the perspiration, and variations of the hygrometric state of the atmosphere have an immense influence on the function. The quantity of water evaporated in a quarter of an hour from a cutaneous surface 25 centimetres square, in a normal individual, is about 176 of a gramme. In infants the quantity is generally less than in adults. The weight of the body and sex have no marked influence on the perspiration.

THE OPERATIVE TREATMENT OF PERITONITIS.

DR. TRZEBICKY, writing in a Polish journal on the operative treatment of peritonitis, details experimental researches on sixty-seven dogs. From these he concludes that operative treatment is indicated in cases of purulent or septic peritonitis; that the employment of different antiseptic substances leads to results differing from one another. The most suitable liquid for washing out the peritoneal cavity appeared to be a solution of salicylic acid. The greatest care is necessary in cleansing the abdomen externally before the operation is commenced. Dr. Trzebicky does not find it easy to explain the variations in his results, but about the facts he has no doubt.

PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

A SPECIAL MEETING of this Society will be held on Thursday, December 15th, at 8.30 P.M., to receive from Professor Crookshank a report upon an investigation into a Disease of Cows and its relation to Scarlatina in Man. The subject is likely to excite considerable discussion, and many new and important facts are, it is said, to be brought forward.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES COMMON TO MAN AND THE LOWER ANIMALS.

THE next meeting of the Epidemiological Society, which will be held on Dec. 14th, will be one of especial interest, Dr. Klein having promised to read a paper on some of the Infectious Diseases common to Man and the Lower Animals. We understand that the address will be illustrated by the exhibition of numerous microscopical preparations, and we presume that the more recent observations referred to in the reports of the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board will be discussed.

CARBOLIC INJECTIONS IN MALIGNANT PUSTULE.

DR. USPENSKI mentions in the *Méditsinskoe Obozrénie* that he has treated eleven cases of malignant pustule, with only one death, by means of carbolic injections, as recommended by Raimbert. He, however, used a stronger solution than one of 2 per cent., as employed by Raimbert, varying it from 4 to 5 per cent. according to the degree of pyrexia and the gravity of the case. The same lotion was also applied to the pustule externally.

FOREIGN UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

Dorpat.—Dr. C. H. Löhlein, *privat-docent* in midwifery, is to be offered the chair of Midwifery, Gynæcology, and Diseases of Children, which will become vacant by the transference of Professor Runge to Gottingen.

Gottingen.—Dr. H. Schwartz, Professor of Midwifery and Gynæcology, is about to retire at the end of the current winter session. Professor Runge of Dorpat has been invited to accept the chair, and has consented to do so.

Innsbruck.—Dr. Kratter of Graz has been appointed Professor of Medical Jurisprudence.

MR. JONATHAN HUTCHINSON has promised to read an address at the annual meeting of the Cardiff Medical Society in January next.

WE have just received the report of the medical officer of the Local Government Board for the year 1886, being the supplement to the sixteenth annual report of the Local Government Board. It contains matter of exceptional interest. Among others, in addition to the medical officer's own report, are papers on the Statistics of Small-pox Incidence upon the Registration Districts of London relatively to the Operations of the Small-pox Hospitals in the Metropolis, by Mr. W. H. Power; a report by Dr. Klein on the Etiology of Scarlet Fever; a further paper on the Etiology and Pathology of Tuberculosis, by the same author and Mr. Lingard; and the results of investigations into the Causation of Diphtheria, by Dr. Gresswell, Dr. Turner, and Mr. Power. We propose to discuss these subjects at length in future numbers.

THE death is announced of Mr. James Stephens, F.R.C.S., a well-known Manchester surgeon, which took place on the 1st inst. at his residence, Bridge-street, in that city, where he had lived for upwards of seventy years. With the exception of Mr. John Boutflower, he was the oldest medical practitioner in Manchester, having succeeded to the practice of his uncle, the late Mr. Joseph Jordan, founder of the Manchester Medical School.

WE regret to announce the death on the 2nd inst. of Sir William Richard Edwin Smart, K.C.B., M.D., Inspector General of Hospitals and Fleets (retired), after a short illness, at the age of seventy. The deceased joined the naval medical service in 1841, and retired from it in 1877. We hope in our next issue to publish a more detailed account of Sir William's career.

THE Minutes of the recent session of the General Medical Council, with the revised Standing Orders of the Council appended, has been published, and may be obtained, price 3s. 6d., by those interested in them.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

THE following statement has been sent in to the Privy Council:—

University of London, W., 1887.

SIR,—I am directed by the Senate of the University to avail myself of the permission given by your letters of the 1st and 15th July, and to lay before my Lords of the Council the following statement on the petition of University and King's Colleges, London, praying for a University Charter:—

The intimate relation which has long subsisted between this University and these Colleges, and the important consequences which may follow in the event of their petition receiving Royal favour, have occupied the anxious attention of the Senate; and they believe that they would be greatly wanting in their duty to the institution placed under their guidance if they did not call to these subjects the attention of the Lords of the Council.

This University and University College, London, were first incorporated by Charters bearing the same date (Nov. 28th, 1836); and these Charters were beyond question parts of one plan, in which the duty of giving teaching of a University character was assigned to the College, and the duty of examining to the University. King's College, which had previously been constituted by Royal Charter, was also affiliated to the University. The affiliation of Colleges subsequently lost its importance, owing to the fact that by the provisions of the new Charter of 1858 attendance at an affiliated College was no longer required, and that the examination rooms of the University were thus thrown open to students wherever educated. University College has, nevertheless, remained in close relationship with the University, and has supplied many of the most distinguished graduates and examiners to the University, and many of its members have been and are members of the Senate; above all the curriculum of instruction in the College has generally followed the lines of the examinations in this University. The connexion between the two institutions has thus been of great value to the University; and the Senate believe that by placing before the College a wide curriculum and a high standard of excellence they have also conducted to the very high position to which the College has attained.

The same observations apply to King's College; but in a lesser degree, inasmuch as the course of that College has been more influenced by the older Universities.

The Senate believe that a serious injury would be done to higher education if these two great London Colleges were to be entirely separated from this University, and were to adapt their courses of teaching, not to the examinations of this University, but to those of a new University in which the authorities of those two Colleges would exercise a dominant influence.

If the precedent which was set, or is supposed to have been set, by the

grant of the Charter to the Victoria University were followed by the creation of a second University in London, the Senate believe that Her Majesty's Government would find it difficult from time to time to resist similar applications from other Colleges in the country. The Senate fear that the creation of numerous small Universities would be fraught with danger to the cause of the higher education, and that the competition of graduating bodies would probably, if not at once, yet in no very remote future, lower the standard of graduation in a way of which the history of Universities contains numerous examples.

The Senate believe that the work done by the University has been and is of the greatest value to education, not only amongst their own graduates, but even in the older Universities. The width of the subjects embraced, the thoroughness of the examinations, and, above all, the independence of the examiners from all undue influence of the teachers, have had a widespread effect; and the Senate would greatly regret if the extent of this good work were lessened in the future by the withdrawal of a large number of the students of the most eminent Colleges from the examination rooms of this University to those of smaller Universities, where the granting of degrees would be practically in the hands of the teachers, and where the evils which the system of this University has checked would be sure to reappear.

So far as the petition of the Colleges complains of the want of regular communication between the University and the teachers of the higher institutions, the Senate do not desire to call it in question. On the contrary, from a date long prior to the presentation of the petition, or any proposal to present such a petition, both the Senate and the Convocation of this University have been engaged on the consideration of a plan for giving to the professors in the institutions from which graduates proceed an organisation and a larger influence in the counsels of the University. The general approval both of the Senate and of the Convocation has been given to this principle, and both bodies are, as the Senate believe, in substantial accord on the point, though the matter has not yet sufficiently ripened to admit of the presentation to Her Majesty of a joint petition for a Charter to give effect to the plan.

The scheme, which has been generally approved by the Senate, but is still subject to further consideration, proposes to unite into a class, under the name of Associated Colleges, educational bodies, not only in the metropolis, but throughout the country, which from the age of the students, the character of instruction given, and the fact that the Colleges have sent students as candidates for degrees in the University, may be worthy of association with it. It also proposes that the professors of these Associated Colleges, or representatives of the professors, should be gathered together into four groups or Faculties, according as they are concerned with arts, with laws, with science, or with medicine; and each Faculty is to select a smaller body to constitute a Board of Studies, which should aid the Senate and their committees in reference to the subjects of its Faculty. The examiners of the University, or some of them, are to be *ex-officio* members of the Boards of Studies.

The motives of these suggested changes are not far to seek. It was hoped that by giving to the teachers in the Associated Colleges a direct influence on the course of the examinations and a part in the government of the University two advantages would accrue. It would, to use a modern phrase, bring the Senate into touch with the actual teachers, and thereby remove any sense of dissatisfaction which may have been felt on their part, and any difficulty which may now exist in keeping pace with the varying requirements of the higher education; and, secondly, it would, it was hoped, awaken in the teachers of the several Colleges a sentiment of interest in the University which is now too often wanting, and which if created would strengthen its hands.

Furthermore, the Senate believe that such a union of the professors would be very beneficial to the Colleges which they represented, and that the closer connexion between the University and the Colleges would conduce to the benefit of the latter as well as of the former.

The Senate trust that before any radical change is effected in the organisation of the higher education in London the effect of such a scheme as has been sketched in outline will be fully considered by Her Majesty's advisers. The Senate believe that the result of such a scheme would be to unite together in organic relation the teachers of many of the principal Colleges throughout England and Wales, and that the London teachers, by their numbers, their eminence, and their nearness to the seat of the University, would exercise a great influence in its Faculties and Boards of Studies. In this way the Senate believe that the University would still further realise Her Gracious Majesty's opinion, recently expressed, that "it is a body which is eminently qualified to promote the advance of learning throughout her realm." The prospect presented by the alternative scheme now put forward by the Colleges is, the Senate believe, far less hopeful for the interest of education. A number, probably an ever-increasing number, of small universities removed from the beneficial and controlling influence of a great institution like this University, would come to compete for students and graduates with more regard to their number than to the character of their studies and, if ever the present zeal for education should flag, would probably relapse into that condition of inefficiency into which even the great Universities of this country have at times fallen.

If the scheme for a modification of this University, to which reference has already been made, be carried into effect, the examinations of this University will be conducted as at present by entirely independent examiners, but the teachers will have a means of regularly communicating to the Senate their complaints, their wishes, and their views. If the petition of the Colleges be granted, a University will be constituted in which the whole power of conferring degrees will be in the hands of the teachers themselves.

The desire of many members of the Royal College of Physicians of London and of the Royal College of Surgeons of England to obtain for these bodies or for a body under their control the power of granting medical degrees has been a matter of notoriety for some time past. Though serious objections may be urged to such plan, it would be premature for the Senate to offer any observations upon a scheme which has not yet been put forward; and they only refer to it now as one of the elements of which account must be taken before the present demand of this University and King's Colleges can be properly considered.

For this and many other reasons the Senate believe that the petition of University and King's Colleges cannot rightly be regarded as an isolated subject; but should be viewed in connexion, on the one hand, with the past history and future prospects of this University, and on the other hand, with reference to the very complicated conditions of the higher education in London. The Senate are at one with the petitioners in holding that the various teaching bodies in London would greatly gain by union and co-ordination; but they believe that this would be

far more satisfactorily obtained under the supervision of such a body as this University than by the establishment of smaller and less responsible graduating bodies. If Her Majesty should think right to inquire into the working of this University, and into the condition generally of the higher education in London, the Senate of this University will do all in their power to assist in the solution of the complicated questions which would undoubtedly arise, and to make fruitful the results of the investigation.

The Senate has no desire to offer to the petition of the Colleges any selfish or captious opposition; but in the belief that issues of far-reaching importance are involved in the prayer of that petition, they desire the opportunity of showing cause before their Lordships why the prayer should not be granted.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ARTHUR MILMAN, Registrar.

THE ASSOCIATION OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS AND THE PROPOSED DEGREE FOR LONDON STUDENTS.

THE following petition has been forwarded to the Privy Council by the Association of General Practitioners:—

To Charles Lennox Peel, Esq., C.B., Clerk to the Privy Council.

SIR,—We have the honour to ask you to lay before the Lord President and the members of the Privy Council an earnest protest on behalf of the Association of General Practitioners against some of the provisions of the Draft Charter for which the Councils of the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Surgeons of England have petitioned. With the general object of obtaining for the students of the English medical schools and hospitals who pass their examination before the licensing bodies of London facilities for obtaining a degree which shall carry with it the title of "Doctor," the Association of General Practitioners is in entire accord. There is unquestionably a great hardship at present upon the licentiates of the London medical examining bodies, who, although possessing a curriculum equivalent to that of many of the British universities which confer medical degrees, have nevertheless no other facilities for acquiring such a degree than those afforded by the Universities of London. The standard of the University of London is expressly placed so high as to make it unattainable for more than a small minority of the London students. It is a degree of *élite*, and placed at so high a standard as to be altogether beyond the ordinary possibilities of the average student, even when thoroughly educated and carefully examined for all the necessities of general practice. In this respect, therefore, the English students are under a great disadvantage as compared with those especially of Ireland and Scotland, and this disadvantage is practically felt because, on the one hand, large numbers of students are thus attracted to the universities of Scotland and Ireland, where they obtain on reasonable conditions the title of M.D.; and, on the other hand, because Irish and Scotch students, who have received their degrees after an examination in no way more difficult than the average examination at present carried on in London by the examining bodies, settle in England, and practise alongside the London licentiates, with the added prestige of the degree and title of M.D., and thus claim a superior social and university status.

While, therefore, heartily concurring in and supporting the petition of the Colleges in principle for facilities for the licentiates of the London examining bodies to obtain the title of "Doctor of Medicine" under reasonable conditions, the Association of Practitioners earnestly protests against the attempt which is manifest in the petition of the two Royal Colleges to secure for themselves alone, and for their licentiates alone, a monopoly for such degrees which would operate most unjustly and injuriously to the interests of the public and of the profession in respect to the total exclusion from the further examinations which the Royal Colleges ask to be allowed to institute for the title of M.D. of all those members of the profession who for excellent reasons prefer the licence of the Society of Apothecaries. It must be remembered that the Society of Apothecaries, under the recent Medical Act, applied to the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons to be included in the combination which these two Colleges have formed for giving licences in Surgery, Medicine, and Obstetrics. A constituency of the Royal College of Surgeons assembled in annual meeting earnestly called upon the College to take that application into consideration, and it is a matter of universal knowledge that the whole voice of the profession was in favour of such a course. It should be remembered also that at an earlier date the two Colleges had, in conference with the Apothecaries' Society, settled a scheme for a conjoint board of examination, by which such combination of these three bodies, and of other examining bodies in England, would have been effected; and after such negotiations had been carried to that point, the Apothecaries' Society, at the instance and with the approval of the two Royal Colleges, applied to Parliament for a special Act, which was accordingly passed, to enable them to take part in such combination. Nevertheless, the Councils of the two said Colleges, who are two small and irresponsible bodies wholly composed of the class of consulting physicians and surgeons, resolved to exclude the Apothecaries' Society from any such combination. The General Medical Council of Education and Registration, after considering the subject, passed resolutions and made representations to the said two Colleges to induce them to alter this most unjust decision, as being contrary to the interests alike of the public and of the profession; but the two Councils once more abruptly declined.

Under these circumstances the Apothecaries' Society completely remodelled their examinations, the General Medical Council appointed its own examiners to supervise and complete the examinations of the Society in all departments, and such examinations are now carried on under the direct supervision and with the assistance of examiners directly appointed by the General Medical Council, in such manner as to afford a complete examination in all the departments of Medicine, Surgery, and Obstetrics.

The Royal Colleges are now asking the Privy Council to do by a side wind that which it directly refused to do in the framing of the Medical