

ON CANADIAN CAVERNS, read before the British Association of Science at Aberdeen, 16th September, 1859, by G. D. Gibb, M. D., London, 1861. Pamph. pp. 29.

ON THE STRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT OF BOTRYDIUM GRANULATUM, by George Lawson, Ph. D. Prof. Chem. and Natural History, Queen's College, Kingston. Pamph.

EDITORIAL SUMMARY.

Science at the bottom of the Sea.—Dr. Wallick, who accompanied the recent expedition to survey the North Atlantic Telegraph Road between Great Britain and America, has established some curious but not surprising zoological facts. At the depth of two miles, where the pressure was calculated to amount to one ton and a half per square inch, and where it can hardly be conceived that the attenuated rays of struggling light could scarcely penetrate, he not only discovered the existence of minute infusorial foraminifera of the simplest organization, but he also obtained from a sounding 1200 fathoms deep, a number of star fishes (*genus ophiocoma*) adhering to the lowest fifty fathoms of the deep sea line, which must have resided on the bottom for a few minutes so as to allow these star fishes time to attach themselves to the rope. It is therefore established "that in these regions of watery desert and everlasting darkness, there exists a highly organized species of radiate animal, living, entwining, and flourishing, with its red and light pink tints, as clear and brilliant as its congeners which dwell in shallow and comparatively sunshiny waters." The curious inference follows, that if these animals of early organization and type now exist there, there may also exist others of a higher organization, and that these sub-aqueous regions, could they be well and adequately explored, would furnish an evidence that they are now undergoing those singular changes which have probably, millions of years ago, fitted our present dry land for the aptitudes of terrene life. One thing is very certain, that Dr. Wallick's discoveries have awakened curious speculations, and are capable of engendering curious thoughts as regards the future of our present earthy crust.

Diseased meat.—Notwithstanding a recent conviction in London for selling diseased meat to the inhabitants of the metropolis, the practice is still persevered in. Five rotten sheep were lately seized in one salesman's shop, so wasted that they did not weigh respectively more than from 15 to 20 lbs. each, less than a fourth of their ordinary weight. Mr. Firman, the defendant, was styled "a respectable salesman," but was nevertheless fined in the sum of £10. It was alleged in defence that the frozen condition in which the mutton was bought, prevented the recognition of its unsoundness. We scarcely think that this practice has crept into our markets yet. But if our meat is not impure, what other article of pure food do we get. It is a pity that the Bill for the prevention of the sophistication of articles of diet did not pass the last session of Parliament. We trust that some member may take it up at the ensuing.

Heroism of British Medical Officers.—Guthrie during the Peninsular War shewed his men how to put their backs to their waggons, and defend themselves against French cavalry. Many other members of our profession have shown great military capabilities on emergency, and amongst them Dr. Campbell, resident in the Tea district of Dasseeling, who has been carrying on war with a very inadequate force against a neighbouring freebooter, the Rajah of Sikkim. The Doctor marched at the head of his force, handled his men carefully, saved them when in difficulty, and though he lost a gun, lost no honour, and added 500 square miles to British Territory. Of course as he is only a Doctor, he will see others rewarded for his work.—*Medical Times.*

Ship surgeons and ship owners.—In 1857, a medical officer of H. M. service went out to India in charge of troops in the ship *Nimrod*, owned by Messrs. Allan & Sons of Leaden Hall street, London. The proprietors of the vessel had the right of taking out cabin passengers, and they advertised in the *Times*, that the ship would carry "an experienced Surgeon." No other Surgeon having come on board, the medical officer in question, for whose passage a sum of £95 had been paid, served notice in writing on