

cited before the College of Physicians in London in 1559, because he had impugned the infallibility of Galen. After a formal recantation of his heresy, he was allowed to retain his fellowship. This, it must be understood, occurred half a generation after Vesalius had conclusively demonstrated many of Galen's anatomical inaccuracies.

However, the College of Physicians had probably not more than its share of the conservatism which is proper to corporations.

Some reference to the origin of that institution is necessary to explain its rapid rise in importance, and the gradual divorce of medical education from university education in England, which accompanied it, and which has persisted to this day. Up to the beginning of the sixteenth century the only physicians who were recognized as such, were graduates of Oxford and Cambridge, or of the foreign universities, but a host of unrecognized practitioners existed throughout the country who "professed physic rather from avarice than in good faith," and consequently the university graduates in London got themselves incorporated as the College of Physicians, with powers to examine and license such minor practitioners in the city and suburbs as did not proceed to practice through the regular channel of a university degree. The fellowship was limited (until comparatively recent years) to graduates of Oxford and Cambridge, and the licensing powers of the college were afterwards extended from the metropolis to the rest of the kingdom. The licensing power having thus been partly transferred from the universities to certain of their graduates resident in London, and the opportunities being much better there for education in the practice of medicine, the universities were deserted by students of medicine, and the numbers of those aspiring to a university degree became smaller and smaller. It was otherwise in Scotland and the continent of Europe, for there the connection between medical education and the universities has never been dissolved and continues as intimate as ever. In London, on the other hand, there arose the purely professional hospital schools, and it is only during the last fifty or sixty years that the metropolis has witnessed a reunion of medical with other university

studies within the walls of University and King's Colleges.

To complete my sketch of the connection of medical education with the universities, it is necessary to explain that within the last decade there has been a very remarkable activity in the pursuit of the sciences in Oxford and Cambridge, accompanied by an effort to regain that share in medical education which had almost entirely drifted from them. The movement has already met with conspicuous success in Cambridge, where the graduates in medicine are ten times as numerous as they were ten years ago. In the "Student's Handbook for Oxford, for 1883," it is stated that the university offers instruction in medicine, "as being necessary for a philosophical view of biological science," but arrangements made since then indicate that the university proposes to go further than this, and to follow close in the footsteps of Cambridge.

It is, however, in the Scottish and Continental universities that we realize to what importance the Medical Faculty may attain. Edinburgh has nearly three times as many graduates in medicine as she has in arts in each year, and while the latter contribute some \$2,500 in the form of graduation fees to the university chest, the graduation fees of the former amount to between \$30,000 and \$35,000 annually.

Again, in the Prussian universities more than half of the degrees annually conferred are in the Medical Faculty, and this in spite of the fact that a degree in Germany does not now carry a license to practise. It must be understood, however, that although such is the case, the State examination for license is conducted by university professors, and medical education can only be obtained at the universities.

I have not time to do more than indicate of what immense advantage to science this fostering of medical education by the universities has been. Suffice it to say, that when the physical and natural sciences had been almost entirely ousted from their proper place in the philosophical or arts curriculum, they were received and nurtured by members of the medical profession whose names consequently occupy the most honoured places in the history of the inductive sciences.