

ber of the Royal Commission on Vaccination in 1889, on sewage disposal 1898, and on tuberculosis 1901, was a commissioner of London University, served on the committee of the War Office on military education, was a member of the Royal Society for 35 years and secretary for 21 years.

He represented London University in Parliament from 1900 to 1905 as a Unionist, but voted with the opposition on the Education Act.

He taught physiology in London from 1867 to 1870, when he was called to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he remained until his death.

Though himself the author of a number of original investigations, it was chiefly as a sound and broad reasoner that he excelled.

To us he is known most kindly as the author of his "Text Book of Physiology," the English medical classic of the generation; a source of delight as well as of profit, from which no seeker need ever go empty away.

He was also the first and a constant editor of the Journal of Physiology, and the author of "A History of Physiology," which is also a history of the development of scientific medicine, written with the same charm and grace that mark his "Text Book." In Michael Foster's death, physiology and medicine and science and citizenship lost a man who advanced and graced them all.

We shall take up in sections a very few of the papers which have appeared to be of more general interest.

In the work on the *Heart*, Matthews and Jackson (*Am. Journ. Phys.* Jan. 1907) investigated the effect of magnesium sulphate on heart muscle.

Dropping solution of mag. sulph. on the excised frog's heart led to blocking of the systolic impulse, the ventricular beat ceasing before the auricular.

After complete stoppage, mechanical stimulation could still elicit beats. The heart was reduced to the condition of skeletal muscle. The same result followed in atropinized hearts, showing it was not a vagus effect. These results were confirmed upon dogs' hearts.

A paper of considerable interest by Carlson and Meck, appeared in the *Am. J. Phy.* for Feb. 1908.

Carlson has done considerable work on the heart of the King Crab, which throws some light upon the muscle and nerve battle for the control of the cardiac rhythm. He has shown previously that the heart of *Limulus* loses its power to beat and to conduct beats, if separated from its dorsal nerve cord, this piece of work going far to strengthen the hands of the neurogenic school.

In the present article he takes up the developmental aspects of the question, and by examining a series of *limulus* eggs, he finds that distinct