

progeny of minute organisms in the air. Dr. Needham, in England, first advanced the theory of abiogenesis or spontaneous generation. His experiments were shown to be imperfect; but the battle went on, first one side, then the other, appearing to have the advantage, and as late as 1872 Bastian held the theory of the development of living organisms from non-living albuminoid material, apparently proving it by his experiments with cheese. But Cohn showed that the resting spores were enclosed in the substance of the cheese, and that the high temperature used by Bastian in his experiments was insufficient. The matter has now been set at rest, and Harvey's famous dictum, *omne vivum ex ovo*, is undisputed, though it has a far wider meaning than he originally attached to it.

While this battle was going on, attempts were made to improve on the classification of Müller, but it was only with the improvement of microscopic apparatus that advances were made. About 1840 Ehrenberg made a classification, which was practically a rude model of that now adopted.

With the exception of Dujardin, all observers up to 1852 had looked upon bacteria as belonging to the animal kingdom. In this year, Perty announced that, of these organisms, some belong to the animal and some to the vegetable kingdom, while some appeared to him to stand on the borderland between the two. In 1854 Cohn insisted even more strongly on the plant nature of these micro-organisms, and this fact was soon thoroughly established.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

Antitoxine is now being experimented with at The Isolation hospital. The sample was procured by Dr. Patton, of Bloor Street.

A physician, above all men, should be thoroughly educated, for education is a great refiner; and in what calling or profession is this quality more essential than in ours?

From the *personnel* of the new Council good work may be expected during the next four years. Now that the heat of an election campaign is over, there is no doubt but the newly-elected members will devote their time and energies to furthering the interest of the profession and the public.

In no case has the name of any medical man been struck off the Medical Register for advertising. The charge in all the cases so dealt with has been a more serious one, viz.: that of imposing upon the credulity of those unfortunates whose life is hanging upon a silken thread.

Prior to 1867 the matriculation examinations in all our colleges was more a matter of form than anything else, and could be passed at any time before going up for the degree. At the present time it is quite different. The student must present to the registrar of the college the official certificate of having passed the Departmental Pass Art Matriculation Examination, and, in addition, physics and chemistry, and the day is not far distant when it will become still higher.

The profession may not be aware that when the Medical Council asked for legislative power to fix a higher standard for matriculation, the Government acceded on the condition that rights should not be abused or employed for the purpose of unjustly limiting the number of students; and, had too advanced a step been taken, we are quite confident that the Legislature would have politely said: "Gentlemen, you have abused a prerogative granted in good faith, and have sought to erect a barricade too lofty for any poor man's son to scale; this being against the interest of the public, we propose to clip your wings and take once more into our own hands the prescribing of what we think is a satisfactory matriculation."

The following have passed the final examination of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario:—W. Arrell, Caledonia; W. A. Ball, Toronto; Ellen A. A. Burt, Toronto; W. L. Coulthard, Toronto; G. M. Ferris, Campbellford; J. Jardine, Toronto; J. M. Jory, Norwood; Thomas Kerr, Toronto; K. C. McIlwraith, Hamilton; E. J. O'Connor, Ottawa; W. H. Scott, Toronto; J. S. Shurie, Trenton; H. H. Sinclair, Walkerton; A. T. Shillington, Kemptville; J. T. Somerville, Clifford, Mich.; J. Stenhouse, Toronto; F. W. Stockton, Richwood; D. Thomson, Woodbridge; Thomas Wilson, Elm; F. A. Aylmer.

The following candidates have passed the primary examinations:—J. Becket, Thamesville; W. L.