

it required that all persons desiring to be placed on the Medical Register should have both a medical and surgical qualification, and it contained provisions for amending the 40th Clause—"Suppression of Unqualified Quacks"—and for the admission of women to examination. It also provided for the examination of, and registration of, dentists and midwives and amended the law relating to certificates of lunacy.

THE MEDICAL ACT OF 1886.

The celebrated Act of 1886 removed two conspicuous blots in the organization of our profession. It made it necessary for every medical man to be qualified completely—that is, in the three main branches of practice—medicine, surgery, and obstetrics—before he can be placed on the Medical Register, and it has conferred representation on the great body of the profession.

MEDICAL EDUCATION IN LONDON FORTY YEARS AGO.

In the "sixties" London students were gradually waking up to the fact that, although the College and Hall gave them the two qualifications which entitled them to be placed on the Medical Register, the diplomas did not give them the legal right to assume the title of "Doctor." Many men—hard-working and possibly ambitious—when coming up from the country to the hospital heard of the University of London for the first time. Anyway, the University of London gave a degree, and why should they not go in for it? To show you how ill-adapted the teaching was in those days in the London medical schools for those students who desired to graduate in London, I will quote from a letter addressed in December, 1879, to the Chancellor of the University by a distinguished graduate, my old friend and teacher, Dr. J. S. Bristowe:

"Only a small minority of the students entering the medical profession in England offer themselves as candidates at the matriculation examination. Nearly 50 per cent. fail; of those 50 per cent. fail at the preliminary scientific examination. Of those who have passed this examination, 35 per cent. fail at the first M.B., and of those who finally become candidates for the M.B. degree, 19 per cent. are rejected. The collective result is that not 10 per cent. of the young men who enter at the lowest series of the examinations emerge successful at the last, and that at least 72 per cent. are rejected at the matriculation and preliminary scientific examinations."

Dr. Bristowe observes that at that time there were 534 men living who held a medical degree in the University of London out of a total of nearly 25,000 practitioners holding British qualifications. The practical result of this is well known; scores