

exclusively confined to the Universities, the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of London, Dublin, and Edinburgh, the Worshipful Company of Apothecaries of London, and the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, the last two under certain limitations.

To the Honorable the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

GENTLEMEN,

Wherever Corporate Medical Institutions do not exist in an undue proportion to the population—it is the interest of these Institutions that their Degrees, Diplomas, or Certificates should not be awarded to individuals unworthy of them. These Degrees or Diplomas, then becomes marks of merit or symbols of honor to their possessors; they are proofs of their perfect competency to the full discharge of their professional duties, and are received and recognised as such by the community at large. Honor and confidence are at once awarded to the holder. The respectability of the Profession is maintained by the admission into it of none but well informed, thoroughly instructed persons, and this circumstance necessarily acquires for the Institution in its turn the well merited and implicit confidence of the public. But a higher result than even this will obtain, a result bearing in the most direct manner on Science itself. The new members, thoroughly instructed, and well grounded in every elementary department of their Profession, emerge upon the theatre of life prepared for every emergency; and the foundation is thus laid for future discoveries and improvements. Such, gentlemen, are the beneficial influences which have flowed from a regulated and due proportion of Corporate Medical Institutions to the population in Great Britain, France, and Germany; three of the most enlightened nations on the earth, and in which Medical character stands higher, and occupies a more dignified position than in any other. The evil consequences flowing from an opposite condition of things, I have fully exhibited in my last letter. I wish not to draw the contrast in too strong colours, but I shall leave the inferences deducible from the statements which have been unfolded, to your own calm and dispassionate judgments.

The general supervision of a Board of Governors cannot but be attended with most salutary effects. They constitute a check upon licentiousness in conferring Degrees on the one hand, and are a guarantee to the public on the other, for the maintenance of the standard of qualification, and for the faithful observance of all regulations affecting the acquisition of Degrees. Unfettered and uncontrolled by any superior authority, the "New School of Medicine," and all other schools to which a similar power would be delegated, (if the conces-

sion be once made,) would act in such matters as they pleased; the power which would be entrusted to them might not be abused, but what guarantee would Her Majesty's liege subjects here possess, that they would not be placed under the tender mercies of individuals, whose errors, be they those of omission or commission, would not jeopardize their lives?

REASONS 8 and 9.—It was stated in a "Reply" to the "Counter-petition," that the Bill which would be submitted for your sanction, Gentlemen, would contain "every particular respecting the curriculum, the duration, as also the nature of the courses of Lectures" and that these "*would be fully detailed in the Bill.*"—Now, the Bill contains no information of the kind whatever, beyond the fact that the duration of the lectures is to embrace a period of six months, and include 120 Lectures, similar to what are now delivered in Mc Gill College. But of the "curriculum," and the "nature of the courses" which young men would have to complete, or follow, to obtain the diploma or certificate, we are entirely ignorant. Why the Bill which it was said *would* contain a full detail of these particulars, *did not* contain the same, and that too *after a specific promise to that effect*, we can only conjecture. But the Bill, it appears, has as it stands, obtained the sanction of the Legislative Assembly; and to ensure its passing through the ordeal of the Legislative Council, the word "diploma" has been struck out, with the obvious intention of thereby implying that the "certificate of qualification," is a matter of no consequence whatever, that it is not a Diploma, and may therefore be accorded as a thing of trifling importance. If I can substantiate, gentlemen, that Diplomas are but "certificates of qualification," and consequently that "certificates of qualification" are Diplomas in the ordinary sense of the term, it appears to me that I shall have proved, that *mutato nomine*, the request sought for is precisely the same. The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh grants a *Diploma*, and let us now see what the wording of that diploma is:—

"Hiscce literis testatur, virum ingeniosum A. B. Studiis prescriptis ritè peractis, examini sese subjecisse: atque ita ad interrogata de iis respondisse, ut muneri tam Chirurgico quam Pharmaceutico suscipiendo omninò par esse videretur;" which may be thus translated; "It is by these letters certified that A. B., gentleman, having completed in a proper and due manner the prescribed studies, submitted himself to examination, and so replied to questions concerning them, that he would appear to be, in all respects, qualified to undertake the duties of a Surgeon and Apothecary." Here, then, Gentlemen, is a Diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and what is it,