

value of Latin as an element in education. Two or three centuries ago Latin was the key to storehouses of knowledge not otherwise accessible; but "it is not so now. The most rich and various storehouses of all sorts of knowledge, both speculative and practical, are open to a modern British man without any key but his mother tongue; and an Englishman or a Scot, in the latter end of this nineteenth century, three hundred years after Shakespeare, has no more need of going to dead languages for the sake of the culture that belongs to a well-educated gentleman than a Newcastle man has to send to the end of the world for coals which he has at his own door. . . . What was once an anomalous necessity has now become an absurd anachronism, a scholastic tradition." Prof. Blackie is for requiring from the candidate for an ordinary pass degree in arts—as to medicine he appears to reserve his opinion—a familiar knowledge of some one foreign tongue, ancient or modern, for he writes: "Even on the supposition that linguistic training is the very best possible for a youth of good promise in this nineteenth century, it is quite certain that German is as good for this purpose as either Latin or Greek, with this immense advantage—that the language of Goethe and Bismark, if once learned, will likely be used, while in the case of Greek and Latin, it seems an undeniable fact that nineteen out of twenty British youths who have gone through the traditional routine of a classical education forget easily in three months all that they have painfully acquired in as many years." Dr. Wade, in his presidential address to the Association at Birmingham, was thought by many to have been overbold when he maintained that the question whether Latin should be retained as a compulsory subject in the curriculum of medical students was one which might be debated; it was said that his action would tend to hasten the fulfilment of the prophecy that within a few generations medicine would cease to be a liberal profession. But he found a powerful ally in Prof. Huxley, and now it would seem that Prof. Blackie is prepared to back Prof. Huxley; and if these two representative men are not men of culture, some new definition of that much abused phrase must be devised.—*British Med. Journal.*