

A. B. Ives

*At the Annual Convention of the Fellows of the CONNECTICUT
MEDICAL SOCIETY, held at New-Haven, on the 14th and 15th
of October, 1818,*

The following Officers were chosen :

MASON F. COGSWELL, M. D. *President.*
THOMAS HUBBARD, M. D. *Vice-President.*
JOHN S. PETERS, M. D. *Treasurer.*
JONATHAN KNIGHT, M. D. *Secretary.*

The following Gentlemen were returned as FELLOWS from the several
Counties.

Hartford.

John Bestor, M. D.
Samuel B. Woodward
Sylvester Wells, M. D.
Eli Todd, M. D.
Solomon Everest, M. D.

New-Haven.

Eli Ives, M. D.
Joseph Foot, M. D.
Jonathan Knight, M. D.
Pearl Craft
Edward Field

Litchfield.

William Buel
Warren R. Fowler, M. D.
Benjamin Welch
John Calhoun
Joshua Cornwall

Windham.

Thomas Hubbard, M. D.
Joseph Palmer
Andrew Harris
Silas Fuller
Penuel Hutchins, M. D.

Fairfield.

Bennet Perry
Gideon Beardsley
Noah A. Lacy
Isaac Jennings
Ansel Hoyt

New-London.

John Smith
George Downer
Sylvester Wooster
Nath'l S. Perkins
Benjamin F. Stoddard

Tolland.

John S. Peters, M. D.
Daniel Peck
John Grant

Middlesex.

Thomas Miner
William Tully
Jesse Bigelow

The following Gentlemen were returned as the Clerks of the several
Courts.

Samuel B. Woodward,	<i>Hartford County.</i>
Virgil M. Dow,	<i>New-Haven.</i>
Conant Catlin,	<i>Litchfield.</i>
Isaac Jennings,	<i>Fairfield.</i>
William A. Brewster,	<i>Windham.</i>
Nath'l S. Perkins,	<i>New-London.</i>
John Grant,	<i>Tolland.</i>
William Tully,	<i>Middlesex.</i>

Voted, That Mason F. Cogswell, Thomas Hubbard, Thomas Miner, and William Tully, be a Committee on the part of this Society, to join with such persons as shall be appointed by the Corporation of Yale College, to nominate Professors in the Medical Institution.

Voted, That Drs. Everest, Hubbard, Fowler, Ives, and Miner, be a Committee to nominate Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine.

Voted, That Drs. Thomas Hubbard, Thomas Miner, and Warren R. Fowler, be the Examining Committee for the year ensuing.

Voted, That Drs. Bestor and Buel be a Committee to audit the Treasurer's accounts, and report to this Convention.

The following young gentlemen were recommended to attend, gratuitously, the ensuing course of Lectures in the Medical Institution: viz.—Charles B. Smith, Joseph Sibley, Orrin Hunt, Lyman Catlin, Thomas S Francis, Daniel M. Gregor, Orris S. Taylor, and Julius Willard.

Resolved, That in all cases whenever a Candidate for a degree of Doctor of Medicine, shall be proposed by a Committee, the question on such proposition shall be taken by ballot.

Voted, To recommend to the President and Fellows of Yale College, Drs. William Buel, William Tully, and Thomas Miner, as persons deserving a degree of Doctor of Medicine.

Voted, To accept and approve the report of the Committee appointed to audit the Treasurer's account.

Voted, To allow the Treasurer \$10 for his services the past year.

Voted, That the thanks of the Convention be given to Dr. Buel, for his dissertation read this day, and that a copy of the same be requested.

Voted, To appoint Dr. Thomas Miner, to read a dissertation on some Medical subject, before the next Convention.

Voted. That the Medical Professors of Yale College, together with the Committee of Examination, from the Medical Society, be, *ex officio*, a standing Committee to prescribe, from time to time, a certain medical course as indispensable for every student admitted to examination in this State; and to recommend such other books, as they think best, to the attention of all students.

Voted. That the Treasurer be directed to bring to a speedy close, all the outstanding accounts of the Society.

Voted. That the Professors of the Medical Institution be requested to deliver, in succession, Lectures before the Convention, on some subject connected with medicine, on the evening preceding the first day of the Session of the Convention, and the evening succeeding it, in each year.

Voted. That Drs. Craft and Grant, be a Committee to make out debentures; and that this Committee be instructed to make out the debentures according to the actual distance of the residence of each Fellow, from the place of holding the Convention.

Voted. That the consideration of the report of the Committee, appointed at the last convention to draft a petition to the Legislature on the subject of Apothecaries, be postponed to the next Convention.

Voted. That the Memorial from the examining Committee of the Medical Institution, be printed with the doings of this Convention; that the several County meetings be requested to take the same into consideration, and to give their opinion on the propriety of adopting the measure therein proposed; and that the further consideration of said Memorial be postponed to the next Convention.

Voted. That in any proceedings on the subject of a National Pharmacopœia, this Convention will not hold themselves responsible for any expense that may be incurred for the attendance of delegates or publishing such a work.

Voted. That we highly approve of the design of forming a Pharmacopœia for the use of the United States, and that we will co-operate in carrying it into execution.

Voted. That Eli Ives, M. D. and William Tully, be the delegates from this Society to the Northern District Convention.

Voted. That the Town of Boston, and the 1st of June, A. D. 1819, will be the proper place and time for the meeting of the Convention for the Northern District.

Voted. That the Committee appointed at a former Convention to ascertain the number of Lunatics in this State, be continued.

Voted, To accept the report of the Committee appointed by the last Convention to revise and print the bye-laws of this Society; and to appoint the same persons a Committee to revise, alter, and amend the bye-laws of the Society, and to report to the next Convention.

Voted, To accept the report of the Committee on debentures.

Voted, That a Tax of one dollar fifty cents be laid on each member of this Society.

Voted. That the system of Medical Police adopted by the last Convention, be printed and distributed with the doings of this Convention.

Voted. That the next Convention meet at the Medical College in New-Haven, on the Wednesday following the second Thursday in October, A. D. 1819, at 10 o'clock A. M.

Voted, To adjourn—*sine die.*

Test.

J. KNIGHT, *Secretary.*

Memorial of the Committee of Examination of the Medical Institution of Yale College to the Convention of the Fellows of the Connecticut Medical Society.

MEDICAL INSTITUTION OF YALE COLLEGE,
March 27th, 1818.

The undersigned, the Censors and Professors of this Institution, constituting the Committee of Examination, having found by the experience of a number of years, that the qualifications of those students who have attended only one course of public lectures, are manifestly inferior to those who have gone through two courses, and considering that in the study of so many and so extensive branches of science as now constitute a course of Medical Education, it is scarcely possible that a student should become a thorough proficient in all the branches of learning which he is required to understand, without going over the subject more than once, especially as it takes some time to become familiar with terms, instruments, substances and demonstrations, do recommend to the consideration of the Medical Convention the following proposition:

That application be made to the Legislature, with the approbation of the Corporation of Yale College, so far to alter the Laws establishing the Medical Institution, as to make it necessary

for every Student of Medicine, previous to being admitted to an examination for a Licence, to attend two courses of all the public Lectures on Medicine and Surgery, either in this institution or elsewhere.

NATHAN SMITH,
JOSEPH FOOT,
BENJAMIN SILLIMAN,
ELI IVES,
THOMAS MINER,
JONATHAN KNIGHT.

POLICE OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT.

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of a Medical Police, for the Medical Society of the State of Connecticut, beg leave to report.

That having considered the subject, they are of opinion that the Boston Medical Police, with a few alterations adapted to our local situation, is the most proper for the Society to adopt. And they beg leave to recommend, that with the exception of such sentences as are inclosed in brackets, and with the addition of such as are added in writing, it should be laid before the Convention for their approbation.

They would also further recommend that the whole, or such parts thereof, as the Convention may approve, with such additions as they may think proper, be printed with the doings of the next Convention, and distributed to the members of the Society in the usual manner.

All which is respectfully submitted by their humble servants.

In behalf of the Committee.

THOMAS HUBBARD,
One of the Committee.

CONSULTATIONS.

Consultations should be encouraged in difficult and protracted cases, as they give rise to confidence, energy, and more enlarged views in practice. On such occasions, no rivalry or jealousy should be indulged: candour, justice and all due respect should be exercised towards the physician who first attended; and as he

may be presumed to be best acquainted with the patient and his family, he should deliver all the medical directions as agreed upon. It should be the province, however, of the senior consulting Physician to propose the necessary questions to the sick.

The consulting Physician is never to visit without the attending one, unless by the desire of the latter, or when, as in sudden emergency, he is not to be found. No discussion of the case should take place before the patient or his friends; and no prognostications should be delivered, which were not the result of previous deliberation and concurrence. Theoretical debates, indeed, should generally be avoided in consultation, as occasioning perplexity and loss of time; for there may be much diversity of opinion on speculative points, with perfect agreement on those modes of practice, which are founded, not on hypothesis, but on experience and observation. Physicians in consultation, whatever may be their private resentments or opinions of one another, should divest themselves of all partialities, and think of nothing but what will most effectually contribute to the relief of those under their care.

If a physician cannot lay his hand to his heart and say, that his mind is perfectly open to conviction, from whatever quarter it may come, he should in honour decline the consultation.

All discussions and debates in consultations, are to be held secret and confidential.

Many advantages may arise from two consulting together, who are men of candour, and have mutual confidence in each other's honour. A remedy may occur to one, which did not to another, and a physician may want resolution or a confidence in his own opinion, to prescribe a powerful, but precarious remedy, on which, however, the life of his patient may depend; in this case, a concurrent opinion may fix his own. But when such mutual confidence is wanting, a consultation had better be declined, especially if there is reason to believe, that sentiments delivered with openness, are to be communicated abroad, or to the family concerned; and if, in consequence of this, either gentleman is to be made responsible for the event.

The utmost punctuality should be observed in consultation visits; and to avoid loss of time, it will be expedient for the Physicians in every town, or county, to establish a certain space of time, as an allowance for delay, after which, the meeting might be considered as postponed for a new appointment. If a consulting Physician should arrive after the attending physician has withdrawn, he should deliver his opinion in writing.

INTERFERENCES.

Medicine is a liberal profession: the practitioners are, or ought to be, men of education: and their expectation of business and employment should be founded on their degrees of qualification, not on artifice and dissimulation. A certain undignified species of assiduity and attentions, therefore, to families usually employing another, is to be considered as beneath the dignity of a regular practitioner, and as making a mere trade of a learned profession; and all officious interferences in cases of sickness in such families, evince a meanness of disposition, unbecoming the character of a Physician or a Gentleman. No meddling inquiries should be made concerning them, nor hints given relative to their nature and treatment, nor any selfish conduct pursued, that may, directly or indirectly, tend to weaken confidence in the Physicians or Surgeons, who have the care of them.

When a Physician is called to a patient, who has been under the care of another gentleman of the faculty, before any examination of the case, he should ascertain, whether that gentleman has discontinued his visits, and whether the patient considers himself as under his care, in which case, he is not to assume the charge of the patient, nor to give his advice, (excepting in instances of sudden attacks) without a regular consultation; and if such previously attending gentlemen has been dismissed, or has voluntarily relinquished the patient, his practice should be treated with candour, and justified so far as probity and truth will permit; for the want of success in the primary treatment of the disorder, is no impeachment of professional skill and knowledge.

It frequently happens that a Physician, in incidental communications with the patients of others, or with their friends, may have their cases stated to him in so direct a manner, as not to admit of his declining to pay attention to them. Under such circumstances, his observations should be delivered with the most delicate propriety and reserve. He should not interfere in the curative plans pursued; and should even recommend a steady adherence to them, if they appear to merit approbation.

DIFFERENCES OF PHYSICIANS.

The differences of Physicians, when they end in appeals to the public, generally hurt the contending parties; but what is of more consequence, they discredit the profession, and expose the faculty itself to contempt and ridicule. Whenever such differences occur, as may affect the honour and dignity of the profession, and cannot immediately be terminated, or do not come under the character of violation of the special rules of the association otherwise

provided for, they should be referred to the arbitration of a sufficient number of members of the Society, according to the nature of the dispute ; but, neither the subject matter of such references, nor the adjudication, should, if it can be avoided, be communicated to the public, as they may be personally injurious to the individuals concerned, and can hardly fail to hurt the general credit of the faculty.

DISCOURAGEMENT OF QUACKERY.

The use of quack medicines should be discouraged by the faculty, as disgraceful to the profession, injurious to health, and often destructive even of life. No Physician or Surgeon, therefore, should dispense a secret nostrum, whether it be his invention or exclusive property ; for if it is of real efficacy the concealment of it is inconsistent with beneficence, and professional liberality ; and, if mystery alone give it value and importance, such craft implies, either disgraceful ignorance, or fraudulent avarice.

CONDUCT FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE MEDICAL CHARACTER.

The *esprit du corps* is a principle of action, founded in human nature, and, when duly regulated, is both rational and laudable. Every man, who enters into a fraternity, engages, by a tacit compact, not only to submit to the laws, but to promote the honour and interest of the association, so far as they are consistent with morality and the general good of mankind. A Physician, therefore, should cautiously guard against whatever may injure the general respectability of the profession, and should avoid all contumelious representations of the faculty at large, all general charges against their selfishness or improbity, or the indulgence of an affected or jocular scepticism, concerning the efficacy and utility of the healing art.

FEEES.

General rules are adopted by the faculty in every town or county, relative to the pecuniary acknowledgements of their patients ; and it should be deemed a point of honour to adhere to them ; and every deviation from, or evasion of these rules, should

be considered as meriting the indignation and contempt of the fraternity.

Gratuitous services to the poor, are by no means prohibited; the characteristical beneficence of the profession, is inconsistent with sordid views and avaricious rapacity. The poor of every description should be the objects of our peculiar care. Dr. Boerhave used to say, they were his best patients, because God was their paymaster.

It is obvious, also, that an average fee, as suited to the general rank of patients, must be an adequate compensation from the rich, (who often require attendance not absolutely necessary) and yet too large to be expected from that class of citizens, who would feel a reluctance in calling for assistance, without making some decent and satisfactory remuneration.

EXEMPTION FROM CHARGES.

The Clergymen of the town*, and all members of the Medical profession, together with their families, should be attended gratuitously; but visits should not be obtruded officiously, as such civility may give rise to embarrassments, or interfere with that choice on which confidence depends.

But distant members of the faculty, when they request attendance, should be expected to defray the charges of travelling; and such of the clergy from abroad, as are qualified by their fortunes or incomes, to make a reasonable remuneration for medical attendance, are not more privileged, than any other order of patients.

Omission to charge, on account of the wealthy circumstances of the Physician, are an injury to the profession, as it is defrauding, in a degree, the common funds for its support, when fees are dispensed with, which might justly be claimed.

VICARIOUS OFFICES.

Whenever a Physician officiates for another by his desire, in consequence of sickness or absence, if for a short time only, the attendance should be performed gratuitously as to the physician,† and with the utmost delicacy towards the professional character of the gentleman previously connected with the patient.

* The circumstances of the cases, which occur in the families of Clergymen, as also the pecuniary situation of them, and of the attending Physician, may render a rigid adherence to the rule not always expedient.

† When such vicarious offices are performed by a Physician who resides at a distance from the patient, it is proper that he should receive some remuneration.

SENIORITY.

A regular and academical education furnishes the only presumptive evidence of professional ability, and is so honourable and beneficial, that it gives a just claim to pre-eminence among Physicians at large, in proportion to the degree in which it may be enjoyed and improved. Nevertheless, as industry and talents may furnish exceptions to this general rule, and this method may be liable to difficulties, in the application, seniority, among practitioners of this State, should be determined by the period of public and acknowledged practice as a Physician or Surgeon in the same. This arrangement being clear and obvious, is adapted to remove all grounds of dispute amongst medical gentlemen; and it secures the regular continuance of the established order of precedence, which might otherwise be subject to troublesome interruptions by new settlers, perhaps not long stationary in the place.

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