

working of the Medical Act. The Commission was not long in reporting, and in

1832 the Reform Committee expressed satisfaction with the terms of the report, and sent up a deputation to the Lord President of the Council. It is a mark of the growing influence of the Association that this deputation was introduced by no less a person than the Duke of Westminster. During that session a Bill was presented to the Lords by the Lord President, but it was lost in the Commons from lack of time.

In 1884 the Bill was again introduced, was accepted by the Lords, and made a Government measure in the Commons; but it met with such strong opposition on the part of bone-setters, cancer-curers, herbalists, and the like, and from one or two of the corporations, that it was lost, in spite of the evident desire of the Government to carry it through.

In 1885 a less ambitious measure was introduced, but a change of Government took place, and the measure was abandoned.

In 1886 the Medical Reform Committee urged the importance of reform so firmly on the new Government that a measure was passed through the Lords by the Lord President of the Council (Earl Spencer), and through the Commons by Sir Lyon Playfair, and became the Medical Act of 1886. It provided for direct representation of the profession on the General Medical Council, and that a legal qualification to practise should only be obtained by those persons who had passed an examination in medicine, surgery and midwifery.<sup>3</sup>

Thus, after nine-and-forty years of labor, the Association had been successful, not to the full extent of its desires, but to a very large extent. And it had every reason to be proud. You see that I have taken the trouble to learn all these details in order to narrate to you what you may deem a very tedious story. And you may be sure that I did not learn them easily. And you may ask why I was at such pains to make myself master of a story so full of tedium. It was on that very account I did it. I would have every member of the Association learn the story as I have learned it—particularly every young member. I would have it printed in large type and set up in every building which is devoted to the service of the Association that all men may find in it an object-lesson of what can be done by patience and perseverance, by determination and tenacity of purpose.