

the same intimate knowledge of the subject that he has shown concerning the "lost tribes of Israel."

We were, however, especially grieved to hear remarks made by two members of the Council to the students at the Trinity School dinner. It was very poor policy, to say the least of it, to endeavour to create any feeling of distrust among the students towards the Examining Board by objecting to the appointment of "one examiner, you know, who." In fact we may go further and say it was simply contemptible to make such an attack upon any man where neither he nor his friends were in a position to resent it. The worthy Dean of Trinity School not only endorsed this objection to "one Examiner," but went so far as to make a violent personal attack upon the President of the Medical Council. We will not at this time discuss the speech of the gentleman referred to on the subject of the student's petition, as we, in a former number of this Journal, took occasion to object strongly to some of his expressions concerning the students; but we must express the opinion that the learned Professor was extremely injudicious, while speaking to his one hundred and sixty students, to make any attempt to create a hostile feeling among those young men towards the Council or any of its members. It would have been more dignified and profitable either to uphold the Council, of which he himself, is one of the most distinguished and influential members, or if he could not do that, to pass this part of the subject over in silence, and endeavour to impress on the students the importance of preparing themselves thoroughly for their examinations, instead of giving direct encouragement to petitioning or abusing this body, if they are so unfortunate as to be rejected next spring. Probably if he had made the same attack on the President at the close of the speech, to which he objects he would not have found the amount of "exhaustion" he now imagines; and we cannot but think that some instinctive idea of this kind was present in his mind; otherwise, we are at a loss to account for his meek and lamb-like aspect at that time, which presented so striking a contrast when compared with his bellicose words and warlike attitude while recently addressing the one hundred and sixty.

SYSTEMS AND CURES IN MEDICINE.

THE DANGER AND THE DUTY OF THE HOUR.

There cannot possibly be a "system" or "cure" in medicine. There are no rule-of-thumb methods and no mysteries in true science. If we do not know what a remedy is, and how it acts, we have no right, as honest men, to employ it. The time has passed for the working of cures by charms and the recourse to nostrums. We pander to the credulity of the unskilled community when we show ourselves credulous. We patronize and encourage quackery when we extend professional recognition to a quack. Every man is a quack—whether qualified or unqualified—who employs a remedy without knowing why, or who adopts a "system" in medicine. The profession must speak out clearly and strongly on this point, and without delay. From the highest places in society to the lowest ranks of the people, there is just now a grievous readiness to "believe in" quacks and quackery. We have ourselves to thank for this most adverse "feeling" and "influence." It is the stirring of the viper we have brought in from the cold, where physicians and surgeons of more robust intelligence than those of to-day left it—the viper we have warmed and fed and brought back to life; and now it is preparing to rise and sting the hand that caressed it. The way to encounter the charlatanry which is making head against science is to be at once more candid and more conspicuously honest in our dealings with the public. We must lay aside the last vestige of the robe of mystery, and show by our words and works, our conduct and policy, that medicine is not a science that admits of inspiration, and that the practice of healing is not an art which can be acquired by the unlearned. There is no system or cure, or charm or nostrum, known to the profession; our calling consists solely in the rational study and treatment of diseases on common-sense principles. For those who pretend to a sort of inspiration we have no professional friendship; and towards the promoters of systems and 'pathies we can have no leaning, or any feeling other than that of suspicion, if not pity and contempt. They can have no place in our pro-