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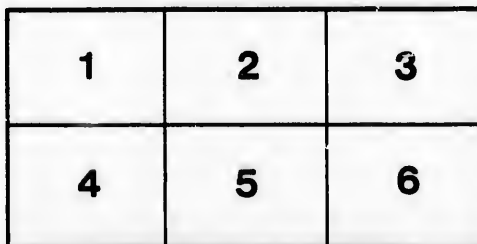
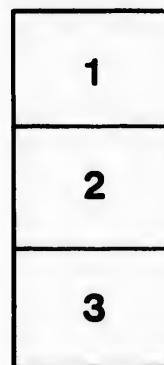
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Letter I.

AN EXPOSITION OF THE "REASONS" CONTAINED IN THE COUNTER PETITION OF THE MEDICAL FACULTY OF M'GILL COLLEGE.

To the Honorable the Members of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly.

GENTLEMEN,

A measure will shortly be submitted for your sanction, and seemingly simple although the request appears, which is sought to be obtained by it, it yet involves interests of exceeding magnitude. It is not unknown to your Honorable Houses, that early in December a petition was presented to you, signed by the lecturers and students of a new School of Medicine in this city, in which the petitioners prayed not only for an Act of Incorporation, but what was of far greater importance, the permission to grant a diploma, or certificate, to such Students, who, after an examination before themselves, shall have been found worthy of it. On the 9th December, a counter petition to the above was presented to the Legislative Council, by the Hon. Mr. BRUNEAU, and to the Legislative Assembly by the Hon. G. MORFATT, emanating from, and signed by, the Professor and Lecturers in the Faculty of Medicine of M'Gill College. The Faculty of Medicine humbly conceiving that the delegation of a privilege, such as that sought for, would be injurious to the best interests of the country, deliberately expressed their opinion on the matter; and however great the obloquy has been which they have since encountered from those most interested in the matter, they at least have the satisfaction of knowing, that the cause which they have sustained—not more their own than that of the profession at large—is approved of by parties unconnected with themselves—parties who, untrammelled and unbiassed by party feelings, have estimated the question on its own intrinsic merits.

The Petition, Gentlemen, embodies two requests: the one an Act of Incorporation, the other the privilege to grant a Diploma. The Act of Incorporation is one thing—the privilege to grant a Diploma is another. The former is a matter of very little consequence, but if the latter be conceded also, it then becomes a serious question. Most important interests immediately become affected—interests appertaining not only to the Medical Profession generally but to the community at large. Under the cry of MONOPOLY has the banner of free trade principles in matters of Medical science been here unfurled, which, whatever may be the opinion entertained of the benefits of their introduction into commercial affairs, can be demonstrated to have induced the most pernicious effects in matters of Medical Polity. Monopoly? I shall prove, Gentlemen, that it is to this very monopoly that the British Medical character

owes its present high and dignified position, and that it is to the absence of it, or the free trade principle, that that Professional character has elsewhere been degraded. The fact which I now assert, I shall not leave unsupported by proof, by ample proof, but to adduce it now would be to anticipate my subject.

We may here, not irrelevantly, enquire into the nature of the "Diploma or Certificate," the privilege of granting which has been petitioned for. In *limine*, I observe, that a Diploma and a Certificate are by no means one and the same thing. A Diploma is a Certificate, but a Certificate is not a Diploma; and I use the terms in the conventional sense in which they are employed in England. Certificates, according to that meaning, (and it is the meaning employed by the Bodies themselves) are only issued by two Authorised Bodies in Great Britain—the Societies of Apothecaries, of London and Dublin. They are in reality Licences, or "Certificates of qualification to practice," as Apothecaries, and constitute that authority by which the General Practitioners of England, Ireland, and Wales, exercise their rights. Diplomas, again, are "letters testimonial," granted only by the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, expressive of the proficiency of the individuals who hold them in the particular branches specified. Diplomas are to Surgery what "degrees" are to Medicine. A Diploma, however, is not a Degree. Degrees are honours, whether in the Faculties of Medicine, Divinity, Arts, or Law, and are conferred by Universities and Universities only. In Great Britain, both are Licences *ad practicandum*, and the holders practice accordingly, those of the first as Surgeons, and those of the second as Physicians.

It would be folly in me, Gentlemen, to deny the fact, that by establishing schools, with power to grant Diplomas, with all the flattering seducements connected with short courses and small fees, the pecuniary interests of the Universities would not suffer. I cannot for a moment believe that you, as the Guardians of public good, will suffer to be sacrificed on such grounds, the higher seats of learning in this Province, upon the maintenance of which the respectability of the Medical Profession, as well as the best interests of the public are essentially dependent, but I shall at once take higher ground, and assuming as my texts the "Reasons" of the Medical Faculty, shall argue the question on its abstract merits.

I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

A. HALL, M.D.

Montreal, Feb. 13, 1845.

Letter II.

AN EXPOSITION OF THE "REASONS" CONTAINED IN THE COUNTER PETITION OF THE MEDICAL FACULTY OF M'GILL COLLEGE.

REASON, I.—*Because under the present circumstances of the Province with its comparatively limited population, the Medical Schools attached to the two Universities of King's College and M'Gill College are more than sufficient for every purpose of such Institutions.*

REASON, II.—*Because the number of young men entering the Medical Profession, although doubtless bearing the same ratio to the aggregate population as in other countries, is from the same cause in this Province limited, and therefore insufficient of themselves to remunerate in any thing like an adequate manner the labour of their teachers. Their distribution among an increased number of Schools, will have the undeniable effect of rendering them inefficient, by crippling their revenue, and thereby obstructing the acquisition of the necessary materials for the illustration of their lectures.*

REASON, III.—*Because one well established School, in which every facility for the acquisition of knowledge is afforded, is preferable to a plurality of Schools, with limited means, and still more limited facilities.*

To the Honorable the Members of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly.

GENTLEMEN,

It may be that from my intimate connexion with the Medical Faculty of M'Gill College, any arguments which I may employ, in favour of the position which that Faculty has assumed, may be regarded in the light of "special pleading." So far as these letters are concerned, I take this opportunity of assuring you that that Faculty has nothing whatever to do with them: they are written on my own responsibility; and my only desire is a truthful exposition of the subject, and of the reasonableness of the objections of the Faculty. I will assert nothing that I shall not be able fully to substantiate—and substantiate in the firmest manner possible, by FACTS—a method which appeals at once to the understanding of every individual.

The first reason or ground of objection assigned by the Faculty, bears every appearance of being the expression of their mere opinion on the matter, and under such supposition has been encountered by an opinion of an opposite kind. It is, on the contrary, deliberately advanced assertion, and has not been made without the full warranty of facts on which to rest it. The only mode, then, of testing its value is by an appeal to statistics, to determine the ratio which medical schools, having the power of confer-

ring degrees or diplomas or certificates, bear to the population of other countries, and to ascertain the same with reference to our own.

In Great Britain there are 19 Corporate Bodies, granting *ad practicandum* certificates of some kind or other. From this list, however, we may, without impropriety, exclude the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, Trinity College, Dublin, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, inasmuch as the annual number of graduates in the three former is very limited, and the power of the Archbishop of Canterbury is now never exercised. The number of Corporate Institutions granting licences, then, will be reduced to 15.

In the Germanic Confederation, there are 25.

In France there are 21.

In the United States, according to the American Almanack of 1844, we have a list of 28, all granting degrees.

In this country there are 2—King's College and M'Gill College.

We have now to estimate the relative proportion of these Corporate Institutions to the populations of the respective countries:—

COUNTRY.	Year of Census.	POPULATION.	No. of Universities, Colleges, &c.	Ratio of same to Population.
Great Britain and Ireland..	1841	26,835,773	15	1 @ 1,789,051
Germanic Confederation....	—	39,426,754*	25	1 @ 1,577,069
France.....	—	34,136,677*	21	1 @ 1,625,556
United States.....	1840	17,063,353	28	1 @ 609,405
Canada	1841	693,649	2	1 @ 599,857
{ Upper Canada... { Lower Canada... { 355	1842	693,649	2	1 @ 599,857

* From Edinburgh Almanack, 1843.

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try, nearly *THREE times as many Colleges*, conferring degrees, in reference to the population, as obtains in Germany, France or Great Britain, and that we have even a greater relative proportion than is met with in the United States, where the free trade principle has run rampant, and where the cry of "no monopoly" has ever been the order of the day. But independent of the two Universities, we have three medical boards, one at Toronto, Quebec, and Montreal, which in accordance with the law, have the power of licensing, irrespective of the Universities; add to these again, the claim of the "NEW SCHOOL," with power to grant a diploma; the petition of the Marine Hospital of Quebec, and (as the "SUNSET OF LIFE," in the words of the Scottish seer, "gives mystical lore,") the PREDICTION of the Montreal Medical Gazette, that the next Session of Parliament will witness the preferment of a claim, by a third party in this city, for powers similar to what the New School is now demanding; and let me ask of you, gentlemen, what *will be, say what must be*, the result of all this? *Facts* then confirm the first reasonable objection urged by the Medical Faculty.

REASON 2.—This contains an assertion similar in character to the preceding, and an inference drawn from it. We may therefore consider it under two heads.

1. The exact number of students in medicine in Canada, cannot be determined with any precision. We may come near the truth by estimating their number according to the ratio which they bear to the population of other countries. They "doubtless do bear the same proportion," and no reason can be assigned why they should fall short of, or exceed that ratio. By an able writer in the last number of the Quarterly Review, the number of individuals licensed annually to practice in Great Britain is computed at from 800 to 1000. Now as four years is their minimum period of study, we may fairly estimate the number of medical students at 4000 on the lowest computation. In the American Almanack for 1844, the number of students attending the different Schools in the United States is given as 3177. The following table then will give us a comparative view of the number in this country, estimated by the mean of the population of the two countries divided by the mean of the number of students:—

	Population.	Medical Students.	Ratio of students to population.
Great Britain	26,835,773	4000	1 @ 6708
United States	17,063,353	3177	1 @ 5370
Canada	1,199,704	196	1 @ 6120

Or estimated by the ratio which obtains in the United States, which is considerably higher than that in Great Britain, their number will be

223, which is a very limited number for the support of two schools, admitting them to be equally divided between both, and that *all* attended the lectures, the latter of which is well known not to be the case.

2. The inference is a matter of £ s. d. Let us suppose, in the first place, that the students frequent the two existing Medical Schools in equal numbers, in the proportion of 111 to each. According to the proposed Medical Bill, the period of study will be limited to four years, with one sessional attendance on certain branches of medical science; consequently, each lecturer will have the fourth part of that number annually in attendance on his lectures; giving him an annual class of 27. Assuming £3 to be the fee, (which is that of M^cGill College) he will receive annually from his class the sum of £81—and this for a six months' course of 120 lectures. But I have now assumed the best feature of the case: there will be five schools, and the 223 students are to be divided among the five; allowing to each the *large number* of 44. This divided by 4 will give us by the same rule the annual class of each lecturer, 11 students; yielding him, according to the same scale of fees, the sum of £33, which is to be his "adequate remuneration" for all his toil and trouble, and out of which all incidental expences connected with his class, are to be defrayed independently of the "acquisition of the necessary materials for the illustration of his lectures."

I have not in these statements, Gentlemen, strained a point, or taken the slightest undue advantage. It appears to me that I have discussed this question fairly and candidly. The positive evils which will be entailed, require surely to be well considered before a ruinous concession be made, to the cry of "no monopoly," such "monopoly" having in truth no existence. One certain effect will follow—so surely as that concession is made,—the complete destruction of the Universities, which I have shown to be more than sufficient for every purpose of such institutions in this Province. Canada is now an anomaly in the world, as regards the number of her Chartered Medical Schools to her population. What will she be when such schools are multiplied?

REASON 3.—This is a self-evident proposition or it may be viewed as a corollary to the two preceding reasons, and requires no demonstration nor exposition.

I have the honor,
Gentlemen,
To subscribe myself your most obdt. servt.,

A. HALL, M.D

Montreal, February 17, 1845.

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Letter III.

AN EXPOSITION OF THE "REASONS" CONTAINED IN THE COUNTER PETITION OF THE MEDICAL FACULTY OF M'GILL COLLEGE.

REASON, IV.—Because from a desire to swell the list of students, and of those who annually receive Diplomas, various temptations independent of pecuniary ones may be held out, especially those of an inferior standard of qualification and of assurance of license to practice when their CURRICULUM is completed.

REASON, V.—Because the existing Provincial Medical Boards (imperfect though the Law be under which they are constituted) are quite adequate to the wants of the public in preventing the admission of incompetent persons to practice, while they are not open to the same temptation of granting licenses to imperfectly prepared students, as rival Schools would be.

REASON, VI.—Because if the privilege of granting a Diploma equivalent to a license AD PRACTICANDUM be accorded, a bad precedent would be established, and a similar boon could not with any propriety be refused to any number of similarly self-constituted associations, which would assuredly have the effect of lowering the standard of qualification and establishing a rivalry, not as to which School would produce the best educated practitioners, but which would grant the greatest number of Diplomas.

To the Honorable the Members of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly.

GENTLEMEN,

In continuance of our subject, we now arrive at the "Fourth Reason" advanced by the Medical Faculty, and it is one that I approach not without feelings of reluctance. The question which naturally arises is—Have practices such as are specified in the Reason prevailed anywhere? And if so, where? reply that such proceedings have been practised in the adjoining States; and I shall now substantiate what I have affirmed:

About three years ago, an eminent Professor of Anatomy, from the United States, visited this city for the purpose of delivering a popular course of lectures on Anatomy. He stated to myself and to others, that he was desirous of establishing in the College to which he belonged as high a standard of medical attainment as possible, but that it was impossible to accomplish that object, inasmuch as many were permitted to get possession of Diplomas at the College, whose qualifications were never submitted to him. The "Trustees" conceived it for the interest of the Institution, in a pecuniary way, to grant them after the following very characteristic manner:—He was solicited by the Trustees to sign at the conclusion of the Session, a number of blank

Diplomas—he was requested to do this, and of course could hardly refuse so innocent a request. But the consequence of his doing so resulted simply in this, the hatching of a flock of M.D.'s, who, without having ever subjected themselves to any examination, came forth to the world in the full-blown honors of genuinely-made Graduates.

Again, I have to state, upon the authority of a Graduate in Arts of one of the first American Universities, that it is not an uncommon practice in one, at least, of the minor Medical Schools in that country, to add to its published list of Medical Students, the names of Students in the Faculty of Arts, to make that list as imposing as possible.

I have further to state, and it is a matter of notoriety, that French Canadian Students, who have confessed their inability, when applying for license at the Medical Board in this city, to speak one word of English, have resorted to some of the American Border Colleges, in which not one word of French is spoken, and that after a sessional attendance there of a few weeks, they have received their degree in Medicine.

And lastly, gentlemen, I have to state, and I do this on the authority of the Secretary of the Montreal Medical Board, that since the organization of that Board in 1839, of fifteen American Graduates, applicants for license to practice in this Province, five were rejected, making one-third of the whole number. Of one of these American Graduates, I was myself one of the examiners, and I can testify to his utter ignorance and incompetency.

Now, gentlemen, if these things are so, may not the causes which have led to them be with us, an object of inquiry which deeply concerns us? May we not with every justice and reason, ask why Degrees, the highest honours in any Faculty, are conferred on individuals utterly unworthy of them? Must not the preparatory examination, to which these young men were submitted, have been but a mockery? And is this one iota better than the awarding of similar Degrees to individuals who never passed any examination at all? Are proceedings like these calculated to elevate the character of any Profession anywhere? Will not that Professional character surely but slowly become degraded, Degrees and Diplomas become objects of contempt, and instead of communicating to the holder respect and confidence, engender towards him suspicion and distrust? Among the multitude of causes which have conspired to this result, one of the most prominent, certainly, is the undue proportion of these Medical Schools to the population. Each one of these Medical Schools must live: every means, legitimate as well as illegitimate, honourable as well as dishonourable are put into requisition, on the plan that the end will sanction the means. Their lists of

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Students are fictitiously augmented in number, and Graduates are made, no matter how; to demonstrate to the world, in the one case, the facilities which the individual school possesses for communicating instruction, by its being a favourite resort of Students, and in the second, the estimation in which their Degree is held, by their large list of Graduates.

From this sweeping denunciation, I cheerfully exclude five or six of the higher Universities. The time honored character which they have established for themselves requires no such false allurements for its maintenance, but to the mass of the petty Colleges it strictly applies. I desire not to "insinuate" that similar practices would necessarily obtain here, were the Medical Schools multiplied to ten times their number, but who could demonstrate that they would not. This much surely will be admitted, that we are men of "like passions and feelings" with our neighbours, and that by similar actuating causes, we would not be dissimilarly influenced.

REASON, 5.—It requires no demonstration to prove that the Provincial Medical Boards, uninfluenced, and unaffected by the causes which would conspire to grant Diplomas to improperly educated Students, would act in the most impartial manner. They have nothing either to gain or lose, in the passing or rejection of any Student; and they are, therefore, sufficiently "adequate to the wants of the public in preventing the admission of incompetent persons to practice."

REASON, 6.—We now come to the nature of the request petitioned for by the New School. This is the power of conferring a "Diploma or Certificate." I admit that they ask not for power to grant "Degrees," but they do ask for something nearly akin to it, for "Diplomas are to Surgery what Degrees are to Medicine." Their Diploma is to be a "certificate of qualification," obtained after an examination before themselves, which shall be tantamount to a license to practice, and will accordingly be placed on a perfect level with Degrees, from the first Universities in Great Britain, so far as subsequent permission to practice upon it is concerned. Concede this privilege once, Gentlemen, and where are you to stop? What reasonable objection will you be enabled to advance why the precedent, once established, should not be accorded to all applicants for it in time to come? Montreal will soon boast of three schools possessed of similar powers; Quebec will add one or two more to the list: Toronto, Kingston, Brockville, Cornwall, will come in with their applications. Then indeed will be realized all the overflowing advantages which will result, from "HEALTHY COMPETITION," the result of the "no monopoly" cry! SCIENCE will indeed be MIGHTILY benefited,

by the struggles for existence, and for "FAME" which all these schools will have to make! Place Gentlemen, by the concession of the Privilege, upon a level with the Universities, the schools will draw the Universities with them into the same yawning gulph of degradation, which will inevitably open wide before them. This is a result which will certainly follow, and, Gentlemen, I ask not too much of you in requesting you to pause and ponder well the consequences of the concession, before irrevocably recording your votes upon the question. This letter has exhibited the CONSEQUENCES of an undue proportion of schools to the population, upon the Profession in the United States: it rests with you, Gentlemen, to maintain the respectability of the Profession here, by avoiding the causes which have tended to its impairment there.

I remain,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. HALL, M.D.

Montreal, Feb. 22, 1845.

Letter IV.

AN EXPOSITION OF THE "REASONS" CONTAINED IN THE COUNTER PETITION OF THE MEDICAL FACULTY OF M'GILL COLLEGE.

REASON, VII.—*Because such evils in Universities possessing Royal Charters are effectually obviated by the general supervision exercised by a Board of Governors, whose duties principally consist in the appointment of efficient Teachers, in the establishment of the standard of qualification for graduation, subject to approval by Her Majesty, and in causing the faithful observance of every regulation tending to that object.*

REASON, VIII.—*Because in the Petition of the "College of Medicine" for an Act of Incorporation, &c., &c., the petitioners have not stated the CURRICULUM which candidates for their Diplomas would have to complete, nor have they pledged themselves to the fulfilment of any particular course of study, nor have they specified the duration of their courses nor their nature.*

REASON, IX.—*Because the duration of the course of lectures now given in the "College of Medicine" is little more than half that of those delivered by your Petitioners, viz.: three and a half months or two courses in seven months, while those delivered by your Petitioners are all of six months duration. It is obvious, therefore, that the branches cannot be so fully nor so explicitly taught as those by your Petitioners.*

REASON, X.—*Because the power of conferring Diplomas equivalent to a license AD PRACTICANDUM is not enjoyed by any of the justly celebrated Metropolitan or Provincial Schools in the Mother Country, but is*

exclusively confined to the Universities, the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of London, Dublin, and Edinburgh, the Worshipful Company of Apothecaries of London, and the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, the last two under certain limitations.

To the Honorable the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

GENTLEMEN,

Wherever Corporate Medical Institutions do not exist in an undue proportion to the population—it is the interest of these Institutions that their Degrees, Diplomas, or Certificates should not be awarded to individuals unworthy of them. These Degrees or Diplomas, then becomes marks of merit or symbols of honor to their possessors; they are proofs of their perfect competency to the full discharge of their professional duties, and are received and recognised as such by the community at large. Honor and confidence are at once awarded to the holder. The respectability of the Profession is maintained by the admission into it of none but well informed, thoroughly instructed persons, and this circumstance necessarily acquires for the Institution in its turn the well merited and implicit confidence of the public. But a higher result than even this will obtain, a result bearing in the most direct manner on Science itself. The new members, thoroughly instructed, and well grounded in every elementary department of their Profession, emerge upon the theatre of life prepared for every emergency; and the foundation is thus laid for future discoveries and improvements. Such, gentlemen, are the beneficial influences which have flowed from a regulated and due proportion of Corporate Medical Institutions to the population in Great Britain, France, and Germany; three of the most enlightened nations on the earth, and in which Medical character stands higher, and occupies a more dignified position than in any other. The evil consequences flowing from an opposite condition of things, I have fully exhibited in my last letter. I wish not to draw the contrast in too strong colours, but I shall leave the inferences deducible from the statements which have been unfolded, to your own calm and dispassionate judgments.

The general supervision of a Board of Governors cannot but be attended with most salutary effects. They constitute a check upon licentiousness in conferring Degrees on the one hand, and are a guarantee to the public on the other, for the maintenance of the standard of qualification, and for the faithful observance of all regulations affecting the acquisition of Degrees. Unfettered and uncontrolled by any superior authority, the "New School of Medicine," and all other schools to which a similar power would be delegated, (if the conces-

sion be once made,) would act in such matters as they pleased; the power which would be entrusted to them might not be abused, but what guarantee would Her Majesty's liege subjects here possess, that they would not be placed under the tender mercies of individuals, whose errors, be they those of omission or commission, would not jeopardize their lives?

REASONS 8 and 9.—It was stated in a "Reply" to the "Counter-petition," that the Bill which would be submitted for your sanction, Gentlemen, would contain "every particular respecting the curriculum, the duration, as also the nature of the courses of Lectures" and that these "would be fully detailed in the Bill."—Now, the Bill contains no information of the kind whatever, beyond the fact that the duration of the lectures is to embrace a period of six months, and include 120 Lectures, similar to what are now delivered in Mc Gill College. But of the "curriculum," and the "nature of the courses" which young men would have to complete, or follow, to obtain the diploma or certificate, we are entirely ignorant. Why the Bill which it was said would contain a full detail of these particulars, did not contain the same, and that too after a specific promise to that effect, we can only conjecture. But the Bill, it appears, has as it stands, obtained the sanction of the Legislative Assembly; and to ensure its passing through the ordeal of the Legislative Council, the word "diploma" has been struck out, with the obvious intention of thereby implying that the "certificate of qualification," is a matter of no consequence whatever, that it is not a Diploma, and may therefore be accorded as a thing of trifling importance. If I can substantiate, gentlemen, that Diplomas are but "certificates of qualification," and consequently that "certificates of qualification" are Diplomas in the ordinary sense of the term, it appears to me that I shall have proved, that *mutato nomine*, the request sought for is precisely the same. The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh grants a *Diploma*, and let us now see what the wording of that diploma is:—

"Hiscce literis testatur, virum ingeniosum A. B. Studiis prescriptis ritè peractis, examini sese subjecisse: atque ita ad interrogata de iis respondisse, ut muneri tam Chirurgico quam Pharmaceutico suscipiendo omninò par esse videretur;" which may be thus translated; "It is by these letters certified that A. B., gentleman, having completed in a proper and due manner the prescribed studies, submitted himself to examination, and so replied to questions concerning them, that he would appear to be, in all respects, qualified to undertake the duties of a Surgeon and Apothecary." Here, then, Gentlemen, is a Diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and what is it,

let me ask you, but a "certificate of qualification." It is, moreover, a license, *ad practicandum*; and what else does the New School ask for its "certificate of qualification?" They ask for a Diploma, to all intents and purposes, and be the wording of the Bill in this respect what it may, it savours of deception to attempt to disguise the fact.

REASON 10.—The last reason advanced by the Faculty, why the power of conferring Diplomas or Certificates, should be denied to the "New School of Medicine;" is based upon the fact of the non-possession of this power or privilege, by the British Metropolitan and Provincial Schools of Medicine, in number between 30 and 40. This power is restricted to 18 Incorporated Institutions at the utmost in Great Britain, and it is this very restriction which has produced such beneficial influences upon the Profession there. The private schools in Britain seek not a power or privilege of the kind. They are satisfied with the simple recognition of their lectures. And what valid grounds or reasons can be urged, that the "New School of Medicine" in this city, formed, I may say, but yesterday, having certainly not yet completed their second course of lectures, should enjoy a position which is withheld from the British Metropolitan and Provincial Schools, nearly all of which are Schools of eminence and celebrity, and in which a large number of the most eminent medical men of England, Scotland, and Ireland have considered it, and do consider it, an honor to be teachers.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I cannot refrain from recording this opinion, that the question involved in the petition of the "New School" has been made to assume a feature, which is not warranted by any circumstances connected with it. It has been dis-

cussed as a party question, and has been decided by the Legislative Assembly upon such grounds, and not upon its intrinsic merits. I have in these lectures, carefully, dispassionately, and candidly, reviewed the position maintained by the Medical Faculty of McGill College. I have inquired into the validity of their "reasonable objections," and tested, by an appeal to figures and to facts, they have not been found wanting. In the task which I have just completed, I have proved that we have already in this country three times as many Corporate Institutions, granting Degrees, in reference to the population, as obtains in Germany, France, or Great Britain, and that we have actually a greater relative ratio than is met with in the United States. I have exhibited the effects upon the Medical Profession, which are unavoidably concomitant with an undue and unnecessary proportion of schools,—that that Professional Character has become degraded; and from the examples of Great Britain, France and Germany, I have pictured an opposite state of things, the direct result of a due and regulated proportion. It remains with you now, Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, to decide between the alternatives; to adopt the European practice, a limitation of Corporate Medical Schools, by which the respectability of the Profession will be maintained; or the American one, a multiplication of such schools, by which it will be assuredly lowered.

I have the honour to remain,
Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. HALL, M.D.

Montreal, February 25, 1845.

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