

tissues.—Mr. CARTER related an instance that had come under his own observation, in which the patient had been treated for syphilis with iodide of potassium with benefit; but hemiplegia supervened, and from that time the drug did no good.—Dr. ANSTIE had prescribed half-drachm doses of iodide of potassium for neuralgia with particularly good results.

Mr. CALLENDER then read a note on a plan of Reducing Old Dislocation at the Shoulder. The method, illustrated by the history of a case, consisted in raising the elbow of the dislocated limb across the chest nearly to the level of the interclavicular notch, forcing the raised arm outwards, rotating the arm in so doing, and lastly, whilst still rotating, somewhat depressing it. Practically, this plan of manipulation avoided all risk of injuring the great vessels in the axilla, as all pressure upon them was done away with.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

SIR,—In the circular just issued to members of the medical profession who have not yet joined the Association, I have noticed an error in regard to the excursion into Cornwall connected with the approaching meeting at Plymouth, which should be corrected at once, as the arrangements of the busy practitioner for his too brief holiday must be made some time beforehand. The days appointed for the excursion of the Royal Institution of Cornwall are Monday and Tuesday, the 14th and 15th of August; not the preceding Thursday and Friday, as intimated in the circular, which is so far a reprint of the notice in the JOURNAL of January 7th. The time now fixed is that originally contemplated; it was altered at the desire of our Plymouth friends, so as to fall within the limits of the meeting there; but the Committee of Council having subsequently—very judiciously, as I think—requested that no distant excursion should be arranged for the Thursday on which the dinner of the Association is to take place, the days first named for a visit to the far west were recurred to. In fact, as Penzance, the rendezvous of the excursionist, is eighty miles from Plymouth, and as the leading objects of interest can barely be seen in two days, it is clear that an attempt to dovetail this expedition with the business of the Plymouth Meeting could only tend to interference with the success of both. It is to be hoped that many of our members may be able to indulge themselves with an extension of their holiday trip, from Plymouth into these remote parts of the country; and the excursion, of which full particulars will soon be issued, will enable them to visit the points of greatest interest in a very agreeable way. I am, etc., C. BARHAM.

Truro, July 11th, 1871.

MIDWIFERY AND THE MEDICAL COUNCIL.

SIR,—Will you pardon my intruding on your space in asking for information. Are we to understand that the Medical Council by their recent decision consider that midwifery proper requires no more instruction than botany, and that the diseases of women and children require none at all? I am, etc., J. BRANTON HICKS.

9, St. Thomas's Street, S.E.

PROFESSOR HAUGHTON'S TELEOLOGY.

SIR,—It has been on my mind some time to write a short inquiry upon one point at least of Professor Haughton's brilliant discourses recently published. What Dr. Haughton says, is said so effectively that it seems as if it must be right—facts could not resist the charming of so eloquent an interpreter, and perhaps they follow his piping as less rigid things once followed Amphion. One very favourite burden of his song was this. Seeing, then, the marvellous adaptation of machinery to work done, and, what is more, the marvellous attainments of this on principles of least action, how can we suppose this machinery to have been gradually evolved? Here is nothing tentative, but here, rather, are works struck out neatly and perfectly at a blow, as watchworks are now struck from a die. And then follows much vigorous teleological argument of the same kind. Surely this is a triumph of sheer boldness; and for my poor part, conscious as I was that the eminent professor could not err, in logic at any rate, I read these passages over several times, in patient desire to arrive at their signification. But I have failed; and as others of your readers may be struggling with like doubts, may I venture to point out that in our humble judgment the argument seems to have precisely the opposite force. An evolutionist will say that realisation of least action may or may not be compatible with teleological schemes; but for his hypothesis it is not only favourable, but

absolutely essential. Any margin of machinery over and above that which is necessary would be destructive evidence against him, as it would be wholly uncaused—which is impossible. On the other hand, the teleologist should rejoice in any margin of power; for to it he would point as a provision which could not have been called forth by the average of circumstances, but must have been added as a safeguard by a prescient Creator. It is necessary for a Darwinian to prove that Nature "runs it fine"; but to a teleologist it ought to be not only unnecessary, but even rather disappointing. "But", it may be said by the professor, "there might have been a want of equation on the other side. I do not rely upon the absence of excessive provision for work, but upon the presence of that which is always sufficient; I assert that the exquisite balance which I have demonstrated in a few of the highest and perfect animals, and in the most effective parts of these, is also present in every organ of all animals." This is a hardy optimism, however, to which the lecturer will, I think, scarcely commit himself.

Leeds, July 12th, 1871. I am, etc., T. CLIFFORD ALBUTT.

OBITUARY.

SAMUEL M. HEWITT, L.K.Q.C.P., OF DUBLIN.

ALTHOUGH Dr. Hewitt, whose death took place lately, had not reached the age of twenty-five, he had acquired a very leading position among the junior physicians of Dublin. Commencing as demonstrator of anatomy, and private teacher in the school of the College of Surgeons, he became so popular that his election to the physiciancy of the City of Dublin Hospital was unopposed. In the fever-wards of this institution his devotion to the sick poor was most exemplary, and in them he contracted the contagion of typhus, which quickly resulted fatally. The May number of the *Dublin Quarterly Journal of Medicine* contains a most able and suggestive paper on "The Present State of Therapeutics", by Dr. Hewitt. His interment was attended by all his colleagues, and several other eminent medical men; and over one hundred students walked in the procession.

ARTHUR WILLIAM DUMVILLE, F.R.C.S., MANCHESTER.

THE profession in Manchester has sustained a heavy loss in the death of Mr. A. W. Dumville, who died on Saturday, July 8th, 1871, at the age of 52, deeply mourned by a wide circle of friends and patients, and by his colleagues at the hospital. Both in his public career as surgeon to the Manchester Infirmary, and (for many years) as lecturer on surgery at the School of Medicine, and in private life, he succeeded in gaining the confidence and affection of all with whom he came in contact; indeed, it is the simple language of truth to say that he died as had lived, without a single foe. His care and ability as a clinical teacher made him deservedly popular among the students, who will for a long time to come sincerely deplore his loss.

Mr. Dumville was not only gifted as an instructor, but was possessed of rare tactical skill as a surgeon. Among many other proofs of his manual ability, may be cited how brilliantly he was wont to perform Syme's operation of external urethrotomy without a guide: it is not over-praise, indeed, to affirm that no living surgeon surpassed, few could equal, the dexterity with which he performed this operation.

Mr. Dumville wrote but little, and it is therefore possible that, beyond his own city, it may be little known how skilful and judicious a surgeon, how accomplished a man, how kind a friend, how true a gentleman, has left our ranks.

ROBERT DUNDAS, M.D.

ON the 25th of June the medical profession lost a distinguished member, and his numerous friends a respected and beloved companion, in the death of Dr. Robert Dundas. Born in Ireland towards the end of the last century, he entered the medical service of the army at an early age. He served in the Peninsula, and was present at the siege of New Orleans in 1815. He subsequently settled at Bahia, in Brazil, where he had the medical superintendence of the British Hospital for twenty-three years with great credit to himself and benefit to others. His health giving way, he resigned his hospital appointment and practice, and returned to Europe with ample means, the product of his skill and industry. He