

joint boards in Ireland and the Universities of Cambridge and Glasgow have already adopted the change, and the example will soon be followed generally. The Council came to the conclusion that the performance of operations on the dead body was a highly important part of a complete test for the efficient practice of surgery, and recommended examining bodies to reconsider the means they might use for amending that part of their examination.

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### THE TREATMENT OF TABES DORSALIS BY SUSPENSION.

Prof. Charcot has been treating, during the past three months, a number of cases of tabes dorsalis by means of suspension. The treatment is carried out by means of a Sayre's ordinary suspending apparatus. The patient is suspended usually from one to three minutes every second day. In fourteen cases treated in this way, the beneficial results were very marked in eight, and in all there was more or less amelioration. The first effect usually noticed is a lessening of the inco-ordination. This showed itself even after the first suspension. A case is referred to where a patient was unable to move or even stand without assistance, while after about twenty suspensions he could walk several kilometres without the use of a cane. In all the cases there was marked amelioration of other prominent symptoms of this disease. The lightning pains, the bladder troubles, the anæsthesia, were found to have disappeared or were greatly relieved. In no case, however, was there noticed a return of the knee-jerk or a disappearance of the pupillary symptoms. The treatment was first practised Matchoukowsky of Odessa, who published a pamphlet on this subject in 1883. He was accidentally led to employ it from finding it beneficial in a case of tabes complicated with disease of the vertebrae.

No doubt we will soon know whether any permanent benefit follows this procedure, as cases of tabes dorsalis are unfortunately very common, and all our ordinary means are so worthless that anything that promises even relief will be eagerly seized upon by the physician.