

consists of fellows alone. It desires to re-establish an order of licentiates, and to constitute it, in part, of the practitioners in question. The College is unanimous in this desire.

Unfortunately, a serious difference of opinion prevails amongst its fellows as to whether the stamp of physician ought not to be more distinguishingly impressed on such licentiates by requiring them all to be graduates of a university. A majority of the College, however, has lately ruled that this shall not be a necessary condition, and are of opinion that respectable practitioners may be enrolled in its ranks, although not possessed of a university degree.

There is no difference of opinion, however, as to the necessity of leaving the licence of the College open to all candidates, whether graduates or not, at an earlier age than that proposed by the London College for its licentiates.

The College is not particularly wedded to the age of twenty-one; but it is the natural limit of manhood, and on that account, probably, it is the age which has hitherto been adopted in Scotland for entering on the learned professions—for the church, for the bar, and for medicine as well as surgery. It is the minimum; it can be, and will be, rarely taken advantage of; but inasmuch as there may be medical men, no less than philosophers, politicians, soldiers, &c., whose talents and assiduity place them, at the age of twenty-one, on a level with others at thirty or more, the College cannot see why an arbitrary corporation rule should deprive such men of the advantages with which Providence may have been pleased to bless them. From former experience, the College believes that very few candidates for its licence will come forward until at least two years later in life. But it deprecates any rigorous rule on that head, as being calculated to obstruct the progress of talent, and to interfere with the public usefulness of a College whose purpose is to foster, and not to obstruct, merit.

The London College is, therefore, entreated to consider that the views of this College, in regulating the admission of its licentiates, rest on the organization of the medical profession, and the practice of the other learned professions in Scotland, with neither of which does the organization and practice of England precisely accord, but towards which, nevertheless, that division of the kingdom tends in both respects. With a medical profession so organized as in Scotland, a College of Physicians cannot now exist, if it is to be composed only of consulting physicians, as the London College seems to desire.

Hence, if the London College should still retain its objections to the regulations of this College for its licence, as finally altered on the 20th instant, it may be necessary for the College of London to require something more than the simple Edinburgh licence for establishing an *ad eundem* admission into its body, such as a greater age, more opportunities of study, and the like. Nor will this College make any factious opposition to such new legislative measures as may be shown by the London College to be necessary, or advisable, for that purpose.

But at the same time, as this College has taken in good part the remonstrance and good advices of its sister College, so may it hope to find that College not unwilling to listen in its turn to a suggestion—viz., that it may be already full time to consider in England too, whether, under the operation of the Medical Act, a class of practitioners be not certain to arise, or be not already arising, akin to that which has been extensively established in Scotland, with great benefit to the nation, and which, consisting of men differing little from physicians in a simple and liberal interpretation of the word, ought to be encouraged in its growth in England by every reasonable persuasion to attach itself, through the medium of the licence, to the Royal College of Physicians of that country.

I have the honour to be, Sir, yours very faithfully,
(Signed) ALEXANDER WOOD, *President*.

Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, April 26th, 1859.

WESTMINSTER ELECTION.

THE following letter from Mr. WAKLEY, rendered necessary by the requisitions which had been presented to him, was published in *The Times* of the 26th ultimo:—

“To the Electors of the City and Liberty of Westminster.

GENTLEMEN,—When it was anticipated a few weeks since that there would be a dissolution of Parliament, it was very generally reported that one of your late members would not again offer himself for re-election. Acting under the influence of impressions thus derived, a considerable number of your body earnestly solicited me to become a candidate for your

suffrages. Now, however, both of your late representatives being again in the field, it is only respectful to you and due to them to state that it is not my intention, on this occasion, to solicit the great distinction of representing you in Parliament.

Heartily and gratefully do I acknowledge the powerful support which has been tendered to me at this juncture. Should it be renewed with equal fervour at the time of the next vacancy in the representation of your politically renowned city in the Imperial Legislature, I shall then unhesitatingly place my humble services at your disposal.

Believe me to be, Gentlemen,

Your faithful servant,

Reform Club, Pall-mall, April 25th, 1859.” THOMAS WAKLEY.

HEALTH OF THE INDIAN ARMY: REPORT ON CLIMATE.

(Report by Dr. Bernard Kendall on the “Meghassani” Hill, situated in the territory of the Rajah of Moharbhunj, in latitude 21°38 north, and longitude 86°24 east. Height above the mean sea level, 3821 feet, as given by Major Strange, and distant from the port of Balasore about forty miles in a direct line.)

1st.—For the first few miles after leaving Balasore there is a good kutchra road, but this ceases at the village of Rewnah (about eight miles from Balasore), and from thence to the foot of the hills there is a tract or path practicable for bullocks or doolies only; this path leads through dense jungle, except at intervals where villages exist, and the ground for some distance around them is cultivated. The country is chiefly level or only slightly undulating, and along the path I continually saw the ferruginous gravel used in this station and at Midnapore for metalling roads, as well as beds of “kunker” or limestone. There are only one or two small streams to be crossed, and these at this season are nearly dry.

2nd.—In ascending we first crossed a low range, and then again ascending reached a large plateau of many miles in extent, and crossing this for two or three miles we came to a stream of running water, and we encamped for the day in an open spot close by. I found afterwards that this stream joins a larger one to the east, a little below the place of our encampment. Early the next morning we again set out, and, after traversing the plateau to the foot of the Meghassani (a distance of two or three miles), we again commenced ascending and had to wind around the hill, so as to reach the summit from its north-western aspect, it being precipitous on its south-eastern side.

3rd.—The summit of the Meghassani, on which the platform is built, is of small extent, very rocky, and not well suited for building purposes; but it slopes gradually down to the valleys beneath on its north-western aspect, and on this slope there is plenty of room for building.

4th.—To the north-east of the platform, and distant as the crow flies from half a mile to a mile, are several peaks and ridges, on which capital building sites are available. One peak especially deserves notice, it being on the same level as the platform, and having an extensive area on its summit, quite clear of trees or jungle, and free from rocks, small boulders only being scattered here and there; the slope from this is gradual on every side, and it commands an extensive view.

5th.—The soil seems to have been originally a rich but light marl, but as you descend into the valleys it loses this character, from the large quantity of vegetable mould which has accumulated. I should think that all vegetable products would thrive most luxuriantly, the soil being rich and well suited to their culture, and there being great variety of aspect.

6th.—I found several small streams of water in the valleys beneath; the nearest stream being rather more than a quarter of a mile distant from the summit of the hill. The water was clear and limpid, very soft and sweet, but, not having the necessary reagents, I am unable to give a chemical analysis of it.

7th.—The climate was cool and bracing, the mornings and evenings, together with the nights, being very cold; during the time I was on the hill there was a constant breeze from the north, and I spent the greater part of each day in examining the topography of the district, and during this time I did not feel oppressed either by the heat or the sun’s rays, although taking a great deal of exercise, to which I was accustomed, and this at all hours of the day. After sunset we had always a large fire within a few yards of the tent, which was kept burning during the night, as well as the numerous fires of the camp-