

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS ON MEDICAL EDUCATION— PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.\*

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AFTER the usual words of welcome to the Association, and having expressed his thanks for the honor which had been accorded to him in his election as President, Mr. Franklin proceeded to give a shore *résumé* of the history of Leicester. After mentioning the names of Goulston, the founder of the Goulstonian lectures; Cheselden, the famous surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital; Halford, for twenty-four years President of the Royal College of Physicians of London; Benjamin Ward Richardson; and Tom Paget, of the Leicester Infirmary, the first provincial surgeon to obtain a seat on the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, all of whom were Leicestershire men, the President passed to the main subject of his address. He said:

I now propose, ladies and gentlemen, having referred to local matters in connection with the medical profession of, I hope, some interest, to venture on some remarks with regard to the existing regulations by the State of the education of those who desire to become members of our profession. In doing so, in considering how the education is regulated to-day, I must as a necessary preliminary, consider, to some extent, the regulations of the past, and then we can ask if the improvements of to-day are as great as they should be, if the regulations are producing the best possible results; if, in fact, the average student, when he or she leaves the medical school or hospital legally qualified, is as well equipped as possible for the responsibilities of the future. That this is a tremendous problem we recognize at once, when we consider for one moment what it means to a country, or rather to a series of countless communities, to have among them thoroughly well educated representatives of the medical profession. As it is absolutely impossible to suppose that a civilized community could exist without such representatives, it follows, surely, that those communities in which are found the most highly educated members of the medical profession have an enormous advantage as compared with others. It seems to me that the importance of the education of the medical man or woman of to-day is greater than ever it was, and the responsi-

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