

"It is not for us in this place to say which system is right, or which is wrong. It is, however, manifest that they cannot all turn out equally proficient operators from the same raw material.

"This society has nothing to do with individual teachers, or teaching bodies; nor does it desire to become a teaching body itself; but it does consider that, for the good of its members and the profession generally, it shall require that such operators as desire its full membership shall pass an examination as a test of proficiency, and that those admitted to associateship shall possess a Certificate which proves that a fair knowledge of the theory and practice of our art has been obtained.

"The standard of the membership examination has already been put before you, and the various teaching bodies of the Metropolis. In fixing it your council have endeavoured to be just and reasonable, to make it neither too high for attainment by those who have passed through any Training School of repute, nor too low for its object as a test of efficiency worthy of recognition, by those who may desire to employ skilled operators.

"The standard for associateship is of necessity less definite and more elastic, but none are admitted to this class who cannot give evidence

of sound practical knowledge, and it is hoped that they will aspire to the honours of full membership at the earliest opportunity.

"The list of members and associates, which it is intended to publish annually and distribute to medical men and the various Hospitals, &c., will, it is hoped, do much to enable medical men to find operators on whom they can rely, and at the same time secure for our members a ready and effective means of bringing their qualifications before those who may require their services.

"We have thus established a Society which we hope meets the wants of the profession. Its constitution has been very carefully thought out and evolved. Your Council have striven to make it as broad as may be, and its rules as few as possible. No doubt, as time goes on, additions and alterations in the rules may be found necessary. Fresh methods of usefulness will develop themselves, and probably, too, new difficulties will have to be faced. We cannot claim to have legislated for all future contingencies. We only offer the Society, as now formed, to the profession for their support, and trust that the very satisfactory nucleus of members that have already joined the society will rapidly develop into a large and influential body."

Mr. J. W. Webster (of Hull) urged upon the

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