part of the conjunctiva is touched the effect is so slight that by the next day the epithelium will be found to be replaced.

ANTIPIRYN AS A HÆMOSTATIC.

The hæmostatic effect of antipyrin has been noticed by MM. Huchard, Henocque, and Olikoff,³ though some other observers have not been able to confirm their statements. A remarkable instance of its power of rapidly coagulating blood in a very critical case has recently been published by Dr. Broussolle,⁴ surgeon to the Dijon Hospital. The patient had a large aneurysm affecting the transverse portion of the aorta which had encroached upon the walls of the chest so as greatly to thin the integuments. A rupture took place, and at first firm pressure on the sternum was used, which temporarily diminished the copious flow of blood, but the hæmorrhage was as violent as ever the moment the pressure was relaxed. Under these circumstances Dr. Broussolle determined to try the effect of antipyrin. After rapidly clearing away the clots from the skin a drachm of antipyrin was sprinkled on the wound and a pad of absorbent cotton wool applied with a bandage. The effect of the antipyrin was first to form a clot, which caused the hæmorrhage to diminish and ultimately to stop. It did not return, though the patient lived for forty-eight hours and died from pulmonary complications of long standing. The pad was found to be scarcely stained, and the size of the aneurysmal tumour had decreased to a marked extent.

THERAPEUTICS OF HEPATIC AND RENAL COLIC.

Mr. Fleiner has for two years investigated the mode of treatment which consists of injections of oil in cases of hepatic colic, and on the whole thinks it preferable to the administration of oil by the mouth, as much larger doses can be tolerated and more frequent repetition is well borne. The oil is supposed to act as a purgative and cholagogue, and so to favour the expulsion of calculi which have become arrested in the biliary ducts. This treatment may be continued over a long period of time and does not lose its purgative effect. From 300 to 500 grammes of pure olive oil should be given, and to attain success the injection should be made very slowly. It should be repeated every day for the first seven days, and then gradually reduced at first to every two days and then every three days, and so gradually dispensed with. The following prescription is also recommended for both hepatic and renal colic: Valerianate of amyl, sulphuric ether, of each three minims; to be made into capsules; two capsules to be taken every half-hour until six have been taken in the day. Amyl valerianate has a sedative and stimulating action, and in hepatic colic is said to be a specific, not only suppressing the attack, but dissolving cholesterin and preventing its return. In renal colic it is not so radical in its action, but eases the pain of the attack.

THE APPROACHING REVISION OF THE BRITISH PHARMACOPOEIA: NEW ORGANIC REMEDIES.

Messrs. Helbing and Passmore have just published in brochure form some good and useful suggestions, embodying what they consider should be the Pharmacopœial requirements of the new organic remedies. Their conclusions are evidently based upon a practical and intimate acquaintance with the drugs described. As representing the later remedies which synthetic chemistry has recently placed at our disposal, and the use of which has been justified by extended clinical observation, the following are mentioned:—chloralamid, dermatol, formaldehyde, gualacol (crystalline), ichthyol, naphthalene, naphthol, phenocoll hydrochloride, piperazine, resorcin, salol, and trional. No exception can be taken we think to the suggestions in regard to the necessity for more stringent requirements for lanoline, saccharin, and sulphonol, and also in regard to some minor alterations in the characters and tests of acetanilide, antipyrin, paraldehyde, and phenacetin. The paragraphs dealing with the suggested pharmaceutical text for each remedy, and containing the character and tests by which purity and uniformity are to be recognised, are distinctly good and such as convey the impression that they could only have been the outcome of actual laboratory observation.

³ THE LANCET, Oct. 29th, 1887, p. 880.

⁴ La Semaine Médicale, April 10th, 1895.

The Dean of Rochester presided last week at the Church House at the annual meeting of the Church Sanitary Association. The proceedings closed with a paper upon "Public Slaughter-houses and the Proper Inspection of Meat," by Dr. J. F. J. Sykes, medical officer of health for St. Pancras.

THE MEASUREMENTS OF THE SKULL OF SIR THOMAS BROWNE.

BY CHARLES WILLIAMS, F.R.C.S. EDIN.

SIR THOMAS BROWNE died on Oct. 19th, 1682, and was buried in the church of St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich. In 1840 his skull was "knaved out of its grave" by the sexton. It appears that some workmen who were employed in making a grave for the incumbent's wife accidentally broke into the vault which contained the coffin of Sir Thomas Browne. In some unexplained way they fractured the lid of the coffin, and thereby exposed the skeleton. The sexton did not consider it an act of sacrilege to take possession of the skull and to offer it for sale. Eventually the late Dr. Edward Lubbock became its possessor, and in 1845 the skull was deposited by him in the pathological museum of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, where it is still to be seen. It has recently been claimed by the vicar of St. Peter Mancroft, but unsuccessfully. The hospital authorities refused to relinquish the precious relic, and there it remains under its glass case, reverently preserved and protected, and long may it remain, not as an object of curiosity, but as a means of directing the attention of visitors to the learned works of that great scholar. The coffin plate of brass was also broken lengthwise at the same time. On it were engraved the remarkable lines, most probably written by his eldest son, Edward: "The best bred man" of Charles II.'s Court, President of the College of Physicians, and Physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. "*Hoc loculo indormiens corporis spagyrici pulvere plumbum in aurum convertit.*" It is a singular circumstance that the lead of which the coffin was made was found to be completely decomposed and to have changed to a carbonate which crumbled at the touch.

The measurements of the skull are expressed in English inches and tenths, and have recently been taken by means of Flower's craniometer, according to the plan suggested and carried out so extensively by the late Dr. Barnard Davis, the possessor of 1800 human skulls, recently deposited in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and to whom, as well as to Dr. Thurnham, the science of anthropology is so deeply indebted for the production of that great work, "Crania Britannica." The skull may be placed in the dolicho-cephalic class. It is quite edentulous, but is in a state of excellent preservation. The forehead is remarkably low and depressed; the head is unusually long, the back part exhibiting a singular appearance of depth and capaciousness. The following are the measurements:—Internal capacity, in ounces avoirdupois of dry sand, 69 ounces. Circumference round the forehead about an inch above the naso-frontal suture and over the most prominent part of the occiput, 21.5 in. Fronto-occipital arch, from the fronto-nasal suture along the centre of the calvarium to the posterior edge of the foramen magnum, 15 in.—(a) length of the frontal portion, 5 in.; (b) length of the parietal portion, 5 in.; (c) length of the occipital portion, 5 in. Intermastoid arch, from the tip of one mastoid process across the vertex to the tip of the other, 14.5 in. Longitudinal diameter, or length from the glabella to the most prominent point of the occiput, the glabella being regarded as about an inch above the naso-frontal suture, 7.7 in. Transverse diameter, or greatest breadth—interparietal, 5.8 in.; intertemporal, 5.4 in.—(a) frontal breadth at the most divergent points of the bone in the coronal suture, 5 in.; (b) parietal breadth at the protuberances, 5.6 in.; (c) occipital breadth at the junction of the occipital with the posterior inferior angles of the parietals, 4.8 in. Height from the plane of the foramen magnum at its centre to that of the vertex, 5.1 in.; (a) frontal height, 5.5 in.; (b) parietal height, 5 in.; (c) occipital height, 4.8 in.; taken from the axis of the auditory foramina these measurements are respectively 4.3 in., 4 in., and 4.5 in. From one auditory foramen to the other—(a) over the most prominent part of the frontal bone, 11 in.; (b) over the parietal bones, 12 in.; (c) over the occipital bone, 13 in. Length of the face from the nasal suture to the tip of the chin, an allowance of 0.6 in. being made for the absent teeth and absorption of alveolar ridges, 4.5 in. Breadth of the face from the most prominent point of one zygomatic arch to that of the other, 5.2 in.; from the external border of one orbital ridge to that of the

other, 4·2 in. Width of the lower jaw at the angles, 4 in. Proportion of the greatest breadth to the length (the latter taken as 100), 0·72. Proportion of the height to the length, 0·66. The above measurements were taken at the request of the late Dr. W. A. Greenhill of Hastings, who, at the time of his death in October, 1894, was engaged in preparing for the press a new edition of Sir Thomas Browne's "Urn Burial." It was his wish "to make the account more complete by giving the measurements of that great man's skull." Is it not strange that one who meditated so deeply on the transitory duration of monuments and the great mutations of the world should have exemplified in his own relic his words to Thomas Le Gros? "But who knows the fate of his bones, or how often he is to be buried? Who hath the oracle of his ashes, or whither they are to be scattered?"

Norwich.

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.

DR. HOLMAN presided at the annual general meeting of this institution on May 30th, when the report for the past year was presented to the governors and unanimously adopted. The report, which is a very satisfactory document, states that the full number of pensioners and foundation scholars has been maintained, and that there has been a slight increase in the receipts from annual subscriptions, upon which income the benevolent side of the institution in a great measure depends. The continued success of the school has compelled the council to give serious attention to the question of extending the accommodation, and it has been decided to build a lower or junior school capable of accommodating 100 boys. As many of the boys come to the college with a very limited education, this will be of immense benefit to them. The seating accommodation of the chapel has been inadequate for some time past, and with an addition of 100 boys its extension will become absolutely necessary. Plans for this purpose have been submitted by Sir Arthur Blomfield, and contributions to the amount of about £1175 are already in hand, but further subscriptions are urgently needed. In a few months the college will possess its own laundry. This is desirable, both from an economical point of view and also as a safeguard from the risk of infection. In accordance with the Act of Parliament which came into force on July 1st, 1894, the college is now open to all classes of boys, although special privileges are reserved for the sons of medical men. The gift by Mr. France of a ninth perpetual presentation to the School of St. Anne's Society for the orphan daughters of medical men has been completed; and the council are happy to report that under the provisions of the will of the late Mr. Bowen of Melbourne a considerable residuary estate is left to the college to be employed in the amelioration of the condition, or otherwise for the benefit, of the widows and orphans of medical men from time to time under the care and protection of the college. The council propose to increase the out-pensions from £21 to £30 per annum on and after July 1st, 1895. As it is upon the income from annual subscribers that the success of the charitable side of the college mainly depends, the council earnestly ask everyone interested in the institution to endeavour to obtain more annual subscribers. The progress of the school is well maintained. Several scholarships have been gained, and almost every Epsomian at Cambridge who is a scholar of his college had his scholarship either increased or extended, which speaks well for the training they received in the school in the past. The health of the boys has been remarkably good; work and discipline have been satisfactory; and the continued interest taken by the boys in their games is a healthy sign. Both cricket and football have been played with vigour.

It is probable that before July next there will be some vacancies for exhibitioners, who must be sons of some of the less fortunate members of the medical profession. Application should at once be made to the secretary at the offices in Soho-square.

Dr. HOLMAN, in proposing the adoption of the report, remarked that the school was full to overflowing, and it had been decided to build a lower school, to enlarge the chapel, and to erect a laundry. As they were now in the flood-tide of success, it would be impossible to stand still, and they

must go forward. Referring to the generous gift from the late Mr. Bowen of Melbourne, the Chairman said the council had met with very inefficient support from their brethren in England, and they had been pushing the claims of the college in all parts of the world. A South African paper had published a leading article on the merits of the college, and only about a week ago a subscription had been received from Hong-Kong. Dr. Harvey of Calcutta had moved very actively in the matter in India, and two subscribers of £10 a year had been added to the list. Adverting to the new Act of Parliament which had been passed for the benefit of the school, he said that when the asylum was empty it would be used for school purposes, but the school would pay a rental which would go towards the benevolent part of the work. Under the Act they had powers to borrow, and for the proposed extensions it would be necessary that these powers should be used.

The retiring members of the council, Dr. M. Baines, Dr. R. H. Bradley, Dr. Charles Drage, Colonel Gordon Watson, Mr. J. J. Purnell, Mr. H. E. Vardon, Sir Edward Sieveking, Sir Arthur Watson, Mr. C. L. Smiles, and Surgeon-Major De Tatham, were re-elected for a further period of three years, and the proposed increase to the out-pensions in consequence of the legacy of Mr. Bowen of Melbourne was agreed to.

The new by-laws received the approval of the Governors, the auditors were reappointed, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his great services as treasurer and for his able conduct in the chair brought the meeting to a close.

The lists of successful candidates for the pensionerships and for the foundation scholarships were published in THE LANCET of June 1st. There is no vacancy for a Pugh pensionership or for a Morgan annuitant.

THE ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, AND THE HALF-YEARLY MEETING OF THE FELLOWS OF THE COLLEGE.

NOTICE has been given that "a meeting of the Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of England will be held at the College in Lincoln's-inn-fields, on Thursday, the 4th day of July next, at 1.30 o'clock in the afternoon precisely, for the election of five Fellows into the Council of the College." Intending candidates may be reminded that "blank forms of the requisite notice from a candidate and of his nomination may be obtained on application to the secretary, and that the same must be received by him, duly filled up, not later than on Monday, the 10th of June next." Candidates are as liable as other people to make mistakes, either of commission or omission, and delays in providing themselves with the necessary forms, in getting them properly filled, and in transmitting them to the secretary in time may prove dangerous or fatal to their prospects of election. Last year a casualty occurred, and on another occasion the friends of an intending candidate were kept employed all day in rectifying his inadvertent omissions to comply with the official requirements, with the result that it was only upon the stroke of twelve at midnight on the last day for the reception of applications from candidates that his papers were lodged inside the doors of the College.

It is satisfactory to note that the election will be held under an amended by-law (Section IV.), and that Fellows of the College will no longer be required to apply for voting-papers. A voting-paper will be sent by post to each Fellow whose address in the United Kingdom is registered at the College on Saturday, June 22nd next.

Notice has also been given to the Fellows that a meeting of the Fellows will be held at the College on Thursday, July 4th next, at 5 o'clock P.M., for the following purposes:

1. To read the minutes of the half-yearly meeting of Fellows on Jan. 3rd last.
2. The President to report proceedings in connexion with the application to the Secretary of State for alterations in Sections IV., XVI., and XXV. of the By-laws.
3. To read the following resolutions adopted by the Council on Feb. 7th, 1895, in reference to the resolution