

the angel-cry shall be heard once more: "They are *dead* which sought the young child's life."

But is the young child dead? Has He not come forth from the brief exile to which the Herod-spirit would fain consign him forever, fresh in eternal youth, the light of immortality beaming in his eyes, and the power of an unquenchable mission surging like a full torrent through His soul? The perennial bloom of which the world-poets often dreamed was realized in Him, Christ Jesus "ever young and ever fair." In the vigor of early manhood He died upon the cross; but dying to the seen and temporal, He liveth to the unseen and eternal. We look upward as the cloud receives Him out of our sight, waiting for that glad time which is evermore drawing nearer and nearer when the Angel-voice to Joseph shall find a grander echo in the chorus of great voices in Heaven saying: "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

## THE ROYAL COLLEGE.

### ÆSCULAPIAN SOCIETY.

SATURDAY evening, Dec. 13th, the members of this Society were treated to a lecture on Phrenology, by Prof. Burr, practical phrenologist. The attendance was large, on account of which an adjournment was made to the art building. At eight o'clock Mr. Spankie took the chair, and in a few introductory remarks called upon the lecturer, who, upon rising, was greeted with prolonged applause. Prof. Burr began by stating the particular pleasure he enjoyed at his present opportunity of addressing an audience of college students, as it called to his mind many reminiscences of his earlier days.

He referred in eloquent and pathetic terms to the prospects of young men who have received a college training. He pointed to the rapid strides of science during the last half a century, dwelling particularly on electricity and animal magnetism, especially with regard to their therapeutical effects. He said that the latter often replaced medicinal anaesthetics. Here the lecturer suggested an enlargement on the subject of magnetism; but cries of "phrenology--phrenology" from the students led the professor back to his subject. He said it was only within the last fifty years that phrenology had received its just amount of attention and claimed for it a place among the sciences of this day, based as it is on common sense. He did not wish people to think that phrenology could put brains where there are none, but he did claim that by the aid of phrenology the weak points in a man's nature could be disclosed, and, therefore, his attention directed thereto. The lecturer mentioned the name of one gentleman, now a medical student, who was thus benefitted. The good results of phrenology are purely physiological and depend upon the law that use increases while disuse diminishes the power of any organ, it matters not whether that organ be brain or muscle. The speaker gave vivid illustrations of this law, referring to pugilists, athletes, etc.

#### A SECRET.

At this juncture Prof. Burr said he would unfold a secret, because he was in a college. He referred jocularly to the popular idea of bumpology as being the basis of phrenology, but told his hearers the real method of judging of a man's particular ability, which was by placing the hand on the head and causing the subject to speak; the act of speaking causes a sort of thrill or fremitus, which is felt by the hand and that part of the head at which it is most distinctly felt, the locality of

greatest cerebral development. This, he claimed, was something not generally thought of by the populace. Measurements, of course, and the general contour of the head aided, as well as physiognomy. The lecturer asked the audience to nominate a man whose head they would like read. After a short excitement the chairman had the nomination and the reading of his head provided no small share of the evening's amusement, as the professor did not hesitate in announcing defects as well as excellencies. Mr. H. M. Mowat's head was next read, which kept up the fun, and if phrenology be true we may look for a first-rate lawyer in the person of this gentleman. Mr. A. P. Knight was the next and last who received a reading at this meeting, and was pronounced as possessing the qualities for a good schoolmaster or professor. This closed a somewhat lengthy, but amusing and well appreciated lecture. A number of arts students were present and enjoyed the sport.

On motion of Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Kyle, a vote of thanks was tendered Prof. Burr, after which the chairman declared the meeting adjourned till January 10th, 1885.

During the past half session the members of Æsculapian have been exceptionally active, and have benefitted greatly by their attention to literary matters. The meetings have been weekly instead of fortnightly as formerly, thus showing the presence of a more scientific class of students, as the papers read before the Society are, with one or two exceptions like the present, the work of students, and no trouble has yet been experienced in procuring a speaker.

### THE HUMAN HEART.

The heart is a muscular organ and, like the brain grows most rapidly during the early years of life. Dr. Benecke, of Marburg, Germany, has made some important statements on its growth. He says the increase in size is greatest and most rapid during the first and second years of life, being at the end of the second year double what it originally was, and again doubled between the second and seventh years. Its increase is then slow until about the fifteenth year, when it again makes progress and keeps pace with the advance of the other portions of the system. From the twentieth to the fiftieth year the increase is only about .061 of a cubic inch annually. But after the fiftieth year a slight diminution ensues. In childhood there is no difference in the male and female heart, but after puberty the male heart develops more, and the difference averages from one and a half to two cubic inches. Roughly speaking the heart resembles in size the closed fist of the same person.

#### ITS FORCE.

The force, or power of the human heart is greater than many persons imagine and investigators have differed widely in their calculations of it, but it is generally admitted to be not less than fifty pounds.

#### ITS WORK.

The necessary work of the heart is great and its unnecessary work sometimes very trying, as a glance at the following will show:

The ventricles of the heart are estimated to contain about 3 oz., and these are emptied at every cardiac beat; the amount of blood in an ordinary-sized man is about 18 lbs., or 288 oz., thus requiring 96 beats of the heart to send it once through the system. Now the average cardiac action is 72 beats per minute; or, in other words, the 18 lbs. of blood is impelled through the body every eighty seconds by this little human force-pump. These calculations might be greatly continued, but time and space will not permit of it here. Let each one who is not acquainted with this part of his body continue and as