

ABSTRACTS OF INTRODUCTORY ADDRESSES

DELIVERED AT

THE METROPOLITAN AND PROVINCIAL SCHOOLS,

On OCTOBER 1st, 1874.

KING'S COLLEGE.

AT King's College, the opening lecture was delivered by Dr. FERRIER, Professor of Forensic Medicine and Assistant-Physician to the Hospital.

The lecturer, after welcoming the students, old and new, remarked that the study of medicine was one which presented peculiar attractions, dealing as it does with subjects of universal curiosity and interest, besides being of a continually progressive nature, and offering practically unlimited fields for new and original research. The important position and great influence which the medical profession at present possessed entailed all the graver responsibilities on those who would worthily fit themselves for their professional duties. In the short time allotted to medical study, almost the whole circle of the sciences had to be gone through. The impossibility of doing all well had led to serious doubts on the part of those whose opinion on medical education was of the greatest weight, whether some of the subjects at present included in the medical curriculum should not be cut out, so as to allow greater concentration on the more purely practical subjects. Thus botany and natural history, which can hardly be considered necessary to enable a man to recognise and treat disease, were proposed to be excluded. The lecturer admitted that, so far as purely practical work was concerned, these, as well as some other subjects which had to be studied, were not absolutely essential; but he thought there was danger in fostering the natural narrowing tendency of all purely professional pursuits to the exclusion of that breadth of scientific culture which had always been the boast of the medical profession, and to which as much as to its mere handicraft skill it owed its recent progress and present position. The disproportion between the proficiency achieved and the time spent in studying these accessory sciences, he thought, was much exaggerated; and he pointed out various relations in which even only a general acquaintance with these subjects was of the utmost practical importance.

While some branches of medical study might, without disparagement to them, be admitted to be only of secondary importance, there were others which claimed special attention as constituting the very foundation of all rational appreciation and treatment of disease. Prominent among these stood Physiology, the claims of which he desired to urge, not so much in reference to its position as the key to all scientific knowledge of the nature of disease, which all admitted, but to the less generally recognised important bearing it had on therapeutics or the treatment of disease. The tendency of modern medicine was to place therapeutics on a rational and scientific basis, in contradistinction to its present position, that of almost pure empiricism. Notwithstanding the thousands of years during which medicine had been cultivated, and the numerous scientific discoveries which helped to constitute the body of medical science, the term science was scarcely applicable to that department of it which related to the treatment of disease by means of remedies. Nor would it be, till we had succeeded in establishing more definite and precise laws regarding the efficacy and mode of action of drugs. There was hope that, by the study of experimental pathology and experimental pharmacology, which were only branches of physiological investigation, we might realise a science of therapeutics. The method here indicated as that which rational medicine ought to pursue was, however, opposed by many, who regarded as misleading all attempts to rationalise therapeutics by reasonings founded on physiological experimentation on the lower animals, and who looked upon pure clinical research as the only road to trustworthy results. In support of this position, many arguments were advanced; among others, the mischievous and pernicious errors which the history of medicine showed to have been the consequence of neglecting clinical observation to indulge in theoretical speculation and physiological theories regarding disease and its treatment. The lecturer proceeded to discuss how far a parallel could be drawn between the early efforts of medical philosophers and the methods inculcated by the physiological physicians of the present day. He gave a short sketch of the development of therapeutics and of the history of the chief revolutions of medical science, and showed that these truly demonstrated the pernicious consequences of medical practice directed by pathological and physiological theories founded on abstract specula-

tion, and not on the contemplation of nature; and that, though through many errors some valuable facts had been established of which we reaped the benefit, yet they had often been arrived at by a reckless and hazardous system of experimentation on human beings, which had cost many lives, and from which multitudes had only escaped with debilitated and impaired constitutions. There was, however, little or no analogy between the physiology and pathology of the past and that of the present day, which was founded on rigid experiment conducted according to exact and precise method, and which discouraged all attempts to solve difficulties by mere abstract speculation. To physiological investigation of this character, we owed most of our recent progress in accurate knowledge of the intimate nature of diseased conditions. But, with all this advance in scientific knowledge of disease and its diagnosis, we were, as far as regards treatment, little better than empirics, unable to give any other reason for our practice than that it had been found beneficial by those who preceded us. And yet how eagerly every one, even the most rigid empiric, advanced some theory as to the physiological action of the drug he prescribed, and sought to support his treatment on some rational physiological or pathological foundation. The backward state of therapeutics naturally pointed to some peculiar difficulties inherent in the subject, or to some imperfections in the method of its cultivation. That the study of therapeutics presented difficulties not encountered in the exact science was a fact, the truth of which was easily demonstrated, but which was too often forgotten in the satires levelled at the uncertainty of medicine. The problems to be solved, incapable of being stated with all their data, could not be referred to exact calculation. Man in a state of health, and much more so in a state of disease, presented such a complex assemblage of phenomena, that the discovery of causes by mere clinical observation could not but be slow and always uncertain. The uncomplicated natural history of disease was difficult to ascertain; diseases varied and had special features imparted to them by the individuality of the patient; the mental emotions played an important part in the causation, progress, and cure of the disease; so that, to allow for each and all of these as well as many others, to estimate the exact proportion which each had in the production of the phenomena observed during the progress of treatment, to discount deficiencies and imperfections on the part of the observer, to eliminate all collateral circumstances of personal or other interest in the results recorded, constituted a mass of difficulty which the experience of countless generations had not yet been able to resolve. For, if we must believe the results of therapeutic research conducted under such conditions, we should be obliged to admit that the same diseases had been equally well cured by the most sanguinary and heroic, and by the most mild and expectant treatment; by remedies founded on the rational pathology of the disease; by infinitesimal parts of nothing; and by peppermint-water. With such conflicting evidence as to the value of therapeutics, need it be wondered that "doctors differ" had become a byword, and that many thinking men, despairing of certainty, had rushed into inveterate scepticism as to the value of medicine in general, and had assumed the position of "benevolent neutrality," declining to interfere between the patient and the *vis medicatrix nature*?

It was in the nature of the subject, pursued as it had been, that such things should exist; but that we should rest and be thankful, and accept as ultimate facts conditions which might be capable of being overcome, was hardly in consistence with the general spirit of scientific inquiry. We must recognise the necessity of reducing the problem to more limited dimensions, and of bringing the conditions of the investigation under our control, by applying to therapeutics the same exact system of experimentation which had done so much to advance the sciences of physiology and pathology. To experiment on human beings, after the manner of old, was contrary to the genius of the profession, and the progress of research pointed to experimentation on the lower animals as the only means of arriving at that knowledge of the exact action of drugs, which was necessary before a rational treatment could be linked on to a rational pathology. Against this method there were numerous objections, some of which were worthy of serious consideration. It is urged, with some show of reason, that we were not justified in transferring to human beings the results of pharmacological investigation on the lower animals, on account of the differences observed to exist, many drugs which had a powerful action on man exerting little or no influence on animals, and *vice versa*. These facts were acknowledged, and several individual instances were discussed, but these anomalies were not to be regarded as ultimate facts any more than the so-called idiosyncrasies observable among patients. Physiological research had already succeeded in explaining several of these peculiarities; and though all difficulties had not been cleared up, the progress made justified the hope that they would all ultimately be removed. In the cases where animals and men were affected in all outward respects in a similar manner, and these only were argued from, unless physiology

were a fallacy and biology a myth, the establishment of the action of the drug on one of the lower animals was applicable to man.

Hasty generalisation was greatly to be deprecated, and clinical observation, instead of being neglected by scientific therapeutists, required to be, if possible, more thorough, more accurate, and more minute. The differences occasionally arising between "practical men" and experimentalists showed the necessity that existed for a more thorough union of the physiologist with the physician. The results of trustworthy experience were by no means to be disregarded by the pharmacologist. Often the most successful practice was united with the most erroneous theory as to the action of medicines; but, though the theory was proved on investigation to be false, it by no means followed that the treatment should be abandoned. It was more philosophical to endeavour to ascertain the real foundation of its proved usefulness.

It was sometimes assumed that pharmacological investigation had added but little to our *materia medica*, as compared with the numerous valuable remedies which had been discovered and established by the method of empiricism which the rational physician would decry. No doubt, many of our most highly prized drugs were the result of lucky accident, but many more were the result of hazardous experiments on patients.

We could not always wait for lucky accidents, nor were we justified in experimenting on those who sought our aid. Yet, it could not be said that therapeutics had reached perfection; witness such opprobria of medicine, as cholera, zymotic disease, hydrophobia, etc., before which we had to confess ourselves almost powerless. Physiological research had established many valuable remedies, witness the anæsthetics, hydrate of chloral, nitrite of amyl, Calabar bean, and many others, besides extending the use of many already known, while the ascertained facts of physiological antagonism had enabled us to counteract successfully many formerly invariably fatal poisons. Results such as these justified the hope that physiological research would one day clear away the many opprobria of practical medicine. Yet there had been some danger that the progress of scientific medicine should be discouraged by the outcry of a certain class against what they called the inhumanity and cruelty of physiological investigation. The lecturer had no intention of making an *apologia vivisectionis*, for he despaired of convincing its opponents of its morality, seeing it only rested on a principle which was acted on, and necessarily, in almost every relation of life. But he strongly objected to the conduct of those who, professing to have such delicate sensibilities, pryed into what was not written for them, merely for the purpose of misrepresentation and vilifying in the public prints those who might be actuated by as high principles of humanity as themselves. To another numerous class, a proverb was applicable, which defined certain persons as unfit to see things half done, viz., those who could appreciate the benefits arising from certain physiological experiments, but were unable to understand the bearing or practical benefits to be derived from others of a similar nature, and would, therefore, oppose them as wrong and unnecessary. To such vexatious opposition, it was to be hoped there would soon be an end, but apparently with little chance of immediate realisation in a curious age of general enlightenment and holy pilgrimages. The lecturer concluded with the hope that he might have excited some degree of enthusiasm for the cultivation of rational medicine.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL.

THE Introductory Address was delivered by Mr. EDMUND OWEN, Assistant-Surgeon to the Hospital.

Addressing his hearers as "fellow-students of medicine", Mr. Owen assured them of the pleasure and responsibility which he experienced in being honoured with the task of offering them the formal introduction to their studies. Having bidden welcome to those gentlemen who were present as friends of the School and visitors, he begged the indulgence of their attention whilst he treated on subjects more or less connected with medical education.

The "introductory address" had been frequently spoken of as of questionable value; and this the lecturer thought to be due to a great extent to its being made anything but an address to neophytes, and, instead of containing much good and earnest advice, being often made the occasion of advancing the author's own peculiar views of medical or general science, or of well wrought arguments beyond the general ken. He thought that it should be rendered in its aim as nearly like that most celebrated of all addresses which was delivered nearly three centuries ago by an earnest queen on the eve of a most important event; then, indeed, it might have the desired effect of awakening in the young student a proper appreciation of the golden opportunities which were about to be offered to him.

Mr. Owen advised the new students to procure a small dictionary of

medical terms, and to make it a rule to inform themselves, in one way or another, on all subjects which they might hear discussed, and which they might not at first comprehend. He advised them to read over the subject of a lecture before entering the theatre, and to be content with taking the shortest notes of a lecture or demonstration, lest they lost much of what was being said, and more of what was being shown. Experience had also taught him that the fuller the notes were of a lecture, the less inclination would there be to wade through them in the evening. He assured them that, even if they found reading most uncongenial, if they only made up their minds to conquer it, they would succeed; for, by gentle and continuous exercise of the intellect, it could be rendered completely subservient to the will. If, after working for some time at any one subject, it became wearisome, it should be put aside, as Dr. Carpenter recommended, and something else allowed to take its place—even play. Mr. Owen suggested that the best time for work would be between the hours of nine o'clock in the morning and one. He had been often informed from reliable sources, that those hours were most productive when the grass was heavy with the dew, but upon this point he could not speak from personal observation. Of this, however, he could authoritatively assure them: that, if they got into the habit of reading late at night and into the small hours of the morning, their health must suffer. He much regretted that many students only worked at their professional education when an examination began to stare them in the face—matching, as it were, the intellect against time. Such a process of cramming was extremely bad, the information so quickly acquired as quickly vanishing.

Having given further advice on the way of working, Mr. Owen passed to the subject of the exercise of memory, and of the artificial aids to which many had recourse. The great mind looked upon such schemes as intellectual trickery; but in these days, when the medical student was called upon to burden his memory with much information which would be of little practical use to him in after-life, he would of necessity develop some such artificial support. The idle man would abuse it; and thus names were found cropping up in examination answers, for which the only excuse which could be urged was, that they had the same initial letter as those which were required. But surely it was a legitimate help to inform the student who was occupied with the difficult subject of ossification, that the ossific centres were equal in number to the letters in the word in the case of *vertebra, rib, sternum, scapula, humerus, and femur*.

Whilst the student was occupied with his technical studies, he must be on his guard lest his imagination become cramped from a long captivity; and to this end it would be well for him to find time for reading the works of such authors as Shakespeare, George Eliot, or any other writer for whom he may have already acquired a liking. The lecturer cited these authors on account of their great familiarity with medical occupations and line of life. He also called attention to the value of the drama as a popular educator; and, whilst regretting that it did not hold a more prominent and beneficial position at the present day, recommended his hearers to see as much of Shakespeare, Sheridan, and Goldsmith, as might not be incompatible with severer studies. Referring them to the value of the proper use of a well exercised imagination, he reminded his hearers that without it the names of Columbus, Jenner, and Harvey, would not have become immortal.

The lecturer found great fault with our present system of medical education, attributing most of its weaknesses to one of two causes—the forced attendance of students upon lectures, and the multiplicity of metropolitan medical schools, with a consequent waste of teaching material. With regard to the former defect, the only plea which he had yet heard urged in its favour was, that the public required the "signing up" as a guarantee that the medical student was in the way of obtaining knowledge. For his own part, he felt sure that the public were as ignorant as they were careless upon the whole system of acquiring medical knowledge, and would be quite content that the final examination should remain the test of a man's fitness to practise his profession. It always seemed to him a most unhealthy system, that all students of a certain year should be driven in to lecture, without any regard for their varying tastes and intellectual capacities, there to be subjected to an injurious kind of "high-pressure" instruction. He thought that, at the present day, students were taught so much, that they were enabled to learn but little. He also went on to speculate on the manner in which our "improved" system of educational feeding would be criticised, could such clear-headed and practical men as Abernethy, Brodie, and Cooper, come amongst us once more and examine it. He looked forward to the time when, personal feelings being put out of the question, the eleven medical schools of London should be merged into two large educational centres—one north, the other south, of the Thames. By the present arrangement, he felt sure that medical education and science were great sufferers.

The lecturer then referred to the abuse of medical charity and the growing evil of "special" hospitals, characterising these institutions as being too often the private speculation of one or two eager practitioners, who, under the auspices of a blinded philanthropist, drew away, by specious advertisement, certain classes of disease which should be found as teaching material in the wards of a general hospital. He advised as to the recreations of medical students, and ended with earnest advice that, as they were occupied in watching the glorious working of Nature in the various vital processes, they should not allow a handful of knowledge to blind their eyes to the existence of a Divinity that is shaping all her ends. Rather, having placed such an honest belief high in their creed, to follow the advice given long since by a learned physician:

"Search while thou wilt, and let thy reason go
To ransom truth, e'en to th' abyss below.
Rally the scatter'd causes; and that line
Which Nature twists, be able to untwine:
It is thy Maker's will."

It was in such a spirit as this that those princes amongst philosophers worked, Newton, Boyle, and Faraday, men whose mighty intellects had flooded the world of science with the light of truth.

ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

THE Introductory Address was delivered by Mr. William Mac Cormac, Surgeon to the Hospital.

After some preliminary remarks, Mr. Mac Cormac dwelt on the fact that the student must not depend exclusively for instruction on others, but must also, and most patiently, learn to instruct himself. To do this efficiently, he should have received a well-grounded preliminary culture. The lecturer pointed out that without such previous training, a man was liable to be distanced in the race of life; that the student who found himself required to fill up the deficiencies of a defective education, as well as to master the intricate details and manifold bearings of a great profession, would prove too heavily weighted either to do justice to himself or the calling he has chosen. Mr. Mac Cormac combated the idea that, in respect of the task before him, the termination of the student's career would see the end of his exertions. He showed that excellence was not thus to be compassed, but must be aimed at, struggled for, without end. He pointed out that effort itself conferred a sure reward, a disciplined intelligence, and a well-directed will. He adverted to the relations of the teacher with the taught, the genial bearing of the one influencing the apt intelligence of the other; that there was between them a community of purpose which, rightly exercised, would lead to the best results, and that the student had no better friend or confidant than his teacher.

The long career of the ancient foundation of St. Thomas's afforded Mr. Mac Cormac the opportunity of giving some interesting details of the position of surgery and surgeons in bygone days; there was specialism, and of a very bad form, then as now. He pointed to some of the extravagances that were then committed, and the absurd length to which the belief in certain remedies was carried; quoting the somewhat amusing instance of a physician who, having refused to be bled in his extremity, was anathematised with the depletion which, it was hoped, he might have to undergo in a different world. The lecturer forcibly dwelt, however, on the debt of gratitude we owed to the worthies of the past, and to the immense difficulties which they not only encountered but overcame, and urged us

"Ever to be mindful of the Faithful Dead."

Mr. Mac Cormac was justly appreciative of the enormous contributions made to modern science on the part of Continental practitioners, and dwelt upon the necessity of an acquaintance with the languages in which those labours were recorded. "There are", he said, "workers everywhere; but how are we to benefit by their work unless we understand their language? We may, indeed, avail ourselves of translations, but these at best are but diluted transcripts, bereft of all the life and verve of the original, and mostly come too late to prove of much advantage. We are, in fact, somewhat prone to wrap ourselves up in our insularity, if I may adopt the expression. Insularity may be an admirable thing geographically speaking, but in science it is too often fatal." The long list of names—too long to enumerate—of German, French, American, and English surgeons, to whom surgery and the world were indebted, was securely registered in the record of their fame.

The great efforts which had been made to mitigate the horrors of modern warfare were spoken of by Mr. Mac Cormac; and he enlarged on those efforts as one who had witnessed something of the evils they were intended to assuage. He showed how much our times were in advance of the past, but he also showed how even the immense

resources of modern military surgery found themselves unequal to cope with the horrors of such modern battle-fields as those of Mars-la-Tour and Gravelotte, where 42,000 men fell dead or wounded on the German side alone.

In conclusion, Mr. Mac Cormac urged the student to cultivate, at once as a solace and recreation, some pursuit not immediately bearing upon his profession. He pointed out that of many within reach none was perhaps better deserving attention than the cultivation of general literature, which, as Sir John Herschel had said, placed its possessor in contact with the best society of every period of history, made him a denizen of all nations, a contemporary of all ages.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL.

THE Introductory Address was delivered by Dr. W. HOWSHIP DICKINSON, Physician to the Hospital.

The lecture opened with an allusion to St. George, contrasting his ancient calling as a soldier with his present position as patron of a hospital; wherein he wages no war but with disease; his enemy, that crowned shadow whom mortals fear; the frontier in dispute, that of the dark monarchy whence no ambassador returns.

Pausing for an instant on the importance of medicine in reference to the amount of preventable disease, the unnecessary deaths in England alone being equal, in one generation, to the population of London, or in one week to as many as were put to death in France in the reign of Terror, the lecturer said—"Sanitas sanitatum omnia sanitas" may well be taken, in default of a better, as the motto of a political party; and I think it will be well for the State, and but duly regardful of a waste of life which is only to be paralleled, and that but for a short time, by war on the largest scale and in the most sanguinary shape, when the profession to which we belong is represented in the councils of the nation as weightily as can be ensured by official place and conferred dignity."

Proceeding to the present state of medicine and its relations to the allied sciences, the antiquity of medicine was contrasted with the modern origin of the sciences with which its advance is connected. Old traditions and new knowledge, each with its claims to consideration, medicine in one view rich with the spoils of time, in the other encumbered with some of its dust, ancient and mediæval medicine, were touched upon; and the mediæval physician was sketched as a visionary, with the astronomical globe ready to his hand, and his portrait bordered by the signs of the zodiac; some of whose theories, the doctrine of signatures and the humoral pathology, still influence practice; the latter especially in the absurdities of counterirritation, some of which were described as more worthy of the genius of red Indians than of the benevolent intent of one Christian to another.

Turning now to later modes of thought, the great advances of chemistry during the last hundred years were referred to, with the medical improvements consequent thereupon, culminating in anaesthesia by inhalation. Pathology was similarly dealt with, together with the recent origin of the achromatic microscope and the new views thence derived as to the nature of disease; pathology, like the age, becoming materialist, functional or unsubstantial diseases fitting before the microscope like ghosts at sunrise.

The lowest forms of organic life were alluded to in reference to the large influences, strangely disproportioned to their minuteness, which, as causes of disease, they exert upon the fortunes of humanity. The lecturer declined to enter upon the subject of spontaneous generation, but professed himself willing, if necessary, to adopt the view of the Roman commander, with regard to the animals of the Nile—"Your serpent of Egypt now is bred of your mud by the operation of your sun, so is your crocodile."

The sketch of modern advance was completed by allusion to the instruments dealing with light and sound, which have advanced the art of diagnosis.

Thus, tracing the recent progress in medicine, directly or indirectly, to knowledge extraneous to itself;—seeing for how long, in the absence of the sciences, it remained stagnant, or with only fitful advance; how fanciful theories led to erroneous practice, which observation alone was inadequate to correct; and how, sharing in the development of science, it had made greater progress during the last hundred years than since the epoch of Galen, the physician of the early Roman empire;—to natural science was awarded the first place among the agents of medical progress. But it was not to be forgotten that science, however advancing, was yet necessarily imperfect, it might mislead as well as lead aright, and prove on occasion not a guiding star but an *ignis fatuus*; hence suggestions thence derived must be scrutinised in their application with suspicious care, ever adjusting, correcting, and, when necessary, renouncing the indications of principle according to the teaching

of observed results. Giving due place to scientific or speculative thought on the one hand, and to experience on the other; the first was the motive power, the second the controlling influence; the first the steed, the second the bridle; with only the one, we should be sure to go astray; with only the other, we should for ever stand still, or at best advance in a very halting and footsore style.

Theory was insisted upon as an idea of purpose inseparable from human action; and *practical men* who affect to be superior to theory were stigmatised as no less theoretical than their neighbours, though influenced not by the rational principles of ripening knowledge, but by the exploded fallacies of the past. "A practical man", according to the great leader, whom, as a conservative, practical men should respect, "is a man who practises the errors of his predecessors".

No therapeutical suggestion should be discarded as too chemical; no pathological inquiry, however minute, as unpractical; no appliance in aid of diagnosis as newfangled or superfine; observation should be trusted, tradition distrusted. Students were urged to study the nature and course of disease, so as to be able to interfere with it when necessary and possible, and to be content to leave it alone when, as often happens, the disease of itself tends to health, or in other instances is outside the scope of our researches.

Let us, said the lecturer in conclusion, be no mere distributors of salves and potions, for everything its remedy, and half the remedies delusions, but, while we practise the art of medicine, let us study the science of disease, and accept promise of unbroken progress and increasing utility in association with that knowledge of universal nature, ever widening and deepening in all her modes and results, which is the glory of the age and the hope of the future.

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.

THE Introductory Address was delivered by Mr. ANDREW CLARK, Assistant-Surgeon to the Hospital.

After a few introductory remarks, the lecturer said he should address himself principally to those among his audience who were for the first time assembled in a medical school, and begged the senior students to consider such parts as were applicable addressed also to them. Whatever branch they took up, they would have a life of hard work; and, in speaking of the Army and Navy, he expressed a hope that the Government would soon look into the working of the medical departments of those services, lest an idea should gain ground in medical schools that they were not sufficiently good openings for young men, and their efficiency be at stake. He next alluded to the importance of the study of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, even to those who did not make that a speciality; and then pointed out how much remained for the scientific worker, especially in the domain of therapeutics, where we were still much in the dark; and urged the students to hard work, telling them that the higher public offices were open to them, as well as those in their own hospital and school. He urged them to bring to the exercise of their work charity and true love for their fellow-men, and laid particular stress on this, because it seemed to him that, although the profession exercised charity towards the world, there was a great want of charitable feeling among themselves, it being too common a thing to aggrandise oneself at another's expense. He spoke of the necessity of practical work, and pointed out the opportunities the Middlesex Hospital presented for practical study, but said at the same time that theory and science must not be forgotten. He considered, he said, that students had two great aims before them—one to obtain a legal qualification, and the other to acquire a thorough knowledge of medicine; and regretted that sometimes the two did not go together, as they certainly ought. In speaking of qualifications, he said so much depended on the future intentions of each individual, that he could not advise them as to the examinations for which they should present themselves, but hoped they would all go beyond the M.R.C.S. and L.S.A. In alluding more particularly to the subjects of study, he said emphatically that the only place to learn anatomy was the dissecting-room, where at least three hours a day should be spent; and those who had not parts of their own should employ their time by assisting others, there being no better way of learning than by teaching. All should work together, having one great prize to look forward to—viz., the acquirement of knowledge. He went on to say that three winter and two summer sessions—the time required by the licensing boards—were little enough for hospital work; and he begged the students to begin at once, and not wait until they had passed eighteen months of their curriculum, as advised by some. They could not have too much clinical work. At the same time, if they could afford a year, before becoming registered students, for preliminary scientific studies, so much the better. He advised men to take offices early in the hospital—say at the

end of six months; and said that, if they only kept their eyes open, at any rate in the surgical wards, they would not fail to benefit by attendance there. He spoke of the duties of hospital officers, and remarked that students must not suppose patients were admitted for their instruction; but they were allowed to make use of them for that purpose where no injury was likely to ensue. In alluding to the subject of cramming, now-a-days very much in vogue, but not at all necessary for the ordinary medical examinations, he said the duties of the college tutor were not those of a grinder, as some appeared to suppose, but to help students, and especially junior students, out of difficulties, and advise them as to their studies. He recommended them never to be afraid to ask questions. He next pointed out the advantages to be derived from the class-examinations held every six weeks, which were instituted not so much to encourage the spirit of emulation, as to give facility in writing and speaking. Another and last method of learning he would mention was by conference; and they had opportunities of this by attending the meetings of the Hospital Medical Society. This was the oldest society of the kind in London; and its continued prosperity depended on the students, who, he hoped, would continue to take the same interest in it they had hitherto done, for their own and their successors' sakes. In speaking of recreation, he told his hearers it was as necessary as work, especially to residents at the hospital. He thought sports and pastimes were now competing too successfully with studies in our schools and colleges, and wished to impress upon students of medicine, whose engrossing and never-ending study should prevent too great indulgence in them, the necessity of making amusement secondary to work. The lecturer then alluded to the loss of Dr. John Murray, whose bust had recently been placed in the museum; and spoke of the Murray Scholarship founded in the University of Aberdeen, which was open to students of the Middlesex Hospital under certain conditions; and, in conclusion, said that students should be encouraged to persevere when they thought of the great discoveries of Harvey, Jenner, and Sir Charles Bell, who for twenty-two years was surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital; and that they had similar opportunities. Let us call to mind Longfellow's words:

"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime;
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labour and to wait."

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

THE Introductory Lecture was delivered by Dr. F. T. ROBERTS, Assistant-Physician to the Hospital.

After a few prefatory remarks, the lecturer drew attention to the remarkable progress which had taken place in the medical profession as a science and an art. Instead of considering this subject at any length, however, he thought it would be of more service to those for whom his remarks were intended if he were to discuss certain questions bearing upon the position of the profession, its internal organisation and external relations, and upon medical education and examinations. Perhaps, it did not matter much whether they, as students, were up in all the latest theories, or were acquainted with the most recent researches; but it made all the difference in the world whether they were turned out, at the end of their career, at all competent to practise their profession, and whether they had correct notions as to the position of their calling, its relation to great questions with which it was concerned, and their responsibilities and duties in connection therewith. His conviction was that it did a great deal of mischief to allow those who intended to enter the profession to lie under sentimental notions as to its nature and position. Eventually, and in the abstract, the "doctor's" calling was everything that ever had been, or could be, said in its praise; but, at the same time, when realised in daily life, with its many difficulties and annoyances, with its dull and wearying daily routine, it might come to be regarded as not much, if at all, above the common level; what was worse, the conviction might be forced upon them that their calling was not quite so honourable as they were led to believe, while they could not avoid noticing that its external relations were extremely unsatisfactory in many points of view. Things were certainly better than formerly, and there were signs of still greater improvement, but there was a vast deal still yet to be done in the way of reform. The general social status of the medical profession was not nearly what it might be, and even its most illustrious members could only rise to a comparatively inferior position of eminence.

In connection with the army and navy medical department, there were real grievances of a most serious character. During the last year, this country had been engaged in a war, emphatically called a "doctor's

war", and, while honours had been deservedly showered down upon others, the doctors were left pretty well out in the cold. The Poor-law service was in many parts in a decidedly degraded position. Politically, they were simply nowhere, outstripped in the race by almost every other class of individuals, headed by the publican and so-called "working man". Their interests, as a profession, were not considered as deserving of much notice; even in such questions as those concerning sanitary matters, the opinions of men, who, from their official position, were expected to advise on these subjects, had been quietly ignored, or sometimes insolently repudiated.

The lecturer then went on to remark that it would do no harm if a considerable addition of the medical element were infused into the constitution of both Houses of Parliament, and pointed out the influence which the medical profession ought to have in connection with all questions bearing upon the general health and well-being.

In considering the causes to which the unsatisfactory state of the profession might be attributed, Dr. Roberts observed that—first, its members were not a numerous or powerful body, and, therefore, Governments, etc., cared little about them; secondly, the public did not treat them fairly or kindly; they would take every advantage of them; numbers of persons obtained advice at the hospitals who could well afford to pay, while, on the other hand, they would readily give large sums to some pretentious quack. With all the late increase in charitable contributions towards the hospitals, and the generosity of anonymous donors, who sadly, however, needed direction as to what hospitals should be the objects of their generosity, there was no corresponding development of charity and consideration towards the medical staff of those institutions. He did not mean that they were not paid—a matter, however, not unworthy of notice—but they were not by any means always properly treated in other respects. People held very wrong ideas about their position, which were even encouraged by some gentlemen in their own profession.

The lecturer then spoke about the difficulties and trials which physicians and surgeons to public institutions had to undergo, and in connection therewith alluded to the sad events of the past year, paying a tribute of respect to the memory of Murray, Phillips, Dickson, Fuller, Allen, Webb, Harris, Bird, Anstie, etc.

Dr. Roberts then drew attention, thirdly, to the obstacles to true progress which existed within the profession itself. He urged the great importance of cordial co-operation and firm union in all their associations, from the most extensive to the most limited, as well of individual efforts and of highest action possible on the part of every member of the medical profession, as to the nature and aims of their vocation.

Turning to consider medical education and examinations, Dr. Roberts compared the past with the present state of things; and, in speaking of former lecturers, paid a tribute to the memory of the late Professor Grant, and also spoke in feeling terms of Dr. Sharpey, who had recently resigned the chair of Physiology. Discussing the present aspect of affairs, he alluded in strong terms to the very inefficient examinations still existing, and urged the necessity for a satisfactory curriculum of study and satisfactory examinations for every part of the kingdom.

He then pointed out the changes and advances which had been recently made with regard to these matters, treating them under the heads of alterations affecting time, subjects, and the methods of examination and instruction. Referring to examinations, he entered into a consideration of the causes of the numerous rejections of candidates, and dwelt at some length upon the question as to how far examiners, teachers, and students themselves were respectively responsible for the present unsatisfactory condition of things, as well as their proper relations to each other, and finally pleaded for their combination for the one great purpose of making the profession in reality the high and noble calling which it was in essence. For this end there were wanted examiners fully competent for their duties, and determined to perform them conscientiously and impartially, but yet with due courtesy and kindness; teachers not only possessing the ability, but eager to devote their best energies to the training of those committed to their charge, and students fully alive to their obligations and responsibilities.

After some words of exhortation, direction, and encouragement to the students present, Dr. Roberts concluded his address as follows.

"With all my heart, gentlemen, do I wish everyone of you success in the truest sense of the word. But, in order to win success, you ought to deserve it. We sometimes see a man who has spent his time in idleness and frivolity, in after-life, aided by favouring circumstances, get ahead of those who have been diligent and hard-working; and I confess that to me the sight is not an agreeable one. My sincere desire and hope is that those who have earned success here may achieve it hereafter, though there is no reason whatever why you should not everyone deserve it. And remember that a successful life need not be a brilliant or a long one. There are many obscure village practitioners, who in reality are far more successful than some who seem to float on the

highest wave of worldly prosperity; and there are tablets in this College, erected to the memory of those, who, having scarcely emerged from their student-life, accomplished more in their brief career, and were more truly successful, than most men who reach their three score years and ten. To such men would I point you as examples. Follow in their footsteps. Make your mark for good in the sphere in which your lot is cast, whether it be large or small. Let your life be, not a dark blot or a hideous caricature, but a finished picture, grand and beautiful and attractive to look upon, which will be the admiration of future ages. You may even now, if you choose, be sketching the outline of that picture; and hereafter, if your lives be spared, you can fill it in and make it perfect and complete, by devoting yourselves earnestly and faithfully to your duties, whatever they may be; and by taking your part in the conflict with disease and death, in the alleviation of pain, distress, and misery, and in the endeavour to sweep away many of the direst ills which now afflict humanity."

CHIARING-CROSS HOSPITAL.

THE Introductory Address was delivered by Dr. DOUGLAS POWELL, Assistant-Physician to the Hospital.

After some preliminary remarks, Dr. Powell observed that it was, perhaps, only on hearing the usual but none the less sincere congratulations upon the nobleness of the profession they had chosen, which were always offered to them upon these occasions, that students first questioned themselves, curiously, as to how they came to choose the medical profession; and the question, What is the use of it? might to them at first appear a little staggering. For, merely to say that the profession existed; that, of its superabundance, civilisation had yielded a fund for the lopping of overgrowths, the repair of degeneration, the preservation of buds and cuttings; and that thus doctors, like cooks and confectioners, were but the results and servants of luxury—was not a sufficiently encouraging answer to urge them onward. Nor, although a contingent pleasure, was the occasional sense of gratification that the immediate object of their lives was the relief of pain and misery, sufficient to justify to them their profession as a great one. It was too fitful and fleeting to sustain them to any high purpose, and was rather an element of over-anxiety and weakness if it held too high a place in the mind of the physician. On looking higher still for a worthier motive, they were met by the protest of some who would thrust them back again amongst the cooks and confectioners—that, by ameliorating the conditions of life, they preserved the feeble members of the human race at the expense of the strong, levelling down the whole human constitution by diluting the life of the strong with the lesser vitality of the feeble. He need not pause there gravely to contend against the futile notion that it would be possible for us to interfere with such laws of nature as determine the survival of the strongest. Such laws could not, however, be construed to mean that life was the exclusive right of those who had most of it. The laws of Nature, "bound fast in fate", were not to be changed by human will; but it seemed obvious enough that by improving the general conditions of life we acted with those laws, and upheld, if he might so say, rather than let down, the vitality of the race; for every evil condition that would extinguish a weak life, would damage, if not disable, a strong one. Proceeding to regard the matter from another aspect, Dr. Powell contended that in the intellect or mind of man, we found a new force having, within wide limits, the mastery over other forces, and, unlike them, capable of continued growth from generation to generation, and that the true aim of civilisation—a great scheme of Nature in which we but took our part—was towards the attainment of a higher development of the intellectual and moral elements of our being, to the crowning with God-like wisdom and grace that human form which, in muscle, and bone, and nerve, was as perfect centuries ago as now. He doubted whether in this direction any man had ever lived whose life had not contributed directly or reflexly to human advancement, the weak being the hostages of the strong, to bind them to industry, to lessen violence and strife amongst them, and to humanise them. The ascertainment and maintenance, then, of the laws of life and health, mental and physical, under all the conditions of human existence, was a worthy and sufficient *raison d'être* for ours as a profession, being, in other words, the maintenance of the best bodily or material conditions for continued intellectual growth.

In illustrating, in this point of view, the educational work before them, Dr. Powell quoted a recent article in the *Times* on the death of the late Dr. Anstie, saying that "science has yet to make itself heard and believed by the mass of even the educated public", and pointed out that it was only by the individual efforts of medical men, each amongst his own *clientèle*, teaching the laws of health, and the danger of neglecting them, that public opinion would ultimately be set right on such

matters. He observed that a course of lectures on Public Health, commenced last session at Charing Cross Hospital, would be continued each year, the better to equip them for this good fight. The physician had sometimes to contend, however, against other agents, more subtle than material poisons, since they lurked in each human breast, at which he would but briefly hint now. Might we not sometimes warn in time "that way madness lies"? The passions and emotions were not mere storms in some independent ether, but were physiological, amenable to education, correlative, perhaps even interchangeable. Their want of early control might lead to crime in one generation, or to mental feebleness, or some form of insanity, in another. The hereditary descent of peculiarities of character was an interesting subject for further study with a view to improved education.

Dr. Powell next urged upon his hearers the importance of early establishing for themselves a good tradition to which they would find it comparatively easy to remain loyal. He thought astuteness and decision of mind, the habit of thinking out everything to a conclusion, so attractive and commanding in the man, was particularly valuable in the professional man. He dwelt on the importance of note-taking and personal examination into everything as the best means of gaining early real experience, the safest antidote in practice to that indecision of mind against which he had already spoken. He warned senior students particularly against neglecting any branch of medical study; a man could only legitimately become a specialist after having thoroughly acquainted himself with the principles of medicine and surgery as exemplified in their every branch and department. Most of them would practise in every branch. Mentioning especially the diseases of women and children as being branches of study often somewhat neglected by students, he observed that the reflex phenomena of disease which make up a certain portion of the symptoms of all diseases, were often most clearly and simply presented to us for study in these departments, and that a good knowledge of children's diseases was the very alphabet of medicine, teaching us the resources of Nature, and how best to aid them by rest, diet, nursing, and medicine.

Dr. Powell concluded his address by commending the poor to the care of those about to pass on into practice. Amongst the poor the chief work of their profession was to be done, their chief experience gained. They had to try to raise them from their present state of sanitary discomfort and degradation, and to aid and protect them by their watchfulness and advocacy in obtaining and maintaining for them due sanitary reforms. They might greatly help them by teaching them to help themselves, and he hoped all having the opportunity would work hard in this direction, and do their best, each in his own district, to encourage some provident form of medical relief for the sick poor.

LONDON HOSPITAL.

THE introductory lecture was delivered by Dr. S. FENWICK, Assistant-Physician to the Hospital.

Dr. Fenwick commenced his lecture by stating why he thought introductory lectures should still be continued. Many of those now commencing their studies were not only ignorant of all the sciences allied to medicine, but were unpractised even in the methods by which they could be most successfully pursued. Up to the present time, their education had been restricted to languages and other branches of knowledge which only required a quick and retentive memory for their mastery, or they had been taught mathematics in which truths are deduced from facts intuitively recognised by the mind. In medical science, on the contrary, the student had to make himself acquainted with the facts from which conclusions have been derived. He has to judge how far many of the influences he is taught are justified by facts, and he has often to decide for himself between the claims of opposing theories.

All education, Dr. Fenwick remarked, had for its object either to store the mind with knowledge, or so to train and improve the mental faculties that the individual may more readily acquire knowledge for himself. The latter is *self* education. And it was of this self education, or rather of the best way of conducting it in respect to medical science, that he intended to speak on the present occasion. Self education consisted in the constant employment of certain mental powers so that they might be not only improved by exercise, but that their use might become gradually strengthened in habit.

The first habit he would advise them to cultivate was that of minute and careful observation. They would probably ask, What is easier than to observe correctly; and why trouble themselves to make it a habit? History pointed to the fact that men in all ages had been apt to neglect observation, and had allowed the plain evidence of their senses to be overruled by preconceived ideas. In illustration of this

he cited the simplest operation in surgery, that of dressing a wound. For a lengthened period surgeons believed that wounds would not heal of themselves, but that every injury to the skin must go through four distinct processes before it could unite. They, therefore, encouraged suppuration and prevented adhesion by the use of plugs and tents. Many would no doubt think that it would be impossible for such errors to be now committed. Of course, in the present day, this could not occur to the same extent; but he much feared that many a widespread belief rested more on authority than on observation.

The use of observation is to furnish facts from which conclusions may be drawn; but they must remember that, though the observations might be correct, the inferences might be erroneous. Hence the necessity for testing observation by experiment. In this method of investigation they were able to vary the conditions under which any particular fact could be observed, and by frequently altering the conditions they could often eliminate from the problem all sources of error and thus insure the accuracy of their conclusions. The history of medicine abounded with instances where unaided observation seemed to point to conclusions which subsequent experiment proved to be erroneous. A single example would be sufficient to illustrate this. In 1786, John Hunter accidentally discovered that when death took place whilst the digestion of food was going on, the coats of the stomach was often dissolved by the fluid the organ had secreted during life. This discovery, although at first it excited great interest, was soon forgotten, more especially abroad. In the beginning of the present century, great attention was bestowed in France on morbid anatomy, and pathologists were not a little surprised to find how frequently after death the stomach presented the appearance of softening, in cases where, during life, no symptoms of disease of the stomach had been observed; and they were, therefore, led to infer that inflammatory softening of this organ was a frequent, insidious, and most fatal malady. Dr. Carswell, however, determined by experiment that the so-called softening of the stomach was a mere *post mortem* effect, and not the consequence of disease. In this case, there was no fault as regarded the facts, but the inferences were incorrect.

He had been particular in thus drawing attention to the use of experiments, because he believed it would in the future be one of the chief means of investigation. Let them look back at the history of medical science during the present century. During the first thirty years, there sprang up a school of earnest and enthusiastic workers in morbid anatomy. In every disease, the condition of each organ was carefully scrutinised, and nothing could exceed the clearness and precision with which the coarser morbid changes were described. As a result of this knowledge, methods of physical investigation were invented by which these conditions could be accurately distinguished during the life of the patient; and to this school we owed the discovery of auscultation and the various other means of physical diagnosis. Within the second third of the century, improvements in the microscope placed in the hands of physicians a new instrument of research, which they were not slow to employ. Investigation was turned into a new channel, and the schools of North Germany replaced in fame those of Paris and Vienna. The discoveries then made seemed to have placed medicine on a new basis, and vast were the expectations formed as to the future progress of medical science. Men attempted to base pathology on cells, fibres, and granules, and hoped to distinguish diseases by the microscopic character of their products. But we were no longer disputing as to the shapes and sizes of cells, or seeking for an explanation of cancer and tubercle in the form of cells or the sizes of their nuclei. Just as in former times investigations in physiology followed quickly upon discoveries in anatomy, so now the functional diseases of organs were claiming the attention of those who had nearly completed their inquiries into structural alterations.

A third habit of the greatest importance, which he recommended the students especially to cultivate, was that of recording their observations at the time they were made. He had often been surprised how little medical students were in the habit of noting down their own observations. In the lecture-room they might be seen copying the remarks and opinions of their teachers, but how few seemed to be aware of the importance of recording what they themselves witnessed in the wards or in the *post mortem* theatre. And yet a single fact, carefully and honestly noted down, might long after prove of incalculable value, although at the time it appeared of no great importance. This might be well illustrated by reference to the history of the discovery of anaesthetics.

He had been induced to lay before them these remarks, because he felt it was especially necessary in the present day to impress upon their minds the necessity of self education. Numbers were entering the profession who seemed to think that books and lectures could supply all the knowledge they need possess, and that to pass an examination with credit was the only aim of their student life. Books could

never supply what could only be obtained by observation and experiment, and we could never by any method of examination test the acuteness of perception and the soundness of judgment that ought to characterise the physician, or the coolness, courage, and readiness of resource that are requisite for a surgeon. These could only be gained by patient observation and long experience. It was in affording them a field for gaining such qualities that the London Hospital was specially valuable. Already one of the largest, it would when the new wing was completed, be the greatest hospital in this country. The enormous number of accidents annually treated within its walls had long rendered it famous as a surgical school, whilst the nature of the population by which it was surrounded, the immense extent of the out-patient practice, and the number of special departments it contained, would give them opportunities for the study of medicine which could nowhere be surpassed.

WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL.

THE Introductory Lecture was delivered by Dr. POTTER, Obstetric Physician to the Hospital and Lecturer on Midwifery.

After a few words of welcome to the students, and alluding in feeling terms to the sad loss sustained by the School in the deaths of Dr. Frederic Bird and Dr. Anstie, both cut off in the midst of active work and in the full vigour of professional life, the lecturer went on to speak of the profession of medicine, and to congratulate those who had embraced it on their choice of so noble a pursuit. But, he told them, they must be certain of the truth of their choice, as they would find it a hard-working profession, success difficult of attainment, state rewards but few, and the chances of making a fortune infinitesimal. He continued: "To be honoured professionally, however, is open to you all, and it is rare that honest work remains unrewarded in this way. It is a source of pride to us that, of the four seats at the Censors' Board of the College of Physicians, two are at present held by the senior members of our staff, Dr. Basham and Dr. Fincham." After giving definitions of a doctor from two authors, he said: "I give you these in preference to others, as you will probably for the most part occupy the honourable position of general practitioners; and remember that some of the best and most useful professional work has been done by them. To give one instance only, the immortal discoverer of vaccination laboured as a general practitioner in the country. In the present day also, a strong feeling is being manifested by many against the hard-and-fast line drawn between the different departments of practice; and, even should you in the future desire to become specialists, you cannot successfully practise as such without being good general practitioners." After reminding his hearers that they were to be medical students, he spoke with regret at the abolition of the old-fashioned apprenticeship, believing that a year or so occupied in this way would be of great advantage.

"The seeing a great deal of practice, and especially the minor and petty cases which make up to a large extent the bulk of everyday work; the minor diseases of children, scarcely ever seen in a general hospital; the handling of drugs and the art of prescribing, never successfully learnt in any other way; the traditions and etiquette of the profession; and last, not least, the opportunity it affords the young man to ascertain whether he really likes or dislikes the profession of his choice, as he sees, in addition to the purely medical point of view, the kind of daily life that he must expect if he go on with it—all these were advantages of the apprenticeship. A good deal of elementary knowledge of botany, chemistry, and some acquaintance with the bones of the skeleton, can also be gained during this year."

Addressing specially the new students, he insisted strongly on the necessity for order in their medical studies. At first, they should devote themselves mainly to anatomy and the dissecting-room, afterwards taking up physiology, and especially working well in the new Physiological Laboratory. Supposing that the student's diligence had been rewarded by passing his first examination, his mind was now set free for the more practical work to follow. Speaking on the subject of midwifery, Dr. Potter dwelt on its importance as the key-stone to practice, and laid great stress on the necessity of a sound practical knowledge of the subject, and the attendance on as many cases of labours as possible. He spoke also of the impossibility of attempting to teach the diseases of women and children as part of a three months' course of midwifery.

The importance of taking notes in the class-rooms and also in the wards was strongly insisted upon. "These golden opportunities may never again occur to you in your lives; this aggregation of cases in the wards under skilled supervision you will only be able to avail yourselves of for a limited time. Even if you never look at your case-books again, which I am far from thinking will be the case, these short

histories of disease are better filed in your mind from having been committed to writing at the time. At this time also, attend the special departments now carefully formed and arranged within this building, so that your time need not be wasted in running over the town to the so-called special institutions." The advantages of the Westminster Hospital as, *par excellence*, a small school were then dwelt upon. In a small school where there was no crowding every one had his chance; he was brought more closely into contact with his teachers; in the wards, he saw all the cases without having to fight for the privilege, and, in the latter years of his student life, was able to hold the various appointments and have the direct charge of patients. Those finishing their curriculum or about to enter into practice were given advice as to their duties and responsibilities, not to practise their profession in a mere routine way, as drug-distributors or as a tradesman selling his goods, but to practise it intellectually. Even in a remote country district, good work might be done, and the late Dr. Uvedale West was instanced as having brought out a most admirable monograph in the midst of a large and struggling poor practice. "As to your duties, the first is to cure your patients, not to devote yourselves too scientifically, as the German physician who, going round his wards, told his students in what condition the various organs would be found after death of the patients, and forgot to prescribe for them. For this cure, it is of paramount importance to ascertain what is the matter with your patient, uncertain diagnosis leading to very uncertain treatment; but, while making use of the instruments of precision which we in the present day can bring to our aid for this purpose, do not neglect the old-fashioned art of observation, remembering always that medicine is, and must be to some extent, an empirical art, and must not be despised as such, the introduction of quinine and other drugs into practice, and the important discovery of vaccination, being the result of observation alone. Bear constantly in mind the potency and impotence of our art; watch nature closely, and give her her way when she acts well. It is far easier, and requires less experience, to do something actively than to watch patiently. But, if you cannot cure your patients, at least do no mischief to them or be guilty of that quackery which says, 'I can cure', when we know the disease to be an incurable one. While acting conscientiously in this way, do not neglect moral treatment; for, in the many cases grouped under the name hysteria, a judicious medical and moral treatment will often largely benefit or cure, whereas the reverse plan of telling the patient there is nothing the matter will only aggravate the disease. However, whether you can cure or not, cultivate a kindly and genial manner; even in the sad and unfortunate cases where we can do little but alleviate, a gentle and sympathetic manner will often cheer the poor sufferer."

The advantages of preventive medicine were then insisted on; and the duty of warning people against baneful habits, as drinking, opium-eating, immorality, etc., was impressed. To the busy practitioner, the necessity of taking rest, at least an annual holiday, was strongly advised. "The number of deaths in our profession during the last year from overwork ought to be a warning to us all." The students were exhorted to avoid, as far as possible, medical squabbles, for these only brought our profession into disrepute. Collisions and differences of opinion must occur in practice from time to time, but it is always better in such cases to suffer than to injure. After quoting the opinion of the good and great Sydenham as to the responsibility of the medical practitioner, the lecturer, after wishing success to them all, concluded in the words of our great humourist:

"Come wealth or want, come good or ill,
Let young and old accept their part,
And bow before the awful will,
And bear it with an honest heart.
Who misses or who wins the prize,
Go, lose or conquer as you can;
But if you fail, or if you rise,
Be each, pray God, a gentleman."

SHEFFIELD MEDICAL SCHOOL.

THE Introductory Address was delivered by Dr. J. C. HALL, Lecturer on Medicine, and Senior Physician to the Sheffield Public Hospital. He selected, as the groundwork of his address, the great importance of a general education to fit students to grasp that technical education necessary to obtain their diplomas. Much, he remarked, had been said of late, of the education of the masses; and, if the students present intended to maintain their position—if they did not care to be pushed into the middle of next week, by those at present socially in a lower position, they must be up and doing all in their power to obtain that knowledge absolutely necessary to enable them to succeed in the profession on which they had that day entered; that knowledge which the great Lord Bacon had truly described as power—knowledge

of the most valuable kind, for it placed a microscope in the hands of the minute, a telescope in the hands of the distant, observer, to help their researches; whilst, with an educated eye, the mind surveys the beauties of the universe; those evidences of design which have so clearly left traces of the Great Designer, in the waves of the ocean, the trees of the forest, the flowers of the field, the old thorns with their young May-blossoms, we feel the force of the remark of Plato—"the world is God's epistle to mankind". Dr. Hall next proceeded to urge that an earnest purpose finds means to make time for the attainment of knowledge, and showed how one hour a day set apart for any purpose—for example, the mastering of French or German—was fruitful of improvement. He asked

"What is man,
If the chief good and market of his time
Be but to sleep and feed?—A beast, no more.
Sure he who made us with such large discourse,
Looking before, and after, gave us not
That capability and God-like reason
To fust in us, unused."

He urged on the students present to cultivate their intellectual powers; for the prayer, "give us this day our daily bread", applied to the mind as well as to the body. It was worth while, in the dawn of "life's young dream", to strive hard for the possession of knowledge; to pass sleepless nights, to give up for the attainment of it, laborious days, to spurn for it present pleasures. A life spent in the attainment of useful knowledge is a life of virtue, not of crime. With whose happiness does such an one interfere? In the pursuit of knowledge he injures no one; in the attainment of it, he does good to all. The cultivation of the mind gives, for ever, a companion no enemy can alienate—no despotism enslave. It is at home a friend, in other countries an introduction, in solitude a solace, in society an ornament. Without education, what is man? Next, the inductive philosophy of Lord Bacon, and what it had done for mankind, was put before his hearers at considerable length; the lecturer remarking, that its fruits were exhibited in the lengthening of life, in the mitigation of pain, in the increased productiveness of the earth, in lighting up night with the splendours of day; and, thanks to what we had been taught by this philosophy, through the electric telegraph, the dream of the poet had been more than realised; for now we can truly say that we have the power, quick as thought, to

"Speed the soft intercourse from soul to soul,
And wait a sigh from Indus to the Pole."

After continuing his subject at some length, Dr. Hall concluded by saying to the students present, "Do not look upon your calling as a money-getting one. If pounds, shillings, and pence be your object, abandon it at once. I advise you, in such a case, to take to steel-melting, or to buy a share in a good bitter beer brewery. Ours, as my late teacher, Sir B. C. Brodie, said, 'Ours, gentlemen, is a noble profession, but a very poor trade.' For my own part, I hesitate not to say, the happiest moments of my existence, 'the greenest spots in life's dull waste', have been those in which, by the exercise of our noble art, it has been my high privilege—blessed by the Great Father of the universe—to restore a husband to a wife, a wife to a husband, or a child to parents, who have long been sorrowing almost without hope. I know, as that great physician Dr. Williams pointed out years ago, that it has been too much the practice to sneer at the medical profession; to designate it as 'poor and degraded', and that, too, by the uneducated rich, who ought to have known better. Poor it is, slighted it has been, but I say, emphatically, degraded it never can be, so long as by giving sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, making the lame to walk, and restoring reason to the miserable victims of insanity, it proves incontestably that its foundations rest on true science, and that its one sole object, its one sole aim, is the good of our fellow-creatures."

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

SHROPSHIRE ETHICAL BRANCH.

THE annual general meeting will be held at the Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury, on Monday, October 5th, at 1 P.M.; the President, W. A. DAVIES, Esq., in the Chair.

Subjects for Discussion.—The Revised Tariff of Medical Fees; The Proposed Tariff of Surgical Charges; the Suggested Preface thereto. Cases and communications by members.

Dinner will be served at 3 P.M., for the convenience of the country members. Tickets, exclusive of wine, 7s. 6d.

Members have the privilege of introducing friends, on transmitting their names to the President.

Chamber Concert Music by a select band of musicians, under the leadership of Mr. Appleby of Liverpool, will be provided, as usual.

Gentlemen intending to read papers, etc., will oblige by communicating their titles (for insertion in the "circular note" of invitation), before the 8th proximo, to

JUKES STYRAP, *Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.*
Shrewsbury, August 31st, 1874.

SOUTH MIDLAND BRANCH.

THE eighteenth autumnal meeting of this Branch will be held on Tuesday, October 6th, at 2 P.M.—the President, ROBERT DE'ATH, Esq., in the Chair—at Tickford Lodge, Newport Pagnell, the house of H. Hailey, Esq., who will kindly provide luncheon between 12.30 and 1.30 P.M.

Gentlemen intending to read papers, etc., are requested to furnish the titles before the 28th instant, to Dr. Bryan.

J. M. BRYAN, M.D., } *Hon. Secs.*
WM. MOXON, }
Northampton, September 13th, 1874.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE first meeting of the session 1874-75 will be held in the Council Room of the Midland Institute, on Thursday, October 8th, 1874; the Chair to be taken at 3.30 P.M. precisely.

T. H. BARTLETT, } *Honorary Secretaries.*
BALTHAZAR W. FOSTER, M.D. }
Birmingham, September 1874.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE first ordinary meeting of the session will be held at the College Green Hotel, Bristol, on Thursday, October 22nd; FREDERICK MASON, Esq., President, in the Chair.

EDMUND C. BOARD, *Honorary Secretary.*
Clifton, October 1874.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SURREY DISTRICT.

A MEETING will be held at the White Hart Hotel, Reigate, on Thursday, October 22nd, at 4 P.M.; CONSTANTINE HOLMAN, M.D., in the Chair.

A testimonial will be presented to Dr. Lanchester, late Secretary to the District.

Papers will be read by Dr. P. H. Pye-Smith, on some cases of Abdominal Tumour; by Dr. C. Holman; by Dr. J. Walters, on a case of large Naso-Pharyngeal Polypus successfully removed, on a case of Poisoning by Arsenic, and on a case of Poisoning by Hydrocyanic Acid.

The Chairman kindly invites members and their friends to lunch at 1.30 P.M., at "The Barons", Reigate.

Dinner will be served at the White Hart Hotel, at 6 P.M. Tickets, including wine, 14s.

JOHN H. GALTON, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*
Woodside, Anerley Road, S.E., September 30th, 1874.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST SUSSEX DISTRICT MEETING.

THE autumn meeting of the above District will be held at Chichester, on Tuesday, October 27th; Dr. TYACKE in the Chair.

Any gentleman desirous of reading a paper, or bringing forward cases, is requested to communicate forthwith with the Honorary Secretary.

WM. J. HARRIS, *Honorary Secretary.*
Worthing, September 28th, 1874.

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.

THE autumnal meeting of this Branch will be held at the Railway Hotel, Taunton, on Thursday, October 29th, at 5 o'clock.

The following question has been settled by the Council as the one on which each member should be asked to express his opinion at the meeting after dinner: "What is your opinion as to the best treatment of whooping-cough?"

W. M. KELLY, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*
Taunton, September 29th, 1874.

MR. ROBERT SHACKLETON, borough accountant, has died at Batley from the effects of morphia administered to him by a druggist in mistake for some other medicine.