Constitution of the Bangor Medical Association, Together with the Rules and Regulations of Police and Practice, Adopted 1829--revised 1837

Bangor Medical Association

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CONSTITUTION

OF THE

BANGOR MEDICAL ASSOCIATION,

TOGETHER WITH THE

RULES AND REGULATIONS

OF

POLICE AND PRACTICE.

ADOPTED 1829—REVISED 1837.

BANGOR:
PRINTED BY S. S. SMITH.
1837.
The Rev. Stephen Longfellow Bowdler, 148 Ohio St.was 91 on July 25/11.

He was a student in the office of the late Dr. Daniel McRuer of Bangor, during "Cholera Year" 1849.
He was "Secretary of the Cholera Hospital" which was located in the building on Bowdrey now "The Jordan." He well remembers my father, Dr. Rich Rothier.

He was a student in the Harvard Medical School 1850-51. He remembers among the faculty at that time Holmes, The Bishops, (Jacob H. J.) John C. Warren
RULES AND REGULATIONS.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be called the Bangor Medical Association.

ART. 2. The object of the Association shall be improvement in medical science, the promotion, encouragement, and support of regular and honorable practice, and the suppression, by individual and combined effort, of the dangerous impositions of empiricism.

ART. 3. No person shall become a member of this Association, unless he be a graduate of some Medical School, or a licentiate of some duly authorized Medical Society.

ART. 4. Candidates may be proposed and balloted for at the same meeting, provided no member objects, in which case, the subject shall be referred to the next general meeting.

ART. 5. There shall be a meeting of the Association on the first Wednesday of every month, at such time and place as may be deemed most convenient.

ART. 6. Special meetings may be called by order of the President with the advice of the Censors.

ART. 7. The annual meeting shall be on the second Wednesday of March, at which time the officers of the Association shall be chosen.

ART. 8. The officers shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three Censors.

ART. 9. The officers shall be elected by ballot, and a majority of the votes cast shall constitute an election.

ART. 10. No member shall be eligible to the same office for more than two successive years.

ART. 11. The President shall preside at all meetings, and regulate all business which may come before the Asso-
ciation, and his decision shall be binding, except when an appeal therefrom by any member shall be sustained by a majority of those present. He shall also be ex officio, Chairman of the Board of Censors.

Art. 12. The Vice President shall in the absence of the President, preside in his stead, and exercise all his authority.

Art. 13. In the absence of both the President and Vice President, a Chairman shall be chosen to preside.

Art. 14. The Secretary shall have in his keeping all records and papers belonging to the Association, shall make a fair record of all the proceedings of the meeting, shall notify all adjourned meetings, and shall be the organ of the Association in all communications, not otherwise specially ordered to be made.

Art. 15. The Treasurer shall have the keeping of all monies assessed by the Association, and shall appropriate them as directed by the Association, rendering at each annual meeting a detailed account of receipts and expenditures, approved by the Censors; and it shall further be his duty to collect all dues or assessments.

Art. 16. It shall be the duty of the Censors to attend to and decide all matters which regard the honor and interest of the Association, especially to act on all infringements of its regulations, which may come to their knowledge.

Art. 17. At the monthly meetings of the Association there may be such exercises as the Association may direct.

Art. 18. The members of this Association shall be assessed quarterly in a sum sufficient to defray all necessary expenses.

Art. 19. Five shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a less number may adjourn.


RULES, PRACTICE, &c.

CONSULTATIONS.

ARTICLE 1. 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 rivalship or jealousy should be indulged; candor, 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 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.

Physicians in consultation, whatever may be their private resentments or opinions of each other, 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 source it may come, he should in honor decline the consultation.

When a consultation visit is agreed upon, the utmost punctuality should be observed, and to avoid loss of time, it will be expedient to establish the space of fifteen minutes, as allowance for delay, after which the meeting might be considered as postponed for a new appointment.

INTERFERENCES.

Art. 2. Medicine is a liberal profession; the practitioners are, or ought to be, men of education; and their expectations of business and employment, should be founded on their degrees of qualifications, not on artifice and insinuation. A certain indefinable species of assiduities 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, evinces a meanness of disposition unbecoming the character of a physician or gentle-
man. No meddling inquiries should be made concerning them, nor hints given relative to the nature and treatment of the complaint, nor any selfish conduct pursued that may directly or indirectly tend to weaken confidence in attending physicians or surgeons.

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 understands that the patient is no longer under his care; and unless this be the case, the second physician is not to assume the care of the patient, nor to give any advice, except in cases of sudden emergency, without a regular consultation; and if such previously attending gentleman has been dismissed, or has voluntarily relinquished the patient, his practice should be treated with candor, and justified so far as probity and truth will permit; for want of success in the primary treatment of the disorder, is no impeachment of professional skill.

DIFFERENCES OF PHYSICIANS.

Art. 3. The differences of physicians, when they end in appeals to the public, generally hurt the contending parties; and 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 honor and dignity of the profession, and cannot immediately be terminated, and do not come under the character of violations of special rules, they should be referred for arbitration to a sufficient number of members of the profession, 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.

Art. 4. 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 be 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.

Art. 5. 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 honor and interest of the Association, so far as they are consistent with morality, and the general good of mankind. A physician should therefore cautiously guard against whatever may injure the general respectability of the profession, and should avoid all tumultuous 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 or utility of the healing art.

FEES.

Art. 6. General rules are adopted by the faculty in every town, relative to the pecuniary acknowledgments of their patients. It should be deemed a point of honor 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 characteristic beneficence of the profession is inconsistent with sordid views and avaricious rapacity. It is obvious also that an average fee, as suited to the general rank of patients, must be an inadequate compensation from the rich, who often require attendance not absolutely neces-
sary, 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.

Art. 7. All members of the medical profession within the city, together with their families, shall 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.

Art. 8. 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.

Art. 9. A regular and academical education furnishes the only presumptive evidence of professional ability, and is so honorable 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 city, 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.

Art. 10. No physician shall consult with, or voluntarily meet in a professional way, or aid or abet any practitioner resident in this city, who has not received a degree from some medical college, or a license from some duly authorized society, and who, having had these articles presented to him, neglects or refuses to sign the same.

Art. 11. If a physician be called to a patient who has usually been attended by a family physician, on the arri-
val of the latter, the patient shall be resigned by the former. Should the latter not arrive till after the departure of the former, it shall be the duty of the latter to apprise the former, that he has taken charge of the patient.

Art. 12. The members of this Association shall conform to the following fee table, adopted as the minimum charge for professional services, subject however to the several rules contained in this code relative to the same.

**FEE TABLE.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For a visit,</td>
<td>$ 1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do. in consultation,</td>
<td>$ 2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do. as associate Physician</td>
<td>$ 1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do. on board a vessel</td>
<td>$ 1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do. and passing catheter</td>
<td>$ 2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do. and venesection</td>
<td>$ 1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do. and extracting tooth</td>
<td>$ 1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do. and surgical service in slight wounds and ulcerations</td>
<td>$ 1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do. in the night,*</td>
<td>$ 2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel per mile,</td>
<td>$ 0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For rising and advice at office in the night,</td>
<td>$ 1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; surgical service at office in the night,</td>
<td>$ 1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; advice at office,</td>
<td>$ 1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; genorrhea,</td>
<td>$ 1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; recent cases of syphilis,</td>
<td>$ 1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; confirmed lues in addition to §15, visits and advice as in other cases.</td>
<td>$ 1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; midwifery, ordinary,</td>
<td>$ 1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; amputation of the thigh,</td>
<td>$ 3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leg, arm or forearm</td>
<td>$ 3.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For amputation at the shoulder or hip joint, $10.00
" amputation of the toes or fingers, $5.00
" lithotomy, $10.00
" trepanning skull, $25.00
" extirpating mamma, $30.00
" venesection at office, $50.00
" extracting tooth, do. $50.00
" hydrocele, $10.00
" tapping chest, $20.00
" do. abdomen, $10.00
" dislocations, ordinary, $5.00
" fracture, do. $5.00
" hernia, $30.00
" fistula in ano, $15.00
" " lachrymalis, $10.00
" cupping, $1.50
" vaccination, $1.00
" cataract, $25.00
" extirpating the eye, $30.00
" " tonsils, $10.00
" polypus uteri, $50.00
" " nasi, $5.00

In all cases of unspecified surgical operations, the physicians present at the operation shall decide, at the time, upon the compensation to be demanded.

In all cases of extraordinary detention or attendance,

* The night, in this table, is considered as commencing at ten o'clock, P. M. and ending at five A. M. or at sunrise, when that is later than five o'clock.

† Whenever it is necessary to make more than three visits to women after delivery, all additional visits shall be charged as in ordinary cases.
also in proportion to the importance of the case and of the responsibility attached to it, and to the service rendered when these are extraordinary, the charges shall be increased according to the judgment of the practitioner concerned; and the duty to make such increase in the charges shall be considered obligatory on the members of the profession.

**Art. 13.** It shall be considered proper to charge from one to two dollars for a first visit in every case.

**Art. 14.** If in a case of midwifery a physician is called in consultation, both the attending and consulting physician shall charge at least the usual fee for delivery.

**Art. 15.** In common cases of consultation, it shall be considered proper for the attending physician to charge a larger fee than for ordinary visits.

**Art. 16.** When a physician engaged to attend a case of midwifery is absent, and a second delivers the patient, the second shall receive the fee and relinquish the patient to the first. If the first arrive while the second is present and before the patient is delivered, the second shall resign the patient to the first, and in such case it shall be proper for the second to charge a fee, as for visit and detention.*

**Art. 17.** If a physician be called to a case of midwifery, and finds upon his arrival, that any person not a regular practitioner, has been in attendance upon the patient, and has abandoned her in consequence of danger and difficulty in the case, such physician shall receive a double fee for his services. For here, it must be obvious, that his responsibility is greatly increased, the physician having to contend with all the untoward circumstances resulting from ignorance and mismanagement—circumstances which might have been prevented, had he been seasonably called.

**Art. 18.** In cases of midwifery, when the case is partially, but not entirely completed, before the arrival of the accoucheur, the whole fee is to be charged. But when entirely completed before his arrival, one half or the whole is to be charged, according to circumstances. This rule is not to be applied to cases where the delay arises from the accoucheur.

* It is not intended that this regulation shall interfere with the wishes of the patient—if she wishes the second to remain, it is his duty to conform to her desire.
Art. 19. It is not designed by these regulations to prevent physicians from rendering their services gratuitously to persons who are incapable of remunerating them without distressing their families or themselves, but in such cases, the whole services must be gratuitous, as by charging fees for some of their services and not for all, it is obvious that the intention of the fee-table would be effectually frustrated. In any case, where the physician believes that his patient cannot afford to pay the regular fees, and yet is able to make some compensation, he may make a deduction for all services, excepting in cases of Gonorrhœa and Syphilis, from which no deduction shall be made. The charges shall be entered on the book in full, and the bill made out with the full charge, and the deduction specified at the foot of the bill, above the receipt.

Art. 20. Omission to charge, on account of the wealthy circumstances of the physician, is 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.

Art. 21. No physician shall omit charging any necessary visits made on the same day, on account of their number.

Art. 22. No physician shall make a previous contract with any individual for a definite sum, as a remuneration for his annual attendance upon such person, or upon his or her family.

Art. 23. If any member become acquainted with the conduct of another member which he considers as a breach of the rules and regulations of the Association, it shall be his duty to make the same known to the Censors, who shall inquire into the case, and decide upon the same as they may think proper.

Art. 24. Bills shall be rendered in the following form, viz:—

Mr. A. B. to Doctor C. D. Dr.
For Medical Attendance from to visits. (and in case of deduction) Discount,
Received Payment, C. D.

Bangor, ——, ——.

Art. 25. Every candidate at the time of becoming a
member of this Association, shall pay into the treasury the sum of five dollars, and sign the following obligation, which shall be in a book deposited with the Secretary:—"The undersigned approve of the regulations of the Bangor Medical Association, and agree, upon their honor to comply with the same."

Art. 26. All resignations of membership shall be made in writing to the Secretary, who shall immediately report them to the Association.

Art. 27. All violations of these regulations shall be punished by censure, suspension, expulsion, or otherwise, at the discretion of the Association.

Art. 28. No rule or regulation of this Association shall be altered, amended or repealed, nor any additional regulation adopted, unless the proposed alteration or amendment has first been referred to a Committee, who shall report on the same at a subsequent meeting, which shall be held at a time not less than one month from the time of the appointment of the Committee. And no amendment or additional regulation shall be adopted, except by a vote of three fourths of the members present.

The undersigned approve of the regulations of the Bangor Medical Association, and agree, upon their honor, to comply with the same.

HOSEA RICH,  CHARLES SNELL,
J. P. DICKINSON,  JOHN ABBOT,
JOHN MASON,  F. GAGE,
R. K. CUSHING,  JOHN BARSTOW,
JOSIAH DEANE,  BENJ. D. BARTLETT,
S. L. CLARK,