

Medical Items.

—Dr. K. N. Fenwick, of Kingston, has donated the sum of \$2,500 to the General Hospital of that city for the erection of a new operating theatre.

—There is a great decline in the number of students attending the different Scotch Universities during the present session as compared with previous sessions. In Edinburgh the decrease, as compared with 1889, amounts to 531, and in Glasgow to 200.

—A society has been formed by the Medical Faculty of the University of Kieff, having for its object the repression of infectious diseases. A fund has been raised which will for the present be applied to the investigation and application of the antitoxin treatment in diphtheria.

—The beautiful first court of the General Hospital at Vienna is graced with several statues of eminent physicians and surgeons. It has been decided to add to their number memorials of three of the most eminent men in medicine of the present century, viz., Skoda, Rokitansky, and Billroth.

NEW METHOD OF STERILIZING ABSORBENT COTTON.—A piece of the cotton is taken and wrapped about the extremity of a probe. This is dipped in an alcoholic solution of boracic acid and then set on fire. The alcohol burns and the boracic acid prevents the cotton becoming carbonized. Five seconds is sufficient for the process; when the flame becomes coloured a bright green it is extinguished. The cotton remains unchanged, but both it and the holder are completely sterile.—Hermoyez et Helme, *La Presse Médicale de Paris*, Feb. 2, 1895.

—The influence of a pure water supply in diminishing the number of cases of typhoid fever is strikingly shown in the results attained by the French Military Surgeons