

**VINDICIÆ MEDICÆ; OR A  
DEFENCE OF THE  
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS**

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Vindiciæ Medicæ; Or a Defence of the College of Physicians by George Leman Tuthill

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**GEORGE LEMAN TUTHILL**

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VINDICIÆ MEDICÆ;

OR

A DEFENCE

OF THE

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.



LONDON:

LONGMAN, REES, ORME, BROWN, GREEN, AND  
LONGMAN,

PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1834.

740.

G. WOODFALL, ANGEL COURT, BIKER STREET, LONDON.

TO

**SIR HENRY HALFORD, BART. M.D.**

**G.C.H. F.R.S.**

**PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, PHYSICIAN TO THEIR  
MAJESTIES, ETC., ETC., ETC.**

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**DEAR SIR HENRY,**

MAY I beg you to accept this defence of the College, both as a tribute of duty and as a token of regard? There is no one who is more devoted to the interests of the College than yourself, nor is there any one who has contributed more largely to its fame. But you so much excel all others in that kind of writing which you have undertaken to adorn, that I should have felt an invincible reluctance to submit myself to your judgment,

had I not known that a rare facility in discerning the errors of others is usually combined with an indulgent disposition to forgive them, and that by the expression of sentiments which may claim a near kindred to your own, I may confirm the friendship with which you honour me.

I remain, Dear Sir Henry,

Your most obliged and

Faithful friend,

GEO. L. TUTHILL.

24, Cavendish Square,  
April 25th, 1834.



THE FOLLOWING PETITION having been presented to both Houses of Parliament during the present session, it becomes important that the allegations which it contains should be carefully investigated, in order that their exact value may be ascertained and demonstrated; and if the observations which have resulted from this investigation be just, the College of Physicians has nothing to fear from discussion. It may continue to confide in the favour of the Crown, in the support of His Majesty's Government, and in the protection of Parliament.

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## THE PETITION

OF THE UNDERSIGNED PHYSICIANS, PRACTISING  
IN LONDON,

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

I. THAT the Charter of the Royal College of Physicians of London was granted by Henry the Eighth, for the advancement of Medical Science and for the protection of the public

“ against the temerity of wicked men, and the practice of the ignorant.”

II. That six physicians were named in the Charter, who, together with all men of the same Faculty then resident in London, were constituted one body, commonalty, or perpetual College.

III. That the perpetuity of the College was to be kept up by the future admission of all men of the same Faculty into the College.

IV. That several of the six physicians named in the Charter, studied at, and possessed degrees from, foreign Universities; and that no distinction is mentioned, as regards the University where a physician may have obtained his degree.

V. That all physicians entitled to practise in London, are equally entitled, under the Charter, to admission to the Fellowship of the College.

VI. Your petitioners are prepared to show, that bye-laws have been framed, and long acted upon, by the College, which are directly opposed to, and in violation of, the letter and meaning of the said Charter.

VII. That the physicians practising in

London are invidiously divided, by the bye-laws of the College, into two orders: one is denominated Fellows; the other, constituting by far the majority, is designated (and by implication degraded) by the term Licentiates.

VIII. That the Fellows have usurped all the corporate power, offices, privileges, and emoluments, attached to the College; that the Licentiates do not participate in these benefits, but are illegally excluded from all the offices, and any share in the management of the Corporation; and so far is this principle of exclusion carried, that the Licentiates are not even admitted to the library or museum of the College.

IX. That there exists no foundation in the Charter, or in the Acts confirming it, for such distinction of orders, and consequent exclusion from all privileges.

X. That, according to one of the bye-laws, no physician can claim admission as a Fellow, unless he has graduated, or been admitted *ad eundem*, at the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge, where medicine is imperfectly taught; while physicians who have graduated at other British or Foreign Universities, celebrated as