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fagged, his work is comparatively profitless, as well as exhausting. Generally speaking, all labour should be suspended when real fatigue sets in. Each man has to find out for himself what amount of time he can most profitably devote to work. Anyhow, to produce the maximum of result, the health must always be kept up to the requisite standard.

"In the curriculum of every one there must be a certain amount of leisure time. A portion of this may be pleasantly occupied in learning the use of the various instruments of medical research. Every student should possess a good microscope, and can amuse himself by examining different substances and textures. It is an excellent introduction to the practice of auscultation in the ward to familiarise the ear with the healthy breath, heart, and other sounds at home. Two students can accommodate each other in this particular. The same is true of the ophthalmoscope and the laryngoscope. The sense of touch can be educated by exercising it on one's own person. When all this is done, there should still be sufficient time left for non-professional recreation.

"Frequently the ardour of the student is chilled by anxious misgivings as to the beneficial effects of medical treatment. He is perplexed by present diversities of practice and by past changes in the general treatment of disease. Fifty years ago, he says, doctors were perpetually bleeding, purging, and salivating, and vaunted the success of their bold measures. The doctors of to-day, he continues, discredit that system of procedure, and are yet equally satisfied with the results which they obtain by very different means. Is it not probable that within the next fifty years, or sooner, the therapeutics of to-day will in turn be overthrown, and proved to be hurtful rather than beneficial?

"Differences of opinion and of practice are inevitable whenever men come to think and act for themselves. In this respect medicine is in no worse position than other departments of learning. Conflicting opinions are to be found in theology and law; yet theologians and lawyers have the benefit of authoritative written standards—a boon which is denied to the medical practitioner. In medicine, too, the differences of practice are often of much less extent and importance than they seem; for, happily, there are frequently more ways than one of procuring a good result in disease, and two different methods may prove equally successful.

"To pass to the second objection, several considerations might be offered with reference to the changes which have occurred in therapeutics in modern times. For example, it may be legitimately pleaded that the treatment of our forefathers was largely dictated by theoretical notions concerning disease and the effects of remedies, while modern treatment is more and more based on actual results. Further, the theories on which treatment was formerly in great measure grounded were frequently erroneous. Mistaken views are entertained respecting the existence of peccant humours which could be purged out, depraved blood which could be let out, and ill defined morbid processes and poisons which could be altered or eliminated by mercury. An increased and increasing knowledge of pathology has greatly corrected our ideas regarding the means capable of acting beneficially in disease. Thirdly, the treatment of bygone times was mainly traditional. We can have no assurance of the intrinsic merits of a system which has been handed down by tradition and adopted without question. In the olden days of bleeding, there was, in medicine, comparatively little of that wholesome questioning spirit which prevails in our time. The fire of criticism has questioning spirit which prevails in our time. The fire of criticism has been ruthlessly assailing the hoary dogmas of the medical art, and bids fair to consume all in them that is false. We hail it as our best friend, next to the faculty of construction; and we want to see it blaze yet more fiercely and widely amongst the remaining rubbish of therapeutics. A fourth reply is to be found in the fact that our predecessors of fifty years ago seldom dared to let diseases run their natural course, and so never discovered that in many acute cases the natural processes tend to bring about recovery. Finding that they could often relieve pain, dyspncea, etc., by their heroic measures, they failed to perceive that the relief was usually procured at too great a cost, and that better recoveries, and more of them, could generally be obtained through the use of gentler methods of treatment. Till we know something of the natural history of a disease we cannot form a sound judgment on the effects of treatment. Another answer is that all the treatment of fifty years ago was not comprehended in unnecessary bleeding, purging, and salivating; and that in many things we can commend and usefully imitate our ancestors. Though they were wrong in some particulars, we have found them right in many. Though we must sift and correct their results, all honour be to them for much good work accomplished. They laboured, and we who are entered into their labours owe them full acknowledgments. They not only accumulated an immense amount of knowledge of disease, but they also devised a great part of the treatment now in use. It is only when we put our own shoulder to the wheel that we discover the difficulties with which this department of medicine is beset, and learn to honour duly those to whom our present position is attributable.

"The mere fact of change is no proof that the foundation of medical Though every change cannot be characterised treatment is insecure. as a ringing out of the false and ringing in of the true, yet absence of change means absence of progress. One is, indeed, free to confess that therapeutics has not yet made progress commensurate with its importance, or with the position of some other departments of medicine. But the zeal and exactitude with which the physiological action of remedies is being studied, and therapeutic facts are being observed and recorded at the present time are eminently cheering. Though therapeutics is a lazy boy, who, during a long childhood, has been always lagging behind his fellows, there are plentiful indications that, as the years of discretion have stolen upon him, he has been leaving off his early foibles, and that, feeling his gigantic powers stir within him, he has awakened to a consciousness of his high destiny. Already he has burst many of the shackles which contributed to retard his progress, and is eager for triumphs which will gloriously redeem his reputation. Innumerable therapeutic facts of priceless value have been ascertained, and, though we cannot as yet group those facts into a scientific system, we are now able to discern it in outline. In so far as we have learned the nature of those changes in structure, qualities, and function which constitute disease, and the conditions which favour or impede the natural processes and effects, we are in a position to treat disease scientifically. This knowledge is immensely in advance of the position it held fifty years ago. One highly valuable result of a better understanding of the pathological nature and natural history of disease is this, that we are thereby prevented from making mischievous attempts to perform the impossible."

The lecturer next spoke of the pleasure derivable from a study of the exquisite structures and processes of the human body, and passed on to the evidences of design displayed therein, arguing that, though some seemed to think otherwise, these evidences are not impaired by Darwinism, even should it be accepted as true. He concluded by an allusion to the Great Healer.

DENTAL HOSPITAL OF LONDON.

MR. JAMES S. TURNER delivered an Introductory Address on Wednesday evening, October 2nd, on the position of Mechanical Dentistry.

The lecturer said : Since we last met, the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons has issued an order which points clearly to a more stringent examination for the licence to practise dental surgery. I believe that this is a wise step, and that you will meet the additional demands successfully I do not for a moment doubt. But the examination at the College is principally of a surgical nature; the mechanical branch is perhaps unavoidably left to take care of itself. For my own part, I do not object to this arrangement, because I believe that the subject of mechanical dentistry is sufficiently interesting and of sufficient importance to take care of itself. It is interesting, because it is altogether different from the rest of your studies. It brings into play a different set of faculties, and, by affording scope for ingenuity and invention, administers as it were a tonic to the mind which may be wearied by the objective teachings of surgery or physiology, or surfeited with the endless details of the dissecting room. It is of importance to you, because in your future career it will very likely form the staple source of your income. The ophthalmic surgeon receives a high fee for performing iridectomy, or for the removal of cataract; so also does the orthopædic surgeon for the subcutaneous division of a tendon, and kindred operations: yet either of these is not more difficult to learn, and, when once mastered, does not involve half the mental or physical labour extracted from the dental by the majority of gold stoppings, for which he receives the munificent fee of a guinea. Perhaps the secret of this disparity lies in the fact that the mechanical contrivances which are applied to remedy the defects and inconveniences of a contracted tendon or a deformed limb are generally both clumsy and inconvenient, as well as ugly, and, worst of all, their hideousness is nearly always apparent; while the substitute for an eye is only a glittering sham, worn more for the sake of others than for the comfort of the wearer. In dentistry, the reverse is the case : a good artificial tooth is a thousand times better than an inferior natural one; the artificial substitute is at once an improvement in appearance and a valuable adjunct to health. Hence the public, in this country at least, are impatient of long, and oftentimes painful, operations for the preservation of their teeth; and ladies especially object to having their front teeth patched up with gold, which in many instances seem to the uninitiated ligatures securing a badly made artificial denture. These, to my mind, form some of the reasons for the inadequate remuneration received by dentists in the country for

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that most laborious of all occupations, gold-stopping. Hence, as I said, the particular branch of your profession which you are now studying is likely to be the main source of your income, and, looked at in this light, it becomes of great importance. But there is another point to which I would call your attention. I have said that this branch of our profession has been left to take care of itself; and I say further, that it is likely to do so; for, whatever position dentists may take, or whatever protection dentists may, as a body, receive from law when they have shown themselves worthy of such protection, I do not see how any special privileges could be granted to dental surgeons which would extend to the mechanical branch of the profession. Thus the most lucrative portion of our occupation is the most vulnerable one, and most open to unprincipled opposition : and, although the man who has a thorough knowledge of dentistry in all its branches will undoubtedly be the safest and best, and will always be sought after in cases of diffisoluty, still we know that the masses of people are prone to serve them-selves in the cheapest, if not always in the best, way. As a consequence of this, a great number of cases are likely to pass into the hands of those who can work for a smaller fee, because they have not given either the time or money in acquiring the knowledge which you possess. It is true that difficult cases will always find their way to the man who is prepared to meet them; but there are many cases which to a good mechanic are not difficult, and where the artificial contrivances, when constructed with a moderate amount of skill, may be worn with a fair amount of comfort by those who do not know how much better off they might be. Besides, it is hard to be always fighting with abnormalities, particularly when we know that others are fattening on cases more easy of digestion.

In the face of this unfair, but, so far as I can see, highly probable state of things, we may console ourselves with the reflection that our profession is gradually but surely taking its position as an important branch of surgery. Dentists who choose to educate themselves can now be affiliated to the Royal College of Surgeons as dentists; so that, although in many instances holding the diploma of membership, they are distinguished from the general surgeon or from other specialists by the dental licence.

Now, the position which medical men occupy towards their patients makes them an authority in the choice of a dentist. Our dental certificate is now, and will become more and more, a guide to those gentle-men in advising their patients. We may, therefore, expect with confidence the support of the medical profession in our attempt to supply the public with scientific dentistry. But this will not of itself meet the difficulty with which we started; you must be prepared by superior skill to justify the recommendation of your medical friends. You have the conditions all in your favour; an eye trained to be sure, a will trained to act, and a store of knowledge at your command which gives you a great start in the race; and if your terms are necessarily higher than those of the men to whom I have alluded, you ought, by your superior advantages, to be able to recompense your patients for their extra outlay. I would ask you, then, for your own sakes, not to imagine because there is no crucial standard for you to pass under in Lincoln's Inn Fields, that you may be contented with a superficial knowledge of mechanical dentistry. Do not run away with the idea that you can delegate your work to others. I believe that unless you can do it for yourself, very few will be able to do it for you, and still fewer will care to do it for you, knowing as they must that their efforts will not be appreciated.

I am of opinion that it is an easy matter to arrive at a moderate degree of excellence in dental mechanics; but when you wish to make a step beyond this, it is like the extra mile in speed to be got out of the marine engine when it has been nearly worked up to its full driving power: it requires more pressure and more fuel to get that one extra mile than was required for any two or three miles in the lower scale of speed. Now this is the pressure you will require to put on if you wish to hold your own against the competition to which you are sure to be subjected. It will not be injurious to you; it will not, like cramming, addle your brain and confound your knowledge, but it will be a source of comfort and power to you all the days of your life.

LEEDS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

DR. ILEATON delivered the Introductory Address. IIe said, they had met this day to inaugurate the forty-second year of the Leeds Medical School, which had pursued its work for so many years with steady progress in efficiency, and in numbers, and in public estimation. Opening addresses had for so many years been delivered in this and in other schools, provincial and metropolitan, that all the ordinary subjects of such discourses must now be trite and uninteresting. Without discussing,

in succession, the merits and peculiarites of each subject taught in this school, he would take from some of them only matter for their consideration this day.

In every branch of natural science the faculty of observation must be carefully cultivated ; that faculty which enables us rightly to see and feel and hear what comes within the range of our senses. Scientific investigation must begin with exact observation of facts actually brought before us; and, from what we thus learn with certainty, we endeavour to arrive at correct conclusions as to what is removed from the possibility of this direct examination. Besides the very obvious importance and necessity of practical anatomy, it has the advantage of being an excellent means of cultivating this observant faculty. In the study of the bones, for example, it is not sufficient to know that a bone of the arm is an elongated body with an enlargement at each extremity; each little groove and prominence and perforation has to be most carefully examined, and its relation to the structures with which it has been surrounded. And similarly, it is not sufficient to say that a vessel, or nerve, is found to branch and subdivide, something like the branching of a tree; but each branch and fibre must be carefully traced, and its relation to neighbouring structures exactly ascertained.

Another remark the lecturer wished to make ; the anatomy of the dissecting-room is the anatomy of the *dead body*. But the anatomy with which we are concerned in practice, is that of the living, moving, bodies of our patients, in whom the form and size and relative position of internal organs differ to some extent from those of the dead corpse, and are also continually undergoing changes in the performance of the vital functions. This anatomy of the living body is important to the operative surgeon; but also, and very especially, to the physician, as aiding and correcting the diagnosis of the condition of internal organs removed from the direct application of our senses. This *medical anatomy* Dr. Heaton has always taught and illustrated to his class, in its bearings on diseases under consideration.

Materia Medica and therapeutics is one of the less popular subjects of study taught in medical schools. A mere description of the numerous drugs and compounds of the Pharmacopaia-some of them of little practical value, and of the medicinal properties which, often upon very uncertain grounds, they are supposed to possess, may be sufficiently tedious. But there is no medical investigation more interesting and more capable of leading to important practical results than that whose object is to ascertain, with scientific certainty, what are the effects of important remedies upon the human body in health and in disease. It is true that there are special and very great difficulties in this inquiry into the effects of external agents upon man's living body, continually subject, as it is, to so may varying influences from which it cannot be isolated ; and too sacred, as it is, to be made the subject of hurtful experiments. But the refinements of chemical analysis, and the various precise modes of examination into the physical condition of the body and its functions now practised, together with experiments upon inferior animals, may enable careful observers to obtain very valuable results. It would be quite within the power of medical students to unite together for the purpose of making inquiries of this nature, either by observations on their own bodies, or otherwise, which might, upon many points, give us certain information in the place of vague conjectures.

Dr. Heaton illustrated the difficulty of such inquiries, their importance, and the unexpected results which may be obtained, by reference to the experiments of the Edinburgh Committee of the British Medical Association, under the presidency of Dr. Hughes Bennett, as to the action of mercury upon the biliary secretion. The result of these experiments upon dogs—as is now well known—is that mercurials tend rather to diminish, than to increase the secretion of bile. He fully relied upon these experiments as proving that mercurials have not that direct and specific effect upon the hepatic secretion which has been popularly attributed to them; and he accepted them, so far, as an important guide in medical practice; but he could not disbelieve his own experience, and that of the profession, as to the therapeutic value of a dose of blue pill for the relief of many complaints which we call "bilious."

The immediate effect of mercurials is upon the mucous membrane and glandular structures of the intestines, between which and the liver the direct communication was cut off, in the experiments upon dogs, by division of the hepatic duct. He believed that the stimulant effect of a mercurial purgative is chiefly upon the large intestines and the solitary glands of the colon, which are important depurating organs. It is in the cœcum that the intestinal contents first acquire their distinctly feculent odour and appearance; and he thought it probable that the character of the evacuations obtained by a mercurial purgative, and which we call bilious is much, due to increased intestinal secretion in the cœcum and colon; and that to this action, and to the unloading thereby of the portal vessels, as well as to its effect upon the liver, are due the clearing of the sallowness of the complexion and the relief to abdominal

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