

related to illicit practice, were scarcely adequate to the necessities of the case. These should be amended, and the rights of country practitioners effectually guarded. The introduction of such a measure cannot affect the Bill for incorporating the Profession into a College of Physicians and Surgeons; while, should the latter fail in its progress through the Houses, the Profession would in that case have its wants at least temporarily supplied by the provisions of a measure of a less specific character. We repeat the conviction, which we have already expressed, that the Legislature will pause before according to *any men* the unlimited power which the proposed College Bill solicits. We think it would be most dangerous to the Profession at large, to have its interests controlled, in the manner contemplated, by a few, to whatsoever medico-political party they may belong; and we consider that this demand, apart from all other considerations, will prove dangerous, if not fatal, to the project.

The following is the circular alluded to in the early part of these remarks:—

## CIRCULAR.

SIR,—I beg to inform you that in conformity with a resolution passed at the general Convention of the Medical Profession, held at Three Rivers, on the 14th October last, “a Petition will be presented to the Legislature, at its ensuing session, signed by all the members of the Medical Profession, resident in Canada East, who may feel disposed to become parties to it; based upon the inadequacy of the existing laws to regulate the Practice of Medicine, Surgery and Midwifery, in this section of the Province; to establish a certain and fixed course of study previously to obtaining license to practice these branches; and to regulate druggists and others vending or distributing medicines by retail. It shall pray for the repeal of all the existing acts or portions of acts referring to these subjects; and it shall further pray for an Act of Incorporation, by which the persons, whose names are appended to the said petition, shall be embodied and incorporated into a College, to be styled, “The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada East,” and that the said persons constitute the original Corporation of the said College.

That the Corporation of the said College be instituted in all the usual powers and privileges granted to other corporate bodies, in regard to holding landed and other property, making by-laws, having a common seal, &c. &c.

That power be granted to the Corporation to legislate in all matters affecting the Medical Profession, whether in reference to education, practice, the protection of its members from inroads of unlicensed practitioners, the regulation of the practice of midwifery, the supervision of druggists' establishments, and the protection of the public health, in regard to Medical Police and Hygiene.”

I further beg you will be pleased to inform me, without delay, and by letter, whether you concur in the objects of the Convention, and if so, to authorise me to subscribe your name to the petition.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

DR. ARNOLD, Jun.

Montreal, May 6, 1847.

N. B.—Please communicate the above to your neighbouring fellow practitioners, lest their names may have escaped my knowledge.

*United States National Medical Convention.*—Some of our exchange journals, lately received, contain abridged reports of the proceedings at the adjourned

session of this body, held on the 5th inst., in the Hall of the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia. About 300 delegates were present, and a committee having been appointed of one from each State, to nominate officers for the permanent organization of the Convention, the following were reported—Dr. J. Knight, Connecticut, President; Alex. H. Stevens, New York; G. B. Wood, Philadelphia; A. H. Buchanan, Tennessee; J. Harrison, Louisiana, Vice-Presidents; and R. D. Arnold, Georgia; A. Stillé, Philadelphia; and F. C. Stevens, New York, Secretaries. A report on the formation of a National Medical Convention, to be called “The American Medical Association,” was read, and accepted; as also was another urging the States governments to adopt a uniform plan for the enregistering of births, marriages, and deaths. On the question of an elevated standard for the degree of M.D., the following important resolutions were carried:—

Resolved, 1st. That it be recommended to all the colleges to extend the period employed in lecturing from four to six months.

2d. That no student shall become a candidate for the degree of M. D., unless he shall have devoted three entire years to the study of medicine, including the time allotted to attendance upon the lectures.

3d. That the candidate shall have attended two full courses of lectures, that he shall be 21 years of age, and in all cases shall produce the certificate of his preceptor, to prove when he commenced his studies.

4th. That the certificate of no preceptor shall be received, who is avowedly and notoriously an irregular practitioner, whether he shall possess the degree of M. D. or not.

5th. That the several branches of medical education already named in the body of this report be taught in all the colleges; that no less than 100 lectures be delivered by each Professor, and that the number of Professors be increased to seven.

6th. That it be required of candidates that they shall have steadily devoted three months to dissections.

7th. That it is incumbent upon Preceptors to avail themselves of every opportunity to impart clinical instruction to their pupils; and upon Professors to connect themselves with hospitals, whenever it can be accomplished, for the advancement of the same end.

8th. That it is incumbent upon all schools and colleges granting diplomas fully to carry out the above requisitions.

9th. That it be considered the duty of Preceptors to advise their students to attend only such institutions as shall rigidly adhere to the recommendations herein contained.

A report was also read on the preliminary education of students of medicine, and the following resolutions received the sanction of the Convention:—

Resolved, That this convention earnestly recommends to members of the medical profession throughout the United States to satisfy themselves, either by personal inquiry or the written certificate of competent persons, before receiving young men in their offices, as students, that they are of good moral character, and that they have acquired a good English education, a knowledge of natural philosophy, and the elementary mathematical sciences, including geometry and algebra, and such an acquaintance, at least, with the Latin and Greek languages as will enable them to appreciate the technical language of medicine, and read and write prescriptions.

Resolved, That this convention also recommends to the members of the medical profession of the United States, when they have satisfied themselves that a young man possesses the qualifications specified in the preceding resolution, to give him a written certificate, stating that fact, and recording also the date of his