

would bring in at the earliest period a bill to relieve the wrongs against which the medical body had so long perseveringly remonstrated.

Concerning the medical regulations established in March, 1803, to which additions and amendments have been made at different periods, by Royal ordinances and by the Council of Public Instruction, I will endeavour to give the leading points, avoiding, as much as possible, unnecessary details.

The medical body, as now constituted, consists of Doctors in Medicine, and *officiers de sante*; the former graduates of one of the three universities of Paris, Strasburg, or Montpellier, and entitled to practice in any portion of France, while the latter an inferior grade, are merely examined by medical juries and can only practice in the department in which the examination was passed.

In order to become a candidate for the former grade, M. D., the person must produce his act of birth; the consent of his father or guardian, if he be under twenty-one years of age; a certificate from a civil authority of good moral character, together with one or two minor requirements; and finally the diploma of Bachelor of Letters and Sciences, though the latter is dispensed with when the aspirant desires merely to become an *officier de sante*. The period of study for the title of M. D., is four years, during which time the candidates take out sixteen inscriptions, as they are called, which are but certificates of attendance upon the prescribed courses, submit to five examinations, and defend a Thesis, at the cost of one thousand francs, and the price of the diploma being one hundred francs, the combined cost of the whole amounts to eleven hundred francs. The subjects of the examinations may thus be enumerated—

1st examination.—Anatomy and physiology, dissection, the candidate being required to make some designated anatomical preparation in the dissecting rooms in six hours, relative to which he is asked questions.

2nd Examination.—Internal and external Pathology with operations.

3rd Examination.—Natural History, Physics, Chemistry, and Pharmacy, the candidate replying demonstratively to the questions addressed to him on chemical substances and medical plants.

4th Examination.—Medical Jurisprudence, Materia Medica, and Therapeutics.

5th Examination.—Consists 1st, in a composition in Latin or French upon a medical or surgical question, the subject of which is determined by lot. 2d, in the examination of one or more patients in some one of the hospitals, after which they deliver their diagnosis and the treatment which they consider should be adopted. The thesis is required after this last examination. The subject is chosen by the candidate.

Thus, you perceive the first, second, and fifth examinations and the latter part of the fourth, are eminently practical.

The *officiers de sante*, as I have remarked, are not required to have the diploma of Bachelor of Letters; they undergo three oral examinations, the first, on Anatomy; the second, on the Elements of Medicine; and the third, on Surgery and Pharmacy. *Officiers de Sante* are prohibited from taking the title of doctor; though through a strange oversight in the law, they may with impunity assume the appellation of "*medecin*," given in common to doctors, *officiers de sante*, and *veterinaires*. The new bill proposes to remedy this. *Officiers de sante* are not allowed to perform important surgical operations, except under the superintendence of a doctor of medicine. The penalties which may be at present enforced against persons practising illegally, are: a fine of from one hundred to one thousand francs against any individual practising as a doctor; and a fine of from twenty-five to five hundred francs against those practising as *officiers de sante*. In case of a second offence, the fine may be doubled, and the offender imprisoned for a period not exceeding six months.

This is the curriculum of medical studies for these two degrees, and the state of the medical profession under the present system.

In the new bill the leading points relate—

1st.—To the two classes of practitioners, doctors of medicine and *officiers de sante*.

2d.—To the repression of illegal practice.

3d.—To foreign physicians who desire to practice in France.

The bill proposes the suppression of the *officiers de sante*, who

are to be replaced by graduates in medicine who, for a fixed salary, are to give gratuitous medical attendance upon the poor. The Congress demanded this clause by an immense majority, and as Count Bengnot styled in his report, it may be truly said to be: "*la disposition capitale de la nouvelle loi*." Relative to the second point, the illegal practice of medicine, the new law declares that any person practising the healing art without having graduated in one of the French Faculties, or without a duly legalized authorization from the French Government, shall be liable to imprisonment for a period of not less than six months, and not exceeding two years; for the second, imprisonment, the minimum period of which is two years, and the maximum five years. A clause at first inserted in the bill, but which has been modified by the committee, provided that all medical men, who might incur the slightest punishment of the simple correctional police, should be deprived of their right to practice. This, as you may well suppose, excited almost universal disapprobation, and certainly, knowing as every Frenchman does for how every trivial offence one may be punished by that not always perfectly just tribunal, the correctional police, not without reason. On the third point, namely, the practice of foreign medical men, it is proposed by the new law that no foreign physician shall be authorized to practice in France, unless it shall be previously decided by the Royal Council of Public Instruction, that his diploma is equivalent, as an attestation of length of studies and respectability of the university which conferred it, to that granted by the French Faculties. Further, the authorization may be restricted to a certain locality, and confined to a limited period, and is always revocable at pleasure. They are amenable in the same extent as French practitioners to the present laws concerning punishments, and will be in the same degree to any that may be hereafter established. Concerning foreigners who desire to take the degree of Doctor of Medicine in the French Faculties, the diploma of Bachelor of Letters of some university, whose degrees are considered equivalent to those of France, is required. And doctors in medicine or surgery, graduates of foreign faculties who desire to obtain the same grade in one of the faculties of France, of which, as I have before remarked, there are three, are required to undergo all the trials of the *doctorate*; that is to say, the five examinations and the thesis. They must previously address a request to the Minister of Public Instruction in order to obtain the inscriptions, which are allowed in the proportions of two thirds of the time spent in foreign universities. Thus, to obtain the sixteen inscriptions equivalent to the four years of study necessary for the doctorate, he must show by certificates that he has studied six years in these universities. The price of the diploma is the same as though he were an inhabitant of France, that is one hundred francs.

The Faculties of France may be said to consist 1st, of Professors of the Faculties of Medicine who lecture on the various branches of medical science; 2d, *agreges* or assistant professors; and 3d, of *professeurs particuliers*, or private medical teachers. Professors, assistant professors, and private teachers are all nominated by *concours*. According to the present system doctors in medicine are allowed to contend for any vacancy that may occur in the professorships, and the consequence is that *concours* are incessantly going on, and the host of competitors is often very disproportionate to the importance of the places sought. Thus, last year, there were two vacancies for the situation of surgeon to the hospitals at Paris. There were thirty-two candidates, and the *concours* lasted five months. The new law proposes to allow only *agreges* to be eligible.

Notwithstanding the herculean labours of the medical profession of France in the field of pathological anatomy, while they have laid the medical body throughout the world under lasting obligations and given them an enviable and just celebrity, attracting pupils from every quarter of the civilized globe; notwithstanding the magnificent bequest of Dupuytren of \$40,000, for the establishment of a chair of morbid anatomy, a bequest, the spirit of which has been so zealously carried out by the indefatigable and earnest M. Orfila, there is much yet remaining to be done. The new law acting upon this principle provides for the formation of laboratories, in the faculties and secondary schools, where the student will be forced, by frequent *post-mortem* examinations, to acquire that knowledge of organic lesions which is now deemed so essential a part of the education of the intelligent and accomplished physician.—*Dr. Yandell's Notes on Medical Matters and Medical Men in Paris; from the Western Journal.*