

Hearty and unanimous votes of thanks having been carried, to Dr. Murphy, the retiring President ; Dr. Sayer, the retiring Treasurer ; and Dr. Merriman, the retiring Secretary, the Westminster Medical Society ceased to exist.

[The above-named gentlemen, along with the following, elected by the other Society, constitute the executive of the MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, by which name the amalgamated Societies are to be called. *President.* J. Risdon Bennett, M.D. *Vice-Presidents.* W. H. Willshire, M.D., F. Hird, Esq. *Treasurer.* N. Clifton, Esq. *Secretary in Ordinary.* W. Cogswell, M.D. *Secretary for Foreign Correspondence.* T. Davidson, M.D. *Members of Council.* John Bishop, Esq., W. D. Chowne, M.D., W. C. Dendy, Esq., H. Hancock, Esq., E. Headland, Esq., J. Middleton, Esq., G. Pilcher, Esq., W. Smith, M.D., Silas Stedman, Esq., Theophilus Thompson, M.D.

[It will be among the first and most important duties of the office-bearers to prepare a code of laws, and effect the removal of the Library from Bolt Court to the premises in George Street, Hanover Square, which will be opened in October next. It is proposed that the meetings be held in the new rooms every Saturday during the Session, at 8 P.M.]

#### MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

**WESTERN MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SOCIETY.** This Society celebrated its fourth anniversary on the 12th April, by a numerously-attended *conversazione*, in the large room in the Cadogan Gardens, Sloane Steeet. SIR B. C. BRODIE, President of the Society, was in the Chair, and delivered an excellent address. He advocated the "maintenance of friendly and generous feelings among those who are engaged in the same useful and honourable pursuit, tending to supersede those feelings of distrust, jealousy, and petty rivalry, which are unworthy of a liberal and scientific profession, but which are too apt to exist in any class of society, the members of which are not brought into personal communication with each other. For this reason, and putting aside all other considerations, he was convinced that a Society, such as that over which he presided, must tend, in no small degree, to the comfort and happiness of the individuals of whom it is composed." Sir B. Brodie referred to the difficulties attendant on the progress of the practitioner of medicine ; and shewed that the solicitor, the barrister, the clergyman, and the merchant, had each difficulties and dangers to contend with, often producing as much effect on the minds and progress of the individuals, as those which obstructed the paths of the medical man. In speaking of the influence which should be exerted by the medical profession on the minds of those who devote themselves to it, he made the following remarks :

"Their immediate object is always to do good to others—they are engaged in the pursuit of an important science, which concerns the highest interests of mankind in their present state of existence. The medical practitioner must, for his own sake, always aim at the attainment of truth, and endeavour to observe, to think, and reason correctly. All this is good for his moral and intellectual character ; and the result is, that, with all our errors, and all the imperfections which belong to us, there is, perhaps, no class in society, on the whole, more liberal, more free from prejudice, and more disposed to render disinterested service to others, than the great body of the medical profession. Then, there is no other profession, in which the individuals belonging to it have to depend so entirely on their own character and conduct. Whatever advantages we may obtain in life, we earn them for ourselves. We require the good opinion of the public of all classes ; but we neither owe, nor can owe, any obligations to the favour of the great.

"The medical practitioner who has laboured to obtain an adequate knowledge of his art, and who honestly and diligently performs his duties, has a right to consider himself one of the most independent members of society.

It seems to me, that this sense of independence is not sufficiently impressed on the minds of a large proportion of our profession. There is no one who thinks it worth his while to place himself under our care, to whom we are not really of more importance than he can be to us. But if we would have others do us justice, we must first do justice to ourselves;—and how is that to be accomplished? It is by shaping our conduct with a view to the general result, and obtaining the good opinion of society at large, of persons of all classes, high or low, rich or poor, without reference to what may be said or done in particular cases, or by different individuals. We cannot fail often to meet with perverseness or caprice, or to find, that when we have done that which it is possible, we have not done that which it is impossible for us to perform. But all this need be no more than a temporary annoyance to the upright and diligent practitioner, who is conscious that he has laboured to obtain an adequate knowledge of his art, and that, on all occasions, he endeavours to do his best. But if we claim, as claim we must, that allowance should be made by others for our own failings and imperfections, much more are we called upon to make allowance for the failings and imperfections of those who labour under the inflictions of bodily disease. We have, to a great extent, the power of relieving pain and preserving life; but our power is limited. On the other hand, there is no limit to the desire of obtaining relief, and the anxiety to live may still linger in those who are at the point of death. Under these circumstances, it seems almost a matter of course that those to whom we can render no further aid, and whose minds are probably weakened by previous illness, should be easily induced to seek for aid elsewhere, and be ready to listen to any promises of cure, however vain and absurd, or even dishonest, those promises may be.”

This address was listened to throughout with the deepest attention, and the applause at the close was loud and long-continued.

The following gentlemen were then elected to fill the various offices during the ensuing year:—*President.* Dr. Robert Lee, F.R.S. *Vice-Presidents.* Dr. Aldis, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Gaskell, Mr. Godrich. *Treasurer.* Dr. Woolley. *Council.* Dr. Barclay, Mr. Bullock, Dr. Christian, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Ince, Mr. Martyn, Mr. Muller, Mr. Philips, Dr. Simpson, Dr. Traquair, Mr. Whitmore. *Secretary.* Mr. Seaton. *Auditors.* Mr. Keen, and Mr. Webb.

The formal business being concluded, Dr. Mantell, at the request of Sir Benjamin Brodie, favoured the meeting with an address on the osteology and physiology of the colossal reptiles from the south-east of England, of which there were some unique and most interesting specimens, and in conclusion, briefly considered that most interesting and mysterious physiological problem—the appearance and extinction of species and genera.

**SWISS CRETINISM.**—**DR. GUGGENBUHL'S TREATMENT OF IT ON THE ABENDBERG.** We extract the following from an Edinburgh newspaper. “About eighteen months ago, we commended to the favourable notice of our readers a brief account of Dr. Guggenbühl's benevolent labours, published here under the title of ‘The Abendberg; an Alpine retreat founded by Dr. Guggenbühl for the treatment of infant Cretins. W. P. Kennedy, 1848.’ Dr. Guggenbühl is now in Edinburgh, for the purpose of advocating the claims of his institution on the attention of the friends of suffering humanity, as well as with a view to extend his own knowledge of those phases of mental alienation, to the treatment of which he has devoted himself. A meeting of gentlemen interested in Dr. Guggenbühl's object was held on Wednesday, 8th instant, at the Religious Institution Rooms, 6, York Place, the Lord Provost in the chair. Dr. Guggenbühl having stated his views of the nature and curability of Cretinism, and an account of the origin and progress of the hospital on the Abendberg having been read by Dr. Coldstream, resolutions, expressive of confidence in Dr. Guggenbühl's proceedings, and of willingness to aid him in the carrying out of his plans for the amelioration of Cretinism and idiocy, wherever these exist, as well as of the desirableness of

something similar being done for the young affected with idiocy in this country, were moved and supported by Professors Alison, Forbes, and Millar, Sir W. Newbigging, William Brown, Esq., Dr. Spittal, and Robert Paul, Esq. A small Committee was formed to maintain a correspondence with Dr. Guggenbühl; and Mr. Paul, of the Commercial Bank, intimated his willingness to receive and transmit any monies that may be contributed for the support and extension of the Abendberg Retreat.

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#### APPOINTMENTS.

- BARNES, Dr. Robert, elected Obstetric Surgeon to the Western General Dispensary, Lisson Grove, in the room of Dr. HENRY BENNET, resigned.  
 ELLIS, G. Viner, Esq., appointed Professor of Anatomy in University College, London, in the place of MR. QUAIN, resigned.  
 LANG, Dr. elected Physician to the Exeter Dispensary, in the room of Dr. TUTHILL MASSY, resigned.  
 TUNSTALL, Dr. elected Physician to the Eastern Dispensary, Bath, in the room of Dr. LINDOE, resigned.

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#### OBITUARY.

- BREWSTER, George, M.D., Royal Navy, son of the Rev. G. Brewster, D.D., at Port Royal, Jamaica, on the 5th April.  
 BUCHANAN, Dr. J. G., in Edinburgh, on 6th May.  
 DE BLAINVILLE, M., at Paris, aged 71, lately. This eminent Naturalist was the successor of Cuvier in the Chair of Natural History of Paris. He was found dead in a railway carriage, while travelling from Paris to England.  
 ELLIOTT, Dr. Robert, late Surgeon to the Tempo Dispensary, at Kandy, Ceylon, lately.  
 GAY-LUSSAC, M., the celebrated chemist and philosopher, in Paris, on 8th May.  
 GRANTHAM, Mr., Surgeon, 23rd regiment, drowned lately on Lake Erie, through the collision of two Canadian steam-boats.  
 HEALY, Dr. B., in Dublin, on 26th March.  
 HEALY, Dr., of the 1st Punjaub Cavalry, at Kohat, killed by the Afreedees, lately.  
 HUGHES, William, Esq., Surgeon, of 14, Basing Lane, Cheapside, aged 38, at Leicester, on 8th May.  
 HULL, Thomas, M.D., late of Beverley, Yorkshire, at Lytham, aged 75, on April 27.  
 LAWSON, Stephen, Esq., Surgeon 7th (Queen's Own) Hussars, and formerly of the 87th and 30th Regiments, suddenly, at Cork, on 4th May.  
 MILLAR, John, Esq., Staff-Surgeon of the North British District, at Glasgow, on 3rd May.  
 MILLS, G. Ireland, Esq., late Deputy-Coroner for the County of Middlesex, of ramollissement of the brain, aged 47, on 20th May.  
 MOUNTFORD, John, Esq., Surgeon, of Gloucester Street, Queen's Square, suddenly, aged 68, on 13th May.  
 POOLE, Charles, M.D., at London, Canada West, aged 47, on 24th February.  
 STAFFORD, W. W., Esq., Surgeon, at Brighton, aged 57, on 10th April.

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#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

BOWMAN'S (John E.) Medical Chemistry. London: 1850. CHURCHILL (Fleetwood), Outlines of Midwifery. Second Edition. Dublin: 1850. FOWNES' Manual of Chemistry. Third Edition. By DR. BENCE JONES. London: 1850. MARSHALL on the Anterior Veins. (From *Philosophical Transactions*.) London: 1830. ORR'S Principles of Surgery. Dublin: 1850. REES (G. A.) on Atelectasis Pulmonum. London: 1850. REICHENBACH'S Researches on Magnetism, etc. Translated by Professor GREGORY. London: 1850.