

MEDICAL CHIT-CHAT.

There is a curious tradition in one of the medical schools north of the Tweed, of failure on the part of friends to recognize the body of a deceased relative. It was in the days before the Anatomy Act, and a female body had been acquired in some irregular manner for the purpose of dissection. The friends of the deceased having found out the *locale* of their missing relative, came with many a threat to recognize and claim the corpse. This they did at once, but the dissecting-room porter showing them that they were mistaken as to the sex, they admitted their error and retired. The long hair had been shaved off, and the porter had had the audacity to practise a bold deception which proved successful.

A London journal says of the late John Stuart Mill, that he was one of the most impulsive of men, swayed by sentiment almost to a feminine degree. Indeed, he owed his death to the gratification of affections well nigh morbid in their intensity. To be near his wife's tomb at Avignon, he purchased a house and grounds beside the cemetery, in a situation far from healthy, and rendered damp and gloomy by the dense trees, which he refused to cut down lest the nightingales might quit the spot. Erysipelas, a disease endemic at Avignon, seized him in the beginning of May, and ran a course so rapid as to prove fatal in four days.

A recent commission has shown that in some districts of France 4000 out of 14,000 conscripts, and in one district 14,600 out of 24,600, had been rejected as unfit to bear arms—the disqualifying characteristics being dwarfed stature, special infirmity, and deficient vital power. The protracted monotonous drudgery, on Sundays and saints' days, to which the small French landholders will subject themselves, their wives and their children, is something incredible; but the phenomenon of passive submission to the most grinding labour becomes yet more remarkable in the manufacturing centres. For France the remedy for this state of things is of greater importance than for Germany and Switzerland, where effective measures are already in force to mitigate the severity of female and juvenile labour. Profligacy in the great cities, from the capital downwards, and toil degrading at once to mind and body, in the manufacturing and rural districts, are not precisely the conditions under which France will resume her place in the political foreground, rebaptize Elsass and Lothringen as Alsace and Lorraine, and repeat the boast that when she is satisfied Europe is at peace.

The enmity between France and Germany has been transferred from the battle-field to the lecture-room, and M. Quatrefages has been eagerly followed in his damaging speculations as to the genesis of the North German race. M. Quatrefages, on the publication of his views last year, was held to have done more damage to his own reputation than to the Prussians, and scarcely deserved the elaborate and conclusive refutation he experienced at the hands of Professor Virchow. If M. Quatrefages could prove that the Prussians came originally from the tablelands of Central Asia, he would only be doing what Dr. Prichard long ago did for the whole Celtic race—the French part of it included. But arguments from anatomical structure and moral development apart, the question of language is enough to dispose for ever of all attempts to find a Mongol progenitor for the North Germans—a question in which the French *savants* are as little a match for their German antagonists as Benedetti was for Bismarck, or Macmahon for Moltke.

MEDICAL NEWS.

The executive committee of the British Medical Council have accepted the estimate of Messrs Spottiswoode for printing ten thousand copies of the Addendum to the Pharmacopœia.

The death rate for the last few months in the chief towns of Scotland shows considerable diminution in the average mortality of the corresponding period for the preceding ten years.

A druggist named Foster living at Preston, has been summoned for the twenty-fifth time for the non-vaccination of his child. He probably enjoys being summoned and looks upon it as a form of martyrdom.

Dr Sharpey, the distinguished Professor of Physiology in University College, London, recently underwent at the hands of Mr Streatfeild, a successful operation for the extraction of a senile cataract from the left eye.

In its issue of May 9th the London Globe denounces the practice of inserting in the leading daily papers long strings of advertisements of medical works. It says:—"It is impossible these books can be intended for the public, for unprofessional readers would never think of buying them. If they were written for medical men, the authors would be content to have them advertised in the journals devoted to the special subjects of the faculty." We are forced, then, to conclude that they are got up as a profitable speculation, certain weak minded persons being more likely to call in a man whose name appears in the title page of a medical work than one who has only professional skill and good sense to recommend him.

The present system of sanitary organization in the French army is to be continued on account of the failure to agree upon any improvement by the committee charged with this matter.

The wife of Professor Owen died in England recently. The King of Bavaria has given a thousand florins towards the erection of a monument to Liebig at Munich. A local committee is actively engaged in the preliminary steps.

The practitioners of the old Indian school of medicine the Hakims, as they are called—have protested against the replacement of their own by the European Pharmacopœia. A company of them have lately opened an "Indo-European Medical Hall" where only native drugs are vended.

The medical men of France are complaining bitterly of the indifference manifested by members of the National Assembly who recently refused to consider various questions of professional interest brought before them.

The French Minister of Agriculture and Commerce has bestowed a number of gold, silver and bronze medals on several medical men who had distinguished themselves in the provinces, and rendered good service by their labours as members of the various local councils of health which are officially instituted throughout France.

Professor Huxley, as Lord Rector of the University of Aberdeen, proposes certain changes in the medical examinations. Some two hundred of the students of medicine had petitioned him to have a substitute for Greek in the preliminary examination, and this Prof Huxley supports, the proposed option being German or French. He has also expressed the opinion that the examination in Natural History and Botany should take place at a much earlier period of the curriculum than that they do at present, so as to leave the student's time more free for professional studies.

The last official report of the Botanical Garden plantation in the island of Jamaica, gives an encouraging account of the cultivation of cinchona, jalap, and senna.

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The School of Medicine at Kingston being incorporated with independent powers and privileges under the designation of "The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Kingston," will commence its Twentieth Session in the College Building, Princess street, on the first Wednesday in October, 1873.

TEACHING STAFF.

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FIFE FOWLER, M.D., L.R.C.S., Edin., REGISTRAR, Professor of Materia Medica.
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OCTAVIUS YATES, M.D., Professor of the Institutions of Medicine and Sanitary Science.
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