

Cormac and Dr. Lyon Playfair. They were afterwards joined by Drs. Shrady, of New York; Osler and Howard, of Montreal; Dr. John Collins Warren and other prominent surgeons of Boston. Dr. Bigelow performed his operation for crushing a stone, and washed out the fragments, using the instruments and apparatus which that surgeon described in an article that appeared in the American reprint of the *Lancet* for January, 1882. Drs. Bigelow and Whittlemore passed through several of the wards, showing also the apartments for the nurses in a separate building, which provided very happily a sleeping apartment for each, and cosy parlours where they may assemble when off duty. Dr. Bigelow conducted them to the theatre, where post-mortem examinations are made in the presence of the students, and showed the excellent arrangements by which this room was ventilated and maintained free from mortuary exhalations.

Dr. Mullin then distributed amongst the members catalogues of Harvard Medical School, which had been kindly sent to him by Dr. Wm. P. Whitney, curator of the anatomical museum, calling attention to the admirable arrangements for the prosecution of medical studies provided in the new building, which, at an expense of about \$300,000, had been erected and equipped by generous subscriptions of the citizens of Boston and presented to the Medical Faculty. He spoke of the pleasure and profit with which he had visited the museum, and referred particularly to a beautiful collection of wax models illustrating, with life-like fidelity, various diseases of the skin. He called attention to the admirable course of study pursued in Harvard Medical School, where students are conducted in successive years through the various branches of medical education; to the manner in which certain studies are allotted to each year; and to the large amount of practical work through which a knowledge of the different branches is acquired; and spoke of the

course as one well worthy of our imitation.

He concluded by referring to the many courtesies which the members of the profession from this Dominion had received from Drs. Warren, V. P. Bowditch, Chadwick, Whitney and other members of the profession in Boston, and to the very great pleasure he had enjoyed visiting Harvard College, in company with Drs. Osler and Shrady; they were escorted by Dr. John Collins Warren, the fourth who has honourably maintained the name of the family, in connection with the Harvard Medical School. Under his pleasant guidance they visited the Library, the Museum, the Gymnasium, and the large Hall, in which many of the students assemble each day for their meals; upon the walls of which appear the names and portraits of many well-known in the history of the United States, and amongst the figures in the stained windows he noticed that of our own Hampden by the side of Leonidas. They passed along the Apian Way, down past the house where Dr. Holmes first saw the light, and around the ancient oak, under which Washington stood when he took command of the Army of the Revolution; they had the honour of visiting the rooms of the Porcellian Club, and were cordially welcomed by its members.

Selections: Medicine.

THE DIAGNOSTIC VALUE OF RENAL TUBE CASTS.

BY ROBERT SAUNDBY, M.D., EDINBURGH.

Although the profession is generally impressed with the notion that the presence of tube casts in the urine is a valuable clinical sign, I fear this remains, to a very great extent, a barren theoretical doctrine which bears no fruit in practice. This failure is probably due to the want of precise rules for drawing correct inferences from these structures when they are found.

Busy practitioners sometimes tell me that they have no time to look for casts, but there would be no room for this excuse if the proper method of seeking them was