OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

A Guide to the Examination of the Urine. Designed chiefly for the use of Clinical Clerks and Students. By J. WICKHAM LEGG, M.D., Casualty Physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Third Edition. London: H. K. Lewis. 1872.—We are glad to see that the merits of this little book have been so fully appreciated as to have called for a third edition. The paragraphs relating to the clinical value of the morbid changes discoverable in the urine have been enlarged and improved. An appendix gives a concise and plain description of the manner of estimating the urea, chlorides, phosphates, sugar, &c., by volumetric or other rapid analyses. Altogether it is a handy and practical Guide, well adapted to the requirements of those engaged in clinical work.

Sciatica, Lumbago, and Brachialgia. By HENRY LAWSON, M.D., Assistant-Physician to St. Mary's Hospital, and Lecturer on Physiology in St. Mary's Hospital Medical School. London: Robert Hardwicke.—Dr. Lawson is an enthusiastic advocate of the hypodermic injection of morphia in these affections. No fresh light is thrown upon the pathology of the subject; but the author is opposed to the central theory, believing the mischief to lie in the nerve-extremities.

Preliminary Notice on the Treatment of Emphysema of the Lungs by Artificial Expiration. By J. B. BERKART, M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill.—This is a little pamphlet of fifteen pages, the contents of which have already appeared in our own columns. We presume that it is now sent out as a sort of light Uhlan in advance of a coming mass of further information on the subject.

The Detection of Criminal Abortion, and a Study of Fœticial Drugs. By ELY VAN DE WARKER, M.D., Syracuse. — Although we were perfectly aware that criminal abortion is far more frequent in America than in this country, we were scarcely prepared to learn that there it is "a science and an art," and that "an old man in Syracuse performs the operation for ten dollars and takes his pay in instalments," both of which facts are stated in the first chapter of this book. The water injection appears to be the favourite mode of procedure; but, among the many other methods of procuring abortion, we may mention that electricity is made use of, a special machine for passing a current through the uterus being openly sold at the instrument-maker's. The book is, after a sort, sensible and practical, although its style is coarse and inelegant.

On the Past and Present State of Medicine in India. By GOPAUL CHUNDER ROY, M.D., F.R.C.S. Glasgow: Dunn and Wright.—This pamphlet is a reprint from the *Glasgow Medical Journal*. The historic aspect of the question presents such a wide and interesting field for research and speculation, and commends itself so strongly to a native medical man, that we could wish that Dr. Roy had been far more exhaustive in his treatment of it. However, it contains some readable information, mixed up with a few platitudes, and a reference to the "glorious British power."

Further Evidence in favour of a Hill-residence for European Soldiers in India. By W. CURRAN, L.R.C.P. Edin. Dublin: J. Falconer.—This work is a reprint from the *Dublin Quarterly Journal of Medical Science*. Mr. Curran strongly recommends the Himalayas as a residence for European troops in the summer, and for camps of exercise or cantonments during the winter; at the same time he considers the hills are more adapted for maintaining health than for restoring it.

AN ELECTION AT THE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE OF PARIS.—After a severe contest, M. Dolbeau, Professor of Surgery at the Faculty, was elected on the 5th of March, defeating M. Voillemer, a surgeon of great eminence, but not connected with the Faculty.

GENERAL COUNCIL OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & REGISTRATION.

Session 1872.

MONDAY, MARCH 4TH.

Dr. PAGET, the President, again occupied the chair.

THE SCOTTISH EXAMINING BODIES.

Dr. PARKES proposed the following motion: "That, in case the medical authorities in Scotland have not succeeded in forming a proper scheme for the formation of a conjoint board for Scotland by the 1st January, 1873, the Council will endeavour to obtain a legislative enactment under which a conjoint board for Scotland may be constituted." He said the Council would perceive that this was only a part of what was aimed at, because any legislation would have for its object a perfect conjoint board in each division of the kingdom. Why should the Council hesitate in the matter? Five or six years ago it held endless meetings on the subject of fresh legislation; committees were appointed, and the president was directed to see the Secretary for the Home Department and ask him to bring in a Bill. It would be extraordinary if the Council, after having for so many years endeavoured to force on legislation, should now take an opposite view and endeavour to avoid it. In truth, however, legislation could not be avoided, and what it was impossible to avoid wise men would seek to control. There was no hope of any conjoint board being formed in Scotland without the aid of legislation, as was obvious from the communications that had been laid before the Council. Dr. Andrew Wood and Dr. Fleming were outvoted in their own colleges.

Dr. ANDREW WOOD.—Not upon the point of the conjoint board.

Dr. PARKES.—At any rate, the whole action of Scotland showed that it was extremely unlikely that anything would be done in that direction which could be at all satisfactory to the Council. The motion of which Sir W. Gull had given notice proposed to give a little more time to the Scotch bodies, but what was the use of giving more time? It was eight years since they had brought before them the facts proving that some of the licensing bodies were admitting perfectly unqualified men, and year after year the same state of things existed. It was not possible by any visitations to exercise a proper control over the various licensing bodies; it was six years since the visitations were instituted, and they had to a great extent failed in their object. It was three or four years since the subject of a conjoint board was brought forward, and, with the honourable exception of England, nothing virtually had been done; and even in England the scheme was not as perfect as could be desired. There should therefore be no more delay in seeking the only remedy that was likely to be useful. He had been taunted by Sir Dominic Corrigan with always wishing the Council to do something strong and vigorous. He entirely accepted the reproach, and rather gloried in it. He thought the Council was far too much wanting in proper dignity, and that it would be much better for it to speak out boldly and firmly what it desired, rather than go on year after year entreating and begging, and, after all, having its entreaties and remonstrances unattended to. The Queen's University in Ireland had entirely set the Council at defiance with regard to certain regulations as to preliminary examinations. When applied to, they only returned an evasive answer, and finally none at all. Sir D. Corrigan then reproached the Council with being unable to do anything.

Sir D. CORRIGAN.—No, I reproached Dr. Parkes.

Dr. PARKES.—I am not the Council.

Sir D. CORRIGAN.—Certainly not.

Dr. PARKES.—It was the action of the Council, and the Queen's University was guilty of a flagrant disregard of the orders of the Council.

Sir D. CORRIGAN.—I rise to order. The question is one relating to what is to be done with the licensing bodies in Scotland,—whether they are to be whipped or not. I object to going into the details of a contest between the Queen's University and Dr. Parkes on the present occasion. If Dr. Parkes will bring forward any motion relative to the

Queen's University, I am ready at an hour's notice to meet him.

Dr. PARKES said that Sir D. Corrigan introduced the subject himself, and he was referring to it as an illustration of the necessity for legislation. Sir D. Corrigan knew the reason why the Council had not been able to take further action. Under the Act of 1858 a reference to the Privy Council could not be taken with any effect upon the subject of preliminary examination; and if they had applied to that body the probability was that, upon the letter, though not upon the spirit, of the law, the Council would have lost the day. That was the sole reason why the question of the Queen's University was not proceeded with; but probably it would again crop up to the surface.

Mr. HARGRAVE seconded the motion.

Dr. ANDREW WOOD said he had taken considerable comfort in the conciliatory course adopted by Sir William Gull and Dr. Humphry, and he could assure the Council that if one thing more than another could tend to encourage the Scotch bodies to do what the Council desired, notwithstanding the observations of Dr. Parkes, the speeches of those gentlemen would have that effect. But Scotland would not be dragooned into taking that step. Scotland would judge for itself what was right. It must be convinced by reason and argument, and would not yield to a pistol presented at its head. He was surprised to hear that nothing had been done during the last eight or ten years to improve the status of the profession. The results of the examinations by the Army Medical Board distinctly negatived the statement. Very recently Mr. Busk, one of the examiners, told him that during the last few years a vast improvement had taken place in the qualifications of the candidates. Scotland was not to be frightened by the threat of legislative proceedings. He would rather trust to the tender mercies of the Legislature than to some of the English members of the Council. For himself he did not fear legislation. The Scotch bodies did not oppose the Bill that was brought into Parliament, and if Dr. Parkes thought that they were to be forced to action by the threat of legislative interference, he would find himself grievously mistaken. Why was Scotland to be made the *bête noire*? The English scheme perpetuated the very evil that had been complained of by leaving out the Society of Apothecaries, which would continue to give its single qualification. The English members might think their plan the best, and Scotland should have credit for a similar conscientious preference. There was a plan which did not degrade the universities and colleges from their functions, but a plan by which they abandoned the right of entering their degrees or diplomas upon the Register until the person had been subjected to a practical test examination in the interests of the public. Dr. Parkes's motion was an invidious one, and would have an effect the very opposite of that which was intended. The mild and courteous proposal of Sir W. Gull seemed a natural and fit corollary to what was done on Saturday, but the motion of Dr. Parkes would arouse a degree of antagonism that could not be easily allayed. He believed that the Scotch members would vote for Sir W. Gull's proposal, and when they returned to Scotland they would do their best to carry out a scheme for a conjoint board. He did not know whether it would be approved by Dr. Storrar. [Dr. STORRAR.—Hear, hear.] That did not matter a pin. [Dr. STORRAR.—Hear, hear.] (Laughter.) If a good scheme were sent in, and the Council refused it, then let a legislative enactment be sought; but a slur should not be cast upon Scotland for not doing what England had not succeeded in accomplishing. Moreover, let them remember that the emblem of Scotland was a thistle, and its motto, "*Nemo me impune lacessit*."

Dr. BENNETT said he was desirous of throwing oil upon the troubled waters. He was sorry that Dr. Andrew Wood had not followed the excellent example of Sir W. Gull and Dr. Humphry, by addressing the Council in the same conciliatory spirit. The Scotch members were anxious to carry out the views of the Council, but no doubt they had great difficulties, greater than those experienced in England, and might, therefore, require more time and effort. At the same time there was some reason for the dissatisfaction that had been felt at the Scotch members not proceeding further than they had done. He believed that they had not as yet understood the subject and had not fully grappled with the scheme brought forward by England, otherwise

they would have proceeded further. They were now beginning to understand it a little more clearly, and within the course of a few months they would be able to propose something that would be satisfactory to the Council. They would conciliate the Council all the more if they would not so often throw in their teeth the imperfection of the English scheme. A perfect scheme was not expected from Scotland any more than it was expected from England, but if the Scotch members would bring forward a scheme as perfect as the English, he ventured to say that it would be carried by the Council as unanimously as the English scheme had been. Some of the proposals from Scotland contained the essence of what the Council desired. He hoped that Dr. Parkes would withdraw his motion in favour of that of which notice had been given by Sir W. Gull. It was a mistake of Dr. Parkes to suppose that application had been made to the Legislature for a conjoint board. The Bill applied for had reference to several points of importance, but it had nothing to do with the subject under discussion. The Government, however, told them that the Bill would have to comprise a very much wider field than it did, and that the mode of admission to the Register would have to be altered. It was then that the Council passed a resolution that it would be desirable for conjoint boards to be established for each division of the kingdom. With regard to the English scheme, if all the graduates of the universities were excluded from it, it would still be practically a complete scheme for the country. It was true that the Society of Apothecaries might continue to enter its students on a single qualification, but what would that qualification be worth? No doubt candidates would all seek a double qualification.

Dr. STORRAR said he did not think it would be advisable to introduce a Bill during the present session, nor did he think the Government would support any measure of medical reform that had not received the pretty unanimous concurrence of the profession. He felt an exceeding reluctance to meddle with Parliament if it could be avoided, and he was only induced to support the last Medical Bill because he found that Lord De Grey was prepared to take up the whole subject on behalf of the Government. With regard to the English scheme it had been suggested that if too high a standard were adopted the students would go off to other bodies. He was not afraid of such a result. It was a mistake to suppose that there was a tendency in men to prefer easy to difficult examinations. Good men would prefer the best examinations within their reach; if it should turn out that the scum went elsewhere, England would be the gainer by the *prestige* associated with its qualifications. He believed that the present Act of Parliament gave the different bodies the power to do an immense amount of good if they only had the will to do it. It was no use, however, proceeding too hastily; they should rather follow the old proverb, "*Festina lente*." He could not vote for Dr. Parkes's motion, but thought that the proposal of Sir W. Gull would apply the necessary amount of respectful pressure to secure a result that would be eventually satisfactory.

Sir WM. GULL proposed the following amendment:— "That a notice of the last resolution of March 2nd, 1872, be sent to the medical authorities of Scotland, together with a statement that the Council still urges upon them the desirability of a conjoint examination, and expresses the hope that a scheme for such an examination as the Council can sanction may be submitted to the Council by January 1st, 1873." He sympathised with Dr. Parkes as to the desirability of moving in the direction of a conjoint scheme, but no doubt the Scotch bodies, and perhaps the Irish, saw great difficulties in carrying it out. For himself he was disposed to think that, as the proposed conjoint examination was not brought forward for the benefit of the profession, but in the interests of the public, the public should pay for it. In Scotland they did not quite concur in that view. The object of the Council should be to set the medical schools and corporations free for the teaching of medicine in the best possible way, without regard to mere professional requirements. In Scotland and Ireland education had not been behindhand; Scotland especially had taken a leading part in general and medical science. He had had something to do with the Civil Service examinations in general literature, and he had been struck with the position attained by the candidates coming from Ireland

and Scotland. His experience of men educated in Scotch and Irish schools led him to think that their medical training was in some respects superior to that of the general mass of men who had been trained elsewhere.

Dr. HUMPHRY, in seconding the amendment, said he agreed with Dr. Storrar in thinking that the desired result would be more readily attained by a courteous pressure upon the several licensing bodies than by an application to Parliament. They had no right to say that there was no hope of a satisfactory scheme from Scotland. The Scotch bodies assented to the principle of a conjoint examination, though they could not agree as to the extent to which the examination should go. He was glad to hear the remark of the President to the effect that the observations of Dr. Storrar on Saturday must be taken as proceeding from him individually, and not as binding the other members. He hoped that the Scotch bodies would endeavour earnestly and honestly to frame such a scheme of examination as they might think best for Scotland. It was not for the Council at present to impose any particular scheme upon them, much less to say that they would not accept any scheme that did not correspond with that of England. With regard to the time that had elapsed since the subject was first brought forward he did not think there was any ground of complaint on that head. Numerous bodies had to be consulted, and he did not see how any satisfactory conclusions could be arrived at in a much shorter space of time. With reference to the suggestion that the State should pay for the conjoint examination, it should be borne in mind that if the State paid for it it would require to exercise some control over it.

Dr. ALEX. WOOD said that no greater difficulty had been thrown in the way of the formation of a conjoint board in Scotland than that created by Dr. Storrar and Dr. Parkes. Long before the Act of 1858, when conferences were held on the subject of medical reform, Dr. Storrar maintained that no proper reform of the profession could take place until the medical corporations were swept out of the way altogether. [Dr. STORRAR: Oh dear, no.] He would not use the very strong and pointed language which Dr. Storrar employed in the lobby of the House on one occasion, and which sunk into the heart of every Scotchman who heard him, but he had witnesses to prove that Dr. Storrar always maintained that the medical corporations were the great obstructions in the way of reform, and that no proper reform would ever be arrived at till they were swept out of the way. [Dr. STORRAR: No.] At any rate that was the universal belief in Scotland, but every Scotch member would be delighted to hear that that was not the opinion of Dr. Storrar now. Two years ago, when the subject was introduced at the Council, the speech of Dr. Parkes was not very well calculated to conciliate the susceptibilities of the Scotch members. Those bodies were governed, not by a small number of persons, but by the general body of Fellows, who took a warm interest in the discussions, and when they read the speeches of some of the members of the Council they felt alarmed for the interests of the bodies with which they were connected. He (Dr. Alex. Wood) might think that the University of London in its schemes and plans was a gigantic mistake—that it gave university degrees without giving a university training, putting a stamp of university authority upon a coin which had no university character at all. That might or might not be his view, but if he were to express such a sentiment what would be thought of him?

The PRESIDENT interposed, and said that the speaker was getting rather wide of the subject under consideration.

Dr. ALEX. WOOD thought that his argument was a strictly logical one. The difficulties in Scotland were very great, and there would be now added to them a singularly ill-judged speech of Dr. Parkes. He thought it would be a wise course for the Council to appoint a committee of men of consideration and calmness, like Sir William Gull and Dr. Humphry, to meet the Scotch bodies, and endeavour to persuade them to come to the point at which they had arrived in England. That course might result in the adoption of a scheme which would be satisfactory to the Council and an improvement upon that adopted in England.

Sir D. CORRIGAN said he was surprised that Dr. Bennett, in the face of the threat contained in the motion proposed by Dr. Parkes, should have the amazing innocence to ask Dr. Wood to be more conciliatory. He heard Dr. Andrew

Wood's reply with great delight. It had been alleged that the Queen's University was guilty of an evasion, and then gave no reply. To the first charge he gave as distinct a denial as courtesy would permit him; the second he fully admitted. The University gave no reply because it scorned the attack. Two years had passed away, and the only observation that Dr. Parkes had to offer in "defence" of his conduct with regard to the Queen's University was that perhaps it might "crop up again." He was now getting into the same scrape with the Scotch universities and the Scotch nation, and that was what he called taking "decisive steps." Some members of the Council appeared to think that the Society of Apothecaries was caught in a trap, and that its licentiates would have to go before the conjoint board. That was a great mistake, because a licentiate of the Society could easily go to the College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and there obtain his surgical diploma. With regard to the value attached to superior qualifications he was able to say, from extensive experience in Ireland, that boards of guardians at any rate did not care a penny about them. When a board of guardians happened to be in a remote part of the country, where they could not get anyone to attend themselves when they were sick, they looked sharply after the qualification of the applicant; but in a populous district, where medical men were accessible, he never knew an instance in which they cared a penny about the matter. (Laughter.) He once gave it in evidence before a committee of the House of Commons, and he had never altered his opinion, that in seeking a public appointment he would rather have the recommendation of a bank discount than a qualification of Hippocrates. (Laughter.) He should vote against the amendment, but he did not know what course he should take with regard to the resolution.

Dr. QUAIN, referring to the letter of Sir R. Christison, said it was full of misconceptions, and he regretted that the writer was not present in order that those misconceptions might be removed.

Dr. FLEMING said that the conciliatory manner in which the Council had discussed the question at that sitting would in a great measure do away with any increased difficulty and irritation caused by the discussion of Saturday. He hoped that the Scotch members would be able to return and approach the subject with a greater prospect of success. It should be remembered that the medical authorities in Scotland were not only licensing, but educating bodies, and that was one element of difficulty. He hoped that Dr. Parkes would withdraw his motion.

Dr. A. THOMSON joined in the hope expressed by Dr. Fleming. The motion, he said, would have a very injurious effect, instead of assisting the Scotch bodies to frame a scheme for a conjoint board. After the general agreement expressed in the papers sent to the Council, he hoped there would be no great difficulty in their agreeing to a measure that would be satisfactory to the Council. It was disclosing no secret to say that he had seen more than one draft of a scheme which he thought would be quite satisfactory to the majority of the Council.

Dr. MACROBIN expressed his concurrence in the remarks of Dr. Thomson, and hoped that Dr. Parkes would withdraw his motion.

Dr. ACLAND felt obliged to Dr. Parkes for handling the subject in so straightforward a manner. It would be better if all the institutions of the country could be led gradually to do their duty without any threat or coercion. But the public was fully determined that there should not be nineteen licensing bodies in the kingdom, and that fact should not be ignored. Great latitude, however, ought to be allowed to the different bodies concerned in carrying out the proposed reform under the direction of the Council. The proper policy was one of extreme forbearance in view of the difficulties that stood in the way. He joined in the request that Dr. Parkes would withdraw his motion.

Mr. QUAIN supported Sir William Gull's motion. He said there was some little reproach resting upon the Scotch universities in consequence of the professors examining their own pupils for degrees; some little change had taken place in that respect, and assessors had been appointed, but it was difficult to conduct the examinations in the way the professors desired, as in various parts of Scotland they could not get assessors of sufficient standing to assist them.

Dr. FLEMING expressed his dissent.

Mr. QUAIN said it might not be the case in Glasgow.

Dr. MACROBIN said that no examination was held without an assessor being present with the professor.

Mr. QUAIN said it was the impression in England that a professor should have no voice in the examination of his own pupils. If he were a professor in Scotland he should think it a great assistance to have a single examination in one place through which all the candidates would have to pass in order to obtain a licence. In such a case the professors might continue their examinations as before. He did not think that the visitation of examinations could go very far; a very strict system of visitation would not promote the dignity of the schools or increase the honour of their degrees. He hoped that those who now dissented in Scotland from the proposal for a conjoint board would come to associate themselves with their colleagues who represented them so worthily at the Council.

Dr. PARKES hoped that the Council would not think him extremely obstinate if he persevered in his motion. He honestly believed that there was no hope of a conjoint board in Scotland, and none of the arguments that had been advanced had altered the view that he entertained. His motion was not designed as a threat, but only as a fair intimation of the course proposed to be taken. Something must be done. The Council would not allow the matter to drop, and it was only fair to inform the bodies that an application would be made for a legislative enactment.

The amendment was then put and carried, 16 voting in its favour and 2 against.

On the amendment being put as a substantive motion,

Dr. BENNETT moved "That the date of July 1st, 1872, be substituted for January 1st, 1873." This amendment was seconded by Dr. ACLAND, and agreed to without discussion.

The motion as amended was then adopted.

THE IRISH MEDICAL AUTHORITIES.

Certain resolutions passed at a meeting of the General Council of the Apothecaries' Hall on Feb. 4th, 1872, were laid before the Council, together with the resolution passed by the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons on the 17th February, 1872.

Dr. HUMPHRY moved: "That this Council expresses its regret that no scheme has been framed and submitted to the Council by the medical authorities in Ireland for establishing a conjoint examination. The Council has considered the resolutions of the Conference of Representatives on this subject, and hopes that a scheme for a conjoint examination which the Council will be able to sanction may be submitted to the Council by the 1st July, 1872." The discussion, he said, that had taken place had blown many clouds away, and shown that the Council was on the right tack. There was no desire for a strict uniformity of qualification, but only for an efficient and satisfactory examination in each division of the kingdom. The Council had had put before it the resolutions of an important conference of the representatives of several medical authorities in Ireland, who met sixteen times to consider the subject.

Sir D. CORRIGAN said that those resolutions had no force whatever; they were merely waste-paper unless they were confirmed by the resolutions of the bodies themselves.

Dr. HUMPHRY said he knew that they had no legal force, but they had a considerable moral force as the opinions of the delegates of the corporate bodies. The conference resolved "That it is expedient to establish a conjoint examination in medicine, surgery, pharmacy, and midwifery," and he thought he was warranted in expressing a hope with regard to Ireland like that which had been expressed with regard to Scotland, that there would soon be forthcoming from that country a scheme which would receive the sanction of the Council.

Dr. STOKES, in seconding the motion, said that Dr. Parkes had not estimated the difficulties of the question, and the representatives of Ireland had some right to complain that he had spoken of a coercion Bill—(hear, hear, and laughter),—and he had done so before the report of the conference had come before the Council, before a single Irish representative had opened his mouth upon the subject. He wished to remind Dr. Parkes that the Council had been wisely constituted without any direct or even indirect mandatory power, and he agreed with Dr. Alex. Wood that the universities and medical corporations of the country were not to be dictated to on the *sic volo sic jubeo* system. Com-

paring the results of the last conference with those of the two preceding ones, there was a marked difference not only in the mutual good understanding between the corporations, but in a *bonâ-fide* earnest desire to carry out the wishes of the Council. (Hear, hear.) Great as had been the difficulties in the English arrangement, he thought there were even greater in Ireland. A distinguished body of representatives had been chosen to attend the conference. They did not propose in their report to interfere with any of the bodies as to professional education. They recommended that the fee charged for examination should be no more than was sufficient to cover the expenses, believing that the existence of a surplus for division might be injurious, as giving to the corporation an interest in keeping down the expense, and therefore the efficiency, of examinations. The report carried out the views of the Council as to preliminary education, which was to be entrusted to the universities, and taken out of the hands of the corporations. The report recorded the opinion of the conference that public teachers might also be examiners, and he believed that view was a just one. The idea of teachers not being allowed to be examiners was based upon that want of confidence in one another to which allusion had so often been made. The report further recommended that all candidates who were going in for conjoint examinations should pass three professional examinations. He (Dr. Stokes), however, had voted against that proposition, believing that there was great danger in the multiplicity of examinations. They were good when applied to clinical medicine or surgery, or to the art of surgery and the art of medicine, but long experience had led him to the conclusion that when examiners took their candidates into the more recondite parts of the theory of surgery and of medicine, they were apt to fall into the mistake of seeking to find out what a man did not know. (Hear, hear.) It was true the report had not been adopted by the licensing bodies, but it had been sufficiently adopted to justify him in saying that an enormous advance had taken place in the right direction. The most distinguished men in the University of Dublin had assented to the proposition in all material respects; the College of Surgeons had assented to it except as to the money question; the Apothecaries' Hall had adopted it *in globo*; the College of Physicians and the Queen's University had withheld their approval. He thought it was the duty of the Council to recognise the efforts that had been made in Ireland to carry out its wishes. Time, he believed, would lead to unanimity, and there was every prospect of its being attained before long. There ought to be no proceeding by way of mandamus, for the Council had no power to take it. He believed that great things had already been accomplished. Speaking with an intimate knowledge of a large hospital class in Dublin during forty years, he could declare, in opposition to the remark of Dr. Alex. Wood, that an enormous amount of good had been done, and the date of the commencement of the good was the second year of the existence of the Council. The young men were wonderfully improved in their general habits, their industry, their gentlemanly conduct, and literary attainments. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. A. SMITH said it was understood that the report of the delegates was not to bind anyone; but it was evident that the Irish bodies had made a nearer approach to a complete conjoint board than had been made by any other body. The suggestion in the report that the constitution of boards of preliminary examination should be left to the universities was a very valuable one. Nothing would so effectually promote the object in view as the establishment of *bonâ fide* boards to superintend preliminary education.

Dr. APJOHN said that the Irish bodies regarded preliminary education as no less important than technical education. He hoped that before long there would be a general agreement in Dublin to have a conjoint examination. The proposal from Scotland would not, he thought, answer any useful purpose.

Dr. LEET also expressed his belief that there would be an agreement among the Irish bodies, and that the wishes of the Council would be carried out.

The PRESIDENT, in putting the motion, alluded to the labours of the Irish conference, which had, he said, resulted in a scheme even more complete than the English, since it included the five Irish bodies, and contained proposals relating to preliminary as well as to professional education.

It was to be regretted that all the bodies could not concur in the scheme, but the prospect of their doing so did not appear at all a hopeless one.

The motion was then agreed to *nem. con.*

EDUCATION OF WOMEN.

Dr. ACLAND proposed—"That a committee be appointed to consider and report whether the General Medical Council has power to make rules for the special education of women, such as may entitle them to be certified by the Council. And that the committee do further report for what purpose such qualifications, if any, should be granted, what are the most desirable means of examining and certifying in respect of them, with especial reference to midwifery, the management of medical institutions, dispensing, and nursing." He asked the members of the Council to observe the precise nature of the motion. It had nothing to do with the question which had been so much discussed in the journals during the last two or three years, and which had been a source of great discomfort, especially in Scotland—viz., whether women should be entitled to be entered upon the Register as ordinary medical practitioners. His motion did not relate to any "medical qualification," as it had been erroneously called, or to the question of women's rights to practise, to have degrees, to dissect with other students, and the like—a question the discussion of which he exceedingly deplored; and he would not be diverted from the topic which he had to bring forward by any clamour of persons who might not be considered discreet; whether he (Dr. Acland) considered them discreet or not he would not say. Everyone conversant with the conditions of the poor in large towns, and still more in agricultural districts, would know that there was a great want of nurses and midwives properly qualified. There were various institutions to supply the want both in England and Ireland. In Dublin certificates were granted for army midwives, who went through a regular course of education; the same thing was done with regard to general nursing at St. Thomas's Hospital in connexion with Miss Nightingale's Fund; and the question of the training of midwives had been taken up by the Obstetrical Society of London. He should regret the raising up of a class of persons of that kind to whom the Medical Council should have no relation whatever. It was the duty of the Council to see to the provision for the medical necessities of the people, and if such persons were really needed the Council should be consulted by the State as to the best means of educating and certifying them, and should have a general supervision over them. It need not undertake the responsibility of certifying or licensing, but it might recognise certain institutions in which such persons were trained. Some years since he had a correspondence on the subject with Miss Nightingale, who raised a difficulty about a suitable examination. It was impossible, she thought, to examine a nurse; but a certificate might be given of her having gone through a certain course of training, such as that in operation at St. Thomas's Hospital. He had been asked to withdraw such an unwise proposition. He thought it a wise one. At any rate no harm could come from the proposed committee of inquiry, who would be able to inform the Council whether it could do anything in the matter. On the continent there was a useful class of persons, the Sisters of Charity, who did all the work of the hospitals which were under the control of the religious orders—even the dispensing. Two years ago he wrote to *The Times* on the subject, and he was attacked rather sharply in the columns of that journal by two ladies—women (laughter), who would have all or nothing, and contended that they had as much right as the men to admission on the Register as qualified practitioners if they passed the required examination. That point indeed had been settled long ago. In the first year of the Council a diploma was received setting forth the qualifications of Elizabeth Blackwell. It was received with ridicule, but one member of the Council said, "The question is not one of sex; the question is whether the diploma is a forgery or not; it rests with the bodies whether they grant such diplomas or not." The Council had really nothing to do with that question. With regard to his proposed committee he had received the names of several members who, without pledging themselves as to the answer to be given to the Council, were willing to serve on it.

Dr. STOKES, in seconding the proposal, said he considered

it a wise and humane one. A midwife was in reality practitioner in a branch of surgery and in a branch of medicine, and the question was whether the training and certifying of such persons should be under the supervision of the Council. In Dublin the College of Physicians and the College of Surgeons examined and certified midwives, and the hospitals did the same. He thought it desirable that such women should be regarded as a lower order of practitioners.

Sir D. CORRIGAN objected to the whole proceeding. The proposed inquiry was useless, since every member of the Council knew that they had no power to issue any qualification, except such as were comprised in Schedule A of the Medical Act. The motion, if adopted, ought to include dry- and wet-nursing. (Laughter.) But they would be rendering themselves ridiculous if they pursued the inquiry and he declined to have anything to do, directly or indirectly, with the question of the admission or rejection of Jex Blake. (Laughter.)

The Council then adjourned.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5TH.

The discussion on Dr. Acland's motion was resumed.

Dr. ANDREW WOOD said that when he first saw the motion he was under the impression that Dr. Acland was anxious to bring into the Council some of the troubles that had vexed Edinburgh for the last three years; that the *venue* of the woman's question was to be changed; and that this might act as a *diverticulum* for the benefit of Scotland. (Laughter.) He was confirmed in this view by observing that the *Scotsman*, the advocate of women's rights, had got hold of the motion and inserted it with a chuckle. He had no doubt that the hearts of Miss Jex Blake and her compatriots were strongly agitated with the hope of getting into a higher sphere. It was a great relief to some members of the Council, as it would be a monstrous disappointment to the ladies in Edinburgh, to find that Dr. Acland's motion was a very small affair. Having heard Dr. Acland's explanation, he was at a loss to understand why the Council should interfere in the education of nurses and midwives. Even if it were within their power, it was totally unworthy of the Council. He admitted that it was of great consequence that midwives should be properly trained; but that was being done in every maternity institution in the kingdom; and special provision was being made in the hospitals for the training of nurses. Dr. Acland should have thought twice before bringing forward such a motion, which he (Dr. Andrew Wood) contended was *ultra vires*. They had no power to institute a new qualification; and if they had it would not add to their dignity to become a registry of midwives. Let Dr. Acland apply the same energy to the subject out of doors that he displayed within the Council, and very beneficial results might be accomplished. But the Council had enough to do without bothering itself about women, who now, as in former days, were the *teterrima causa belli*. (Laughter.)

Dr. A. SMITH contended that the Council had no power to act in the direction proposed, and expressed a hope that Dr. Acland would withdraw his motion.

Dr. ACLAND, in reply, reminded the Council that his motion had nothing to do with the question of the medical education of women. He hoped his colleagues knew him better than to suppose that he would be likely to stir up an outside movement on the question instead of bringing it before the Council. It should not be forgotten that there were three distinct licences in midwifery at present on the Register. These were granted to one sex only; but was there anything to justify them in discouraging the other sex from seeking those licences? He should like to ask Mr. Quain whether there was anything in the bye-laws or in the charter of the College of Surgeons which prevented the granting of a licence in midwifery to the other sex.

Mr. QUAIN said he was unable to answer the question.

The motion was then put, and carried by a majority of one; the votes being 11 for, and 10 against. The following gentlemen were appointed on the committee:—Dr. Acland, Sir Wm. Gull, Dr. Quain, Mr. Quain, Dr. Stokes, Mr. Hargrave, Dr. A. Thomson, and Dr. Macrobin.

Dr. HUMPHREY proposed the following resolution, as a rider to that already passed with reference to a conjoint board for England:—"That the Council trusts that the

arrangements for carrying out the scheme for conjoint examinations by certain English medical authorities which has received the sanction of the Council will be so matured that the contemplated examinations may commence early in 1873; and the Council directs that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to each medical authority co-operating in the scheme." It was most desirable, he said, that the arrangements should be completed as early as possible. He understood that this could scarcely be accomplished before 1873, as some of the authorities concerned would not only have to make fresh arrangements, but would have to alter their bye-laws.

The Council was occupied for some time in discussing the question of the period at which the English scheme should commence; the general feeling being that no precise date should be fixed. In the course of the discussion,

Mr. BRADFORD expressed an ardent hope that means might be found to render the scheme perfect for England by the Society of Apothecaries joining in it. Without making any pledge, his belief was that such means would be found, as the general feeling in the Society was in favour of co-operation. The difficulties in the way were not of their own creating, and he believed that they would be overcome. He regretted that an impression should have prevailed that the Society had wilfully seceded from the conference held last year. Unfortunately the members of the other bodies were never fully alive to the nature of the difficulties that stood in the way. If the conjoint board were formed with the co-operation of the Society of Apothecaries, it would flourish like a tree planted by the water-side; but without such co-operation nothing but dissension and litigation would ensue.

Ultimately Dr. Humphry withdrew his motion, and the opinion was expressed by several members that students who had entered upon their course ought not to be affected by the new arrangements.

VISITATION OF EXAMINATIONS.

The following report, presented by the Committee on the Visitation of Examinations, was laid before the Council:—

"The Committee beg to report:—1. That in their opinion the time has now come when an interchange of visitors between the three Branch Councils would strengthen confidence in the visitation, and would tend to assimilate the character of the examinations of the various boards. 2. That with the view of carrying out the resolution of the Council of July 8th, a committee of visitors be appointed to make arrangements what examinations should be visited, and for carrying out the visitation. 3. That the committee of visitors consist of eight, four to be elected by the English Branch Council, and two by the Scottish and Irish Branch Councils respectively. 4. That each examination reported on shall be visited by a due proportion of members of the Branch Councils, other than the one in that division of the kingdom where the examination is conducted. 5. That it is not desirable that visitations should take place in the case of those examining boards with regard to which it shall appear to the visitation committee that there is a reasonable prospect of a conjoint examination being formed."

Dr. ALEX. WOOD, referring to the last paragraph of the report, said that if it were adopted there would be no examinations to visit, seeing that there appeared to be a reasonable probability of a conjoint board being formed for each division of the kingdom. While he thought it perfectly right that the Council should suspend its visitations during the negotiations for the establishment of conjoint boards, yet he thought their resumption would be of great importance to the examinations themselves, and would stimulate the formation of conjoint boards where they did not already exist. It would be seen how far the examinations required modification, and might tend to bring about their unification, which some members appeared to think of so much importance.

After a short discussion, it was resolved to postpone the consideration of the report.

REGISTRATION OF STUDENTS.

The following report from the Committee on the registration of medical students, and on returns from the bodies in Schedule A of professional examinations and their results, was read and adopted without discussion:—

"Your Committee, owing to the time necessary for the complete correction and verification of the above-named

returns being longer than the present short sessions of the Council allow, and the recommendation of the President of the Council to this effect, beg leave to suggest that in future the returns hitherto compiled by this Committee be confided to the Executive Committee."

ARMY MEDICAL RETURNS.

The report of the Committee appointed to examine the returns supplied at the request of the Medical Council by the Director-General of the Army Medical Service was read. The report stated that the best thanks of the Council were due to the Director-General for kindly acceding to their request, and altering the form of the returns from that adopted in former years.

The PRESIDENT said it was satisfactory to find from the returns that of the thirty-four gentlemen examined only one had entirely failed. The percentage of failures in the examinations of the Army Board had enormously decreased in the last few years. At one time it was 40 per cent., while according to the last return it was only 3 per cent.

The report of the Committee was adopted.

PENAL MEASURES.

The following recommendations of the Executive Committee with reference to penal measures were, without discussion, adopted as standing orders:—

"1. That the deliberations of the Council between the completion of the evidence and the decision of the case be held in private.

"2. That the question as to the person charged being guilty or not guilty be put from the chair, and not in the form of resolution by mover and seconder."

THE CASE OF THOMAS ANDREWS.

The PRESIDENT said that a letter had been received from a gentleman at Shrewsbury, on the part of an association that had been recently engaged in prosecuting unqualified practitioners, and had been the means of the conviction of Thomas Andrews, druggist, for illegally assuming the title of M.D. It was stated that the conviction had been appealed against in the Court of Exchequer, thereby entailing considerable additional expense on the association. A hope was expressed that in the event of the conviction being affirmed the Council would sanction the payment of the fine to the association. The President stated that the case in question was a most gross one, and it was very creditable to the parties concerned that they had taken it up at the risk of having improper motives attributed to them.

The letter was referred to the English Branch Council.

FOREIGN DEGREES.

The PRESIDENT said that a letter had been received from a person of some distinction who had a good foreign degree which he could not put upon the Register, although his name was entered for an English qualification. This was, no doubt, a hardship. If the degree had been granted before 1858 it could have been entered, but the Council had no power under the present Act. The Bill of 1870 would have remedied the grievance.

The Executive Committee was then balloted for, and the previous members were re-appointed.

FINANCE.

The following report was presented from the Finance Committee:—

"The Finance Committee beg leave to submit to the Council in the annexed Table a statement of the income and of the expenditure of the Council during each of the years 1870 and 1871, and of the estimated income and expenditure for the year 1872. It will be seen that the income of the year 1871 is less than that of the year 1870 by the sum of £510 5s. This diminution is due chiefly to an decrease in the amount of registration fees. This decrease appears in the returns from each of the several Branch Councils. The amount received by the English Branch Council being less during the year 1871 than that of the preceding year by £178 10s.; that of the Scottish Branch Council by £111 15s.; whilst that of the Irish Branch Council is less by £117 5s. There is also a decrease in the amount credited to sales of *Pharmacopæia* and balance of account. This decrease, however, is not due to a diminished sale of the *Pharmacopæia*, but to the fact that the balance of £337 0s. 6d. to the credit of the *Pharmacopæia* account in

1870, which had been previously kept separate, has since then been paid over to the general account.

"The expenditure for the year 1871 being less than that of 1870 by £1128 18s. 7½d., there is a balance in favour of income for the year 1871 of £878 19s. 6½d. The reduced

expenditure for 1871 is due to the fact of there having been but one meeting of the Council during that year 1871, whilst the Council assembled twice in the preceding year."

"A communication addressed to the Chairman by Mr. Bell and Mr. Roope applying for remuneration for extra

	Actual Income for the year 1870.		Actual Income for the year 1871.		Estimated Income for the year 1872.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Fees received by—						
Branch Council for England ...	2358	0 0	2179	10 0	2200	0 0
" " Scotland ...	725	0 0	613	5 0	600	0 0
" " Ireland ...	1047	5 0	828	0 0	850	0 0
		4130 5 0		3620 15 0		3650 0 0
Dividends received by—						
Branch Council for England ...	677	1 3	675	12 6	670	0 0
" " Scotland ...	68	2 2	61	7 9	65	0 0
" " Ireland ...	65	19 5	64	4 3	60	0 0
		811 2 10		801 4 6		795 0 0
Sale of Registers ...	270	10 0	264	10 6	270	0 0
Sale of Pharmacopœias ...	270	0 0	210	12 0	200	0 0
Balance of Pharmacopœia Account...	337	6 0	...	...	...	...
Penalties... ..	9	19 0	39	19 3	...	...
		887 15 0		515 1 9		470 0 0
		£5829 2 10		£4937 1 3		£4915 0 0
	Actual Expenditure for the year 1870.		Actual Expenditure for the year 1871.		Estimated Expenditure for the year 1872.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Expenses of—						
General Council	...	4060 11 9	...	2931 2 10½	...	3500 0 0
Branch Council for England ...	597	18 9	593	16 8	600	0 0
" " Scotland ...	240	13 0	319	5 0	300	0 0
" " Ireland ...	287	16 10	314	17 2	300	0 0
		1126 8 7		1126 18 10*		1200 0 0
		5187 0 4		4058 1 8½		Estimated Total Ex-
Actual Income	5829	2 10	4937	1 3		penditure ... } 4700 0 0
Balance in favour of } Income... ..	£642	2 6	£878 19 6½			Estimated Total In-
						come } 4915 0 0
						Estimated balance in } £215 0 0
						favour of Income }

* It will be seen that in this total there is an error to the amount of £100, which will apparently reduce the favourable balance to £778 19s. 6½d.—Ed. L.

work in connexion with the investigation into the accuracy of the Register being laid before the committee, it was resolved to refer the application to the Executive Committee, who have charge of the publication of the Register."

Dr. QUAIN, in moving the adoption of the report, said that if another meeting of the Council was held during the present year the expenditure would exceed the estimate, but perhaps it would be better to meet that difficulty when it arose.

The PRESIDENT congratulated the Council on the improvement in its finances, and the report was unanimously adopted.

THE PHARMACOPEIA.

Dr. APJOHN said that the Pharmacopœia Committee appeared to have been doing very little work, and he suggested that it should not be reappointed.

Dr. QUAIN assured the Council that the committee had been actively employed. They had had an interview with Mr. Redwood, and given him directions for carrying on certain investigations. It might be satisfactory to Dr. Apjohn to know that the committee had agreed to adopt the unitary system of notation.

The committee was then reappointed.

LUNACY CERTIFICATES.

The following letter was read from the office of the Commissioners in Lunacy:—

"Office of Commissioners in Lunacy,
Whitehall-place, March 2nd, 1872.

"SIR,—I am directed by the Commissioners in Lunacy to call the attention of the Medical Council to the fact that Mr. William Dobson, a Member of the College of Surgeons, England, and Licentiate of Apothecaries' Hall, not being registered under the Medical Act, appears to have been practising at Malvern-road, Beeston-hill, Leeds, and so practising he recently signed a certificate under the Lunacy Acts. He has promised forthwith to register, and upon that understanding only do the Commissioners refrain from proceeding against him criminally.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"(Signed) CHARLES PALMER PHILLIPS,
Secretary.

"Dr. F. Hawkins, General Council of Medical Education, &c."

The letter was ordered to be acknowledged with thanks.

PREMISES FOR THE COUNCIL.

Dr. STOKES moved that it be an instruction to the Execu-

tive Committee to obtain premises where meetings of the Council can be held, and the general business carried on, with comfort and convenience. Its present premises in Soho-square were utterly insufficient, and their place of meeting during the summer was intolerable. The place was disreputable to the Council and the profession.

Dr. FLEMING seconded the resolution.

Dr. BENNETT said he had long felt dissatisfied with the rooms occupied by the Council. The matter had been referred to the Executive Committee, but they could do nothing without some positive command on the subject. There were sufficient funds for the purpose, and the Council would have a better return for its money by purchasing a suitable house than allowing it to remain in the consols. At one time there was a prospect of obtaining suitable rooms through the medium of the Government, either gratuitously, or at a very moderate expense. He suggested that a building lease might be obtained, either on a portion of the Thames Embankment or in the new street to be made between Charing-cross and the north of London.

Dr. SHARPEY said that efforts had been made by the Treasurer to obtain suitable premises, but without success. If the Executive Committee had power to proceed at once in the matter no doubt they might be more successful.

Dr. ANDREW WOOD inquired whether it would be desirable to give any positive instructions without an estimate of the expense.

The PRESIDENT said that the Executive Committee could only act through the instrumentality of the English Branch Council. The money in hand was not possessed by the General Council, but by the separate branch councils. He did not imagine that the English Branch Council would be likely to raise any objection to the proposal.

Dr. ACLAND said that the premises the Council then occupied were not only a discomfort to the Council itself, but a national scandal. The reason why they had not accommodation given by the Government was a logical, but a very remarkable one: because the Council had accepted from the Legislature the duties of publishing the Pharmacopœia, printing the Register, and protecting the public, it was required to pay all the expenses of discharging those duties out of the money received from the profession.

After some further discussion, the motion was unanimously adopted.

The usual votes of thanks were then passed, and the session was brought to a close.