

A COMPEND OF ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY, illustrated by the New Model Anatomical Manikin, including a key, a glossary of medical terms, and incidental notes on pathology. Edited and compiled from standard works by M. C. Tiers. New York: Fowler & Wells Company, 775 Broadway. 1891.

### NEWS ITEM.

HIGHER MEDICAL EDUCATION.—FOR some years past even the poorest medical schools in Canada, without any endowment whatever, have adopted the compulsory four years course, which we have always respectfully recommended to our confrères in the United States. It is with especial pleasure therefore that we have received an announcement from the University of Pennsylvania informing us that it is the first in the United States to take this step. On reading between the lines we think we see the influence of our own Canadian, Dr. Osler, who was for some time connected with the University of Pennsylvania.

Higher medical education is the true interest of the public and of the medical profession. Nothing concerns more directly every individual member of the community than that our medical men shall receive a thorough and practical education. In all civilized countries except America from five to seven years are devoted to this purpose, although their students enter the medical schools with better preliminary education than the vast majority of ours enjoy. In each European country there are only a few schools privileged to confer medical degrees, so that it is easy to maintain a high standard. But in this country there are hundreds of medical schools intrusted with this great power and high responsibility. Keen competition keeps down the standard. Until a few years ago it was the rule that only two years' study was required. Conscience revolted at this shocking laxity, and a few schools advanced their standard and established a three-year obligatory graded course of medical study. It was done in the face of much opposition, but it was done successfully, and today no medical school has any standing which has not adopted the three-year course. It was known to all who had studied the subject that this advance was but the first step. The number of subjects to be taught has increased; the methods of medical instruction have grown exacting and thorough; above all it is felt that no student should receive a degree which empowers him to enter on the most responsible work of practicing medicine unless he has had ample bedside instruction in every branch of his profession. It is simply impossible to do this in a three-years' course. Students are overworked in the attempt. The more complete the facilities possessed by any school the more evident has it become that one more advance must be made to enable the student to profit by his op-

portunities and to become a well-trained physician. The old cry is still raised that there were eminent doctors in former days who had studied only two years, and that those who graduate now with three years training succeed well in their profession. But every one who advances this argument knows how specious and hollow it is. It is universally admitted by the public and the medical profession alike that it is impossible to-day to give a thorough medical education in less than four full years of actual work in lecture-room, laboratory, and hospital.

The Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania is the oldest and most distinguished medical school on this continent. The stand taken by this school more than fifteen years ago in lengthening the term and raising the standard of medical study produced the most conclusive effect, because it was attended with such brilliant practical results. Ever since that time its graduates have distinguished themselves by unequalled success in all professional competitions. The advance was effected only by great sacrifices and exertions on the part of the Faculty. All high-grade, scientific education is costly and demands great facilities and increased labor. So it will be again. The school which puts into operation a full four-year graded course of medical study must be ready to meet increased outlay and lessened income from students' fees for some years at least. But what is resigned in mere pecuniary profit will be many times overcompensated by the lasting influence for good exerted.

At the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, held May 21st, Dr. Pepper made an offer of \$50,000 towards an endowment fund of \$250,000, and of \$1000 annually towards a guarantee fund of \$20,000 annually, for five years, conditioned upon the establishment of an obligatory graded four-year course of medical study. This was accompanied by a communication from the Medical Faculty, pledging themselves to carry out this proposal, and to enter upon the four-year course in September, 1893. It was also reported that the members of the Medical Faculty had themselves subscribed \$10,000 annually for five years to the endowment fund. The Board of Trustees expressed warm approval of the proposed advance in medical education, but postponed their assent until the success of both funds had been demonstrated.

The approaching completion of the fine Laboratory of Hygiene, built by Henry C. Lea, Esq., will render the medical facilities of this school unequalled. It is to be hoped that the necessary pledges will be secured promptly, as the interests of the entire community are deeply involved in the success of this great advance, which will enable medical students to obtain a thorough practical education in every branch of their profession.