

FEBRUARY, 1812.

Charter to
the R. Island
Medical So-
ciety.

AS the medical art is important to the health and happiness of society, every institution calculated to further its improvement, is entitled to public attention ; and as medical societies, formed on liberal principles, and encouraged by the patronage of the laws, have been found conducive to this end :

Section 1. *Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted,* That Amos Throop, William Bowen, Pardon Bowen, Levi Wheaton, Rowland Greene, Samuel Hudson, Daniel Barrus, Joseph Comstock, Niles Manchester, John M. Eddy, Thomas M. Barrows, Charles Eldridge, Jacob Fuller, Moses Mowry, Peleg Clark, John Mackie, Jeremiah Williams, W. Corlis Bowen, Joseph B. Pettes, Walter Wheaton, Stephen Harris, Sylvester Knight, Abraham Mason, Ezekiel Comstock, Augustus Torrey, A. Waldron, Caleb Fisk, Solomon Drowne, Comfort A. Carpenter, Thomas Nelson, Thomas Warren, John W. Richmond, William G. Shaw, Cyril Carpenter, Thomas Carpenter, Gorton Jerauld, Charles Foster, Lemuel W. Briggs, John Aldrich, Jonathan Easton, Benjamin Waite Case, Enoch Hazard, David King, William Fessner, Edmond Thomas Waring, Jonathan Easton, jun. be and they hereby are formed into, constituted and made a body politic and corporate, by the name of *The Rhode-Island Medical Society* ; and that they and their successors, and such other persons as shall be elected in the manner hereafter mentioned, shall be and continue a body politic and corporate, by the same name forever.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the members of the said society may from time to time, elect a President, two Vice-Presidents, one or more Secretaries, with such other officers as they shall judge necessary and convenient ; and they the members of the said society shall have full power and authority, from time to time, to determine and establish the names, number and duty of their several officers, and the tenure they shall respectively have in their offices.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the members of the said society shall have a common seal, and power to break, change and renew the same at their pleasure.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the said society may sue and be sued, in all actions, real, personal or mixed, and prosecute and defend the same unto final judgment and execution.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That the said society shall have full power and authority, to make and enact such rules and by-laws, for the better government of said society, as are not repugnant

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pugnant to the laws of this State, or of the United States, and to annex reasonable fines and penalties to the breach of them, not exceeding the sum of fifty dollars, to be sued for and recovered by said society, and to their own use, by action of debt, in any Court having cognizance of the same; and also to determine the number requisite to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and to establish the time, place and manner of convening the said society.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the said society, at any stated legal meeting of the same, may, by a majority of votes of those present, elect any suitable person or persons to be a member or members of the said society: *Provided*, That all practising physicians or surgeons, resident within this State, who shall be so elected, shall, within one year after such election, subscribe the by-laws of the said society, or otherwise declare in writing their assent to the same, or such election shall be void; and all persons, not practising physicians or surgeons, or not resident within this State, who shall be so elected, may be deemed honorary members of the said society; and at any such meeting the said society shall have power, in like manner, to suspend or expel for improper conduct, any member of said society.

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the President and members of said society, or such officers or members as they shall specially appoint for that purpose, shall have full power and authority to examine all candidates for the practice of physic and surgery (who shall offer themselves for examination) respecting their skill in their profession; and if upon examination the said candidates shall be found skilled in their profession, and fitted for the practice of it, they shall receive the approbation of the said society in letters testimonial, under the seal of the said society, signed by the President, or such other person or persons as shall be appointed for that purpose.

Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That the said society may and shall forever be deemed capable in law, of having, holding and taking, in fee simple, or any less estate, by gift, grant or devise, or otherwise, any land, tenement or other estate, real or personal, provided that the annual income of the whole real estate that may be given, granted or devised to or purchased by the said society, shall not exceed the sum of five hundred dollars; and the annual income or interest of said personal estate shall not exceed fifteen hundred dollars: And the annual income or interest of the said real and personal estate, together with the fines and penalties paid to said society, or recovered by them, shall be appropriated to such purposes as are consistent with the end and design of the institution of the said society, and as the members thereof shall determine.

Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That a meeting for the organization of the said society shall be held in some convenient place within this State, and that Dr. Amos Throop be and he hereby is authorized to appoint the time and place for holding the said

said meeting, and to give public notice of the same, in two or more newspapers printed in the towns of Newport and Providence.