human body are immense, such as, for instance, the localisation of nerve centres in the brain, of injury to peripheral nerves, the size of the heart, &c.

We are, Sirs, yours faithfully,

HUGH WALSHAM, M.A., M.D. Cantab., F.R.C.P. Lond.

LESLIE MILLER, A.M.I.E.E.

Feb. 10th, 1904.

* * Our own experiments in THE LANCET Laboratory have confirmed the above observations. Mr. Miller has since pointed out that by simply placing a speck of recently excited calcium sulphide on a thick book—such as, for example, the Medical Directory—a distinct increase in the glow is obvious when the muscles of the hand or leg are contracted underneath.—ED. L.

BILHARZIA HÆMATOBIA.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I should be glad to know if there is any treatment otherwise than that of local sedatives for the condition of chronic cystitis and hæmaturia caused by the bilharzia hæmatobia. I take this opportunity of humbly pointing out to the profession the necessity of looking for this trematode in the urine of anyone complaining of bladder or kidney trouble who has lived in the neighbourhood of Rustenburg, Transvaal, for any length of time. My patient has been seen by four medical men, none of whom thought of the true cause of his complaint.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

E. H. WORTH.

Streatham, S.W., Feb. 23rd, 1904.

THE LEGAL AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONS IN IRELAND.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The spirit of friendly relationship that formerly existed between the professions of law and medicine and the courtesy that was its natural expression seem to have departed altogether in our times, or to be recalled only by the occasion of social functions outside the sphere of professional work. Anyone who has had experience of the system that presently obtains in the courts cannot fail to have been struck by the unwarranted impertinence—frequently amounting to positive insult—to which medical witnesses are constantly subjected, as if it were a recognised fact that every medical witness must not only be prejudiced but be prepared to sacrifice his professional honour and to degrade his office in the interests of whatever party has employed him.

It is not an infrequent occurrence to find judges priding themselves upon their knowledge of petty medical technicalities and parading it in a series of questions that should certainly arouse indignant protest, if it did not afford compensation in the silent amusement of the doctor who happens to be pilloried in the witness-box. Lectures regarding excessive fees and the unreasonable requirements of medical men are occasionally contributed and irresistibly force one to the conclusion that "Milud" has been a diligent student of the introductory remarks to the advertisements of patent medicines. The bar, of course, takes its cue from the bench, and the method of cross-examination of a medical witness bears frequently a close resemblance to the petty sessions court style where the evidence of a doubtful character is being sifted.

Formerly the cross-examination of medical witnesses was directed to minimise the injuries alleged to have taken place, and the most vigorous investigation of facts did not preclude the observance of that old-time courtesy that was honourable alike to both professions. Now, however, the doctor is subjected to every indignity, his motives are impugned, and his testimony is regarded as at least not above suspicion. That this is the actual state of things can scarcely be gainsaid, the reason for it may be debateable. It does assuredly seem that the present duty of medical witnesses is to resent immediately and resolutely any insulting observations or insinuations addressed to them in a court of justice, whether they emanate from the judge or the counsel.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Dublin, Feb. 20th, 1904. E. MAGENNIS, M.D. R.U.I., D.P.H.

EXTERNAL STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Will you kindly allow me to express in THE LANCET a complaint of external students of the University of London? The preliminary scientific examination for internal students is divided into three parts: (1) chemistry; (2) experimental physics; and (3) biology. If the candidate passes in either of the parts 1, 2, or 3, or in any two of them, he is only required to repeat those parts in which he was unsuccessful. External students, on the other hand, take the examination in two parts: (1) chemistry and experimental physics; and (2) biology. If a candidate is unfortunate enough to fail in chemistry but satisfies the examiners in physics, or *vice versa*, the whole of the first part must be taken over again. This is obviously hard on the external student, as he has to take the same papers as the internal student. Again, I believe, there is a similar arrangement in the intermediate examination in medicine and yet the internal degree is looked upon as a better degree. In conclusion, may I invite the opinion of external students on these points?—I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Feb. 15th, 1904.

A SYMPATHISER.

AN EXPERIENCE AMONG THE RED INDIANS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE following incident which has just come to the knowledge of the writer will illustrate how little those travellers can learn of the life of the people who are carried from one end of Canada to the other in expeditions made in saloon cars on the line of rail, and yet the life of the people is the chief thing that is worth the knowing.

A young Scotchman, well known to the writer, who had grown tired of doing practically nothing in London, made up his mind last summer to try his luck "out West." Accordingly he set out for Canada and in due course found his way to Manitoba. At first he tried the inevitable plan of getting work on a farm but not being satisfied with this set about to look for something more interesting. Being a man of some ability and exactness of method he was offered employment with a survey party which was then going out on a trip northwards. As soon as winter had set in and put a stop to their operations they made ready to return to civilisation. Driving across the frozen prairie in a wagon drawn by several horses (probably a wagon-box on runners), they came to a slough which was frozen over and attempted to cross to avoid a detour. A slough is a hollow or dip in the rolling prairie where water settles in wet seasons but generally not more than some few feet deep and always surrounded by a belt of willow-scrub. When they were half-way across the ice broke and the whole outfit went through into the water. Before they could unhitch the horses two of the animals were drowned, but by dint of extraordinary exertions they managed to get the rest of the horses to drag the wagon out. The men were soaked to the skin, hands and noses were frozen, and then their clothes froze on them as they stood. This, however, is a not uncommon occurrence in a North-West winter.

The young Scotchman now began to have trouble with his left hand, into the palm of which he had happened to drive a nail not long before leaving home, and the wound thereby caused had never satisfactorily healed. Any wound or tender place of this kind is always the first point which the frost will attack. Next day the arm became very painful—possibly there may have been blood poisoning—and began to swell. But there was no assistance at hand and the nearest medical man was 70 miles away, so that there was no alternative but to set out to find him. The young fellow took a horse and rode off, but the suffering was so great that the pain became unendurable. About 30 miles on the way he came to a lodge of Indians encamped on the prairie and being thoroughly exhausted upon seeing a fire in one of the teepees he went in and asked if they would let him sit down and warm himself. A teepee is the Indian tent made of skins sewn together with thongs of hide and