a drenching with warm water and soap, which is not the most agreeable part of the bath, and may be considered partially unnecessary. Then the bather passes back to the tepidarium, where he is dried and clothed in warm towels; and, after a pause, thence to the frigidarium, or cool chamber, where, still clothed in warm towels, he sips coffee, smokes a narghilet, and indulges in beatific sensations which only those can know who have passed through the three purgatories of the bath. The Turkish bath is an agent of such great power in restoring the active functions of the skin, and the ordinary results of its application are so peculiarly agreeable and invigorating, that it will probably excite the attention of medical practitioners in its relations to disease. It is a powerful agent, of which the virtues are apparent; but incautiously employed by persons liable to congestion of the head or organs of the chest, it is not free from dangers, as some unfortunate circumstances have already proved.

DOCTORS IN DIFFICULTIES.

THE responsible duties of the medical practitioner are performed under the eyes of a watchful and jealous public. The difficulties inherent in the varied exigencies of medical labour are so great that we must all deprecate invidious criticism, and cannot combat too strongly any unfounded attack upon the character of a brother practitioner. We hear with regret that the verdict of last week in the case of death from opium under the charge of Dr. Burton, at Brompton, near Chatham, has not sufficed to relieve that gentleman from painful and malevolent annoyance. The conduct of Dr. Burton was so fully and entirely justified, and his skill and care so clearly shown, in the inquiry following the death, that it is not easy to see what food remains for malice. His claims to confidence and his medical reputation are in no respect injuriously affected by that investigation; and any charges or insinuations founded upon the calamity are unworthy of honest men. There is no man in any department of professional or business life who can be assured of immunity from the blows of adverse fate; and we can have but little respect for those who would fail to show a befitting sympathy under such circumstances, still less for any who would add a private sting, or seize the moment of suffering to plant a dastard blow.

In another case which has simultaneously come to our knowledge, a surgeon at Belfast has successfully repelled the attack of a public journal by the display of energetic powers of self-defence. On the 28th of March, two children at Belfast, named Hamilton, aged four and six years respectively, had administered to them by their father a strong dose of Epsom salts and juniper berries, which had been procured from a neighbouring druggist; both were immediately seized with the usual symptoms of irritant poisoning, and within one hour the eldest child was a corpse. The case gave rise to a good deal of newspaper comment, as a general impression prevailed that poison had been accidentally administered. The coroner having refused to order a post-mortem examination, the father, who was naturally desirous to ascertain whether the popular opinion was correct, employed Dr. Corry, Surgeon to the Belfast General Dispensary, and another gentleman, to remove the stomach and viscera, for the purpose of having them analyzed by Dr. Hodges, Professor of Medical Jurisprudence at Queen's College. Professor Hodges was unable to obtain any traces of the ordinary mineral or narcotic poisons. The stomach contained a bloody fluid, strongly impregnated with sulphate of magnesia; and the mucous membrane was highly congested. It was his opinion that the child died from an overdose of Epsom salts. Nevertheless, a truculent journalist of the town smelt poison in every organ of the body, and denounced the anatomists for not minutely submitting the whole to various tests. Failing to make out a case in science, this wrathful man of letters resolved to gain a victory at the expense of the personal character of Dr. Corry, and determined to ridicule pre-

tensions which he had been unable otherwise to disturb. Dr. Corry instituted legal proceedings, laying damages at £1000; and has received, in deprecation of his just wrath, an ample printed apology, full of "sincere regrets" and "unconscious injustice." Dr. Corry occupies an honourable position amongst his professional brethren in Belfast; and we hope this case may prove a salutary warning to those snarling critics who think to compensate for defect of knowledge by excess of malice.

STATE OF THE WATERS IN REGENT'S PARK.

ONE thing at a time is a good maxim, so that we hardly know whether it be a wise policy to introduce to the public another sheet of water in a public park, which has claims upon public attention such as those of the Serpentine, until the cleansing of the latter lake is decided by the House of Commons. But there is an equally undeniable principle in the conduct of affairs, which recommends the timely aid that saves so much prospective labour. We are disposed, therefore, to commend the unsanitary condition of the ornamental water in Regent's Park to the attention of the public and the Chief Commissioner of Works, notwithstanding, or rather because, that it is as yet somewhat less desperately bad than the waters of the Serpentine. It is possible that by a small expenditure these waters may never reach the pitch of Augean filth which puzzled Mr. Hawksley in Hyde Park, and therefore we beg a timely attention to the report of Dr. Dundas Thomson, F.R.S., to the vestry of Marylebone on their present condition. He says—

"This water is derived principally from land springs and drainage; but during the summer it is supplemented from the pipes of the West Middlesex Water Company, to the extent of several inches. In the more narrow and shallow portions I have found the bottom to be composed of a dark putrid mud, giving off gases which carry up portions of organic matter to the surface; a scum is thus gradually formed, which emits, in warm sunshine, a noxious odour. The water contains a large amount of organic matter, the quantity reaching 9·12 degrees or grains per gallon; and the total impurity being 67·60 grains or degrees per gallon, it is much more impure than the Serpentine water. The fresh mud consists of 67·98 per cent. of water, 26·64 inorganic, and 5·56 organic matter."

It is evident that this mud ought to be removed forthwith, out of regard to the health of the thousands who frequent this beautiful park. The deposit of mud is, to be sure, not yet so thick as at the bottom of the Serpentine; but the water is already more impure, and the bed will in time become more filthy.

SIR WM. DUNBAR'S AMENDED REGISTRATION OF DEATHS &c. BILL.

ON Friday, the 1st instant, the Glasgow Faculty of Medicine held a special meeting to consider Clause 13 of the above Bill, with copies of which they had been furnished by Sir William Dunbar and the members for the city. The following resolutions, on the motion of Mr. McCarron, seconded by Dr. William Young, were unanimously adopted:—

1. That the 13th clause is an improvement on the existing law, in so far as it provides for the passing of the schedule from the medical "person" directly to the registrar; but that, inasmuch as it does not repeal the penal clause of the Act 17 & 18 Vict. cap. 80, it is not satisfactory to the meeting.

2. That as the present law demands from the profession unrequited labour, it violates the first principles of the constitution as affects the private rights of the citizen; whilst by enforcing such demand by a system of pains and penalties, it is guilty of tyranny, and should be resisted by every constitutional means.

3. That a petition founded on these resolutions, and signed by the president, be forwarded to Mr. W. Buchanan for immediate presentation to Parliament.

4. That the thanks of the Faculty are eminently due to Messrs. W. Buchanan and R. Daglish, the city representatives, and also to Sir E. Colebrook, the member for Lanarkshire, for

the interest they have taken in this matter on behalf of the profession.

On the suggestion of Dr. Walker, it was agreed to address a circular to the Scottish members and others favourable, calling on them to expunge from the law the penal clause, which stamps a degradation on the medical profession of Scotland.

(Signed) JAMES SCANLAN, M.D., President.

THE LATE PROFESSOR JOHN LIZARS.

WE lately recorded the death of this distinguished Edinburgh surgeon. When a man of note passes from amongst us, it is interesting as well as instructive, by a retrospective glance at the salient points in his professional career, to see how he has built up the great name which he leaves behind.

John Lizars was born in Edinburgh, and received his education at the High School of that city. Having resolved to enter the medical profession, he had the good fortune to become the pupil and apprentice of the well-known John Bell, the elder brother of the illustrious Sir Charles. Under a master so eminent at once as an anatomist and surgeon, it need not be wondered at that young Lizars acquired that bent towards anatomy and surgery which determined his after-career. Having obtained his diploma in 1808, he passed several years as surgeon in the royal navy, serving on the Spanish and Portuguese coasts during the Peninsular war, under the command of Admiral Lord Exmouth. One of the warmest and most lasting friendships of his life was one which he then formed with Lord Napier, who was then captain of one of the ships in which he served.

Mr. Lizars returned to Edinburgh in 1815, and was admitted a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of that city; and in such esteem was he held by his former master, John Bell, that he was admitted into the partnership which then subsisted between Bell and Robert Allan, the well-known surgeon of that day, and author of "Allan's Surgery." Mr. Lizars shortly began to lecture in the school with Allan, the latter giving the surgical lectures, while Lizars took the department of anatomy and physiology. In a few years the partnership was dissolved, and Mr. Lizars lectured on anatomy alone at the Theatre, No. 1, Surgeon-square, which long maintained its reputation as a school of anatomy. Having made a position as a teacher of anatomy, in the course of four or five years he commenced to lecture on surgery also. To teach both sciences was no light matter either for mind or body. His method was as follows: first, a lecture on anatomy from eleven to twelve; secondly, a half-hour's demonstration on anatomy at one o'clock; and, thirdly, the lecture on surgery from two to three. This he did daily, Saturdays excepted; besides which, he had a large class of practical anatomy—a department the conducting of which was then a much less easy or safe matter than it now-a-days proves to us, who have merely to receive bodies under the peaceful operation of the Anatomy Act. Mr. Lizars' activity and success may be judged when we mention that on each of his three classes there was an average attendance of about one hundred and fifty students. His success as a teacher may be said to have been due not only to his ability as an anatomist and surgeon, but to the great attention he paid to his pupils in the time he spent with them, and to the zeal with which he inspired them.

When the Edinburgh College of Surgeons, leading the van in the improvement of medical education, resolved to recognise each teacher for one science only, Mr. Lizars naturally chose surgery, resigning his class of anatomy to his brother Alexander, who soon became known as a successful teacher in Edinburgh, now the well-known professor of anatomy in the University of Aberdeen. In 1831 John Lizars was appointed Professor of Surgery to the Royal College of Surgeons on the resignation of Mr. Turner, who became the first, but short-lived, professor of surgery in the Edinburgh University. Mr. Lizars continued to lecture as professor of surgery till 1838–39, when he retired from the duties of the lecture-room and the

hospital. The hospital appointment he had held for only some five or six years, under an unhappy regulation then in force in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary which allowed of but short appointments. However important a more lasting hospital appointment may be, it will prove consolatory to those who, from want of friends, or jealousy, or other circumstances, have been unable to gain such an appointment, to see from Mr. Lizars' career that even a surgical reputation may be made before, and maintained after, it has ceased.

A signal proof of Mr. Lizars' industry and devotion to the science of surgery was presented in the large number of anatomical and pathological specimens which he collected from the field presented by his practical rooms and his private and hospital practice. These, with scarcely any exceptions, were prepared by himself. The anatomical museum went to his brother Alexander, with the anatomical class; and when he retired from teaching surgery in 1839, his large and truly valuable surgical museum passed into the possession of Dr. Handyside, who succeeded him as lecturer on surgery.

Mr. Lizars' reputation as a teacher was made and maintained at a time when there was no lack of competitors and contemporary lecturers of great talent and fame. Amongst these were Barclay (who was still in the field), Mackintosh, Fletcher, Argyll Robertson, Knox, John Reid, and, as colleague at the hospital, there was Liston. Liston and Lizars taught and operated side by side, rivals and yet friends, for they were too much of a kind not to respect each other. A really great man may fail to be recognised from the mere accidental presence of a greater; as we have heard an anatomist say, the gluteus medius would have been regarded as a large muscle but for the presence of the maximus. To operate in the same theatre with Liston, and before the same students, was the severest trial to which a reputation could be subjected. But neither of these eminent men threw the other into the shade. Mr. Lizars could be equalled as an operator, but could not be surpassed. He had the ease and trust brought by that thorough familiarity with anatomy which years of teaching in the dissecting-room can alone supply, and a rich endowment of that natural coolness which is to the surgeon what natural bravery is to the soldier. None who witnessed it are likely to forget the coolness and dexterity with which he performed the then laudable but anxious experiment of exposing and tying the innominate artery; no one, probably, of the large and eager audience so cool as the operator himself. It will be remembered, too, that surgery is indebted to him for the introduction of the operation of removal of the upper jaw.

Mr. Lizars also contributed to advance the sciences of anatomy and surgery by his numerous writings. Besides his lesser writings "On the Extraction of Diseased Ovaria," "On Club-Foot," "On Strabismus," and "On Stricture," he published his well-known "System of Practical Surgery," and his large anatomical work, the "Anatomical Plates." The engravings in the latter work were made chiefly from original dissections, with great care, and at much expense. The work was altogether a magnificent one in its day, and had an immense sale; and although the increased facilities for dissection have rendered all such works less necessary than in former times, it is still, notwithstanding more modern competitors, a valuable work of reference for the student and surgeon.

Retiring from the position of teacher, which he had so long and so successfully held, Mr. Lizars devoted his time to private practice, surgical and general, with occasional appearances as an author, and thus spent the last twenty years of his life. He continued these active duties till the end. He had been out as usual on the forenoon of the 20th of last month; but, feeling drowsy, returned home. Symptoms of insensibility gradually supervened and increased, and without any return of consciousness he died on the following evening, thus ending a long, active, and useful career with a short illness and painless death.

It may be well, in concluding this brief notice of Mr. Lizars' career, to call the attention of the young members of the profession to the circumstance that the success and eminence which he attained he owed solely to himself. With no aids but those of his native talent and education, and his continued industry, he rose rapidly in the confidence of the profession and the public, and has left behind him a lasting name amongst the great ones of surgery and of the northern metropolis. To his many pupils, now scattered over the world, the news of his death will come with that sadness with which one hears that an old and favourite teacher has passed away, breaking another of the links which bound them to the past, and to them the incidents and the names to which we have referred will stir many deep and interesting memories of bygone days.