

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

THE last meeting of the Council, under the Presidency of Mr. Simon, was held on the 10th inst., the newly-elected members taking their seats for the first time. The thanks of the Council were voted to Mr. Erasmus Wilson for his present of thirty-seven skulls from Fiji, and to Mr. Thos. Taylor for his catalogue of the Calculi in the Hunterian Museum. A portrait of Mr. Hilton, by Barraud, presented by Mrs. Hilton, was accepted by the Council. The retiring President presented his report, which extended over a period of thirteen months, instead of a year, as it had been considered better to make the report close with the end of its respective official year. The report is in the main an epitome of the minutes of the Council. In reference to the question of the Medical Bill, Mr. Simon suggests that if existing obstacles to proper general legislation for the profession cannot with the present great effort be surmounted, the College should proceed to concentrate their efforts on the perfecting of their own corporate structure and working. The senior Vice-President, Mr. Luther Holden, was elected President, and Mr. J. E. Erichsen and Mr. Erasmus Wilson Vice-Presidents.

THE ALEXANDER MEMORIAL FUND.

AT a meeting of the committee of the Alexander Memorial Fund, held on the 9th July, 1879, at the Army Medical Department, 6, Whitehall-yard, it was unanimously resolved that the prize of £50 and a gold medal of the value of £10 be awarded to Surgeon John Martin, of the Army Medical Department, who joined the army 31st March, 1874, for the best essay "On the influence of drinking water in originating or propagating enteric fever, diarrhoea, dysentery, and cholera; to be illustrated, as far as possible, by instances which have come under the personal observation of the author." It was decided by the committee at the same meeting that a prize of like value, the competition for which is limited to executive medical officers of the army on full pay, be offered to the writer of the best essay "On the prevalence of enteric fever in the army; its etiology, pathology, and treatment; to be illustrated by the personal observation of the author." The essays to be despatched so as to reach the president of the committee on or before the 31st December, 1881.

THE MURCHISON MEMORIAL.

THE following resolution was proposed and carried unanimously at a general meeting of the subscribers to the St. Thomas's Hospital Murchison Memorial Fund, held on July 5th:—"That with the view of uniting all the efforts being made to raise a memorial to the late Dr. Murchison, and to prevent any possibility of rivalry between the existing schemes, this meeting is of opinion that the St. Thomas's Hospital Fund should be amalgamated with that of the London and Edinburgh committee, on the following conditions:—1. That the Murchison Memorial Scholarship be thrown open to students from all the London medical schools. 2. That the sum of £300 be guaranteed to the St. Thomas's committee, for the purpose of raising a memorial to Dr. Murchison in St. Thomas's Hospital."

"THE PAINLESS AND BLOODLESS METHOD OF EXCISING THE WHOLE TONGUE."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have just read with considerable astonishment, in your issue of to-day (July 5th), some clinical remarks by Dr. F. A. Purcell on the "Painless and Bloodless Method of Excising the Whole Tongue."

Dr. Purcell states that his senior colleague (Dr. Marsden), he himself, and his other colleagues have been in the habit, since the year 1875, of removing the tongue by an operation

which he describes; but he omits to make the slightest reference to the paper in which that operation was originally suggested, and which appeared in THE LANCET for Feb. 8th, 1873.

This is the more curious, as he has borrowed without acknowledgment the identical engraving with which that communication was illustrated, and has embodied, also without acknowledgment, and even without using inverted commas, that portion of the text of the paper in which the instrument was described.

Dr. Purcell does, however, apologise to Mr. Bryant, who published a paper on the subject in THE LANCET of Feb. 28th, 1874, "for following him to a great extent"; an apology which I cannot but think in a measure inappropriate, as the identical engraving originally published in 1873, and now reproduced in 1879 by Dr. Purcell, was made use of by Mr. Bryant in 1874, without even a suggestion from him that it had appeared previously.

Thus, within less than seven years, the same illustration has been made to do duty in the columns of THE LANCET on three separate occasions and by three different contributors describing the same operation, without the slightest acknowledgment on the part of either of the two later writers, who were presumably the borrowers.

Surely this circumstance raises some nice questions in literary ethics, and points to the desirability of a somewhat higher standard of literary morality.

I beg to remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
Manchester, July 5th, 1879. WALTER WHITEHEAD.

Obituary.

CHARLES FREDERICK MAUNDER, F.R.C.S.

WE greatly regret to have to record the sudden death of this well-known surgeon, who was still at an age that held out promise of many years of successful activity. He was educated at Totteridge School under Mr. C. J. Thorowgood, and there was a general favourite, and won many prizes. On leaving school he was in 1849 apprenticed to the late Mr. J. G. Lansdown, surgeon to the Bristol General Hospital, and at this time wrote the prize essay of the Medical Society connected with that hospital. He soon afterwards came up to London, entered at Guy's Hospital, obtained his M.R.C.S. in 1854, and his F.R.C.S. in 1857. He was then appointed demonstrator of anatomy at the Guy's Hospital School, and is remembered by many as an enthusiastic and successful teacher of anatomy. But operative surgery was his specialty, and he studied it in Paris, in Edinburgh under Syme, and as an assistant-surgeon at the Renkioi Hospital, and in the field during the Crimean war. In 1860 he was elected assistant-surgeon to the London Hospital, and in 1869 was promoted to the rank of full surgeon. For about a year past Mr. Maunder had been suffering from irritability and vague nervous symptoms, and upon the failure of the West of England and South Wales Bank, in which he held some shares left him by his father, these symptoms increased in intensity, and his nervous system was so prostrated that he was advised by Sir Wm. Gull, Dr. Sutton, and his friend Mr. Richard Davy, to seek entire rest and change of scene. He applied for three months' leave of absence from the hospital, and left London, but a painful accident abruptly terminated his life, and he died at the age of forty-seven on July 4th, 1879.

Mr. Maunder had led an active professional life, and has left behind him as proofs of his ability as a surgeon and an author, a text-book of "Operative Surgery," and monographs on the "Surgery of the Arteries," "Abscession of the Lower Jaw without External Wound," and "Strangulated Hernia"; and an article in "Cooper's Surgical Dictionary" on "Intestinal Obstruction"; he was also the author of several papers published in medical journals and reports, and translated and edited Ricord's celebrated lectures on "Chancre," adding to it a paper on "Perineal Section of Stricture." Mr. Maunder, as he often said, "enjoyed a difficult operation," and he won his chief successes in this branch of his practice. In operating he was bold, dexterous, and neat, and took special interest in such operations as the ligation of a large artery and kelotomy. It is told of him that he once had four operations for the relief of strangu-