

Then Dr. Cushing stated :

This feeling in the past few months has been somewhat mitigated by the fact that, learning of our work, the owners (of diseased dogs) had begun to bring these animals to us for treatment.

Professor Osler did not think any one could visit the place and see the way in which the class was conducted without feeling that just the same care was taken of the animal as of a human being, both prior and subsequent to the operation. Asked if the students first of all saw a number of demonstrations upon healthy animals, and then when they had received that instruction, operated themselves upon diseased animals, he replied that an important operation, for instance, like that for hernia, would not be given to a man unless he had already a certain measure of technique, and till he had had some training. Asked further if, in training these men, they all had to perform some operation upon a normal animal in the first instance, the witness said he did not think necessarily. What they felt was that if possible it would be very much better to send out a group of young men who wished to practise surgery, knowing all this modern technique thoroughly, having learnt it upon animals, than that they should go and learn that technique in the first place on their patients. The technique, for instance, of stopping haemorrhage could not be taught in hospitals on human patients. He read a statement made by Dr. Cushing with reference to this point :

The paramount call upon the instructors, in this Listerian era, is that he shall emphasize and drill into his students, not as mere onlookers or hearers, but as actual performers, the significance of that much-abused term, surgical "technique," of which to-day the all-important element is aseptis—the first and the everlasting thing to be indelibly stamped on the make-up of every one who proposes to undertake operative work, whether as a surgeon or investigator. Surgical cleanliness, which must become a reflex matter—an operator's second nature—and which, like all other reflexes, must be learned early, is necessarily disregarded in the time-honoured methods of teaching this branch.

That was the ordinary dissecting-room course.

Next in importance to the acquirement of this reflex habit of cleanliness is the ability to dissect, and to gently manipulate living tissues without damaging them so as to interfere with perfect reactionless healing.

And again :

A third great requisite, which cannot be learned upon the cadaver, is an acquirement of skill in the proper control of haemorrhage, from the large as well as small vessels, for the old-fashioned rough methods of haemostasis happily are still followed by few. Nor, finally, can facility in the particular technique of visceral surgery [surgery of the abdomen and chest] be properly obtained through practice on the lifeless body, a fact which almost all those who have been pioneers in these fields of work have emphasized.

This laboratory has also been used extensively for trying new methods of surgery. For instance, extensive researches had been carried on to test new methods of surgical treatment of arterial disease, particularly aneurysm, and new methods of ligaturing and suturing arteries, which possibly might have a very important influence upon the treatment of arterial disease. Asked if he could say from his own knowledge that what was now suggested to be a regular course of instruction for those who should become surgeons had been the practice for many years among surgeons themselves in their operations, Dr. Osler replied that nearly all great surgeons had operated on animals from John Hunter's day. He should think that nearly all the great surgical procedures had been tried on animals first, just as medicines were tried on animals before they were tried on man. In reply to further questions, he said he thought the Act of 1876 had hampered a number of surgeons. In reply to Sir William Collins, he said there was no Federal law on the subject of vivisection in America nor in any of the States. Asked whether, having had experience of both systems, he would suggest that the method of the States should be followed here, he said that, personally, he felt that the matter could be left safely in the hands of the men in charge of the physiological laboratories and the scientific men of this country. He would not like to express his feelings as strongly as they existed on what he regarded had been in some ways a standing insult to the humanity of these men. They had been hounded by a great section of the public in a way

that he thought disgraceful to the English people. These were men who had lived lives of devotion and self-sacrifice, and whose service to humanity had been so incalculable that they ought not to be treated in the way they had been. He thought they might trust implicitly to the humanity of the physiologists. He knew these men; they were just as humane as any other men; and to place these vexatious restrictions upon them was an insult.

(To be continued.)

THE SWEDISH MEDICAL SOCIETY'S CENTENARY CELEBRATION.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

DURING the autumn of 1807 a few medical men of kindred sympathies met together at Stockholm to talk what would nowadays be termed "shop." Among them were Gadellius and Berzelius, who were then about 28 years of age, and von Schulzenheim and Gahn, who were both about 60. Out of these meetings the Swedish Medical Society arose. Gadellius, who was then Prosecutor of Anatomy under Hagström, undertook the organization of the society. Its objects were the advancement of medical science and the promotion of social intercourse among medical practitioners. An immediate success was achieved. Twenty-two members were enrolled during the first year. Meetings were first held at the houses of some of the members, but in 1809 a definite meeting room was obtained in Hagström's Museum in the College of Medicine House in Riddarholmen. Those who have made the excursion to the Gripsholm or Drottningholm Palaces will remember passing Riddarholmen when making their way over or under the railway to the steamboat. Here the society met regularly every Tuesday at 6 p.m., and to this day similar meetings have been held. A short scientific meeting, followed by the now known world wide "Smörgåsbord," with its associated social intercourse, was and is the rule. A welcome and marked courtesies awaited any foreign visitor. The society rapidly gained the approbation of all the medical practitioners in Stockholm and Sweden, and established itself as a centre of earnest scientific zeal and brotherly harmony. It elected a few honorary foreign members, one of whom was the late Professor Dreschfeld, and soon obtained universal recognition.

When the College of Medicine was moved to the now famous Carolinska Institute the society met in a room at the institute. Soon, however, it was found necessary to have a permanent club house, and the society migrated to 19, Jacobsgatan, near the fine St. Jacob's Church, which every visitor to Stockholm makes a point of seeing. Here the society continued to meet every Tuesday at 6 p.m. during the Michaelmas and Lent terms, and the rooms and library were always open for the use of the members. In 1906 the present stately pile of buildings in Klara Kyrkogård, near the Klara Church, were occupied, and the fine library of the society is now adequately housed.

The centenary celebrations were held on October 25th in the Musical Academy, where several English scientists have within recent years received the tangible honours attaching to the Nobel prizes. At 2 p.m. the King and Queen and other members of the royal family entered the hall. After the assembly had given vent to its patriotism the proceedings commenced with the rendering of a cantata specially composed for the occasion by Dr. Anton Kull. The libretto was written by Professor C. G. Santesson, who will be remembered by those who took part in the opening of the Aberdeen Marischal College a year or so ago.

Professor F. Lennmalm then delivered the Presidential address, which dealt with the historical aspects of Swedish medicine. He then presented to Professor O. Hammarsten and Professor G. Retzius a "100 year gold medal," to Dr. Ivar Wickman the Swedish Medical Society's prize for his work on "The Paralysis of Children," and to Dr. Gunnar Forssner the Alvarenga prize for his researches on "Diseases of the Heart in Children." The recipients of these medals and prizes were each personally congratulated by the King.

Addresses and deputations were then received from the Swedish Medical Council, the Swedish Academy of Science, the Upsala Medical Society, the Finnish and Belgian Medical Societies, and other bodies.

The King next expressed his thanks to Professor Lennmalm for his address, and the proceedings were terminated with the folk song—

Thou ancient, thou glorious, thou Alp-crowned North,
Thou jewel, so peaceful charms enshrining!
I greet thee, thou fairest land standing forth
With sun and skies for ever brightly shining.

In the evening, the much described Hasselbacken was *en fête* for the occasion. Every one who goes to Stockholm presumably visits Hasselbacken, so it will be easy to picture this banquet with its 400 guests (among whom was the King with fifty guests of honour) and the bright costumes of the Göta Life Guards band lit up by the thousand and one lights of the garden. When the royal toast had been duly honoured, the King made a speech. He referred to the fact that Linné and Berzelius, of world-wide reputation for their botany and chemistry, yet won laurels at home for their knowledge and practice of the healing art. He also cited the names of Anders Retzius and Magnus Huss as representative of those who have impressed the results of Swedish researches upon the memory of every medical student.

In connexion with the celebrations, a most interesting collection of historical medical portraits, instruments, and manuscripts is displayed in the Nordiska Museum. There are about 130 oil paintings and a number of old drawings. Among the instruments may be mentioned some eye instruments made by a watchmaker in 1700, a trephine used by Professor Bjerken upon the great General von Döbeln in the Finnish war, and a curious apparatus for injecting air into cataleptics. There is also an alchemists' retort used by a Nordenskiöld, who in 1700 endeavoured to make gold for Gustaf III.

Professor G. F. Lennmalm and Docent Edward Sederholm were decorated with the order of the North Star on a subsequent day.

LITERARY NOTES.

MR. PAUL BUSH's presidential address to the Bath and Bristol Branch of the British Medical Association, which is published in full in the *Bristol Medico-Chirurgical Journal* of September, deals with the history of the Bristol Royal Infirmary. The infirmary was founded in 1735, and thus, according to Mr. Bush, is the oldest provincial hospital in the country. The institution is fortunate in having had a historian in the person of Richard Smith, who was surgeon to the infirmary from 1796 to 1843. He left fourteen portly volumes of scraps, newspaper cuttings, portraits, and gossip, from the two earliest of which volumes Mr. Bush has made some interesting extracts. "Dick Smith" was a man of great virility and strength, fond of society and good wine, a great Freemason, ready to quarrel, but full of pluck and life and ever ready to stand up for colleagues. The origin of his *Biographical Sketches* recalls the story of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's ill-starred journalistic venture, *The Watchman*. He remonstrated one day with his servant for using so much paper to light a fire, and the reply was, "Lawk, sir! they's only *Watchmen*!" In 1791 Dick Smith was going round the wards with Godfrey Lowe, then senior surgeon, when he observed in the hands of a nurse a parcel of papers intended for the common uses of the ward. On examining these he was surprised to find that they were official letters addressed to the governors of the charity. To a question as to how she procured these documents, he got the answer: "Where we get them all from, the old ward." Curiosity led to further investigation, and on the floor of a deserted and ruinous garret he found piles of papers, which proved to be the documents respecting the institution from its very commencement. The records of the general boards and committees were dealt with like want of respect. Shocked at the base uses to which these records of the past were put, Smith determined, therefore, "to make some memoranda from the books, that, in case of their destruction, the dates of the Society's Transactions might not be utterly lost." The founder of the infirmary was John Eldridge, Comptroller of His Majesty's Customs at Bristol, who in 1735 built and furnished two wards. At his death in 1738 he left £5,000 to the institution. We get curious glimpses of the

medical practice in these days. In 1739 a benefactor purchased the famous solvent for the stone, for which Mrs. Stephens got £5,000 from Parliament; the price he paid was three guineas. How he had to give anything at all for the precious secret is something of a puzzle, for Parliament bought it for the express purpose of making it known for the general good of mankind. Toad's powder was in great favour. It was made by dipping live toads in oil of soot, burning in a pot with moderate heat, and pulverizing. Dr. Long Fox, an ancestor of the well-known physician of our own day, is reported to have said when he came to Bristol about 1786 that it was the practice of most of the regular physicians to wrap up the legs of patients in hot bullock's lights and apply a pigeon split, and hot, to the soles of the feet. Bleeding was much in favour. Dr. J. C. Prichard, the celebrated author of *The Races of Mankind*, and grandfather of the late Dr. Augustine Prichard, was physician to the infirmary. He was a worthy man, but bloodthirsty as a leech; in one week in 1816 he ordered 96 out-patients to be "blooded," while of 21 patients admitted under him, all but one were subjected to the same treatment. Of John Ford, who was surgeon to the infirmary from 1743 to 1759, Mr. Bush tells us that he gained the good graces of Lord Bute, then Premier, who was taking the waters at Hotwells. Bute persuaded Ford to go to London, where in 1788 he was appointed physician to Queen Charlotte, wife of George III. He was very successful, but lost his money in a theatrical speculation in which he was concerned with Sheridan. A partnership with "Sherry" was not likely to be profitable. They purchased David Garrick's share of Drury Lane Theatre for £35,000. Mr. Bush records the following royal jest on the subject. Soon after Ford made his unlucky investment, the King asked him if it were a fact. Ford replied, "Yes, may it please your Majesty." "Oh, yes," replied the King, "it pleases me well enough. Quite right, quite right; all very proper and appropriate, for Charlotte assures me that you are quite at home behind the curtain." Then there was Barrett, surgeon and antiquary, who, it would appear, unsuspectingly incorporated in his *History and Antiquities of the City of Bristol* some of the documents forged by Chatterton. Yet when the "peerless boy," just before he "perished in his pride," writes in his despair, for a recommendation that might help him to get a billet as surgeon's assistant on board an African trader, Barrett's reply (if he did reply) would seem to have been unfavourable. Another man of note was one Ludlow, who, at the election for the post of surgeon in 1766, received 146 votes, while a rival candidate named Stone received 147. A recount was demanded by Ludlow, when the position was reversed, Ludlow this time having a majority of one. A third count being demanded, a free fight ensued, the voting papers were upset, and some of them were lost. The Gordian knot was cut by the chairman declaring—in the face of the rules of the infirmary—that both candidates were elected. Memories of the famous election in *Pickwick* are evoked by the statement that a certain doctor physicked three of Ludlow's supporters so drastically that they were unable to vote; on the other hand, one of Stone's supporters was seen trying to hide a voting paper in his hat. Ludlow got into trouble with his colleagues for treating medical cases. He therefore got a degree of M.D. from a Scottish university. The case was taken to court, when the following sapient verdict was recorded:

The jury being satisfied of his (Ludlow's) great abilities as a medical practitioner, did not inquire whether he had sent for it by post from Scotland, or whether, like his opponent (Dr. Rigge), he had walked for it to Padua.

Rigge was evidently "gey ill to live wi'" as a colleague, for he tried to prevent the surgeons from admitting patients to the infirmary without the consent of the physicians; moreover, he contended that no surgeon should perform a major operation without the consent of the physicians. That ferocious old pedant, Gui Patin, would have found in him a kindred spirit had he lived in Paris a century earlier. Mr. Bush's address is full of other amusing matter, and we recommend all interested in the habits and customs of the profession in the eighteenth century to read it for themselves.