

THE GOVERNMENT MEDICAL BILL.

MEDICAL PROTECTION ASSEMBLY.

EXETER HALL, MONDAY, FEB. 10.—JOHN HUNTER, ESQ. IN THE CHAIR.

ENROLMENT IN THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.—HEADS OF A CHARTER FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

Mr. ROSS, (after the transaction of the ordinary routine business,) in an able and elaborate speech, moved that a petition be presented to the Crown praying for the grant of a Charter of Incorporation to all regularly qualified practitioners in medicine, surgery, and midwifery, on the principle of self-government, and to be confirmed by Act of Parliament. The motion was seconded by Mr. CURTIS.

Mr. WAKLEY moved as an amendment—"That the General Practitioners belonging to this Assembly be earnestly advised to enrol their names forthwith in the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS, with a view to obtain from Parliament a full recognition of the principle of representation in the government of the Members of the Medical Profession of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland."

This amendment was seconded, in a brief effective speech, by Mr. GARMAN.

After an exceedingly interesting and animated discussion, Mr. ROSS having agreed to withdraw his resolution, the amendment was put as a substantive motion, and carried unanimously.

Mr. HILLES then moved that a sub-committee be appointed to draw up a declaration of the principles which the Assembly should support for the framing of a new charter for medical government.

Mr. ROSS seconded the motion, which was supported by Dr. LYNCH, in an able speech, and carried unanimously.

On the following evening, the committee, thus appointed, met, and agreed that the following conditions should be adopted as the heads of a Charter of Incorporation:—

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.

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.

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

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

JOHN HUNTER, Chairman.

THE ASSOCIATION OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

IN MEDICINE, SURGERY, AND MIDWIFERY.

THE following letter, with the accompanying document, has been forwarded by the Provisional Committee to the Home Office:—

To the Right Hon. Sir James Graham, Bart., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Hanover Square Rooms, 4th Feb. 1845.

Sir,—In accordance with the direction contained in your letter to Mr. Pennington, President of the Association of General Practitioners in Medicine, Surgery and Midwifery, and bearing date January 28th, 1845, the Provisional Committee have directed us to forward to you a copy of "HEADS OF CHARTER" unanimously agreed to by the Committee, and to state that they are firmly of opinion, that that document contains the principles for which the great body of the medical profession has been so long contending; and that a College of General Practitioners, founded upon such principles, will be conducive to the public interests, and will be accepted by the class of medical practitioners represented by the Committee, with the greatest satisfaction.

We are also directed to forward to you, in further compliance with that letter, a list of some of those General Practitioners resident in the country who have already sent in their perfect concurrence in the views stated in the Memorial which has been presented to you on the subject of the Charter. The time, however, which has transpired since the Committee were honoured with your communication, has not been sufficient to enable them to include the whole under a methodical arrangement; but, if necessary, further lists will be furnished at any time you may direct.

The Committee are in the daily receipt of numerous letters from all parts of the country, describing a large accession of members concurring in the same views.

With regard to the question of office-bearers, the Committee most respectfully submit for your consideration whether, as they have proposed by their "Heads of Charter" that one half of the Council should consist of General Practitioners in the country, it would not be better to defer nominating the office-bearers till that part of the Charter has been arranged, when a still greater number of members for selection will have sent in their concurrence.

We have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servants,

(Signed) JAMES BIRD.

HENRY ANCELL.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PRINCIPAL HEADS OF CHARTER.

COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS IN MEDICINE, SURGERY, AND MIDWIFERY,

With a Common Seal, and power to sue and be sued, and hold lands and tenements not exceeding 5000*l.* per annum.

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.