

did not object to such a scheme. In Ireland, again, as all the medical bodies were more or less centered in Dublin, he did not imagine there would be any great difficulty. In Scotland, however, the case was otherwise. There were the College of Surgeons, the College of Physicians, and Faculty of Physicians in Edinburgh; the Universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, and St. Andrew's—all of which would be very much affected by a conjoint scheme. The fact was—so desirous had he been of, if possible, coming to a conclusion which would enable him to legislate on the difficult subject—that he had adopted the alternative his noble friend condemned very severely, and made the provision as to a conjoint scheme permissive for the three parts of the United Kingdom; and in order to meet the objection to the provision being only permissive, he had raised the qualification of medical practitioners by providing that no person could be placed on the Register of the Medical Council who did not possess two qualifications—one in surgery, and the other in medicine. He was quite ready to admit that this was not the best solution of the difficulty, but it was a step in the right direction supposing that it was not possible to insert in the Bill a compulsory clause, for the three parts of the United Kingdom. He was aware of the objection taken to the Bill by the medical bodies to which his noble friend had referred, and he was far from saying that there ought not to be a conjoint board. He thought it would be dishonest of him to say that it would not be an advantage to the country: but it was not always easy to carry out by Act of Parliament what one thought desirable. The clause in the Act referring to the medical examination of women was inserted to cure a technical defect in Mr. Russell Garney's Act, and would not render it more difficult for women to enter the medical profession, except inasmuch as it raised the standard of qualification for registration by requiring a double qualification from all persons who sought to be put on the Register;

The Bill was then read a second time.

At the session of the General Council of Medical Education and Registration, the bill as introduced before the House of Lords, was discussed clause by clause, and adopted. In reference to the conjoint examining boards the following motion by Dr. Humphrey, seconded by Sir James Paget, was carried by a large majority of the Council:

“Whereas, in 1870, this Council passed the following resolution by a large majority, and after much deliberation: ‘That this Council is of opinion that a joint examining board should be formed in each of the three divisions of the kingdom, and that every person who desires to be registered under any of the qualifications recognized in schedule (A) to the Medical Act shall be required, previously to such registration, to appear before one of these boards and be examined in all the subjects which may be deemed advisable by the Medical Council; the rights and privileges of the universities and corporations being in all other respects the same as at present;’ and whereas the council has subsequently sanctioned a scheme for an examining board for