

practice midwifery without let or hindrance, or indeed without any medical qualification whatever, but this very license was made the means of enabling quacks to do their work with impunity, defying judge and jury when summoned before a court of law, by setting up as a defence, that they did not pretend to be doctors, surgeons, or apothecaries, but only man midwives." He furthermore added, "the degraded state of the profession of the art was such, that the College of Physicians considered a licentiate practising midwifery as unworthy of a fellowship; while a member of the College of Surgeons was deemed ineligible to be on the list of the Council or the Court of Examiners, if he practised as an accoucheur; and the apothecaries' company, which had been pressed to institute an examination in midwifery long resisted the "soft persuasion." It appears that a meeting was held, in Dr. G's house of the *élite* of the obstetrical practitioners of that time (1825),—to establish a society, which was effected, but the members devoted themselves rather to the improvement of their political or state position. With the attainment of this object, and the thorough recognition of their true position by the government and the different colleges, the association was dropped, and after an interval of thirty-five years the present society is organized for scientific purposes exclusively.

Two other resolutions were proposed; the one, that all legally qualified practitioners shall be eligible for election as ordinary Fellows of the Society; and the other constituted the officers for the first year of the existence of the society, Sir Charles Locock being the Honorary President, and Dr. Rigby the President.

In examining the by-laws, the first chapter defines the object and constitution of the society in the following words:—

"1st. The Obstetrical Society of London is instituted for the promotion of knowledge in all that relates to OBSTETRICS, and the DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

2nd. The Society shall consist of Fellows and Honorary Fellows. The Honorary Fellows shall not exceed in number twelve British subjects and twenty Foreigners.

3rd. All Medical Practitioners registered, or if practising abroad, possessing a British qualification, shall be eligible for election as Fellows of the Society.

4th. The Officers of the Society shall be elected from the Fellows, and shall consist of an Honorary President, a President, six Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, and two Honorary Secretaries, who with eighteen other fellows shall constitute the Council, and shall have the management of the Society's affairs. Two of the Vice-Presidents, and six other members of the Council shall be non resident Fellows of the Society."

The following are the names of the present Honorary Fellows of the Society.—British subjects: Fleetwood Churchill, M.D., Professor of Midwifery, K. and Q. C. P. Dublin; Alfred H. McClintock, M.D., Master of the Lying in Hospital, Dublin; James M. Duncan, M.D., Lecturer on Midwifery, &c., Edinburgh; Archibald Hall, M.D., Professor of Midwifery, &c., McGill College, Montreal; William F. H. Montgomery, M.D., late Professor of Midwifery, &c., K. and Q. C. P., Dublin; James Y. Simpson, M.D., Professor of Midwifery, &c., Edinburgh.