

muscular system but only special parts. Ferrier operated on monkeys in presence of the London Royal Society, and according as he touched various parts of the cerebrum, the ape would shake his fist at the audience, raise or stretch out a leg, or make grimaces. He showed that in the monkey, the centre of motion of the tongue corresponds exactly with that to which the faculty of speech pertains in man.

The advantage of this knowledge is that the surgeon may know precisely the point of the skull over which to apply the trephine, and in illustration of this a case is reported of a man who was brought into a French hospital after having received a severe blow upon the left temple. On coming to himself he could only speak with difficulty, and would call a fork an umbrella, a lamp a hat, etc.; his right arm was partly paralyzed. The surgeon at once applied the trephine over the spot indicated by the symptoms resulting, and hit upon a piece of bone that compressed the brain. The splinter was removed, and the use of the right arm was at once regained. A few days later the impediment to his speech disappeared, and he left the hospital cured.

#### MEDICAL EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

Dr. Frank H. Hamilton, of New York, has been delivering an address at the American Academy of Medicine, Easton, Pa., on "Medical Education," which was ordered to be published, and a copy is now before us. The founders of the Academy seek to aid in the remedying of a great and universally admitted evil—namely "imperfect preparation for the study of medicine, and its almost inevitable sequence, imperfect qualification on the part of those who are admitted to practice." The Dr. in dealing with the subject under consideration, first addresses himself to the nature and extent of the evil complained of; next, its causes and consequences; and in conclusion, the remedy to be applied. With 4 or 5 exceptions, the licensing boards, and medical colleges in the United States, require no preliminary education or examination; there are no examinations during the course of study, the term of which never exceeds three years; and the actual attendance at college is never more than 10 months, often much less. The examinations are conducted

by the professors, and the latter are dependent on the size of their classes for their remuneration. The colleges license about 3000 annually and there are already about 70000 physicians in the United States, or about 1 to every 600 of the population. This is not alone the case in sparsely settled districts, but even in the state of New York, there is 1 to every 642 of the population. Dr. Hamilton also deplors the fact, that notwithstanding the large excess of production there is no foreign demand for the article. On the contrary, most governments have forbidden its introduction and use. The sources of the evil are to be traced he thinks, to the plan or system of dependence upon the tuition fees alone, for the support of the teachers, and which necessarily demands that the conditions of admission and licensing, shall rest mainly or exclusively with the teachers. He has no hope that the Federal Government will ever attempt to regulate medical education; and as for the State Governments, he very properly does not wish to see any union of medicine and state, which is as much to be dreaded as church and state. Nothing he says, is to be expected from state endowments, and very little from state legislation. He pays a high compliment to the intelligence and practical experience of the professors and teachers in the various schools and colleges, and their sincere desire to raise the standard of medical education, nevertheless the fact remains, that these colleges graduate and license to practice a great number who are totally unqualified. He does not however lay the blame at their door, but rather apologizes for this seeming inconsistency. The remedy which he proposes for this state of affairs is the "creation of a sound public sentiment which shall in some measure influence medical colleges and medical men" but above all, the young men, who are contemplating the study and practice of medicine. The latter must be persuaded that it is unbecoming for them to enter upon the study of a learned profession, without suitable preliminary education, and that it is shameful for them to enter upon the practice of medicine, without a competent knowledge of their profession. All this seems very well on paper, but it is expecting too much of human nature as at present constituted. No good will ever be accomplished in this way. We would advise our friends over the line to try our Ontario Medical Act in several of the States and test it for

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