

undertaken by that body, or that some black sheep in the profession has been "struck off the rolls." As the case appears in the daily press, the public hears of it, and is instructed thereby. Contrast this with what happens at the General Medical Council: the proceedings are secret, and the result only appears in the medical press, and no further steps are taken to see that the man struck off the Register does not still practise. No prosecution for unqualified practising has been ever attempted by our ruling authority, and I do not suppose the general public knows of its existence. Our corporations or universities do not help us in the least to keep up the honour and dignity of our profession. Something ought to be done, or else men will soon ask, What is the advantage of being qualified at all? What with unqualified men, prescribing chemists, prescribing dentists, bone-setters, and the large race of spinsters, parsons, and others who do not hesitate to advise their friends to try their pet quack remedy, it is difficult to see the special advantages our expensive training has given us when a living has to be made for ourselves and those dependent upon us. It is a temptation to younger men to fling aside professional dignity when they find that fortunes are made by their unqualified opponents, who by their humbug and blatant advertisements attract the "custom" which the "gentleman" and the "educated" man loses because he has some love for the honour and dignity of his profession. We have a right to demand that we should be protected from this long-continued abuse, and that the public should be protected as well. If any further powers are needed by the General Medical Council—the General Meddling Council is a better name for it,—these powers can easily be obtained from Parliament. At present all we have to show for our registration fee is a single copy of the Register given (?) at registration. Other cases occur to me, but I must not take up more of your valuable space.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

Canonbury-place, May 19th, 1885. A. GEORGE BATEMAN.

"SUCCESSFUL OESOPHAGOTOMY FOR REMOVAL OF A HALFPENNY SWALLOWED THREE YEARS PREVIOUSLY."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your notice of the above case in THE LANCET of Saturday last you say that the child was treated for asthma, and that the swallowing of the halfpenny was lost sight of until this fact was elicited from the history of the patient given at the hospital a few weeks ago. As the little fellow was under my treatment for some months before he went, for the last time, to the Queen's Hospital, I beg leave to give the following short history of the case as far as it fell under my observation:—The child was first brought to me on Sept. 9th of last year, and at this time I learned from his mother that he had swallowed a halfpenny on Christmas Day, 1882. According to the mother's statement he was taken immediately to a surgeon, but as at the time the symptoms were not very urgent, no attempt was made to extract the coin. Subsequently he was taken twice to the Children's Hospital and once to the Queen's. According to the papers given to the mother he was treated at these institutions for bronchitis and asthma, and on the second occasion of her going to the Children's Hospital she was even ridiculed for supposing that the halfpenny had anything to do with the chest symptoms. When he came to me there was great difficulty both in breathing and swallowing, and much emaciation. Loud mucous râles were heard all over the chest, and there was impairment of resonance on the right side. I then gave it as my opinion that the halfpenny was impacted in the oesophagus, and by its pressure on the posterior wall of the trachea had led to the dyspnoea, and probably to some more serious change in the lung itself. The mother was unwilling at the time to take him again to the hospital, especially as I told her that in my opinion any attempt at removal would prove injurious, and perhaps fatal. In this I am glad to find that I was wrong, and that the skill of the surgeon has triumphed where the care of the physician was unavailing. I have only to add that while under my care he was treated with Parrish's syrup and cod-liver oil, and that for a time he improved greatly.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Birmingham, May, 1885.

WILLIAM J. NOTLEY, M.D.

MANCHESTER.

(From our own Correspondent.)

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY.

At the last meeting of the Court of the Victoria University, several matters of interest to the profession, and especially to medical students, came up for consideration. On the recommendation of the Council, it was resolved that candidates for the B.A. degree may, if not required to present both Latin and Greek in their intermediate or final examination, present in lieu of one of these languages, either French or German at their preliminary examination. The proposed interchange between the intermediate B.Sc. examination (Faculty of Science), and the preliminary examination in science (Faculty of Medicine), was postponed for future consideration. The following resolution, affecting especially old students of Owens College, was adopted, viz.: That anyone qualified before this year shall be admitted to the intermediate and final examinations for the degree of M.B. without having to pass the entrance examination in arts, or the preliminary examination in science, provided they have complied as students with all other requirements. This will enable many men who were students of the College before the granting of the charter to obtain a degree in medicine by passing examinations in professional subjects only. In the report presented to the Court allusion was made to the great loss the College and the University had sustained in the death of Dr. Watson, whose death, after a lingering illness, was chronicled in your pages recently. By his death the College loses both its professor of anatomy and its dean, Dr. Watson having been appointed to the latter office on the resignation of Dr. Gamgee last year. The latter has again, *pro tem.*, taken up the duties of dean. Rumour is already busy with several names for the vacant post of professor of anatomy, amongst them Dr. A. Young, who would be a formidable competitor against any candidate, he having for many years been senior demonstrator in the dissecting room prior to holding his present posts at the Infirmary and at the Salford Hospital.

THE CONSUMPTION HOSPITAL.

At the recent annual meeting of the subscribers to the Hospital for Consumption a very energetic report was submitted. This, the only hospital in the midst of so dense a population for the treatment of consumption and diseases of the chest and throat, has long laboured under many disadvantages. The accommodation has for some time past been inadequate to its needs, the numbers of patients increasing greatly every year, numbering for the year ending 1884 no less than 3032. The accommodation for the in-patients has been so defective that the Committee have taken a building at Bowdon, situate outside the smoke of the city, and have adapted it for the reception of sixteen patients, which accommodation is ultimately to be increased to sixty beds as soon as the necessary funds are raised, the amount now required being some £10,000. The out-patient department is also to be reorganised and the staff increased by the addition of another assistant physician. The income last year was £865, whilst the estimated expenditure for the coming one is estimated at £1500 at least, so that increased support will have to be found if the work of this charity is to be carried on efficiently.

CONFERENCE ON HEALTH AND EDUCATION.

The Conference on Health and Education lately held here may be looked upon as having been very successful, although at one time it appeared likely that the whole project would fall through. Under the presidency of Lord Aberdare the meetings were well attended, and many able papers were read by specialists on the various subjects submitted for discussion. Of course "over-pressure" came in for the lion's share of attention, and on the first day a paper was read by Mr. H. E. Oakeley, Her Majesty's inspector, in which he sought to prove that this mischief had been much exaggerated, whilst Mr. James Newbold, on behalf of the Manchester teachers, read a paper on the opposite side, asserting that over-pressure did exist to a large extent in elementary schools, and the latter view was apparently in favour with the majority of the audience. It was stated by one of the physicians to the Children's Hospital that during the past few years chorea had been more common amongst children of school age, and appeared to be often due to extra