

of licensing bodies, on the one hand, and the Charybdis of a profession swamped by men possessed of extreme minimum of medical knowledge, on the other.

The remedy is easy, and it is one that before long must be applied to our English licensing institutions.

The American Medical Council, supposing such a council to exist, must re-examine all candidates possessed of the degrees of the various licensing bodies, and then ratify or annul the diplomas of the candidates.

The English Medical College must, to protect the profession from the "competition downward" of our various licensing bodies, also institute a Central Board of Examiners, to inquire into the diplomas and the actual knowledge, general and medical of the individuals presenting themselves for registration.

In America the competition between licensing is on a gigantic scale. When two or three doctors happen to be gathered together, it is perfectly competent for them not merely to found a teaching institution, but it is permitted to grant them licenses for practice, as the various State local governments permit the freest exercise of any and every medical doctrine, whether eclectic, hydropathic, or homœopathic.

The United States' medical profession stands a chance of having as many licensing medical and surgical bodies as we have hospitals and dispensaries. The multiplication of teaching bodies cannot be considered an evil, for every general practitioner ought to be competent to educate his successor, but the indiscriminate multiplication of diploma-giving bodies is quite another question. *The innumerable teachers spread knowledge broadcast, but there should be one central portal of very high standard established, not permitted to teach at all, but simply formed to examine any and all candidates of a proper age who might present themselves before it.*

In England we have fewer licensing bodies, and, therefore, the competition downward, although severe, is not nearly so ruinous to the scientific status of the profession as in the newer country.

*In England we have long sought the one portal system as regards the granting of professional diplomas, and although, as regards medical practice, the United States' doctors may be considered to be more advanced than the jog-trot practitioners of Britain, yet, in the matter of reforming the tendency to a lowering of the diploma examinations, the shrewd business talent of the English profession will not be found wanting.—London Medical Mirror.—N. Y. Medical Journal.*

[The above article is of sufficient interest to attract the attention of every one interested in our endeavours to obtain a good standard of medical education. The italics are ours.]—Ed.

DR. BURELL, Surgeon in the New York Northern Dispensary, gives (in the *Medical Record*, of the 1st November,) an interesting case of cancerous tumour, which under the use of carbolic acid internally and externally, combined with the adminis-

tration of quinine has produced the following results:

With the present statistics of the fatal nature of cancer, all that can with any propriety be claimed in the present instance is, that an ulcerated scirrhus cancer, which had for months been treated with an external application of a watery solution of carbolic acid and glycerine without arresting its progress, began to diminish in size, and soon cicatrized, when the internal use of carbolic acid and sulphate of quinine was added to the treatment. It will be observed that carbolic acid, glycerine, sulphuric acid, and sulphate of quinine are all antizymotics, while sulphuric acid and sulphate of quinine are also tonics. It is also worthy of notice that the first apparent sign of improvement, the softening, was on the internal portion of the tumour. I have examined a number of journals, but have not found nor do I know of any similar case in which this treatment has been previously used. The result may be only a coincidence, although such coincidences in the disease are extremely rare; but the treatment would certainly seem to justify a further trial, since the worth of it can only be tested by experiment. It might also be valuable in other forms of cancer, or of cancer in other situations.

In conclusion, it is worthy of notice that the superficial and deep forms of scirrhus existed simultaneously in the breast, that the ulcer cicatrized firmly, without any sloughing out of the tumor, while it may also be hoped that the general system is not threatened with a reappearance of the disease in some other region, since the axillary induration has disappeared.

#### Bellevue Hospital Medical College.

This college began its "Regular Term" on the 13th of October, but the "Preliminary Term" was in reality an extension of this by four weeks, the full corps of Professors giving lectures and clinics in accordance with the winter programme. An out-door surgical clinic, by Profs. Mott and Hamilton, and a clinic for Nervous Diseases (3½ p. m., Saturdays), by Prof. Hammond, are valuable features introduced this season.

The introductory address was delivered by Prof. Van Buren. As we were unable to be present, we clip an abstract of it from *The World*.—

"In his address, Dr. Van Buren told the students that they had chosen as their Alma Mater an institution which, owing to its uniting the practical with the didactic, lectures with 'bed-side' teaching had a history unprecedented in the annals of American medical institutions. He welcomed the ladies, and expressed the hope that the time might come when they should be regular attendants at medical lectures. He advised the students to study hard at the commencement of their course, as here was the most difficulty. If their main object in life was to make money, it would be better to select some other avocation, for, although the practice of a well-established doctor was lucrative, still long years were generally required to achieve such a practice. The necessity of gaining a livelihood, and the demand for physicians, frequently urge a young man to commence practice before he is fully prepared,