

alcohol. Moderate outdoor exercise should be included in the day's programme. The mode of action of these waters taken in the manner described, is not clear, but their efficiency is too well established to admit of doubt.—*Maryland Med. Jour.*

A MEDICAL MAN HONORED.—Dr. Alexander Hill has been elected to the honorable position of Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University. This is the first time in history, says the *Lancet*, that the highest executive office of one of the two leading English universities has befallen a medical man. John Caius, who, like Dr. Hill, was a student of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, ruled over the College, which he refounded and endowed, from 1559 to 1573, but he did not fill the office of Vice-Chancellor. John Harvey was appointed Warden of Merton College, Oxford, in 1644, but lost his office six months later on the fall of Charles I. Of other medical men, if any, who have filled headships of colleges there is, we believe, no record, Dr. Alexander Hill's mastership of Downing alone excepted. Of late years medicine has made great advances at the universities, and we must look upon the election of Dr. Hill not only to the mastership of Downing, but to the Vice-Chancellorship of the University, as a proof of the increasing influence of our profession at Cambridge, and also as one of many recent indications that medicine is rapidly stepping into a position of equality with the sister professions of theology and law. Dr. Hill holds the office of Lecturer in Advanced Anatomy to the University. He was for some time Hunterian Professor of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. He is the author of many papers on the anatomy and physiology of the nervous system, the translator of Obersteiner's "Central Nervous Organs," and the author of the "Physiologist's Note Book," and other

works. Last year he succeeded Sir William Broadbent as President of the Neurological Society, and it is as a neurologist that he is chiefly known to the profession.—*Jour. of the Amer. Med. Assn.*

SLAUGHTER-HOUSE ORDINANCES IN EARLY ENGLAND.—In Richard II.'s time we find an act for "the punishment of them which cause corruption near a city or great town to corrupt the air" (12 Rich. II., C. 13, A.D. 1388), the preamble of which notes that so much filth "be cast and put in ditches and other waters, and also within many other places . . . that the air is greatly corrupt and infect and many maladies and diseases do daily happen." A century later we find an act under the heading "Butchers shall kill no beasts within any walled town or Cambridge" (4 Henry VII., C. 3, A.D. 1487). The preamble of this speaks of the "Corruptions engendered by reason of the slaughter of beasts and the scalding of swine," the "unclean and corrupt and putrified waters," and adds "that in few noble cities and towns, or none within Christendom, the common slaughter-house of beasts should be kept within the walls of the same, lest it might engender sickness unto the destruction of the people." It was nearly four hundred years later when the 317 slaughter-houses scattered promiscuously in New York city below Eightieth Street, were driven out, and the work concentrated in clean abattoirs outside. When London was to be rebuilt after the great fire, a law was passed for "the cleansing and scouring of vaults, sinks and common sewers" (19 Ch. II., C. 3, A.D. 1667), and in 1670 another was passed for the better paving and cleansing of the sewers and streets in and about the city of London.—*Jour. of the Amer. Med. Assn.*