

ing office-bearers, and to Dr. O'Reilly, for their valuable services during the past year. The meeting was largely attended and marked by great unanimity, both in the election of office-bearers and in the discussion of several matters of great importance to the medical profession. The affairs of the Society are so flourishing that it was deemed advisable to look out for a room suitable for a reading-room and library.

We take the above from the *Hamilton Evening Times* and are happy to see that our brethren in Hamilton are emulating other Western cities in the advancement of scientific medicine and surgery. We hope to receive, for publication in this journal, further evidence of the life and earnestness of the Hamilton Medical and Surgical Society.

STRUCTURE OF THE SCALP OF THE NEGRO.

In a paper read before the Microscopical Society, and reported in the *Monthly Microscopical Journal* for the present month, Mr. Charles Stewart gives the result of his investigation upon the appearance presented by sections of the scalp of the negro. In this, he says, besides the dark colour which is due to extra pigmentation of the deep layer of the epidermis, there are certain peculiarities that have not received general attention. The scalp is altogether thinner, and the hairs and follicles present the following remarkable differences from those of the European. In the first place, the portion of the hair and follicle imbedded in the skin is much longer, and is also remarkably curved, so that it commonly describes a half-circle. The papilla at the base of the follicle consequently either lies horizontally or even becomes directed obliquely inwards towards the subjacent bone. Lastly, the sebaceous gland is somewhat smaller.

RELIGIOUS MANIA.

A singular case of self-mutilation has recently occurred at Leicestershire, England, which was apparently prompted by a rather literal reading of that part of the Scriptures, "If thy right hand offend thee cut it off." The Rev. W. March, late curate of Melton Mowbray, requested his friend, at whose house he was staying, to take out his right eye. On repairing to his apartment that gentleman found that the reverend gentleman's right hand was severed from his body, and that he was endeavouring to pluck out his right eye. Medical assistance was summoned. Mr. March remained calm, did not appear to suffer pain, and throughout, complimented the surgeons on their skill and dexterity in performing amputation, which was found necessary, thus exhibiting that absence of the sense of pain so frequently met with in acute mania.

We remember, some years ago, the case of a criminal who had been condemned to death for murder. There was some question as to his sanity, and the gaol surgeon, with several other medical men, decided the subject by making him expose his back, when a red hot iron was applied at several points, the prisoner never wincing or exhibiting the slightest suffering under the infliction. Execution of the sentence was stayed, and the unfortunate man sent to an asylum for the remainder of his existence.