

of diet. He found beer very injurious in inflammatory skin affections, much more so, indeed, than whiskey. Rhubarb and soda he regarded of great use, but are prescribed too much in a routine manner in dispensaries and hospitals. One must always treat each particular case, remembering that what is suitable treatment in one case may be positively injurious in another patient with the same disease.

Dr. HOWARD, in proposing a vote of thanks to Dr. Fox, referred to a great privilege the Society had enjoyed in so being brought in contact with a man of such extensive experience. In Dr. Fox's paper there was nothing new, and in saying this he paid him the highest possible compliment, for the whole tendency of his paper was to illustrate the great scientific truth that in medicine we cannot treat the disease. We must treat the individual, the constitution. He was struck by the effect of change of diet, as shown by the numerous examples quoted by the previous speakers, in breaking up the sequence of disease; one speaker even advising the use of peaches as an article of diet.

Dr. HINGSTON seconded the motion. In the course of a few happy remarks he referred to the effect that the present fishery dispute might have in lessening the supply of a wholesome article of food in the American market.

It was then moved by Dr. TRENHOLME, seconded by Dr. LAPHORN SMITH, that Dr. Fox be made an honorary member of the Society. This was carried unanimously.

Correspondence.

LETTER FROM BERLIN.

(From our own Correspondent.)

In my letter from Paris I had so much to say about Apostoli and his wonderful electrical treatment of diseases of women, that I had no space left for that wonder of this medical age, Professor Charcot. Have you ever seen him? Of medium height but most commanding presence; his long hair drawn back from his massive forehead and hanging down his neck; his head poised high and bringing into strong prominence his aquiline nose; his eagle eyes which pierce through yours so that he seems to read your very soul, but which you cannot look beyond. No wonder that he can tame the wild maniacs of the Salpêtrière with one magic glance. He calls it hypnôtisme this power that

he has, and he and many others say that many people might learn to acquire it. But I think it is mesmerism *pur et simple*; that incomprehensible power which a great mind has over a weaker one. By it he is able to cure many diseases of defective innervation, of the hysterical class, which are due to weakness or absence of will power, and which power he supplies for them until they regain their own. It is a wonderful sight to see him like the "Great Physician" commanding the paralysed to take up their bed and walk; or to see him step up to another tortured with ceaseless movements, which are at once arrested by a single look. What a charming lecturer; he does not call them lectures or clinics, but conferences. We all sit around him leaving a little open space between him and the patients about whom he is speaking, and he just talks away as if he was recounting reminiscences of the past, now a case, now an anecdote, now a theory and now a fact, but every one of them directly to the point. As you listen you too become infatuated with him and feel that you must do like the poor maniacs and cast yourself in humble submission at his feet. Two years ago I prepared a paper on a case of genuine scleroderma under my care at the Children's hospital in London. Charcot had such a case but not nearly so marked. But how he described it! All that I had discovered about it in six months of research he gave forth in polished and familiar terms.

Within the last ten years Berlin has made immense strides forward in the advance of medical education. By the well organized German system of centralization the best man in each subject is always brought to the capital, but before reaching that summit of his ambition he may have been promoted twenty-three times, as there are that many universities in the empire, and they are all under the control of the Government. The number of the students attending them varies all the way, from forty at Giessen to thirteen hundred at Berlin, besides at the latter place some five hundred foreign doctors constituting the medical floating population. Just before my arrival there Schröder, the Professor of Gynæcology, had died, and Olshausen of Halles was promoted to his place, and so on a l down the line until they came to Giessen which was thus left without any. Then they took Hofmeier, who was Schröder's first assistant, at Berlin and made him Professor at Giessen where he will have to remain until there is a vacancy in one of the twenty-two other univer-