

great advances in local sanitation throughout the Province, owing to the stirring-up which local boards of health received.

Dr. Bryce read a description of a new disinfecting apparatus of which he is the devisor. The Board discussed its improvements with expressions of approval.

Dr. Bryce was appointed to represent the Board at the meeting of the Pan-American Medical Congress, Washington, and Drs. Rae and Kitchen, at the meeting of the American Public Health Association, Chicago. The Board then adjourned.

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### Items, Etc.

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#### PROFESSOR CHARCOT.

Professor Charcot, whose unexpected death from angina pectoris was announced by cablegram, was born in Paris, November 29th, 1825. The *British Medical Journal*, in an extended obituary notice, speaks thus of this highly gifted and world-wide known physician and scientist:

"Early in life M. Charcot was rescued by marriage from that struggle for existence in which the eager flame of scientific ambition must so often be spent in making the domestic pot boil. Thus he was free to devote himself to the advancement of medical science, and in the Salpêtrière, with its 4,000 beds, he found a quarry of clinical material out of which he was able to raise an edifice of intellectual achievement, at once solid in structure and artistic in finish, which will form a *monumentum ære perennius* to his memory. He set aside three days in the week entirely for hospital work, and he was always most punctual in his attendance. By his influence the Salpêtrière was transformed from something corresponding to a poor-law asylum into a great clinical school fully equipped for research as well as for teaching, and open to the whole profession. There he made the observations and delivered the lectures which made his name famous;

there he trained several generations of pupils, some of whom are carrying on his work with a zeal for truth equal to his own, and with hardly inferior ability; there, too, came crowds of practitioners from all parts of the world to sit at the feet of the Gamaliel of neurology. His demonstrations were attended at one time or another by nearly all the leaders of contemporary medical thought, and the fledgling just escaped from the academic nest might sign his name in the visitors' book between those of Rudolf Virchow and Grainger Stewart.

Though limiting his time for private practice to the extent that has been mentioned, M. Charcot was consulted by patients from the very end of the earth. He seldom undertook the treatment of sufferers, preferring to act purely as a consultant. So far did he carry this mode of action that, we believe, he seldom prescribed, contenting himself with pointing out the clinical and pathological relations of the case and indicating the general principles on which the treatment should be conducted, leaving the practitioner in charge to apply them according to his lights.

M. Charcot was emphatically a hard worker all through his career, though in later years he applied the principle of devolution to a considerable extent. He was as fortunate in his assistants as they were in their master, and the excellence of their work must in great measure be credited to his inspiration and wise direction. Though fond of comfort and of luxurious surroundings, he was always at his desk by 6 a.m.; nor did he ever allow himself to be swept away by the vortex of social enjoyment, though his position might have made him free, had he so chosen, of all the inner mysteries of the fashionable world of Paris. He was passionately fond of art, and he had a highly-cultivated æsthetic sense; he was also skilful with his pencil