

and invariably took out a guinea, in spite of which the doctor resorted to every possible stratagem to get rid of him. Once, while travelling, he met two of his colleagues; to them he related his misfortune, and induced them to assist him in his dilemma. Accordingly, Dr. Favrot summoned them to consultation on his patient. They were unanimous in pronouncing his health perfect, and congratulated him on there being no further necessity for the continuance of his erratic life in company with Dr. Favrot. The little old man handed his new advisers their fees, and bowed them out of his room. The doctor, having on the previous evening taken leave of his patient, stole on foot from the hotel at an unearthly hour, in order to start by the earliest train. On the steps of the railway terminus sat, awaiting his arrival, the little old man. "Ah, you thought to escape me; but here I am as ill as ever, and I have taken my ticket to accompany you.—*Every Saturday.*

Ovariectomy in a Girl twelve years old.

Dr. Jouon, of Nantes, has removed an ovarian tumor weighing twenty pounds from a girl only twelve years old who, had never menstruated. A long narrow pedicle was secured by a clamp, and the patient recovered. The case is reported in the *Gazette Hebdomadaire*. This is probably the youngest patient on whom ovariectomy has been performed as Mr. Spencer Wells' youngest patient was fourteen. Mr. Wells has had three successful cases in girls of seventeen.—*Medical News and Library.*

External use of Digitalis as a Diuretic.

Dr. Brown has succeeded in re-establishing the renal function in six cases of calculus of the kidney, when all other measures had been tried without effect, by the external use of digitalis in the form of poultices made either by throwing the fresh leaves into boiling water, or by incorporating the concentrated tincture with linseed meal. A rapid fall of the pulse follows the application. The cataplasms made with the leaves are especially to be recommended, and they should be renewed every six hours till the lowering of the pulse warns us to desist.—*Dublin Quart. Journal Med. Sci., Aug., 1869, from Rev. de Théor., Dec., 1868.—Medical News and Library.*

Fashionable Medical Literature.

In a review of a recent work of fiction the *New York Nation* says:

By the way, what the doctors are telling us about the changes which are occurring in the types of disease at the present day, and the increasing prevalence of nervous and brain diseases, seems to have been seized upon by the novelists as affording some fresh material. This is the third novel of the season—the other two were foreign; the one German, the other English—in which we have found the gradual approach of paralysis and the notation of its symptoms to be rather effectively used. The hectic cheek and the hacking cough which used to heighten a heroine's beauty and deepen a reader's sympathy, begin to give place in interest to numbness in the cerebellar region, a stinging pain along the spine, and certain accompanying mental aberrations. The medical journals do the thing with

a more scientific accuracy, no doubt, but they can seldom lay claim to much dramatic interest, and are not apt to concern themselves about scenic effects.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter.*

Dr. Richardson at Birmingham.

The inaugural meeting of the Midland Medical Society, on the 21st instant, proved a brilliant success. Nearly 200 members of the profession accepted the invitation of Mr. S. A. Bindley, the President of the Society, and when Dr. B. W. Richardson entered the crowded *salon* of the Great Western Hotel, where the conversazione was given, he received an ovation, which must have convinced him of the high esteem and the wide popularity which his labours in the cause of science have won for him. Mr. Priestley Smith and Mr. Edward Parkes, two of the most distinguished students of Queen's College, had been appointed to assist the lecturer in the performance of experiments on animals and the manipulation of apparatus, with which the tables were covered. The address commenced at eight, and until its close, at half-past ten, the attention of the crowded audience was breathless, the applause frequent and impassioned. Taking for his text "Old and New Remedies," the distinguished physiologist discoursed successively on bloodletting and transfusing, on the history and effects of the therapeutic use of oxygen, and on the chemical and physiological properties of the hydrides, nitrites, and chlorides. He performed experiments with the ethers and chloral, exhibited a new method for performing artificial respiration, and concluded with a peroration which, for thought, earnestness, and power, impressed the audience as only a master-mind can impress a large body of competent judges. Dr. Richardson's address was in every respect a great achievement; he indicated the works of great men almost forgotten, demonstrated the intimate alliance of physiological and chemical inquiry, proved how powerfully scientific inquiry can augment the resources of the practitioner, and foretold the near approach of the day when Medicine, rightly studied, shall have established its claim as a true science.—*Lancet, Oct 30.*

Sir James Simpson.

On Tuesday, Oct. 25, Sir James Y. Simpson was presented by the Town Council of Edinburgh with the Freedom of the city, in the presence of a large assemblage. The Lord Provost and members of the Council were in their official robes. The honour was conferred upon Sir James to mark the Council's sense of the value of his numerous and varied contributions to medical science and literature, and particularly his discoveries in connection with chloroform, acupuncture, &c., discoveries which had served to maintain and extend the reputation of Edinburgh and its medical school. The Lord Provost, in presenting the Burgess ticket, passed a high eulogium upon Sir James, who in a speech of considerable length returned thanks for the honour conferred upon him.—*Lancet.*

—The late terrible outbreak of cholera in India, we are very glad to hear, shows every indication of a speedy subsidence. The latest accounts were very favourable.—*Lancet, Oct, 30.*