

Then follow clauses to appoint examiners and to appoint a chairman, all to hold office for one year, but to be eligible for re-election. Clause XIV., "To prevent any person or persons from practising as an apothecary without being properly qualified to practise as such," enacts that they should be examined by the court of examiners and receive certificates, provided always that no person shall be admitted to such examination until he shall have attained the full age of twenty-one years, and in Clause XV. it is enacted that such person must have served a five years' apprenticeship. Clause XX. provides for a penalty for practising without a certificate.

THE MEDICAL ACT OF 1858.

Coming now to the first Medical Act of 1858, we find it established a Council to be styled "The General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom, with branch councils for England, Scotland, and Ireland, consisting of representatives from the universities and corporations." The chief achievements of the Council have been the establishment of a preliminary examination and inducing the corporations to leave it to the national educational bodies, the visitations of examinations, and the publication of the Medical Register and of the Pharmacopœia. It has had some faults, of course; the chief has been its want of sympathy with the great body of the profession, especially with regard to the representation of the profession in the Council.

A great defect of the Act of 1858 was that it permitted the separate registration of purely medical and purely surgical diplomas, and therefore, diplomas which did not guarantee an adequate acquaintance with all the subjects of professional examination were used by their holders to cover the whole ground of medical, surgical, and obstetric practice. In May, 1869, Mr. (afterwards Sir) John Simon said that persons practising on half qualifications were to be counted by thousands in the United Kingdom. Between 1858 and 1885, nearly twenty Bills were introduced to remedy these main defects. In 1870 Lord Ripon's Bill was brought in to establish a simple code of regulations common to all the examining boards of the United Kingdom, sufficient and uniform tests of qualification as a condition of entry upon the Medical Register, a more or less consolidated examining authority, and more effectual provisions to restrain quacks. The principle was accepted by the Council, but the Bill was wrecked by the opposition of the British Medical Association on the ground that no provision was made for the representation of the profession in the Council. The Government Bill of 1878 was a great improvement; among other things,