

To the Senatus Academicus of the
University of St. Andrews.

July 17th 1873.

Gentlemen,

We venture to request your sanction to the admission of women as students of medicine in the University of St. Andrews, and beg to submit to you the following grounds, among others, on which we rest the present application: —

1. A large and constantly increasing demand exists among women for the medical services of their own sex, and a corresponding desire is manifested by a considerable number of women to fit themselves for medical practice.
2. It is most desirable that if women enter the profession of medicine they should be thoroughly

qualified to perform its duties, and should receive such education and pass such examinations as will deservedly command public confidence.

3. No practitioner is recognised by law as legally qualified unless his or her name is entered on the National Medical Register. Similarly, the Medical Council of the United Kingdom require that every student shall be registered, after passing the required preliminary examination, and before commencing medical study.
4. The Medical Act of 1858 makes no distinction between male and female practitioners of medicine, and at the present moment two women are entered on the national Register as legally qualified practitioners; and at least fourteen

other women are registered as medical students.

5. In order to obtain registration as medical practitioners, a licence or degree must be obtained from one of the Examining Boards recognised by the Medical Act of 1858.
6. As the University of Edinburgh must now be considered as closed by the recent legal decision, there is at present no Examining Board in the United Kingdom prepared to examine women, and thus enable them to place their names on the Register.
7. The decision of a majority of the Court of Session, that women cannot be considered lawful students of the University of Edinburgh, rests on the fact that the sanction of the Crown was not obtained previous to their admission, it not being disputed

that with such sanction they could be admitted to any University.

8. The most general objection to the admission of women to Universities lies in the supposed difficulty of educating them jointly with male Students of medicine, the latter being taught already in every University of the United Kingdom except that of St. Andrews.

9. As the University of St. Andrews possesses the power to grant degrees, and has a complete staff of examiners, and a partial staff of medical professors, but no medical Students, it seems to possess facilities for admitting women to the study and practice of medicine which no other University enjoys.

10. It appears clear that, with the sanction of the

Queen in Council, the University of St. Andrew's would have full power to admit women to matriculation and graduation; or, if even a supplementary charter should be needed, this could be obtained with little delay, and we beg hereby to intimate that we are quite willing to make ourselves responsible for all contingent expenses.

11. The present regulations of the University only require that two out of the four years of medical study should be passed at a University, and the courses of the present medical professors of St. Andrew's would be sufficient to form two complete Anni Medici.
12. We are in a position to state that at least fifteen ladies would at once avail themselves of the permission, if given, to matriculate at the

University of St. Andrews.

13. We may further state that we, with the assistance of the Committee formed in our favour, are prepared at once to hire or build suitable premises for a Medical School; and are also in a position to arrange for a complete course of lectures on all the required subjects of medical education which are not taught in St. Andrews, if the University authorities will sanction such arrangements, and will subsequently admit us to re-examination & graduation.

Without trespassing farther on your time, we beg most earnestly to commend the present

application to your most favourable consideration,
and remain

Yours obediently

Josephine Blake
Isabel Thorne

Edith Peckey

A R Barker.

Alice J. Ker.

Elizabeth J. Walker.

Agnes McLaren

Isa Foggo

Jan R. Robison

Edith Vicson

Sally Jane Marningsford - Murray

15 Buccleugh Place

Edinburgh.