

on the nomination of an ordinary or corresponding member of the Council."

Where is the representation? Where is the constituent body? If the Council be, as it certainly is declared to be, the executive body, it ought, on all constitutional principles, to be an elected body; but here we see the executive, in whom is vested all power, electing its own constituency. A strange theory of inverted representation. It will surely provoke the dangerous imputation that the first exercise of the Council's "discretion" is governed by distrust of the profession which they assume to represent.

That the association so remarkably constituted may do good work, I am willing to believe; but that an association founded on true representative principles would do infinitely better work, and influence public opinion more effectively, few can doubt. It can hardly be expected that the great mass of the profession, entertaining, as it does, earnest convictions upon the great question of freedom of scientific research, will be satisfied to be "represented" by an association in which it has absolutely no voice.—I am, etc.,

ROBERT BARNES.

15, Harley Street, April 24th, 1882.

INCISIONS FOR NEPHRECTOMY.

SIR,—Will you allow me to correct a slight error which occurs in the two recent reports of the Clinical Society, owing to the confusion of the name of Langenbeck with that of Langenbuch?

The former surgeon, so far as I am aware, has never performed the operation of nephrectomy; but Langenbuch has on three occasions excised a kidney. In his second and third operations, he used an abdominal incision external to the rectus muscle, and was thus enabled to reach the kidney, on the outer side of the colon, by dividing the outer layer of meso-colon. It was this incision to which I referred as the best, when an operation through the peritoneum has been determined upon; but I maintain that the extraperitoneal operation, in the loin, must always prove the safer for kidneys of such a size as to be capable of being extracted through the limited space there at disposal.

I rose chiefly to point out that an inverted L-shaped incision—the vertical limb running on the outer edge of the quadratus lumborum, and the other extending forwards and downwards near the margin of the ribs—gave the greatest space in this region. It is the incision I found myself compelled to adopt, and it has been employed by several operators who have followed, among whom I may mention Mr. Morant Baker, Mr. Barwell, and Mr. Golding-Bird.—I am, your obedient servant,

R. CLEMENT LUCAS, B.S.

Finsbury Square, April 21st, 1882.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

VIENNA.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

The General Hospital.—Dr. Chiari as a Necroscopist.—A Disadvantage of Specialism.—The Water-Supply and the Health of Vienna.—The proposed Hungarian University.—University News.

THE HOSPITAL is just now very quiet; most of the special courses are still going on, but all the university lectures have stopped; the foreign students are one by one disappearing, and new ones (chiefly American and French) are gradually taking their place. Vienna has certainly reason to be proud of the number of students that attend the university; for, in the last winter session, it rose to the very high number of 4,823. These were divided among the various faculties as follows: theology, 226; law, 2,240; medicine, 1,412; philosophy, 769; and pharmacy, 176. Since the session 1877-78, the number of medical students has risen from 712 to 1,412.

The following rather good finish to a speech was made by a student, at a social meeting, which was convened to show the regard in which the students held Dr. H. Chiari. "In many here will the unspoken wish arise, that, should fate lead any one of us to the marble table, it may be granted him to have the *post mortem* examination performed by Dr. Chiari's hand." This was not mere flattery; for his rapidity and dexterity in performing necropsies is something remarkable. Out of curiosity I timed several, and found the average for an examination—including brain, larynx, stomach, three or four feet of intestines, and bladder—to be seven minutes.

Vienna is just now beginning to feel one of the evils of carrying specialism to its extreme; for it seems that there is no man of note in Austria who can be elected to fill the chair of medicine, vacant by the death of Professor Duchek. Of specialists, there are plenty; but no

one who has devoted his time to general medicine. At present, Dr. Kretschy (for several years Duchek's assistant) is taking the duty, and a committee of the professors has been formed to consider the subject. According to the *Medicinische Presse*, it is probable that a successor will be called from Germany; and that the choice will rest between Professors Erb of Leipzig, Eulenberg of Greifswald, and Nothnagel of Jena. All of these, however, but more especially the first, are specialists.

At a meeting of the "Gesellschaft der Aerzte," held lately, Professor Arlt read a paper on the influence of the "Hochquellen" water-supply on the health of Vienna. This supply was introduced in November 1873, and is derived from the mountains, about fifteen miles out of the town. Since this date, more and more houses have been supplied from it. A fall in the mortality from typhoid fever began in 1851, but the most important was in 1874. In 1855, it averaged 2.3 per 1,000; at present, it is 0.2. In 1874, in the houses supplied from this source, the mortality was 1.7 in every 100 cases of fever; in those supplied from other sources, 3.1. In 1877, the former had declined to 1 per cent., while the latter had risen to 10 per cent. This shows very clearly what an important effect the water-supply can have on a town. If the sanitary authorities would now devote a little time to the drainage, especially the closets, many of which are unpleasantly odoriferous, it might be possible to get Vienna into a still more healthy condition.

From Buda-Pesth, we learn that the report of the Committee of Professors, which was recently formed to consider the suitabilities of Szegedin, as the site of the third Hungarian University, has been adverse to that town. According to the report, this town, which is situated in southern Hungary, possesses a hospital; but it is so small, and its hygienic conditions are so unsatisfactory, that it would require to be rebuilt. A meeting also took place concerning Pressburg, which was rather more favourable, as its special qualifications are not inferior, and it has the advantage of being a more cultured town. Students might well be envied who had to study at so prettily situated a town as Pressburg.

Professor Eppinger of Graz has been appointed to the chair of Pathology in Prague; Dr. Chiari is spoken of as the probable Prosector here; and Dr. Weichselbaum as Kundrat's successor in Graz. Professor Kundrat has already commenced duties here.

MILITARY AND NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

THE death of Surgeon-Major Pollard occurred on Sunday, April 25th, a few days after he had attained his fifty-first birthday. For six years he had been subject to locomotor ataxy.

MR. BARRAUD, of Gloucester Place, London, has published a large-sized and handsomely mounted portrait of Sir William Muir, A.M.D. It is a striking likeness, and an admirable example of artistic photography.

THE NURSING STAFF OF H.M. FLEET.

SIR,—Naval medical officers in general must have been surprised at learning, from the letter of a "Medical Officer", that such a staff existed. When "nurses" are required on board ships of war, they are selected by the principal medical officer, and approved of by the captain, generally from among the patient's messmates. The duties of the sick-berth staff are not those of nurses; and your correspondent will find, in Par. 1053 of the Queen's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions, that "the sick berth steward, attendants, and nurses, are to be entirely under his direction". This shows that nurses are provided independent of, and in addition to, the sick-berth staff.—Yours obediently,
SENEX.

EXAMINATIONS OF VOLUNTEER SURGEONS.

SIR,—May I ask some of your military readers to inform me whether this examination is limited to surgeons holding commissions, or if any civil medical man having the desire to pass can do so? I presume the necessary arrangements for such examinations are made by the Army Medical Department through the regiment to which the officer belongs, or are they held at certain fixed times and places?—I am, yours truly,
IGNORAMUS.

PROFESSOR VON ARLT.—The seventieth birthday of this well-known ophthalmic surgeon was celebrated in Vienna on April 13th.

PRESENTATION.—A large number of the friends of Mr. James Irvine waited on him last week at his residence in Belfast, for the purpose of presenting him with an address accompanied by a purse of sovereigns, as a mark of their esteem, and in order to testify their appreciation of the able manner in which he had discharged the duties of medical officer of Castlereagh district for the past thirteen years. The purse of sovereigns was intended for Mr. Irvine to purchase for himself a horse and vehicle.