

British Medical Journal.

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MEDICAL REFORM.

OUR readers will learn with a smile that still another Bill on Medical Reform has been added to the two already before Parliament. We scarcely conceived it possible that the Coffinites, homœopaths, and herbalists, would remain quiet under prospect of a Bill intended to remove them from good and true men; and our anticipations have been correct. Tom Duncombe, the man of the five points—Tom Duncombe, who is the self-constituted champion and speaker of the Anti-every-constituted-authority Society—comes out with his Bill, and no doubt intends to make a noise about it if he can do little else. For the next month the papers, without doubt, will teem with reports of the presentation of petitions in favour of the only Bill that provides for the medical liberty of the subject! We do not, indeed, find much difference between Mr. Duncombe's Bill and others upon the questions of reciprocity of practice and registration; and he is marvellously conservative as far as the old Colleges and Universities go, whose authority, both to examine and grant licenses to practise, he would maintain; these are all matters indeed of indifference to him, as long as he can manage to put upon the statute-book the following comprehensive clause:—

VII. It shall be lawful for Her Majesty, by and with the advice of Her Majesty's Privy Council, to extend the right of giving diplomas or certificates of license to practise the medical and surgical art to any new medical body, when the members of such bodies shall amount to *five hundred* or upwards, provided it can be proved that the foregoing examining bodies do not provide means to enable the public to realise the certainty that the examination by these bodies tests sufficiently the knowledge required for the safety of the public; and the diplomas or the certificates given by the new examining body shall be evidence of the qualifications required to be possessed by persons to be registered under this Act, and persons having the certificate or the diploma of such examining body shall be registered under this Act, and shall have all the privileges conferred by this Act.

Now's your time, as the *Times* remarked the other day, walk up, herbalists, Coffinites, and homœopaths; medical botanists throw up your caps. Mr. Duncombe smacks the enticing pictured canvas of his caravan, and invites you all to come forward and get what you can in the general scramble. No matter how absurd; no matter how knavish; no matter how dangerous your creed; gather together but five hundred of you, and you shall have the right of giving diplomas! No General Council shall regulate your affairs, or see that common sense has anything to do with your principles; there shall be liberty to all under Tom Duncombe's famous Bill. Really we must apologise for taking up the attention of our readers with such trash, but it will serve to show how far impudence and assurance would go if it could.

The deputation from the medical corporations to Lord Derby on Tuesday week last, has tended to show what sporting men call the probable "lie of the country" with respect to the part Government will take in the forthcoming struggle of the Bill. Lord Elcho is clearly *hors de combat*; and, as far as we can see, Mr. Cowper is master of the field. Lord Derby and