

Council. He had to say to them that the students had the most hearty sympathy of the Council, who had a most cordial and earnest desire to protect them in the practice of their profession; but the Council, however willing to do all in their power, were not omnipotent, and had not the power to legislate for them. However strongly they sympathised with the students it was not in their power to redress any grievance. All that he could say was that the Council were not to blame because the penal clauses of the Medical Act were not sufficiently stringent. In the resolutions just submitted the students complained, and with justice, that these clauses did not afford sufficient protection, but he did not think Parliament could be got to meet their views on that question. The Act was passed with the purpose of protecting the public, not the medical profession; and it was only after taking that view of the matter that they had consented to do anything at all in the way of protection. Members of Parliament consulted the wishes of the whole of their constituents regarding the questions upon which they were to legislate, and not those of the few doctors here and there in the country. It was the interest of the Government and Parliament generally that the people should be furnished with as good medical attendance as possible, and the effect of the Act they had passed with this intention was that the prospects of students had been very materially raised since the standard was made higher, the number entering the profession diminished, and the competition consequently decreased. It was the intention of the Council to go before Parliament this session and get a Bill to amend the penal portion of the Act, which had proved totally inoperative on account of the want of any provision for enforcing the payment of the fine imposed for its infringement. This was required to be added, and he thought it was likely to be obtained. A committee had to be appointed for the purpose of drafting the proposed amendment to the Act. He might add, however, that this matter was not especially pressing upon the students, as they had not yet entered upon the practice of the profession. With regard to the amount they were required to pay by way of examination fees, the Council would be very glad to meet the views of the students. If the fees have hitherto been high necessity required it, for the medical gentlemen who come to conduct the examination must be paid. These gentlemen, it had to be remembered, in coming to conduct the examinations of students, were not merely giving them the benefit of their skill and experience, and putting themselves to considerable trouble and expense, but they were leaving their practice for the time being, which was a very great loss. Besides, the examinations were most