advise the India Board not to extend their recognition of Diplomas in Surgery in favor of Trinity College or any other body."

The Council do not feel it necessary to make any remark upon the foregoing report; they regret, however, to be obliged to state that within the last few days a document has been transmitted to them purporting to be authorized by Trinity College, in which an undignified and discourteous style of commentary upon the proceedings of this College is indulged in, that it would be as improper for the Council to reply to, as it was for its authors to issue. They feel it impossible however to evade the painful duty of expressing their deep regret that it bears the signatures of four gentlemen, Fellows of this College.

The Council have further to state that since the Annual Report was printed, the President attended in his official capacity, as a Visitor of the Queen's Colleges, at the Visitation of the College of Cork, upon which occasion some questions of importance to the medical profession were brought under the consideration of the Visitatorial Court.

By order of the Council,

H. MAUNSELL,

SECRETARY.

May 29th, 1852.

