

professors, and, from it, it would seem that the epidemic is simply severe typhus, and relapsing fever, such as we had in Ireland in 1848, but that it was declining. He scouts the idea of a plague.

MEDICAL NEWS.

On the 10th of May Mr. Syme, for the second time, performed the formidable operation of excision of the tongue. The patient was a female, about 56 years of age, who had been affected with malignant disease of the tongue for about two years, the affection implicating almost the whole organ, extending to within a short distance of the hyoid bone. Having made an incision in the median line from the lip downwards, Mr. Syme sawed through the lower jaw. The two portions being held apart, he readily and rapidly dissected out the whole tongue. Only two ligatures were required; and but little blood was lost. The operation lasted twenty minutes. The patient upon whom Mr. Syme operated some six months ago, is still well and there has not been any return of the disease. — Sir David Davies, M.D., died on the 10th of May. He was the domestic physician of His late Majesty King William IV and Queen Adelaide. — Dr. Clark, of Rockford, Illinois, recommends the internal administration of sulphur in large doses, frequently repeated, for the cure of indolent ulcers of long standing. One case took thirty grains five times a day, with most decided benefit. — Typhoid fever is the cause of the greatest number of deaths in the French army, being, for 1862, 185 per 10,000 of effective soldiers.

Mr. Spencer Wells objects to the operation of incision of the mouth and neck of the womb, as performed by Dr. Marion Sims. In his opinion, the use of the speculum is neither necessary nor desirable in the performance of the operation. "The operation can be much better done with a proper instrument in a second or two by the touch alone, than it can by a complex process of speculum, assistant, hook, scissors, knife, and plugs, as advised by Dr. Sims." Further, he says that there is no necessity to do more than cut through the mucous membrane and the innermost layer of muscular fibres. Mr. Wells holds it "to be not only unnecessary, but dangerous and injurious, to cut into the thick middle layer of muscular fibres." Mr. Wells says he has seen two fatal cases of periuterine abscess after free incision in the practice of others. He is confident that very "free incisions are as unnecessary as they are dangerous."—*Brit. Med. Jour.*