

*S. Putnam.*

THE

CHARTER

AND

BYE-LAWS

OF THE

Vermont Medical Society.

ALSO

A SKETCH OF THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY;

TOGETHER WITH

A List of Officers for the  
PRESENT YEAR.

COMPILED BY ORDER OF THE SOCIETY.

MONTPELIER:

PRINTED BY E. P. WALTON.

1818.

AT a meeting of the Vermont Medical Society, holden at Montpelier, in October, 1816, the following resolution was adopted, viz :

RESOLVED, *That Edward Lamb, and Calvin Demming, be a Committee to compile and prepare for the press, a pamphlet, which shall comprise all the laws, passed by the Legislature of this State, relative to the Vermont Medical Society, together with the Bye Laws of the same, and such other proceedings of the Society as they shall deem proper for publication, and that as soon as said pamphlet is ready for publication, it shall be the duty of the treasurer to procure the printing and publication of 250 copies of the same.*

*In pursuance of the above resolution, the following pages are submitted to the Society, and the public.*

63-29276

# AN ACT

TO INCORPORATE THE

## VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY.

WHEREAS, in order to the improvement of the theory and practice of the different branches of the healing art, it becomes necessary that Medical Societies should be established—*Therefore,*

SEC. 4. *It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont,* That all those practitioners, who have heretofore belonged to any medical society under a legislative act, or acts, of this state, together with the following physicians and surgeons,—in the county of Bennington, viz :

Josiah Graves, Alpheus Morse, Noadiah Swift, Daniel Huntington, Ezra Isham, Simeon Littlefield, Elijah Littlefield :

County of Windham—Lemuel Dickerman, Cyrus Washburn, Edward Campbell, Alexander Campbell, John Gibson, Nathaniel Chamberlain, Simeon Stearnes, Paul Wheeler, Samuel Cutler, Dana Hyde, Samuel Richardson, John Pulsiver, Jeremiah Dean, John Brooks, Jonathan Badger, Benjamin Stephens, Prentice Bugby, Willard Arms, Archipel Robinson, Barnabas Wright, Abel B. Wilson, Simeon Taylor, John D. Wells :

County of Rutland—Ezekiel Porter, Seelah Gridley, Ezra Clark, John Fox, James Witherill, John W. Brownson, Anderson G. Dana, Reuben Winslow, John Sargeants, William Frisby, Joel Green,

Augustus Mulford, Adin Kendrick, James Porter, Jonathan Shepard :

County of Windsor—Josiah Goodhue, Joadam Gallup, Moses Cobb, Stephen Drew, Nahum Trask, Silas Bowen, Eldad Alexander, Asaph Fletcher, Henry Gray, Erastus Torrey, Isaac Parker, Joadam Dennison, Joseph Winslow, Silas Brown, Nathaniel Pierce, Benjamin A. Dennison, Luther Fletcher, Charles Wolcott Chandler, John Burnell :

County of Addison—William Bass, Edward Tudor, Ebenezer Huntington, Asher Nichols, John Wilson, Nicanor Needham, Frederic Ford, jun. John Limer, Frederic Ford, William Guile, John Willard, Luther E. Hall, James Day, Dan Stone, Levi Warner, David McCollister, Martin Gay, Zenas Shaw, Josiah W. Hall :

County of Orange—Arad Stebbens, Thomas Winslow, Silas H. Sabin, Walter Burnham, Abiathar Waldo, Nathaniel W. Kinsley, Jabez Spicer, Joseph Ormsbee, Ezekiel Bissel, Daniel Washburn, Joshua Tenney, William Gleason, Epaphras Smith :

County of Chittenden—John Pomeroy, Frederic Mark, Seth Cole, Jairus Kenyon, Barnabas Holmes, George Howe, Elijah D. Harmon, John Cobb, David Hutchins, John Perego, William B. Marsh, Truman Powell, John Sackett, Eleazer Hutchins, John Fasset, George Dudley, Obed Phelps :

County of Caledonia—Luther Jewett, Josiah Shead, Moses Hoit, George W. Dennison, Nathan Cooke, jun. Samuel Collins, Hubbard Field, Abner Miles, Pearly Scott, Amasa Morse, Calvin Jewett, Amasa Scott, Ezra Child, Uri Babbet, Cyrus Root, Abiather Wright, — Smith, John Meigs :

County of Franklin—Benjamin Chandler, Medad Parsons, Ephraim Little, Joseph D. Farnsworth, Amhurst Willoby, Chauncy Fitch.

County of Grand Isle—Melvin Barnes, Melvin Barnes, jun. David Taylor, Artemas Goedenow, Swift Berry, Simeon Clark, Josiah Lane, Jonathan Barry.

County of Jefferson—Edward Lamb, Calvin Demming, Ralph Tinker, Joseph Lewis, jun. Moses Heaton, John Winslow, Joseph Whitcomb, Nathaniel C. King, Nathan B. Spaulding, Stephen Pierce, Jonathan Eaton, Robert Paddock, Gurshom Heaton, William Joslin :

County of Orleans—Samuel Huntington, Luther Newcomb, James Tinker, Peleg Redfield, William Scott :

County of Essex—Daniel Eagery, John Willard, Cyrus Shay, Andrew Spaulding, Theron Webb, and their associates, be, and they are hereby authorised to meet in the several county towns of the counties to which they respectively belong, after notice of this act shall be received by the practitioners aforesaid, and on the Wednesday of the first week of the sitting of the court as aforesaid, five or more of the practitioners aforesaid, may form themselves into a society, by the name of the *Medical Society of the County* in which such society is formed, and they may then proceed to choose a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, librarian, and three or more censors, who shall severally hold their offices for the term of one year, and until others are chosen in their places : and the said society, so organized, shall each of them, and they are hereby constituted a body corporate and politic, by their respective names as aforesaid, and by such name may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, may have a common seal and may alter the same at their pleasure, and shall have and possess all the powers, privileges, and immunities, incident to bodies corporate,

so far as may be necessary for the purposes of their incorporation.

SEC. 2. *And it is hereby further enacted,* That the societies established as aforesaid, in the several counties, shall have power to make their own bye laws, provided they be not repugnant to the laws of this state, or of the United States, and to the bye laws of the Vermont Medical Society, to be mentioned hereafter.

SEC. 3. *And it is hereby further enacted,* That each of said societies shall have power, at their semi annual meetings, to levy and collect a tax, on each and every member, for the purpose of procuring a library and suitable apparatus, and for other uses, as may be agreed on by a majority of said societies: *Provided* said tax shall not exceed three dollars annually; and to enforce the collection of the same by commencing a suit, in the name of the treasurer of said society, who shall order the prosecution of the same, before any court of competent jurisdiction.

SEC. 4. *And it is hereby further enacted,* That the number of members necessary to constitute a quorum, to transact the business of any of the societies, shall in no case be less than five.

SEC. 5. *And it is hereby further enacted,* That the president of any society aforesaid, may call a meeting of said society, by giving ten days previous notice of the same in some public newspaper, which circulates in the county.

SEC. 6. *And it is hereby further enacted,* That the societies established as aforesaid, in the several counties, shall hold semi-annual meetings in the shire town in each county, at the time of the sitting of the county court, for the purpose of establishing and regulating the libraries of said societies, receiving and communicating medical information, examin-

ing students, and transacting any business necessary to be done by said societies.

SEC. 7. *And it is hereby further enacted,* That no student shall be admitted to an examination by the censors, unless he possess a good moral character, and shall have pursued the studies of physic or surgery, at least three years ; and, being by said censors approved, shall receive a diploma from the president, which shall entitle him to all the privileges of a member of said society.

SEC. 8. *And it is hereby further enacted,* That each and every person who may hereafter be admitted as a member of the county societies, as now established, shall enjoy all and every privilege of those who are mentioned in this act.

SEC. 9. *And it is hereby further enacted,* That if there should not be a sufficient number of physicians and surgeons in any county of this state, to form themselves into a medical society, by virtue of this act, it shall be lawful for such physicians and surgeons to associate with the physicians of an adjoining county, for the purposes herein contemplated.

SEC. 10. *And it is hereby further enacted,* That if the physicians and surgeons of any county or counties of this state, should not meet and organize at such time and place, as is required by this act, it shall be lawful for them to meet at such other time, as a majority of them may think proper.

SEC. 11. *And it is hereby further enacted,* That there be a general Medical Society, to be composed of three members from each county society in the state, elected by ballot, at their annual meeting, who shall hold their office for the term of three years ; one of whom, in each county, shall go out of office at the end of each year, and the vacancy shall be filled by ballot, at the annual meetings of the county so.

cities; and during the two first years, the vacancies shall be determined by lot, in the general society; and the said persons elected, as aforesaid, shall meet together at a time and place to be notified by Doct. John Pomeroy, of Burlington, by an advertisement to be published four weeks before the time appointed for such meeting, in some newspaper in each of the counties of this state, in which newspapers are printed, and on the following day, being so met, not less than seven in number may proceed, by ballot, to the choice of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, three or more Censors, and a Corresponding Secretary, who shall hold their offices for one year, and until others are chosen in their places; and the said society, being so organized as aforesaid, shall be, and are hereby declared to be a body corporate and politic, by the name of the *Vermont Medical Society*; and, by that name, shall be in law capable of suing and being sued, with power to receive by gift or purchase, and hold to and for the benefit of said society, property, both real and personal, to an amount not exceeding ten thousand dollars; and to manage, improve, and convey the same for the common good and interest of said society, and to enjoy all the benefits and privileges, common to societies and bodies corporate, so far as may relate to the purposes of their incorporation.

SEC. 12. *And it is hereby further enacted, That the Vermont Medical Society, so elected, and organized as aforesaid, shall have power to receive and determine all appeals, either of students or of members of the county societies, who may be aggrieved by the decision of any county society, and may grant diplomas to any student, who may appear to them worthy to receive the same, agreeably to the seventh section of this act, and who may*

have been refused that privilege by any of the county societies.

SEC. 13. *And it is hereby further enacted,* That the Vermont Medical Society shall have power to make, alter, or renew their own seal, to adjourn their meetings, which shall be annually holden at the time and place before mentioned, to make bye laws, both for the better regulation of said society, and for the uniform regulation of the county societies, in all matters and concerns which are strictly connected with the Vermont Medical Society; and, especially, in regulating the uniform mode of examination and admission of students to practice; *Provided* such bye laws be not repugnant to the laws of this state, or of the United States, and to elect honorary members.

SEC. 14. *And it is hereby further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the several county societies to transmit annual statements of their proceedings to the general society, and it shall also be the duty of the Vermont Medical Society, to transmit to the several county societies statements of their proceedings, in order that the most useful and important information may be communicated.

SEC. 15. *And it is hereby further enacted,* That the aforesaid county societies shall have power, annually, to examine into the qualifications of their members elect, and, on finding them ignorant in their profession, immoral in their conduct, or they refusing to comply with the regulations of the society, may reprimand, suspend, or expel them, by a vote of the majority.

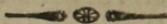
SEC. 16. *And it is hereby further enacted,* That if this act, or any thing contained therein, should be found injurious, or inconvenient to the good peo-

ple of this state, it may, by a future legislature, be altered, amended, or repealed.

Passed Nov. 6, 1813.

*A true copy,*

Attest, J. DUNHAM,  
Secretary of State.



An act, in addition to an act, entitled "an act to incorporate the *Vermont Medical Society*" passed Nov. 6, 1813.

SEC. 1. *It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont,* That every delegate to the state Medical Society, from the several county medical societies, after the term for which they shall or may have been elected has expired, shall be permanent and acting members of said state medical society, and be entitled to all the privileges of the other members of the same, except that they shall not be entitled to vote on any question respecting a tax upon the several county societies, nor the appropriation of the same.

SEC. 2. *It is hereby further enacted,* That the state medical society, at any annual meeting, shall have power to levy a tax upon the several county medical societies, for the purpose of promoting the objects of said society, and to enforce the collection of the same, by commencing a suit in the name of the Treasurer of the state medical society, before any court of competent jurisdiction, provided, that said tax shall not exceed one dollar annually upon each member of the several county medical societies.

SEC. 3. *It is hereby further enacted,* That in any of the counties in this state, in which the court sits

in more than one place, the county medical society in such county, may hold their meetings at such place in said county, as a majority of the members of such society, may think proper.

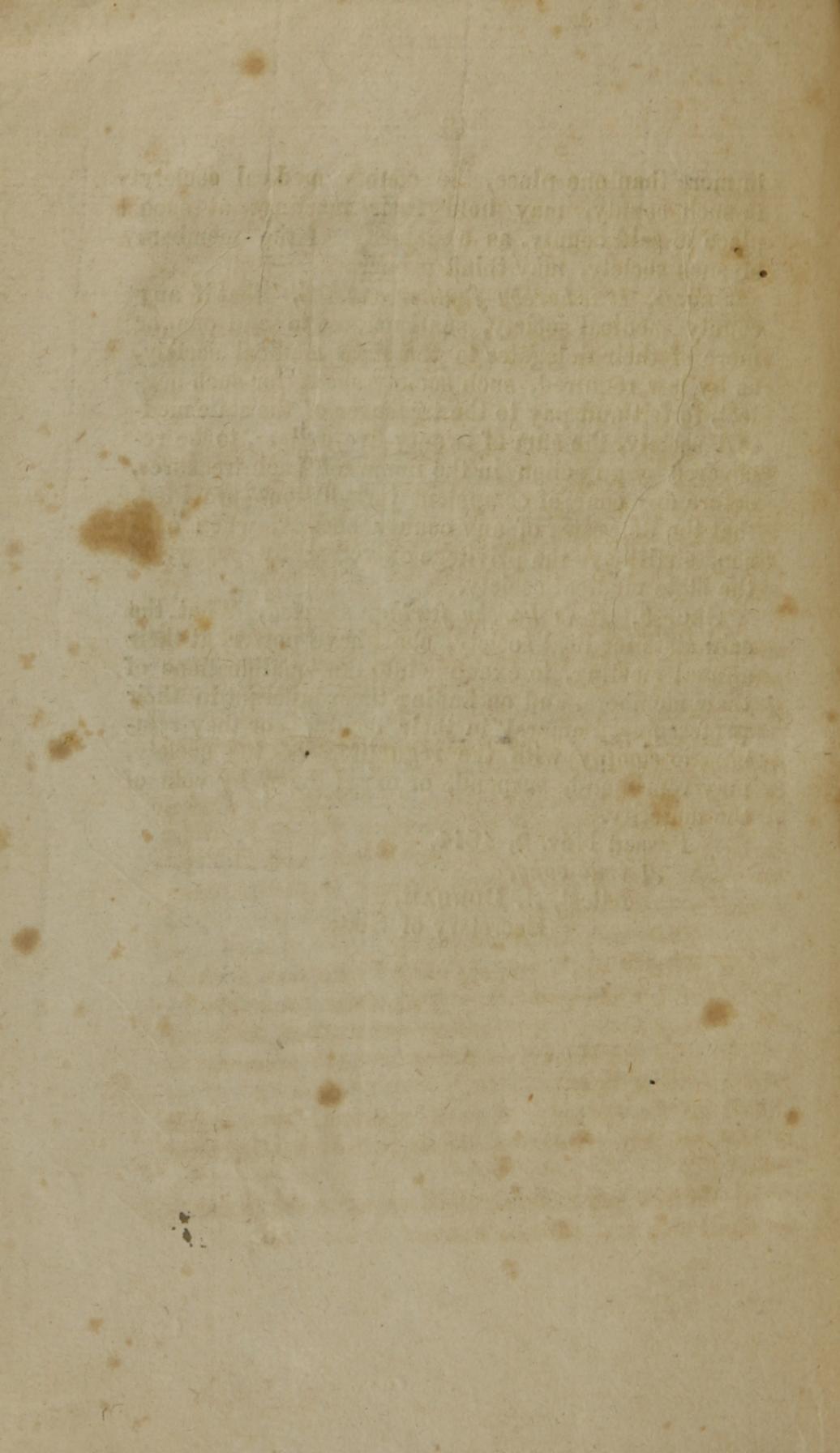
SEC. 4. *It is hereby further enacted,* That if any county medical society, shall neglect to send one or more of their delegates to the state medical society, as by law required, such society shall, for such neglect, forfeit and pay to the treasurer of the state medical society, the sum of twenty-five dollars, to be recovered by an action in the name of such treasurer, before any court of competent jurisdiction—provided, that the delegates of any county society, when chosen, shall have the privilege of voting by proxy, in the state medical society.

SEC. 5. *It is hereby further enacted,* That the said state medical society, shall have power, at their annual meeting, to examine into the qualifications of their members, and on finding them ignorant in their professions, immoral in their conduct, or they refusing to comply with the regulations of the society, may reprimand, suspend, or expel them, by vote of the majority.

Passed Nov. 2, 1814.

*A true copy,*

Attest, J. DUNHAM,  
Secretary of State.



## BYE LAWS.

IN conformity with the foregoing act of the Legislature, a number of gentlemen therein named, convened at Montpelier, on the 7th day of July, A. D. 1814, and proceeded to organise the Vermont Medical Society, agreeable to the provisions of the same.

The following articles having been reported by a committee, raised for that purpose, were read and adopted as a code of bye-laws for the regulation and government of said Society, viz :

Whereas, the Vermont Medical Society, has been duly organized under the authority of a Statute for that purpose, passed November 13, 1813, and whereas by the said Statute, this Society has a right to make bye-laws for its own regulation, and also for the regulation of the several County Societies, mentioned in said Statute—

*Therefore, be it ordained,*

1st. That when a quorum shall be formed, according to the act aforesaid, the President or presiding officer, may declare the Society constituted, and may call on the Secretary, and the several members to perform their duty....

2d. At the opening of each meeting, the records of the preceding meeting, shall be read by the Secretary....

3d. When any member shall speak in the Society, he shall rise and address himself to the chair....

4th. The President shall determine all questions of order, unless overruled by a majority of the Society....

5th. The President shall nominate all committees, unless otherwise directed by the Society....

6th. The President shall have a casting vote in the decision of all questions, and in absence of the President, the Vice President, or President pro tem shall exercise the same power....

7th. The President shall have power to call a special meeting of the Society, on receiving a written application for the same, from three members of said Society, by publishing in some newspaper or newspapers, circulating throughout the State, at least six weeks previous to the proposed meeting....

8th. The President shall, at the annual meeting, closing each year after his election, deliver to the Society an appropriate dissertation, or produce one to be read by the Vice President or Secretary, or pay into the treasury of the Society the sum of \$ 25 00....

9th. The Treasurer shall be accountable for all money placed in his hands by the Society, and shall pay it over to the order of the Society, signed either by the Vice President or Secretary, and shall also exhibit annually a written statement of the funds....

10th. The number of Censors to be chosen annually, shall be nine, two of whom shall have power to examine candidates....

11th. The candidate to be examined, shall, previous to his examination, be required to exhibit satisfactory testimonials that he has studied the various branches of the healing art, on which he wishes to be examined, for the term of three years, with some licenced practitioner, that he has a fair moral char-

acter, and has been refused a diploma by one of the County Societies....

12th. Each candidate, previous to his examination before any of the County Societies, shall be required to present to the Society a written dissertation on some subject relative to his profession, and when approved by the Society, and presented with a diploma, shall pay to the Secretary of the Society, the sum of \$ 5 00....

13th. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep an account of all money received, according to the foregoing section, and as often as may be convenient, shall pay over the same to the treasurer of said Society....

14th. Whenever the censors shall recommend a candidate who has been examined for that purpose, and the Society, by vote, shall approve of the same, it shall be the duty of the President and Secretary to make out, sign, and affix the seal of the Society to a diploma in a form to be hereafter agreed on by the Society....

15th. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of this Society to furnish copies of these bye laws, together with the proceedings of this Society, to each County Society, on their making application for the same....

16th. The County Societies, shall, after being apprised of this law, send by their delegates at each annual meeting of this Society, a copy of their bye laws, and every addition thereto, or alteration of the same, and the Secretary of this Society, shall file and preserve the same in his office....

17th. This Society and every County Society shall avoid interposing any authority or advice relative to the particular charges of the individual members of said Societies....

18th. Whenever a candidate shall appeal from any County Society, he may be examined, approved and receive a diploma from this Society, according to the regulation drescribed in the foregoing articles, and especially according to the 12th article, and on the receipt of a diploma, the said candidate shall pay to the Secretary the sum of \$ 10 00....

19th. No member shall leave the room while the Society is in session, without permission from the chair....

20th. The annual meeting of this Society, shall henceforth be on the same day, and at the same place where the Hon. Legislature commence and hold their annual session....

21st. No alteration shall be made in the bye laws of this Society, except at an annual meeting, and with the consent of two thirds of the members present at said meeting....

*The following resolution was adopted viz:*

RESOLVED, That it be recommended to the several County Societies to procure blank diplomas from the plate now belonging to the Rutland County Society, for their use in the admission of members, and also, that each County Society procure a seal for their own use, on which the name of the County in which it is to be used shall be engraved, as Windham County Society, &c.

At an annual meeting of this Society, holden at Montpelier, Oct. 14, 1814, the following articles were added to the bye laws, viz:

22d. Every delegate to this Society from the several county Societies, after the term for which he is elected shall have expired, shall be considered an honorary member of this Society, subject to the general regulations and bye laws of the same....

23d. *It is further ordained*, That each County Society, require of each of its pupils, who may present himself for examination, among others, a strict examination in the following authors, viz:

In *Anatomy*, Cheselden, and John and Charles Bell.

In *Physiology*, Haller and Richerand.

In *the theory and practice of Physic*, Huxham on Fevers, Cullen's Practice, Brown's Elements, Wilson's and Thomas's Theory and Practice.

In *Materia Medica*, Cullen and Thatcher.

In *Surgery*, Benjamin Bell, and John and Charles Bell.

In *Obstetrics*, Denman and Smellie....

At a meeting of the Society, in October, 1816, the following gentlemen were elected honorary members thereof, viz: Samuel L. Mitchel, Jonathan Dorr, Zina Hitchcock, Jonathan Mosier, Nathan Smith, Cyrus Perkins, Reuben D. Muzzy, John C. Warren, James Jackson, Æneas Munson, Eli Ives, Philip S. Physic, Mason F. Coggswell, and Nicholas Romaine.

The following resolution was also adopted by the Society, viz:

RESOLVED, That any Physician moving into this State, who may have been duly accredited and has a diploma from any regular medical Institution in any other State, shall be entitled to a diploma in any County Society in this State, by paying the sum of five dollars....

At an annual meeting of this Society, in October, 1817, the following resolutions were passed, viz:

RESOLVED, By the Vermont Medical Society, that all laws and acts of this Society, going to tax any of the County Societies, be, and they are hereby repealed....

RESOLVED, That the several County Societies, be requested to appropriate two dollars on each diploma by them given out, for the benefit of the State Medical Society....

RESOLVED, That no examination of a candidate shall take place in any of the County Societies, unless a majority of the Censors in such County shall be present....

RESOLVED, That the several County Societies be requested to furnish this Society with information relative to the late epidemics, viz: that which appeared in the winter of 1810 and 11, denominated the Spotted Fever, and also that which appeared in the Winter of 1812 and 13, attended with pneumonic affection.

The enquiries are requested to be directed, 1st. to any, or all of the supposed causes, 2d. to appearances discovered on dissection, 3d. to the symptoms attending, and 4th. to the best remedies in the different stages of the diseases....

The following is a list of the Officers of the Society for the current year, viz :

EBENEZER HUNTINGTON, *President.*

JOSEPH A. GALLUP, *Vice President.*

CALVIN DEMING, *Secretary.*

EDWARD LAMB, *Treasurer.*

CHARLES HALL,

THOMAS WINSLOW,

FREDERICK FORD, jun.

ROBERT PADDOCK,

SILAS BOWEN,

ABEL AYLESWORTH,

JOHN POMEROY,

JOEL GREEN, &

MELVIN BARNES, jun.

} *Censors.*

ERASTUS TORRY, *Corresponding Secretary.*

THE Compilers cannot forbear a few remarks to the members of the Society and the public, on a subject so important as that on which this institution is founded; a subject which involves not only the property, but the healths and lives of community.

To the care of Physicians is entrusted the welfare of our dearest friends and connexions, in time of sickness, a time which, of all others, ought to call into lively exercise every humane and sympathetic feeling, and our utmost exertions for their relief; and, on the manner in which the Physician discharges his duty, often does their destiny, as to life or death depend. Yet, important as the trust, and awful as the responsibility is, we are often compelled to witness this momentous subject treated with the most culpable indifference; an indifference which would seem to evidence a complete destitution of all moral or social obligation, or a consummate and inexcusable insensibility.

The object of Medicine is to alleviate, as far as possible, the miseries incident to our nature, to prolong, as far as human means can avail, a life, which at longest, must be short, and when it cannot be protracted, to render it more pleasant and tolerable.

When we take into view the frail and complicated nature of the human body, the many avenues by which it may be assailed by accident or disease, and the slender and feeble tie by which it is connected with vitality, we ought to be surprised that so much aid can be afforded by the healing art, rather than that we are unable to do more.

But if there be just cause to complain of the inadequacy of human means, when employed by men of the soundest intellects, and who have paid every possible attention to the subject which the present state of medical science will permit, what shall be said of

those, who, out of sinister or capricious views, commit the care of their dearest connexions to persons not only deficient in natural endowments, but totally void of those aids, which reading, application and experience may confer. Yet that such is the fact, every days observation too abundantly verifies.

The object of our institution is, as far as possible, to counteract those evils, and this, we deem may, in a degree, be effected in two ways. In the first place, we believe it will serve to excite a spirit of medical enquiry and research, for, as our regulations preclude the admission of members who are destitute of those qualifications which will render them useful, and consequently respectable in their profession; an ambition to become so cannot fail to produce an application to those studies which are indispensable to the attainment of the object; and, as among other qualifications a fair moral character is also an indispensable prerequisite both to the attainment and retention of a fellowship with us, we think our institution must, in this respect, have a salutary effect upon society.

In the second place, as none are admitted but such as are found, on a careful examination by a competent board, to be well qualified for the practice of medicine, it will serve to discriminate between those who are entitled to the public confidence and those who are not; between those who, by long and intense application, have availed themselves of all the advantages which the experience of ages, the profoundest research and reflection can afford, and those who, without reading, experience, or any other requisite qualification, assume the appellation of "Doctor."

Our Legislature, though vigilant in guarding all our other rights and privileges, have not thought proper

to interpose in this very important respect. The unprincipled knave, the ignorant and stupid empiric, may safely, not only depredate upon the property of innocent individuals, but can sport with life, without fear of punishment or reprehension.

Let us then appeal to the law of reason; let us endeavor by the improvement we shall make, by our advances in science and our application to the business of our profession, to exhibit so plain a distinction between the regular and accomplished Physician, and the ignorant and designing quack, that a discerning public cannot fail to make the discrimination.

The compilers are happy in availing themselves of this opportunity to fulfill the wish of the Vermont Medical Society by respectfully inviting all regular Physicians and Surgeons in the State, to become members of the several Medical Societies in the respective counties in which they reside, and thereby to assist in the attainment of the objects contemplated by the institution.

C. DEMING.

E. LAMB.

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