

Bishop's College and lecturer on *Materia Medica*, chemistry and Botany at the Quebec College of pharmacy, then delivered a very interesting lecture on "Electrolysis." The lecturer, before entering upon his subject, gave a short history of electricity itself. He said that the term electricity is derived from a Greek word *Elektron*, signifying amber, because it was first noticed by the Ancients in that substance, and that we are told that Thales of Miletus spoke of this property in amber six hundred years before the Christian era; but that no further progress was made concerning it till the beginning of the last century, when new and important facts were discovered, and that these attracted general attention among philosophers, and speedily acquired for it the regular form of a science—a science, indeed, which has since been, applied to so many useful and ornamental purposes and also one which has served in a manner almost to annihilate time and distance, as exemplified in the telegraph.

He then entered upon the discussion of the true nature of electricity, which he defined to be one of the forms of *force*, and he demonstrated by experiments and diagrams how electricity could be converted into heat, light, and the other forms of force, and how it could not only produce motion, but how motion could also produce electricity. He afterwards entered into a description of the three forms of electricity:—1st, that excited by friction; 2nd, magnetism, and 3rdly, galvanism. He explained the theory of thunderstorms, and described the effects of lightening and of galvanism on both living and dead animals. He described fully the component parts of the various galvanic and voltaic batteries or piles, as well as the construction of magnets, and by many numerous brilliant and instructive experiments he was enabled to decompose water and to effect other chemical changes and decompositions in bodies. He then spoke of the numerous discoveries of metals by Sir Humphry Davy, by the aid of this means of decomposition; that this philosopher had proved that potash, soda, lime, &c., were not the simple bodies that they had up to that time been regarded, but that they were in reality compounds of potassium, sodium, calcium &c., with oxygen gas, whose disunion he effected by "Electrolysis." Through its instrumentality chemists have been enabled to become acquainted with the true nature of many other elementary bodies and new fields have been opened up for investigation, and he felt certain that new and important discoveries will yet be made. The study of elec-

tricity in its different forms, he remarked, had charms and attractions about it scarcely possessed by any other branch in science, and most undoubtedly unsurpassed by any in the brilliancy, variety, grandeur, as well as in the usefulness of the results. The experiments throughout were of the highest order, most interesting and instructive, and the lecturer concluded by thanking Dr. Shaw and Mr. Anthony Kerry for their assistance in enabling him to demonstrate the various points under consideration.

A vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. Mercer and seconded by Mr. Saunders, was given to the lecturer and the meeting then adjourned.

This concludes the monthly meetings of this session. It was a subject of remark that the unnecessarily late closing of the drug stores kept many young men from availing themselves of these lectures.

#### MEMOIR OF PROFESSOR JAMES SYME.

Our readers will be glad to learn that a volume with the above title has just appeared from the pen of Dr. Robert Paterson, of Leith. The author gives an interesting account of the education, early professional life, and ultimate success of the great Scotch surgeon, and supplies many details of the most notorious circumstances connected with his career, including the polemics in which he so actively engaged. The book ought to be widely read by the profession.

#### PERSONAL.

Dr. Thomas R. Dupuis has been appointed to the Chair of Anatomy, in the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Kingston, Ont.

Dr. J. Baker Edwards has resigned the Chair of Chemistry in Bishop's College Medical School. He remains in the Faculty, as Professor of Practical Chemistry and Microscopy.

Dr. George Begg Shaw, appointed last year Lecturer on Chemistry in Bishop's College Medical School has been appointed Professor of Chemistry in place of Dr. J. Baker Edwards resigned.

Dr. Thomas G. Roddick has resigned the House Surgery of the Montreal General Hospital. He commences practice in Montreal, and has the heartiest good wishes of his many friends.

Dr. Clarence J. H. Chipman has been appointed House Surgeon to the Montreal General Hospital.