

long since been instigated, and its urgency pressed upon the public mind. The first record to be found of it occurs in the pages of this journal, and was made by ourselves. And we may be excused for claiming any merit which it affords, lest, through wilful spoliation, it might be taken from us. Our first volume, i. e. for 1854, contains several statements of the fact which have the stronger regard upon the attention of those interested, from clearly expressing various methods that, if pursued, would subserve the great desideratum set forth in the motion above quoted. We there suggested that the College of Physicians, &c., should consider various important questions connected with public hygiene and medical police—and that she should urge forward and carry out measures of a salutary tendency for the welfare of our communities. Yet further, we there observed that the College should advance the cause of legitimate medicine, and raise the intellectual standard of practitioners, or rather of such as were her own licentiates. We suggested the propriety of encouraging talent, and offering rewards for deserving merit. And lastly, we alluded to the advantages that would accrue from the College ceasing to be migratory or unstable, and becoming possessed of real estate—having an appropriate building devoted to its uses, with a well furnished library, a museum formed, rich in anatomical specimens, both normal and morbid; and with these the institution of a medical reading room. Our voice was not lifted in vain, though the acknowledgement came but indirectly, and merely “dragged its slow length along.” In the year referred to, one of the governors, (Dr. Peltier,) endeavored to impress his associates in assembly with the benefits to be derived from the board, taking up our first class of proposals: i. e. matters of public hygiene, medical police, &c.,—shall we say he was listened to. We hear no more in a public way of these improvements for a long time, not till after some years. In the meanwhile they afforded the subjects of brief desultory conversation in private, but were talked of as more curious than tangible. At length we find the general necessity of the College doing something in the old way prescribed, again possessing the convictions of a few of the energetic of the Governors, and its actual declaration was avowedly expressed in the true spirit of improvement at the last tri-annual meeting. The key then struck by Dr. Morrin had its note prolonged and was wafted to our readers by the pages of our August number. The stirring communication of Dr. Von Iffland must still be fresh in their recollection. At the meeting that succeeded its publication, the College took the matter up warmly, several members addressed the assembly on the subject, and all ended in the resolution before given. In deference to