

ready made, for the teaching of *Anatomy and Physiology* on the one hand, and of *Practical Surgery* on the other, have, on the whole, thought it best to assume that at present no further claim in either of those directions could be entertained; but that the special subject of *Pathology*, conceived as a distinct third division of College teaching, would undoubtedly be judged the most proper field to receive benefit from Mr. Wilson's endowment.

Proceeding then to consider in detail, what, within that province, would be the most advantageous application of the Fund, the President and Vice-Presidents first find, among the conditions of the case, that lectures, in any considerable number, must rather be deprecated than desired; for the College establishment will not bear more than a limited total number of lectures; and that limit would certainly be exceeded if more than a very few lectures on account of Pathology were added to the thirty which the College already has on account of Anatomy and Physiology and Surgery. This reason, even were there no other, would sufficiently forbid the founding of any Professorship in the College for the systematic teaching of Pathology *in extenso*; while equally strong reasons of another kind are suggested by the fact that courses of Systematic Pathology are presumably now given, of private enterprise, in all the medical schools of the United Kingdom. It appears then to the President and Vice-Presidents that, since lectures to be given under Mr. Wilson's endowment could not suitably be more than very few, the principle of the Trust in this respect should be: only to accept such (few) lectures as would be necessary to tell the results of original researches recently made by the lecturer himself in some department of Pathology; or, in other words, that the promotion, not of lectures as such, but of researches which would give original material for lectures, should be taken as the aim of the expenditure.

The Presidents and Vice-Presidents think it quite superfluous to insist that genuine research in pathology is of supreme interest to the profession. They take for granted that the promoting of such research would universally be regarded as among the fittest and most fruitful functions which a great corporation, with means at its disposal, could fulfil. They believe, too, that the Council of the College, having regard to the great and constantly increasing activity which several foreign countries are showing in that field of science, would wish to see members of the College distinguish themselves more largely than at present as contributors to the total of European work. It is of course well known to the Council that many of the younger members of English medical schools are already more or less inclining themselves to pathological research, and that some seem to be zealously interested in it; and it has appeared certain to the President and Vice-Presidents that encouragements and inducements, which the Council, by means of Mr. Wilson's endowment, could appropriately hold out to members of the College who should be successful workers in pathology, would operate as a most valuable influence over the whole of that field of work.

Accordingly, with regard to the annual appropriation of income from Mr. Wilson's endowment, under such enlarged conditions of trust as are proposed, the principles which the President and Vice-Presidents, with Mr. Wilson's approval, would recommend to the Council for acceptance are the following:—(1) that the field of application be pathology; (2) that within this field the special aim be to encourage original research; (3) that lectures be not an object of the scheme except as means for first promulgating from time to time results which the researches have gained; (4) that payments out of the fund be assigned quite subordinately to the lectures as such, and be mainly applied to remunerate the research; (5) that the persons to be benefited out of the moneys of the trust be members (including Fellows) of the College, not being at the time members of the Council.

If Mr. Wilson, in consent with the Council of the College and with the trustees of his endowment, proceeds to give effect to the principles which have been stated, the fundamental change to be made in the Trust-deed would apparently be as follows: that, whereas the original intention of the endowment was "to promote the study of Pathology, together with the Anatomy and Physiology, human and comparative, of the Skin and its Appendages," the new Trust would withdraw the special reference to Anatomy and Physiology; would provide that the trustees may promote not only "the Pathology of the Skin and its Appendages, but in general any studies which are for the advancement of Pathology in any of its relations or parts;"

and would direct the trustees "especially to promote the making of original researches in Pathology by members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and the publication of the results of such researches by lectures to be delivered in the College."

The mode of giving effect to the suggested Trust not only would not need to be of like detail in all circumstances, but would certainly from time to time require its details to be varied. It would evidently be essential that, as regards the individual persons and researches to be benefited under the Trust, the administrators should (within the fixed conditions) be at liberty to vary from year to year the bestowal of money, and should be responsible for judging from year to year to what particular aim or aims the money could most usefully be applied. There would be times when they could do nothing better for the purpose of the Trust than re-appoint, year after year, some specially diligent original investigator, who would give to the College on each new occasion a fresh harvest of pathological discovery; there would be other times when one man would in one year complete whatever present usefulness he could render under the Trust; there would be yet other times when the best arrangement for the year would be that two men or three, each representing a minor research, should each give a single lecture on his work. The administrators ought to be free in all such respects as those; and moreover, since there might now and then be an absence of acceptable matter for their purpose, they ought also to be free, where seeing fit, to refrain partly or wholly from expenditure of their year's income, on condition of adding the unexpended moneys to the capital account of the Trust.

The general plan of action then for the intended purpose must apparently be, that the Council would at some fixed time in each year publicly invite new candidatures for engagement under the Trust, giving notice of the intentions and limitations of the endowment, and requiring each candidate to furnish, to such extent as should be needful, information with regard to the pathological research he has made, and on which he desires to lecture, and with regard to the results which he has ready for promulgation. And among the general conditions to be notified, the following would, in the opinion of the President and Vice-Presidents, be desirable:—(1) That the year's lectures do not exceed three in number, but, subject to that limit, may, if the Council should see fit, be on more than one research, and by more than one person; (2) that the fact of having once or more lectured under the Trust does not disqualify to be again appointed; (3) that the Council, if not receiving applications which it deems acceptable, may refrain from making any appointment; (4) that the remuneration for persons appointed by the Council will be (a) to receive, in respect of the lecture or lectures delivered, an honorarium of five guineas per lecture, and (b) to receive, in respect of the research lectured on, such sum as the Council, having regard to the value of the research and to the expenses incurred for it, shall, after delivery of the lecture or lectures, see fit to award.

The Presidents and Vice-Presidents recommend that, if the scheme which they submit is carried into effect, the Council should, in all matters relating to it, advise with a special Standing Committee to be appointed for the purpose; and they suggest that, if this course be taken, Mr. Wilson, while he may be willing and able so to act, should be a permanent (supernumerary) member of the Committee. Also, feeling sure that the Council would wish to distinguish the new Trust by the name of its very liberal founder, they suggest that each person holding appointment to lecture under the Trust should for the time be entitled "Erasmus Wilson Professor of Pathology."

ALBUMINURIC RETINITIS DURING PREGNANCY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—With reference to Mr. Macnamara's cases published in THE LANCET of December 14th, the following brief notes of a case under my care may be interesting; at least, Mr. Macnamara, to whom I have shown them, wishes me to send them.

A lady, aged thirty-four, with a family and personal history of puerperal eclampsia, being seven months gone, had

a convulsion, and the day but one following four more; she complained of headache, neuralgia of the face, and of her sight having become dim for a day or two before the first fit. She often saw visions as of figures moving, which distressed her not a little. In the right eye, which was the worse, vessels appeared healthy but tortuous in the papilla, which was red and undistinguishable from the rest of the retina, and a small white spot was seen below the situation of the yellow spot. The fundus of the left eye was similar, but I did not detect any white patches. The urine was alkaline, and contained three-fourths albumen and numerous granular casts. Sight improved somewhat, also the headache and neuralgia, and eleven days after the first convulsion labour came on. The child had evidently been dead some days. Patient made a good recovery. The sight rapidly improved, and the albumen had diminished to one-fourth about three weeks after the confinement.

This case presented many points of interest, to which I will not allude here, especially as it will, I hope, be brought before the profession on another occasion.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

THEODORE MAXWELL, M.D. Camb., B.Sc. Lond.

Woolwich Common, Dec. 16th, 1878.

THE NUMERATION OF BLOOD-CORPUSCLES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you kindly permit me, through your columns, to direct the attention of those who may be working with the hæmacytometer to the following solution for making the necessary dilution for counting the corpuscles:—Sulphate of soda, 104 grains; acetic acid, 1 drachm; distilled water, to 4 ounces. I have found it by far the best solution for the purpose, as by it the red corpuscles are rendered uniform in aspect, and the white are very distinctly differentiated.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Queen Anne-street, W.

W. R. GOWERS.

PARIS.

(From a Correspondent.)

ON Wednesday last the foundation stone of the future "École Pratique," or school of Dissection, was laid by M. Bardoux, the Minister of Public Instruction. An elegant tent had been erected over the spot where the ceremony was to take place, which is situated immediately in front of the old Faculty, and with which it was made to communicate by means of a covered passage decorated with hangings of tapestry. The ceremony began at two o'clock by the arrival of the official *cortège*, which was composed of M. Bardoux and all the Professors and Agrégés of the Faculty in their robes, headed by their mace-bearer. The proceedings were opened by M. Vulpian, the doyen, who, in a short address, complimented M. Bardoux on the zeal and goodwill he had shown towards the Faculty. M. Bardoux responded, assuring the Professors that the Government of the Republic was alive to the necessity of providing more ample means for study, and was ready to make large sacrifices for the advancement and dissemination of public instruction. His speech was several times interrupted by applause. A large number of students had collected together to witness the ceremony, and M. Bardoux as also some of the Professors were made the object of an ovation.

Professor Brown-Séguard began his course of lectures on Physiology last Monday at the Collège de France. In his opening address he made known the subject which it was his intention to treat of this year. He proposed to combat all the doctrines which are actually received upon the physiology of the brain, and especially those which have reference to cerebral localisation. He will study the mode of action of the brain upon the spinal cord, and will discuss the question whether it is right to admit the existence of two brains or one only. He will then review all the lesions of the brain which are capable of producing physiological or morbid phenomena. According to Dr. Brown-Séguard, each half of the brain possesses all the functions of the encephalon; it is capable of any act, and can perceive all sensations. He hopes to be able to show that it is not in-

dispensable to admit the theory of the decussation of the nervous fibres of the right side to the left and *vice versa*, and that each half of the brain is capable of perceiving all sensations emanating from any point of the body. Dr. Brown-Séguard believes in the existence of cerebral localisations, but maintains that the localisations, instead of existing in certain limited points of the brain-substance, are composed of elements disseminated everywhere. He then cited a certain number of facts which would tend to show that the centre of speech is not situated, as Broca has stated, on the posterior part of the third frontal convolution of the left side. The eminent professor has already exposed his views upon this subject in an interesting discussion which took place before the Société de Biologie in 1876. It is not his intention to have recourse to experimentation to demonstrate the truth of his doctrines, but will bring forward pathological facts in support of them.

At the last meeting of the Academy of Medicine, M. Maurice Perrin called the attention of the members to the accidents determined by the use of adulterated chloroform. He remarked that this agent of anæsthesia was much less to be relied upon than in former years, and this was probably due to the fact that the tax upon alcohol had been considerably augmented some few years ago. He had observed that it was now sometimes necessary to submit the patients to inhalation for twenty or thirty minutes in order to obtain the effects, whereas before five to six minutes generally sufficed. Indeed, in some cases he had not been able to obtain anæsthesia at all, and that with chloroform taken from private pharmacies. He also remarked that before it was an exceptional occurrence to have vomiting, but that now it was the rule. Finally, he had seen two cases where death was very nearly the result of the administration of adulterated chloroform. He had tested several samples of chloroform, and in each case had discovered the mahogany-red tint, which is the characteristic of the impure agent. When he had these purified, he did not meet with any of the accidents which he had spoken of.

A work was presented by Dr. Gaillard to the Société de Chirurgie upon the "Spontaneous Cure of Hydrocele in very young Patients." The greater number of the members who took part in the discussion were of opinion that it was not advisable to operate on children under three years of age, and were universal in condemning the use of the seton as liable to produce peritonitis.

Paris, Dec. 16th, 1878.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, Dec. 12th.

THE ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

In reply to Dr. Playfair and Mr. Errington,

Colonel STANLEY said it was true that a committee of the War Office on the Army Medical Department had recommended that open competition for appointments of medical officers should be discontinued, and that a system of nomination should be substituted. Each nomination was to be, however, from the Medical School. He had no objection to lay the report of the committee and the reply thereto of the Board of Examiners on the table of the House, but as the document was marked "Confidential" he should require to communicate with the Board. He had no doubt he should be able to place the papers on the table without delay.

In answer to Major O'Beirne,

Mr. E. STANHOPE said,—I am informed that the Government of India have never required officers coming to England on sick leave to appear before a Medical Board on arrival. Accordingly expenses incurred by such officers under other than Indian regulations and for other than Indian regiments have not been admitted as a proper charge against Indian revenues. The War Office regulation to which the hon. member refers has been abolished as regards India and the colonies.

Friday, Dec. 13th.

THE LUNACY LAWS.

Mr. P. TAYLOR asked whether it was the intention of the Home Secretary to introduce this session a measure for the reform of the Lunacy Laws.