immense influence on chemical progress, and is in its more sober form a mere representation of facts. Its general harmony with the periodic law and with the facts of isomerism, and its supreme value in classification, would alone justify its existence as a theory. That it involves difficulties no one doubts, and these difficulties are fairly considered in this treatise, but as yet there are none that have proved insuperable.

The last, or dynamical portion of the book, deals with chemical change, with the phenomena of unstable equilibrium, apparent alike in mixtures and compounds, the influence of mass in chemical action, and the phenomena due to the so-called physical agents—heat, light, and electricity. Thermal chemistry, which in the hands of Thomsen, Berthelot, and a host of other workers, has attained such vast proportions of late years, receives careful attention. The views of Berthelot are severely criticised; but the partial, if not complete truth of the great French chemist's generalisations is not denied.

Among the faults of the present volume the gravest is the absence of an index, which is a serious detriment to such a book. We must also regret that the "chemistry of three dimensions," which is growing so rapidly in importance, and which seems to offer hope of a new and more searching classification in chemistry, was not included in the plan, but limits of space may well account for this last omission.

New Inventions.

A GUARDED THERMOMETER.

IN the course of some observations involving the record of internal and external temperatures I had the misfortune to break a well-made and apparently strong clinical thermometer while taking a rectal temperature—an accident which, although, as it happened in this particular case,

unattended by serious consequences, was sufficiently alarming to induce me to postpone taking the temperature per rectum again until one could devise some means which should obviate the risks and relieve the anxiety attending the use of an ordinary thermometer in this situation. Messrs. Krohne and Sesemann, of Duke-street, Manchester-square, have made for me an instrument which is practically unbreakable, unless thrown violently against some hard substance. It consists of an ordinary glass clinical thermometer encased in a metal guard extending one or two millimetres beyond the shaft and bulb ends respectively; the portion enclosing the bulb is fenestrated, two out of the four bulbular fenestra being prolonged up the shaft, the one of sufficient breadth to allow of easily reading the scale, the other narrower, thus minimising as far as is consistent with the object in view the amount of metal between the instrument and the surface whose temperature it is designed to record, and so enabling one to register the maximum degree of heat as rapidly as with the unguarded instrument. The guarded thermometer is sixteen centimetres (nearly six inches and a half) in length and two centimetres in circumference, as made for rectal thermometry, but it will be readily recognised that the guard can be adapted to any size preferred. For registering the temperature in the mouth, rectum, or other situations where an accident might be fraught with very unpleasant results, this simple modification of the clinical thermometer has been proved by frequent use to fulfil the requirements of absolute safety and rapid registration, and at the same time it is much less easily broken by careless handling than any other instrument I have seen; and for these reasons I venture to introduce it to the notice of the profession, in the hope that it may supply a want which doubtless many others, who, like myself, have

deplored the fragility of their thermometers, have felt when contemplating the débris of these little clinical necessities.

Leinster-square, W.

A. SYMONS ECCLES, M.B. &c.

THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & REGISTRATION.

TUESDAY, MAY 22ND.

MR. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

THE Council assembled at two o'clock. Two new members were introduced—viz., Dr. George Yeoman Heath as representative of the University of Durham, and Dr. Hector Clare Cameron as representative of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

The PRESIDENT then delivered his opening address. After referring to the changes in the Council, to the death of Sir G. Burrows, and to the presentation by Sir Henry Acland of the portrait of Mr. J. H. Green, he proceeded: In agreement with the conditions determined by the Council in November last, the Executive Committee have sanctioned the registration of 202 additional foreign medical qualifications obtained by home practitioners already duly qualified and registered before or on the appointed day. Of these, 180 were registered in November and December of 1887, and only 22 in the present year. It seems probable, therefore, that this exceptional privilege of registering additional foreign diplomas will soon cease to be exercised. The two notifications as yet received from the Privy Council, of permission having been granted to a colony to have its duly qualified medical practitioners registered by this Council on a separate colonial Register, relate to New Zealand and to Ceylon; but at present no application has been made by any qualifying medical authority, or by any holder of a diploma granted by such authority, in either of those two colonies; so that, accordingly, this Council has not yet had to exercise the duty assigned to it of satisfying itself as to the sufficiency of a qualification so granted. Some correspondence on this subject has taken place between the Privy Council and the authorities at Melbourne; but as yet the questions at issue do not seem to be clearly understood in the colony of Victoria. The only foreign country the Government of which for the present has had any official communication with the Privy Council on the subject of the registration of its medical degrees is Switzerland. After an interview with Mr. Peel, and from a perusal of documents which, with the permission of the Lord President, were placed at my disposal, I am enabled to state that the correspondence shows, on the part of the Swiss Government, an imperfect appreciation of the powers of the Privy Council under the Medical Acts, and gives the impression of there being great difficulties at present in the way of any mutually reciprocal arrangement being arrived at. Negotiations will, however, be continued, Mr. Peel having communicated to me the substance of a letter just written by him in answer to one from the Foreign Office. The urgency of this question as regards Switzerland is increased by the recent adoption of very harsh proceedings, involving the infliction of fines or the alternative of imprisonment, by the Federal authorities, against certain medical practitioners duly registered by this Council as qualified to practise in the United Kingdom, but who have resided in the Swiss Republic in order to attend to the wants of their own countrymen and countrywomen. In the meantime, this Council may be assured that the interests of the medical profession are thoroughly comprehended, and will be carefully guarded by the Privy Council under the existing law. From the preceding remarks it will be readily understood that the formation of either a colonial or a foreign Register of qualified medical practitioners is not yet within a measurable distance; but as applications may arise—even though in small numbers—from our several colonies, it might be considered desirable for the Council to confer similar powers, with like conditions and reservations, on the Executive Committee, as were granted to that body in regard to the registration of the qualifications of particular foreign universities held by practitioners who were upon the home Register on the 30th of June, 1886. In reference to the existing Register, a question arose during the recess as to whether the degree of B.A.O. of the Dublin University was a registrable qualification under the Medical Act or Acts. The Irish Branch Council, being of opinion that it was so, directed the Irish Registrar accordingly.