

other donors were Mr. Gladstone, the Earl of Derby, Sir Charles Lyell, Professor Sedgwick, Sir Robert Murchison, Sir Benjamin Brodie, and Dean Buckland.

The Museum was first made available for use by the members of the University in October, 1860. But before the last touches had been put to the building its designer had passed away. Woodward had shown unmistakable signs of consumption for some little time, and he was persuaded to spend the winter of 1859 in Algiers. The case, however, was hopeless, and he resolved to come back to Oxford to die. Acland had made all arrangements for nursing him during the last sad days, and, unable to bring him under his own roof, had prepared for him special rooms in the adjoining house, breaking a passage through the partition wall. But it was not to be: a violent haemorrhage from the lungs overcame him on the journey, at Lyons, and he died there in an inn, alone. It was a cause of no ordinary grief to all who had been brought in contact with him. 'The lovable nature that lay beneath his courteous silence' and 'his guileless contemplative nature'¹ had won him friends at Oxford in every walk of life. He is commemorated there by a medallion in the Museum, executed by Alexander Munro, one of those most closely attached to him, and destined himself to an early death in a foreign land.

¹ Acland's words in the *Oxford Museum*, 1893 edition, last page.

CHAPTER IX

THE PRE-RAPHAELITES—THE WRECK OF THE *TYNE*—THE REGIUS PROFESSOR- SHIP—THE MEDICAL COUNCIL

1855-1858

THE building of the Museum was indirectly the means of introducing Acland to the members of what is perhaps the most interesting group in the annals of British Art. In July, 1855, Woodward had invited Dante Gabriel Rossetti to come down to Oxford and do some designing work in connexion with the Gothic experiment which was about to be attempted in the Parks. Acland was already well acquainted with Rossetti by name, for Miss Siddal, the beautiful and gifted girl, 'tall and slender with red coppery hair, and bright consumptive complexion,' who afterwards became the wife of the artist poet, was then under his medical care. Ruskin, as is well known¹, had befriended her with his usual lavish generosity, and, as her health was at this moment in an even more alarming condition than usual, he had asked Acland to find quiet lodgings for her in or near Oxford.

She is the daughter of a watchmaker (he wrote); Rossetti first got her to sit to him for his higher female faces, and then found out her talent for drawing, taught her, and got attached to her, and now she is dying, unless the rest and change of scene can save her . . . she has more the look of a Florentine thirteenth-century lady than anything I ever saw out of a fresco.

During many weeks Miss Siddal remained under

¹ *Life of D. G. Rossetti*, by W. M. Rossetti, vol. i, p. 184.

his charge and observation, 'a kindly, gentle, quiet person,' Acland describes her, 'and known to everybody as Rossetti's frequent model, it was a great pleasure to me to be of any service to her,' and it was a still greater pleasure to be able to assure Rossetti that his apprehensions concerning her health were greater than her condition called for. Acland came to the conclusion that her lungs were not fatally affected, but that the chief danger lay in 'mental power long pent up and lately overtaxed,' and he recommended a winter abroad, which—thanks once more to Ruskin, 'the wizard,' as Rossetti called him—she was able to enjoy¹. Miss Siddal had good reason to be grateful to the Aclands, who had not only shown her every kindness themselves, but had procured for her a good deal of attention in other and somewhat exclusive quarters. Before she departed she insisted on her doctor accepting one of her drawings, a painting of the churchyard among the mountains immortalized by Wordsworth in 'We are Seven.' It hangs now, a strange and somewhat weird arrangement of colours, in Miss Acland's drawing-room. What rendered it most remarkable in her father's judgement was that a girl brought up in London within a street or two of the Elephant and Castle, should have selected such a subject and executed it from pure imagination.

Ruskin wrote often about 'Ida,' as he always called Miss Siddal, and there is a sad interest about the following extract taken from one of his letters, undated, but written evidently about this time :

These geniuses are all alike, little and big—I have known five of them—Turner, Watts, Millais, Rossetti—and this girl—and I don't know which was, or which is, the wrongheadedest. I am with them, like the old woman who lived in the shoe—only that I don't want to send them to bed, and can't whip them—or else that is what they all wanted. Poor Turner went to bed before I expected—and broth without bread the

¹ *Letters to William Allingham*, p. 149.

rest are quite as likely to get as with it, if that would do them any good.

I have no clue to the cause of the outburst. A short married life and a tragic death were to close the career of one whom Ruskin ranked as a genius in the same sentence with Watts and Turner.

It does not appear that Rossetti ever did anything for the Oxford Museum, but a couple of years later he brought down the other Pre-Raphaelites and a whole host of young disciples to work on the bays of the Debating-room¹ at the Union, of which Woodward was the architect. It had struck Rossetti, when on a visit to the latter at Oxford, that these bays afforded a great opportunity for the execution of a series of wall-paintings in tempera. Woodward was charmed with the idea, the consent of the Standing Committee of the Union was obtained, and early in the Long Vacation of 1857 Rossetti and Burne-Jones and Morris and Watts and Holman Hunt, with Arthur Hughes, Spencer Stanhope, Val Prinsep, and Hungerford Pollen took up their quarters in lodgings in the High Street and elsewhere.

The story of 'these paintings of which the mouldering and undecipherable remains still glimmer like faded ghosts on the walls of the Union Library' has been told at length by Mr. Mackail in his *Life of Morris*²; 'work hastily undertaken, executed under impossible conditions, and finally abandoned after time and labour had been spent on it quite disproportionate to the original design.'

Into intimate association with the enthusiastic brotherhood whose energies were so woefully misapplied Acland was speedily drawn. Watts he had known as far back as 1850, when negotiations had been entered into to bring him down to execute a fresco on the

¹ Now the Library.

² Vol. i, p. 117 et seq. See also the *Life of Rossetti* by his brother, vol. i, p. 197.

walls of what is now the University Galleries but was then known as the Taylor Institution. The originator of the scheme was Charles Newton, who pressed it in letter after letter.

Here is a man (he wrote) perishing as Flaxman perished before him, merely because he has not a wall to paint. If he leaves this country and settles at Athens, as he talks of doing in the spring, I feel that it will be my fault, that I have not exerted myself enough for him; that if proper trouble had been taken to acquaint people with his art, it would have been better appreciated. I am convinced that it would be a great and lasting benefit to the University to have something really intellectual like the 'Time and Oblivion' to look at.

Acland interested himself vigorously, and at one time the matter seemed so finally settled that Newton wrote to thank him for bringing it about, and to suggest the propriety of placing a vacant set of rooms in one of the colleges at the artist's disposal. Difficulties, however, intervened, apparently through the disinclination of the curators to take the risk of any damage to the books contained in the room which was to be decorated; and Oxford lost her fresco, to the grievous disappointment of Newton and Acland¹. But an incidental advantage accrued from Watts's visit to the University, for it was on this occasion that he and Newton found, among the mass of marbles forming the 'Arundel bequest,' and then stowed away in a cellar, the fine example of Greek Art now known as the 'Oxford bust.'

To Watts and his companions the house in Broad Street extended its wonted hospitality. Acland himself had a keen appreciation of the Pre-Raphaelite school, and the young men were in and out of the house just as they pleased: their jokes and laughter

¹ Both Liddell, then at Westminster, and Halford Vaughan, the Regius Professor of Modern History, had striven hard with the curators.

are still remembered by some of the older members of his family. With one exception they availed themselves freely of the constant invitations which were pressed upon them, but William Morris could with difficulty be induced to comply with the very modest amount of conventionality which reigned at Acland's table. His Bohemianism had then reached a pitch which, in the words of his biographer, 'exceeded even the customary licence of Gandish's.' He had forsworn dress clothes: to go into society was torture to him, a fact which he never took pains to conceal. 'One evening,' writes Mr. Mackail¹, 'when they were to dine with Dr. Acland, Morris invented an illness and sent his apologies by Burne-Jones. Unfortunately Burne-Jones arrived with this message when there still wanted a few minutes to dinner-time. Acland, who was all kindness, instantly, to Burne-Jones's infinite dismay, put on his hat and went round to see the sick man in his lodgings: he was found, apparently in the best of health and spirits, sitting at dinner with Faulkner and playing cribbage over the meal. He had to confess recovery and be led off to dinner.'

On another occasion Dr. Acland revisited Morris's lodgings to extract a splinter which he had struck into his eye, when engaged on carving a block of freestone into a capital of foliage and birds, and his language to the doctor was, 'even for him, unequalled in its force and copiousness².'

¹ *Life of Morris*, vol. i, p. 128.

² I do not know whether the following letter from Mr. Severn, the friend of Acland's Roman days, synchronized with the fresco epoch, for, like so many letters in the first half of the last century, it is undated, and I have been unable to trace the fate of the picture referred to in it.

'The pleasure of my visit to Oxford, owing to various occupations, I have never been able yet to make "come off," which I regret, as I wish to consult you about my large altar-piece which is in want of a church. You remember at Rome the sketch of the Holy Sepulchre, and it is of this I have been doing a large work

On June 23, 1856, Lady Acland died quite suddenly, in London, of an unsuspected heart-complaint: she was one of those who inspire awe as well as affection in their children, but her sons and daughters vied in their feelings of reverence and gratitude towards her. She had entered fully into the joys and sorrows of her family; she had received her numerous daughters-in-law with a frank and hearty welcome, and she had helped to make Killerton and Holnicote the centre of a family life patriarchal in its dimensions and its hospitality. Sir Thomas took his bereavement as in some sense a warning to prepare for his own end. He withdrew, as far as it was possible for one in his position, from public affairs, and at the next General Election gave up the seat for North Devon which he had held unchallenged for twenty years. But the days of his pilgrimage were far from being accomplished, and in the retirement of his Devonshire home he took the same interest as of old in public affairs, and in the domestic concerns of his family. Her second son, Arthur Troyte, survived his mother by little more than a year. He succumbed to diphtheria, and it is curious that a disease which is one of the scourges of the present day was so little known or recognized in the England of half a century ago that Henry Acland, when

nineteen feet high (with semi-circular top) and eleven feet broad. It occurs to me that at Oxford there may be a better opening for it than here—the picture has been partly paid for by subscription, and was offered to me on the plan that the subscribers should on its completion present it to some suitable church. So far have I not found one, as all the new churches are made with a large window at each end, but as I am under the impression that at Oxford there is much knowledge and taste in the arts, so I think it likely that a destination might be found for my picture better than in London. At this moment it is in the Library of Westminster School, receiving the last touches. Your excellent father is one of my subscribers and is very kind to me about it.

'Now if you can excuse so strange an appeal and chance to have a moment at leisure to inquire about and answer my question, you will greatly oblige.'

summoned to his brother's bedside, declared it to be the first case he had ever treated.

The years brought their changes in the world of Oxford also: new men were coming to the front, and wider views of life and of education were winning acceptance. In George Rolleston, who succeeded Acland as Lee's Reader, and was destined for the newly-established Linacre Chair of Physiology, the latter found an invaluable colleague and a congenial friend. Max Müller had been on terms of intimacy with him since his first coming to Oxford in 1847; his election to an All Souls Fellowship, largely due to Acland's initiative, brought the two into a closer alliance, which was to last as long as life itself. And some years later, on the death, in January, 1858, of the Rev. Lewis Sneyd, it was suggested to Acland by a friend among the Fellows¹ that he should allow himself to be nominated for the Wardenship of All Souls. An eminent legal authority pronounced that there was nothing in the Statutes to prevent the election of a layman and the subsequent repeal of the provision which required the Warden to be in Priest's orders within a year of his election. Such repeal could be effected by the Warden and a two-thirds majority of the Fellows with the consent of the Visitor, the Archbishop of Canterbury. After some consideration Acland put the suggestion aside, and the Rev. Francis Knyvett Leighton was chosen. There can be no doubt, I think, that he was wise in his decision.

But of all the changes in Oxford the one which most closely affected Acland was the return of Liddell to Christ Church. It not only gave him an influential and zealous supporter in high places, but the constant presence of a wise and statesmanlike counsellor was a tower of strength to him in the years to come. And Acland, before his friend had long been settled in the Deanery, was able to give a practical illustration of his affection at no small personal sacrifice.

¹ Mr. (now Sir) Godfrey Lushington.

In the autumn of 1856 Liddell was so seriously ill that Acland was obliged to tell him that nothing but a winter at Madeira would save his life. The Dean's rejoinder was, 'I expected you to say so, but I am not going to be knocked about in the Bay of Biscay in that little brig the *Brilliant*. I shall not go unless I can go in a man-of-war.' The doctor was not to be defeated. His *Pembroke* messmate, Captain Prevost, had just been appointed to command one of the finest corvettes in the service, and was under orders to sail for the Pacific. Acland immediately telegraphed to him to obtain leave from the Admiralty to take the Dean and Mrs. Liddell as far as Madeira. Permission was granted, and on December 23 he escorted his patient to Plymouth, announcing, in the train, that he had made all arrangements to accompany him to Madeira. His old tutor was too precious a charge to be left to the mercy of circumstances; but Liddell's only comment on the arrangement was, 'So I supposed.' Having comfortably established him at Funchal, and satisfied himself that the climate was just what the Dean needed, and after enjoying for a week 'the sight and taste of turtle, bananas, and green peas,' Acland took a passage on the West India Mail Company's steamer *Tyne*, homeward bound from Rio Janeiro. She touched at Lisbon on January 9, and on her passage through the Bay of Biscay encountered a heavy and prolonged gale from the north-east. Portland Lights were made at midnight on the 12th, and about three in the morning the passengers were rudely awakened by a sudden crash. The *Tyne* had run ashore ten miles out of her course and within a mile of St. Alban's Head on the Dorset coast. Had she struck against the cliff, instead of on a reef outside, the ship must have gone to the bottom. For the moment the captain knew no more than the passengers whither the gale had brought him, and it was generally believed that they were over against Blackgang Chine on the Isle of Wight. It was not till

daybreak that a preventive boat put off at great risk, and the ultimate loss of one of its crew, to tell them where they were. The scene on board is best described in the words of Ruskin¹:

When, thirty years afterwards, Dr. Acland was wrecked in the steamer *Tyne*, off the coast of Dorset, the steamer having lain wedged on the rocks all night—no one knew what rocks—and the dawn breaking on half a mile of dangerous surf between the ship and shore—the officers in anxious debate, the crew in confusion, the passengers in hysterics or at prayers, were all astonished and many scandalized at the appearance of Dr. Acland from the saloon in punctilious morning dress with the announcement that breakfast was ready. To the impatient clamour of indignation with which his unsympathetic conduct was greeted, he replied by pointing out that not a boat could go ashore, far less come out of it, and that in the meantime, as most of them were wet, all cold, and at the best must be dragged ashore through the surf, if not swim for their lives in it, they would be extremely prudent to begin the day as usual with breakfast. The hysterics ceased, the confusion calmed, what suits anybody had become available to them again, and not a life was ultimately lost.'

The sea went down with the tide, but the ship rolled from side to side in the heavy surf, and how to land the passengers was a serious problem. At last a little boat reached the *Tyne* with a hospitable invitation from Encombe, Lord Eldon's house, situated on the coast and full in view of the scene of disaster. As an old sea-hand, Acland was sent on shore by the captain to make preparations for the reception of the shipwrecked party. The boat was 'a splendid little cockleshell,' but it was all but swamped in conveying him with two or three other passengers to the beach; an oar was lost in the first breaker, and was only regained with difficulty. The ladies of the Scott family² and their friends, in one

¹ *Praeterita*, vol. i, p. 380.

² The Ladies Katharine and Augusta Scott afterwards became respectively Lady Boyne and Lady Cottesloe.

of whom Acland recognized the daughter of a patient whom he had recently attended at Claydon, were lavish in their kindness and charity. Before nightfall passengers and crew were landed, fed, housed, and in some instances clothed. 'As the last act of the evening,' he wrote, 'when more than 200 had been fed and cared for, the Thanksgiving prayers of the Service to be used at Sea were read in the stable by Mr. Farrer¹ to the exhausted men as they lay or stood on the clean straw, and I never wish to hear ring in my ears a happier and more cheering sound than of the manly Amens which closed this day: a day when, after the first event, everything might have been worse and hardly anything could have been better.'

While full tribute was paid on all sides to Acland's cheerful resourcefulness and presence of mind, he himself bore witness in print to the good conduct of the crew and the skill, devotion, and energy of the captain and chief officers; and both he and his father were liberal contributors to a fund raised for the assistance of those who had suffered in pocket by the wreck. He was none the worse for his drenching, and was back in Oxford before Mrs. Acland had time to hear of the adventure; but for days to come their writing-table groaned beneath the weight of congratulatory letters, many of them from complete strangers. One view taken of Acland's conduct is well represented in the following letter from Charles Pearson:

Your letter in the *Times* of this morning, to which I was directed by Mr. G. Butler, gave me the first tidings of your return to England and apparently very narrow escape. I need hardly say how rejoiced I am, or how much I was interested by your account, and most characteristic attack on the fast habits² of this poor nineteenth century. You have a right to speak, for you certainly belong to another century. An

¹ The guardian of Lord Eldon, who was then a boy of eleven.

² The letter had deprecated the 'racing' speed of steam-vessels.

ordinary physician would as soon think of consulting Don Quixote for a sovereign specific for wounds as of deserting his ordinary practice to—eat green peas in Madeira, and study a shipwreck on the southern coast. Well, I suppose it is no use reproaching you, as you will go on to the end of time cultivating the heart and brain in your own most expensive fashion. I only hope your voyage has answered the object you proposed to yourself, and that you left the Dean comfortably established with a good chance of improved health. I suppose for yourself that a shipwreck is nothing more than a salutary fillip to the constitution.

I had better leave off, for I am so divided between satisfaction at your safe return, amusement at your way of effecting it, and a sort of irrational respect for the motives which prompted your expedition, that I am quite unable to express any clear meaning.

A number of his Oxford friends commemorated the occasion of his escape from the perils of the deep by presenting Mrs. Acland with a bust of her husband, beautifully executed in marble by Alexander Munro. 'I am very much obliged to you,' wrote Goldwin Smith to Conybeare, 'for telling me of Acland's bust. He is one of the best of men, and has done and is doing a great work at Oxford.'

Amid the salvage from the wreck was an object which had been the source of no small trouble during the voyage. During his brief stay at Madeira, Acland had obtained, through the good offices of the consul, a splendid tunny-fish, which was packed in bay salt, and placed in a box eight feet long. The box was addressed, 'Dr. Acland, Oxford,' and nothing would convince the sailors that it did not contain the corpse of a patient. The presence on board the ship of a dead body was enough in their eyes to account for the heavy gale against which the *Tyne* was labouring through the Bay. The men all but mutinied, and finally the captain gave notice to Acland that he was going to throw the body overboard. In vain did Acland protest that it was

only a tunny, and it was not until he threatened the captain with legal proceedings for destroying the property of the University of Oxford that the latter yielded. He was unconvinced, however; the story spread among the passengers, and so great was the indignation against Acland that none would speak to him. The situation was intolerable, and he finally pretended to bow to the inevitable on condition that the supposed coffin should be unscrewed by the ship's carpenter on the quarter-deck before the body was thrown overboard. A large company were assembled when the tunny was exposed to view, and the general disconcertment may be imagined—*solvuntur risu tabulae!* It should be added that the sailors, remorseful for their folly, and won over by Acland's *bonhomie* and coolness during the wreck, worked 'double tides' to save the tunny-fish in its box, and it was delivered at Oxford without a bone being broken or disarranged. After being carefully articulated by Charles Robertson it was placed in the Anatomy School at Christ Church, and thence removed in 1860 to the area of the new University Museum. Under its handsome case was placed the following Latin inscription:

THUNNUS QUEM VIDES
MENSE IANUARIJ A. S. MDCCCLVII
AB HENRICO W. ACLAND TUNC TEMPORIS ANATOMIAE IN
AEDE XTI PRAELECTORE
EX MADEIRA INSULA
QUO HENRICUM G. LIDDELL AEDIS XTI DECANUM
INFIRMA VALETUDINE LABORANTEM DEDUXERAT
PRAETER OMNEM SPEM OXONIAM ADPORTATUS EST.
TYNA ENIM NAVE VAPORARIA IN QUA REDIBAT PRAELECTOR
AD SCTI ALBANI PROMONTORIUM IN COMITATU DORSETIAE EIECTA,
QUUM IPSE VIX SOSPES E FLUCTIBUS EVASIT,
HIC PISCIS IN NAVE RELICTUS PER VOLUNTATEM NAUTARUM
AD TERRAM ADVECTUS EST.
DEINDE IN MUSAEO AEDIS XTI POSITUS
PER ARTEM CAROLI ROBERTSON ΕΞΚΕΛΕΤΕΥΘΗ.

Comparatively unnoticed at Christ Church, its appearance in the fuller light of day was the signal for a once celebrated University squib. A sham Congregation notice appeared announcing that it had pleased the University to substitute the following form of words for the original 'Epitaph'—

THUNNUS QUEM RIDES
MENSE IUNII A. S. MDCCCLX
AB HENRICO W. ACLAND NUNC TEMPORIS MEDICINAE IN
ACAD. OXON. PROFESSORE REGIO
EX MUSAEO ANATOMICO
DE QUO HENRICUM G. LIDDELL AEDIS XTI DECANUM
AETERNA MANSUETUDINE PERORANS SEDUXERAT
PRAETER OMNIUM SPEM OXONIENSIVM HUC APPORTATUS EST.
ORATIONE ENIM VAPORARIA IN QUO GAUDEBAT PROFESSOR
AD SCTI ACLANDI GLORIAM IN CONGREGATIONEM DOCTISSIME
INIECTA,
QUUM MUSAEUM IPSUM VIX SOSPES EX HOSTIBUS EVASIT,
HAEC AREA IGNAVE REFECTA PER SEGMITATEM MAGISTRORUM
AD FINEM PROVECTA EST,
QUAE IN MEDIO AEDIFICIO POSITA
PER ARTEM BENIAMINI WOODWARD ΕΞΚΙΑΜΩΡΕΥΘΗ¹.

The tunny and its case are still in the Museum, but the inscription has disappeared.

The death of Dr. Ogle during the Long Vacation of 1857 caused a vacancy in the post of Regius Professor of Medicine. That Acland was the man to succeed him no one at Oxford disputed, but in Crown patronage there must always be an element of uncertainty. Mr. Gladstone, no longer a member of the Cabinet, was

¹ Skidmore was the artificer in metal who had constructed the supporting iron foliage of the area. The mock Statute, according to Mr. Tuckwell (*Reminiscences*, p. 160), was believed to have been 'rough-hewn by Lewis Carroll, handed round the common-room, retouched by Gordon, Bode, and the rest, the final touch of "skidmorized" for "skeletonized" being supplied by Prout.'

by no means free from apprehension, and interested himself earnestly but discreetly on his friend's behalf. Happily, there was no cause for uneasiness, and Acland was duly appointed. In writing to convey his thanks and acceptance he had alluded to the old Harrow intimacy between his father and the Prime Minister. The letter produced a gratifying answer.

BROADLANDS,
October 25, 1857.

MY DEAR SIR,

I am much obliged to you for your letter of the 17th, and I can assure you that it was a real gratification to me to find that the candidate who was pointed out by universal concurrence as the fittest, was the son of my much valued and esteemed friend and schoolfellow, Sir Thomas Acland.

Yours sincerely,
PALMERSTON.

And the following letter from Dr. Latham will show something of the position which Acland had by this time come to occupy in the eyes of the leaders of his profession:

I rejoice in your appointment to the Regius Professorship—you have won it for yourself. The voice of the profession, if it had a voice in the matter, would have given it you. As it is in name, so, *held by you*, it will be in deed and in truth the highest office of our profession. None of your predecessors in my remembrance either did or could make anything of it. The fault was partly in themselves, partly in the times. But now the man and the times join to make it what it is capable of—your work in Oxford during the last ten years has gained you personally a great character, and to this will now be added the authority of office—your power will now be equal to your desire of doing good.

Forgive my preachments from the old text. This new office must furnish the excuse, rather the necessity, of escape from the worry of serving everybody, and every good cause that comes within your reach every day of your life—I don't

recommend *otium cum dignitate*—there is no fear of that—but for your own sake and for the sake of the good which from henceforth you hope to do, I do recommend that you should limit the objects of your labour and thought to a few great ones—'Good Luck have you with your Honour.'

The news of his appointment reached Acland in the midst of a strenuous election contest. Besides the Regius Professorship, Dr. Ogle had held the Clinical Professorship of Medicine on Lord Lichfield's foundation, a post in the gift of Convocation, and for this office Acland had presented himself as a candidate. The two Chairs had not always been held in conjunction, and there was no necessary connexion between them. But the Regius Professor was debarred from practical medical teaching—unless he was Clinical Professor as well—by an old-standing regulation of the Radcliffe Infirmary which made the Clinical Professor master of the medical department there. The Governors had conferred upon this latter, in 1781, the right of claiming any cases that might come into the wards, even though they had been 'taken in' by the Regius Professor, and though he might have intended to deliver instruction to students upon them. So long as the Regius Professor made no effort to use his office for the purpose of practical teaching—the course followed by Dr. Kidd—no inconvenience need follow from this regulation or from the severance of the Chairs. But it is obviously impossible for a physician to give any effective clinical instruction in Medicine unless he has the free and unfettered use of at least some part of the hospital which he attends. Deprived of all power within the walls of the Infirmary, Acland felt that the Regius Professorship would be a fertile source of humiliation, a feeling in which he was strengthened by his ten years' experience as Physician to that establishment.

To hold the Clinical Professorship by itself he had small ambition, and, as the date on which Convocation was to proceed to the election drew near, the delay

in filling up the Regius Chair caused considerable embarrassment. Dr. Jackson, also a resident physician in the city, had been put in nomination for the Clinical, and it was known that he would be strongly supported. It was necessary for Acland's friends to bestir themselves, and Liddell issued a strong appeal in his behalf. He recapitulated Acland's eminent services in organizing both the New Museum and the physiological instruction to be given there. He dwelt on his past work as Lee's Reader, and the physiological and pathological collections founded entirely by his efforts, and largely at his own expense. He recalled the fact that in the Christ Church Museum he had lectured regularly to students from all parts of the University, and had kept the rooms open throughout the day for all who might choose to avail themselves of their contents for purposes of private study. Acland's medical experience and skill were matters of common knowledge, his consulting practice in Oxford and the neighbourhood was second to none, and the Dean appealed to the heads of the profession in London and Edinburgh as to the position occupied by him among the practising physicians of the country. His devotion and energy during the cholera visitation, and his valuable report upon that epidemic and upon the whole sanitary condition of the Thames Valley, were still fresh in their memories. The Dean added that he had Acland's authority for stating that, if elected, it was his intention to resign the Lee's Readership and to devote himself to Pathology and Practical Medicine.

I have no personal or party feeling (he said in conclusion), but I confess to being deeply interested in the result of the election. I have long cherished a hope of seeing the University again connected with the practical elementary studies necessary for the professions of Law and Medicine. The School of Law and History offers ground for expectation, not immediate, perhaps, but perhaps not very far distant, of seeing our Academical Instruction made useful for Law

Students. The School of Physical Science, if supported by such Hospital Instruction as Dr. Acland could and would give¹, offers a much nearer prospect of restoring our ancient alliance with the Faculty of Medicine. For every reason, therefore, both of justice to persons and of justice to the University, I shall, without intending any disrespect to his opponent, give my vote to Dr. Acland.'

Liddell's vigorous intervention was not calculated to conciliate opposition. There was a dash of the school-master about it, which the members of Convocation did not appreciate, and it produced a flood of counter appeals on the part of Dr. Jackson's supporters. The University was asked not to stultify itself by tamely accepting a Crown nominee, and it was more than hinted that Acland's labours in anatomy and physiology would prove a disqualification for success as a clinical teacher. In reply to this it was thought advisable that a few of those who had received clinical instruction from him as Physician to the Infirmary should publicly record their witness 'to the great care, knowledge, and skill which made his teaching invaluable, to the clear manner in which he gave information, and to his attention to the requirements of his pupils.' Among the signatories were Dr. James Andrew, Dr. Fox of Bristol, and Mr. Charles Pearson.

There was good cause for anxiety as to the result of the election. Acland's exertions in the struggle for the Museum, not yet finally ended, had brought a hornets' nest about his ears. There was no particular desire among the Governors of the Infirmary to see fresh authority in the hands of their Physician, whose revolutionary ideas had already caused them much trouble and expense. The electors were urged 'to pause even at the threshold of the Convocation House,' before they 'heaped all the honours and emoluments of the profession upon one man.' The main strength, however,

¹ Through no fault of Acland's this anticipation was destined to a very partial fulfilment.

of Dr. Jackson, apart from his professional qualifications, which none for a moment impugned, lay in the fact that he was a Wykehamist. It was the boast of Winchester and New College that they could carry any election in Oxford, and that they had never been defeated when they had once 'gone in to win.' What was not unjustly called 'the tremendous influence of Winchester' was brought into the field. Liddell gave vent to his feelings concerning the *esprit de corps* which seemed destined to prove fatal to his friend in the following lines :

'Inter Wiccamicos lex immutabilis esto,
Per fas atque nefas semper adesse suis.
"Quid meruit" rogitas? Cur tu hoc, insulse, moraris?
Est de Wiccamicis; omnia commeruit.'

But the opposition had roused the equally deep-rooted clannishness of the West of England. The men not only of Devon, but of Cornwall, Dorset, and Somerset, in all of which counties the name of Acland had strong associations, territorial and otherwise, were up in arms. A strong canvass was instituted. The West Country members of Convocation trooped up to Oxford on the day of the poll, Sir Thomas Acland made his last public appearance in his old University, and the Regius Professor—for that appointment had been made ten days previously—was triumphantly elected to the Clinical Chair. It should be mentioned that among those who then, as ever, supported him loyally and effectually was the veteran Dr. Daubeny. Acland's elevation to the rank of a Professor was not allowed to pass unnoticed by his old college, and in 1859 he was elected an Honorary Student of Christ Church. The compliment was largely enhanced in his eyes by the fact that the same distinction was on the same day conferred upon Ruskin.

Acland was now free to embark upon that course of practical reform which he had marked out for himself from the days when the shortcomings of Oxford as a

place of medical education had first forced themselves upon him. I have shown that, at the date of his appointment as Lee's Reader, the teaching of the natural sciences was at its lowest ebb, and that the means of practical instruction in them were non-existent. The state of Medicine was in just the same plight. Dr. Kidd, the Regius Professor, ceased to lecture when he resigned the Lee's Readership; Dr. Ogle had only an occasional pupil at the Radcliffe Infirmary: once a year, on an average, a student presented himself to be examined for the Oxford M.B.¹ or to read a thesis for the Doctorate. Acland had been one of the few to do so, but the Oxford Medical Degree was little sought after, although no graduate in Medicine was eligible for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians unless he had obtained the M.D. of Oxford or Cambridge University. All Souls had ceased to fill up the four medical Fellowships provided for on her foundation, which in former years had been held by Sydenham and Linacre and Millington². There were not forty men on the books of all the different colleges and halls in Oxford with M.D. or M.B. to their names. It was evident that Oxford was doing but little to encourage its graduates to take up the study of Medicine or Surgery.

No one regretted this state of things so much as the cultivated and foreseeing leaders of Medicine, the men with whom Acland had been brought in contact in London and Edinburgh, of whom Alison and Brodie may be taken as types. They held that it was of immense importance, not only to the order of physicians, but to the profession generally, that more members of the English

¹ The number of graduates who took the M.B. from 1840 to 1854 was fourteen.

² Both the latter became presidents of the College of Physicians. Between 1518 and 1871, with only four exceptions (two of which are doubtful), every President of the Royal College of Physicians was M.D. Oxon. or Cantab.

Universities should be induced to enter the medical profession. To bring this about, to give the University the same touch with Medicine as with Law and Theology, to provide for medical students all facilities for a liberal education as well as for the sciences which lie at the foundation of rational and practical Medicine, was the aim of Acland's Oxford life. The establishment of the Natural Science School and the foundation of the New Museum had a twofold value in his eyes. On the one hand they widened the whole course of University study, and gave the mass of the undergraduates opportunities hitherto denied to them; on the other they rendered it possible for those who had chosen Medicine as a career to obtain the groundwork of their professional education amid the surroundings of University life. At the same time it was an essential part of his medical creed that Oxford should not attempt to supply a substitute for the special and technical instruction obtained in the wards of the great hospitals, and that there should be no tampering with the general standard of University teaching in order to attract medical students to Oxford.

These, briefly speaking, were the principles which guided him during his fifty years as a teacher at Oxford. The language in which he gave vent to them in his letter to Dr. Jacobson¹, published in 1848, might have been employed *mutatis mutandis* in his pamphlet *Oxford and Modern Medicine*, written in 1891. I have quoted from the former of these publications some passages which dealt with the introduction of Natural Science teaching into Oxford. The latter part of it dealt with the responsibilities and prospects of the University considered as a body possessing the privilege of granting Medical Degrees and licences to practise, and it was written under the inspiration of Sir Benjamin Brodie, then the highest and most trusted authority in England on education as applied to Medicine.

¹ See p. 152, *supra*.

In the first place he sought about for some mode of giving reality and substance to the Oxford Medical Degrees.

They do not prove that their possessors have had a medical education here, for we have no Medical School, nor do they guarantee that their holder has received a general Oxford education, inasmuch as a Dublin man may obtain one. They only prove that the graduate in Medicine has passed a medical examination here. He *may* have had his non-professional and *must* have had his professional education elsewhere. He need not have spent a week in the place.

Acland might have added with regard to the degree of Doctor of Medicine that there was no check whatever on the subject of the thesis for which it was conferred. It might have been given, as was once said, 'for a knowledge of volcanoes, for a considerable acquaintance with the atomic theory, or with the botany of Virgil.'

To remedy these anomalies there were two possible plans—either to make the education equivalent to the nominal value of the degree, or to reduce the value of the degree to the standard of some known place of education. For the first plan it would be necessary to create an efficient Medical School at Oxford; for the second it would be necessary to confine the degree of M.D. to those who had already obtained a licence to practise from the College of Physicians, and to grant the degree of M.B., *without licence to practise*¹, to men

¹ This proposed abandonment of the power to license roused the ire of the Warden of Wadham, the famous 'Ben' Symons. 'You mistake the matter,' he said; 'you are considering the merits of the case. Your business is to maintain our privileges.' But Acland clung to the view that it would be a good thing for the University if the Oxford Medical Degree was conferred only as an honour upon graduates who were already legally qualified to practise their profession by having passed the examinations of one of the numerous licensing bodies. By this means he considered that the Oxford M.D. would to a very large extent be freed from the merely professional element of a licence to practise, and would

who had passed the B.A. examination in Arts, and had satisfied the examiners in the general fundamental sciences of Natural Philosophy and such other subjects as would be a proper preparation for the study of Practical Medicine.

Now I object (he writes) to the first of these two plans—that of establishing a Medical School here, for two reasons:

1st. Because there are already a sufficient number of Medical Schools in the Empire; another is not wanted.

2nd. Because if an additional school were wanted, I do not think Oxford the best place for such school. Oxford is a county town of no large size, so that the hospital cases are far more limited in number than in the metropolis of this or other countries; a large field for clinical observation is absolutely necessary for a good Medical School. A small hospital will teach any man much; a large one will teach him more. To most medical students every day in the wards is precious; and the more they can see in the days of their pupilage, the better for them in the years of their practice. I do not mean to say that a large Medical School *cannot* be created by a great man, on the basis of a small hospital, either here or elsewhere, just as a Chemical School has been created at Giessen by Liebig; or as a Law School might have been created by Blackstone here in Oxford. But, whatever success attended such a school, it would probably die with its founder. The want of extensive hospital practice, as well as of the advantages attendant on early reputation in London, and other large towns, will sooner or later make a school in a town of this size (found it who may) inferior to the schools of London, or Edinburgh, or Paris, or Dublin.

But though the establishment of a complete School of Medicine at Oxford was not in his opinion either likely or desirable, there was no such difficulty in the way of 'a school for the branches of knowledge introductory to the study of Medicine.' Acland's own experience at St. George's was fresh in his mind, as he pointed out become a distinction, stamping the holder of it as a man with special attainments in some branch of Medicine or Surgery or in one of the sciences allied to them.

how at the outset of his London course the mind of the medical student was distracted and his time taken up by the multiplicity of the subjects which had to be studied at one time.

Often he has to attend four or five lectures in a day, on various subjects, besides his hospital practice; by the time these are over he is perhaps so worn out that he has no time or energy to arrange and order what he has heard, still less to inquire further and examine books illustrative or explanatory of the lectures.

But if he could dispose of these preliminary studies during his Oxford residence, in quiet college courts, away from the bustle and hurry of the hospital, he would be able to enter upon his strictly professional subjects with a more receptive mind, and with ampler leisure for extending and improving his professional knowledge to the uttermost. With such encouragement it would be reasonable to hope for a steady increase in the number of men who pass through Oxford to the professions of Medicine and Surgery. But if this increase were to set in it would be essential to check any tendency to collect the medical students into a separate body. To allow this would be to deprive them of one great use of a University education—the intercourse between mind and mind, unfettered by narrow views and professional bias. Above all,

Let no clamour or argument induce the University to require less of classical and religious education of those who proceed in Medicine than of those who only proceed in Arts. The whole value of our Medical Degrees (whatever that be) is lost, if there is in this place any *substitution* of professional knowledge for general education. We only wish to *engraft* a semi-professional upon our general education, and to send out the medical student better prepared to enter upon the perplexing and difficult studies which await him at the great hospitals, able to avail himself more fully of their teaching and experience.

So wrote Acland at the age of thirty-three, an instance of that completeness of mental vision which had so impressed Ruskin, and of the imaginative foresight which anticipates consequences and contingencies. As a witness before the University Commissioners of 1850 he was able to give further expression to these views and to urge as a preliminary to any reform in the Faculty of Medicine the rearrangement of the Medical and Anatomical Professorships. A practical step in this direction was taken by the foundation, in 1859, of the Linacre Professorship of Physiology, and the obligation to teach Anatomy was thus tardily recognized by the University. But the Chairs of Medicine remained untouched¹, and it was, as we have seen, a mere accident that Acland succeeded in reuniting them. His main object in undergoing the worry and annoyance of a contest for the Clinical Chair had been with a view to future changes. It was only worth £200 a year, and as he was pledged, if elected, to resign the Lee's Readership, which was of the same value, he had no pecuniary interest in the matter; but he saw that it was of the first importance, when the next process in University Reform was reached, that he should be in a position to facilitate any readjustment of the teaching functions. And he felt strongly that it was intolerable that the Regius Professor of Medicine should be without any official status in the Radcliffe Infirmary. As a working Chair Acland found the Clinical Professorship of infinitesimal value, and after twenty years' experience he advocated its conversion into a Professorship of Comparative Pathology. The number of students desirous of receiving clinical instruction never rose above one or two at a time, the difficulties in the way of organizing classes for them proved insuperable, and though he

¹ Except that the Tomline Praelectorship and the Aldrichian Professorship of Anatomy, which were previously annexed to the Regius Professorship of Medicine, were transferred to the Linacre Chair.

tried to institute special clinical courses for members of the University who contemplated parochial or missionary work, the response he met with was not of an encouraging nature.

As Regius Professor, Acland found nothing in the way of precedent to guide him. The salary was not large, under £500 a year; there was no residence, for possession of Frewin Hall, which for a time was assigned to some of his predecessors, had long ago been resumed, on the termination of a long lease, by Brasenose, the college to which it belonged. There was no laboratory, no scientific appliances, no assistants, and no means of obtaining any. Nor were there any traditions with regard to teaching. The old books declared that it was the duty of the Regius Professor of Medicine to read on Tuesdays and Fridays in Term time either Hippocrates or Galen at eight in the morning in the school appointed for the Faculty. This remnant of Caroline days had long fallen into desuetude. The revival of similar 'readings' from more modern authors, and at a more reasonable hour, might have satisfied the conception of a Professor as a lecturing machine, but Medicine is not a subject which can be taught or learnt in this manner. Until the University made provision for the effective teaching of Medicine, Acland felt that his work must lie in other paths, and notably in the reform of the examinations for the Medical Degrees for which as Regius Professor he was responsible.

On his appointment he found practically no machinery, no records, no system; all was to be created. He felt keenly the necessity of making Surgery a necessary subject for a Medical Degree. But the Oxford University Statutes only accepted Oxford Doctors of Medicine as examiners in their school, and the idea of going outside the University graduates was as yet unbroached. The Oxford Doctors of Medicine who possessed the necessary knowledge for examining in Surgery were few in number, and it was not to be

expected that surgeons who were Oxford graduates would be induced to proceed to the degree of Doctor merely in order to qualify as medical examiners. Yet something must be done if the basis of the examination was to be broadened, and by dint of persistent pleading he obtained a Statute which permitted Masters of Arts to become examiners for the degree in Medicine. Later on, a further step was taken, and the final concession was obtained from Convocation allowing examiners to be appointed who were not even Oxford graduates. With the limits of choice so widely enlarged, he was able eventually to bring in such men as Sir William Turner from Edinburgh, and Dr. Clifford Allbutt from Cambridge.

But this was the work of years, and in the meanwhile he did not allow it to be supposed that the occupant of the Chair was, in Puritan phraseology, a 'dumb dog.' The study of sanitation, the science of public health, and what is comprehensively termed hygiene, were not yet out of the embryonic stage, and it seemed to Acland that something might be done in this direction by lectures both to members of the University and to the outside public. These lectures he was able to supplement with a novel form of demonstration.

Part of the emolument of the Regius Professorship was derived from the Hospital of Ewelme, of which the Professor was ex-officio Master. The affairs of the Hospital had been the subject of a Chancery suit which lasted during the whole professoriate of Dr. Ogle and substantially affected his income, as it entailed a temporary suspension of cash payments. The suit was now at an end, and as Master of the Hospital Acland was able materially to improve the condition of the inmates and to exercise a beneficent influence over those who were virtually his tenants. Among the estates out of which the Mastership was endowed were some farms in the village of Marsh Gibbon in Buckinghamshire. When the newly appointed Professor first visited this Midland 'Auburn' it was a type of what the Enclosure Acts, combined

with non-resident landlords and a Chancery suit, can, or could, do to a once smiling hamlet. Half-ruined cottages, a grey old Elizabethan manor-house drifting into decay, a shallow pit of brown peat-coloured water, serving as the reservoir for the inhabitants and as the common drinking-ground of the sheep and cattle, were the most salient features of the village. A knot of dwellings, freehold for the most part, and bearing the obscure title of 'The College,' stood in the midst of a tiny sea of dark brown slush. Against each of them leaned its pigsty, and the muck-sodden earthen floor of the lower rooms was scarcely less crazy than the gaping planks of the upper story. To this upper realm the only access was by a ladder, frequently defective in its rungs: and a room twelve feet by ten afforded sleeping accommodation to a dozen persons—father, mother, and grown-up boys and girls. Lace-making, by which the scanty wages of the families were eked out, was taught in a room where thirteen children enjoyed 504 feet of cubic space between them.

The character of the population was in unison with its surroundings. A sullen savagery was the prevailing note: the men who were connected with the working of the Enclosure Acts went in fear of their lives; a solitary policeman would never have dared to enter the village, and postboys hesitated about driving through it at night. Even the beauty of the warm June evening on which Acland first saw Marsh Gibbon could not cast any glamour over the squalid misery of the villagers: poverty, disease, and all their attendant curses were apparent even on the surface.

It would take too long to tell how, with the cordial assistance of the other Ewelme Trustees, of whom the Dukes of Buckingham and Marlborough and the Earls of Jersey and Macclesfield were leading members, he gradually introduced order and decency into the place. Well-built and weather-proof cottages, a system of careful and effective drainage, and a well-contrived

water-supply were the ultimate fruits of his labours. Hither once or twice a year he would bring from Oxford a class composed of undergraduates, clergymen, medical men, and, sometimes, ladies, and would give a practical lecture on the fundamental laws of health, on the construction of village dwellings, and on the causes of preventable disease. The ruins of the old cottages combined with the vivid recollections of the Professor were enough to reconstitute the past. Even the present had its lessons of warning, for some of the village homes, however picturesque and comfortable in appearance, were by no means models of sanitation.

Acland always regarded those country excursions as a most valuable ingredient in the study of National Health, and as an appropriate discharge of public duty on the part of a teacher of Medicine. Towards the people of Marsh Gibbon his proofs of interest and affection were unceasing: besides acting in conjunction with the estate-agent as a general redresser of wrongs, and appeal court in case of need, he maintained at his own charges a village dispensary and helped liberally in the establishment of a reading-room. It was often his custom, when jaded by overwork, to pay a flying visit there in the summer afternoon, and sleep at a small farm-house, sharing in the humble fare of the inmates and joining with them in their simple evening worship. He has given a description of one such scene in the best known and most interesting of all his published writings¹.

There was another direction in which Acland considered that he was enabled to serve the University as Professor—in the capacity, namely, of the Oxford representative on the General Council of Medical Education and Registration, which had come into existence within a year of his appointment. The need of some central body in the medical profession capable of

¹ *Health in the Village*, written for the International Health Exhibition, 1884, p. 80.

regulating and standardizing the qualifications to be possessed by its practitioners had long been recognized. There were in the United Kingdom no less than twenty-one¹ separate licensing bodies, entirely independent of one another, which possessed the power of issuing certificates, and of conferring titles that purported to be evidence that the holder was qualified or competent to practise Medicine. The tests imposed by these bodies differed widely, and the titles they conferred were in many cases only recognized within certain localities. It was admitted that laxity as well as diversity often characterized the granting of these licences, and that the qualifications were obtained on very insufficient evidence, while the legal restraint upon imposture was ludicrously slight. The public had no guarantee that the holding of a medical qualification or the use of a medical title implied the attainment of any definite standard of professional skill. And the doctors suffered from the discredit which was cast upon the profession as a whole by their inability to exclude the unqualified and the disqualified. There were other reforms, such as the provision of machinery for the removal of unworthy members of the profession, which were urgently needed, but which the absence of a central medical body tended to postpone indefinitely; and nearly every session of Parliament from 1840 onwards saw the introduction of some bill or other intended to constitute a council which should deal with medical education and other matters necessarily involved in such a scheme.

As far back as 1847 Acland had been consulted by prominent members of the House of Commons with regard to the feasibility of a General Council, its powers, and the principles on which it should be constituted².

¹ Including the 'Lambeth degree' of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

² It was with special reference to Sir James Graham's bill in 1848 that Acland published the recommendations contained in his letter to Dr. Jacobson.

Finally the Medical Act of 1858 was passed, which created a Central Council for the United Kingdom consisting of twenty-four members, six of whom were nominated by the Crown; seventeen were to be elected by the Universities and the various Colleges of Physicians, Surgeons, and Apothecaries in England, Scotland, and Ireland; the chairman chosen by the Council itself made the twenty-fourth. It was the duty of the Council to keep and publish a register of qualified practitioners; to require information from the several licensing bodies in regard to the qualifications enforced by them; to report to the Privy Council any licensing body which seemed to be acting irregularly; and to erase from the Register the names of practitioners who had been struck off by their own licensing bodies, who had been convicted at law of certain offences, or who were judged guilty by the Council of 'infamous conduct in any professional respect.' To these educational and disciplinary functions Parliament added the compilation and publication of an authoritative Pharmacopoeia.

The constitution of the Council was the crux which had proved fatal to so many previous endeavours. The principle adopted was that equality was equity, and neither the Royal College of Physicians in London nor the Royal College of Surgeons had more than their one member apiece, while the Queen's University of Ireland had the same representation. If the Council was to win the confidence of the profession at the outset, the Royal, or rather the Ministerial, prerogative of nomination would require the greatest discretion in its exercise. As the following letter shows, Acland was much consulted in this delicate duty by Mr. Spencer Walpole, the Home Secretary, on whom the administration of the Act mainly depended.

MY DEAR DR. ACLAND,

I am much obliged to you for your kind information of Dr. Brodie's opinion, and your own as far as it goes, but they do not, I fear, very much help me.

However, I have made up my mind, and the names I shall propose, if they all accept, will be Professor Christison (Scotland) and Dr. Stokes (Ireland), Sir James Clarke and Mr. Lawrence (London), Mr. J. C. Hastings and Mr. Teale (the Provinces). Dr. Watson will, I hear, be elected for the College of Physicians.

I hope I have made such a selection as will, upon the whole, give the greatest satisfaction to the Profession and to the Public generally—of course either they or any other selection would be open to criticism; but I doubt whether a better could well be made. Sure I am, I have had but one object.

Yours ever,

Very faithfully,

S. H. WALPOLE.

With strong views as to the possibilities before the Council, Acland combined a wide knowledge of the personnel in the higher walks of his profession and of the degrees of encouragement or discouragement which might be expected from sundry bearers of distinguished names. He himself had been naturally suggested as a Crown nominee, but the University of Oxford had a prior lien on him. The first sitting of the Council was held on November 23, 1858, and it fell to Acland's lot to propose as President his old friend and master Sir Benjamin Brodie.

Into the work of the Council Acland threw himself from the very first meeting, and he acquired an influence there which led twenty years later to his election as President. It cannot perhaps be said that the Council has in all respects satisfied the expectations of its promoters, but it has accomplished a very notable work in unifying the profession and placing the entrances to it under trustworthy guardianship. The several licensing bodies have submitted themselves to a 'levelling up' process, and the elaborate recommendations as to study and examination which the Council has circulated from time to time have been very generally adopted.

It was on this educational side of the Council that Acland's activities were conspicuously displayed, and the labour entailed was enormous. It was permitted to the Council to send visitors to inspect the conduct of the examinations held by the various licensing bodies; on these missions he was occasionally employed, and it was mainly through his agency that the visitors were welcomed at Oxford and were allowed the privilege of access to the candidates' papers, and permission to take them away to London or elsewhere. And in the entire remodelling of the Oxford medical examination he was able in many respects to give practical effect to the recommendations of the Council.

CHAPTER X

THE ROYAL PHYSICIANSHIP—VISIT TO
AMERICA WITH THE PRINCE
OF WALES

1858-1860

IN the last week of July, 1858, just as he was preparing for a holiday trip in Wales with Liddell, Acland received a Royal command to dine and sleep at Osborne, the Dean being included in the invitation. It was his first introduction to his Sovereign, and the visit was in every way delightful. The Solent was looking its brightest, and the birthday of the Prince Consort was being celebrated with feasting and sports for the tenants of the estate and the crews of the yachts. All the Queen's children were there, with the exception of the Prince of Wales; and Acland was particularly attracted by the young Prince Alfred, better known in after life as the Duke of Edinburgh. After dinner the Queen honoured him with a conversation about Oxford and the Museum, and the Prince Consort walked him about the terraces and statues in the moonlight, talking botany. The object of the invitation, it transpired, was to ascertain whether he would be willing to accept the medical charge of the Prince of Wales during his impending residence at Oxford.

No definite arrangement was made, and Acland and Liddell duly carried out their Welsh programme. But early in September the former received a letter from Sir James Clarke, the Queen's physician, saying that the Prince Consort, who was then at Balmoral, very much wished to see him with regard to the Prince of Wales, and on 'some other points of importance,'