

The meteorological notes enclosed fully corroborate all that has been stated above regarding the uniformity of temperature and freedom from moisture. The highest temperature at any single observation is 86°, while the lowest at any one observation is 40°. The highest daily mean of temperature is 75.50°, and the lowest during the month of July is 57.50°, while the average daily mean is 64.64°. There were only four days in which rain fell, and that only to a depth of 57-100 of an inch, while the remaining 27 days were pleasant. Observations with the hygrometer rarely gave a daily mean of less than 55°, or more than 72°. This extreme dryness of the air would seem to be almost the sole phenomena from which any unfavorable influence upon hay fever might arise. It is possible, but not probable, that this light, dry air may cause an irritation of the nasal and pharyngeal mucous surfaces. Its immunity from the other causes of this form of asthma renders this Laramie valley worthy a trial by those who are compelled to go to some favorable region to avoid the discomforts of the above-mentioned diseases produced by the abundant vegetation of more highly cultivated localities.

Very truly yours,

HENRY M. HURD, M. D.

Chicago, Oct., 1869.

—Correspondence Medical Record.

The Difficulties of a Provincial School.

We regret to find that the medical school at Hull has become so reduced in funds as to appeal to the general public for support and for assistance towards the necessary repairs of the school buildings. Such an appeal, which has, we notice, been repudiated by more than one of the lecturers, has not unnaturally excited some unfavourable comments in the local press, and will, we fear, not tend to increase the prosperity of the school. Without in any way wishing to depreciate the claims of the provincial schools to patronage, we cannot help quoting the following pregnant sentences from an article in a Hull paper, which contain a great deal of out-spoken truth upon a somewhat delicate subject:—

"But it is said, 'the existence of a local school diminishes considerably the cost of medical education,' and no doubt it has enabled some men to get into the profession who otherwise could never have done so. This, again, is surely a doubtful advantage. Is a cheap article necessarily good?—rather the contrary, if proverbs are true. Is the medical profession a fitting sphere for an impecunious youth of meagre, neglected general education? Is it good for the individual himself to tempt and aid the bottle-boy or the shoeblack to creep, after manifold 'pluckings,' into a calling altogether beyond his natural capacity and educational acquirements? Is it good for an honourable profession, or for the public, to elevate a quack druggist—a man who lives during his student's life by quack bills and quack pills, by counter practice on the unfortunate infants of the poor, and by clandestine midwifery, to the status of a medical practitioner? Will his examinations whitewash his Ethiop's skin, or his diploma rub out his leopard's spots, and eradicate the taints of nastiness and quackery? We doubt it altogether. It is easier

to make such a one a medicine-man than to make him a gentleman, which we maintain every medical practitioner ought to be."

We must confess that we have for long felt more of the doubt which our contemporary so readily expresses. It is quite true that an exceptional example of indomitable pluck and energy is occasionally found which surmounts all difficulties, and may even reach the highest pinnacle of success; but the exception only proves the rule. The druggist's assistant, who might have become a respectable shopkeeper, too often struggles through the forms of a medical curriculum only to become anything but a reputable practitioner; and the number of broken down qualified medical men who are only too happy to "stop a gap" when occasion offers, are not unfrequently the victims of a cheap school and a too lax system of medical diploma-giving.

We know that at this time of the year urgent appeals of misericordiam are frequently made to the authorities of medical schools to reduce their fees in favour of some impecunious aspirant to medical honours, and these we fear are but too frequently yielded to. We would urge upon all managers of medical schools the duty they owe both to themselves and their professional brethren not to facilitate the entry of men of inferior education, except upon very good and well-ascertained grounds; since they may be sure that the temporary triumph of an increased entry will be more than counterbalanced by the trouble and annoyance which men of this stamp too often inflict upon all with whom they have to do.—*Lancet*.

Hospitals.

Ed. of Med. and Surg. Rep.

There are three classes of civil hospitals in Paris 1. General, for general complaints. Hotel Dieu the largest of this class. 2. Special hospitals. 3. Hospices or almshouses. More than 40 millions of francs have been expended in past 30 years upon these hospitals. Total number of beds is now 19,600. All public places of amusement pay a tax of 8 per cent on receipts for support of hospitals, and a heavy tax is also levied on every piece of ground purchased in the cemeteries. Medical students by the thousand still flock here, attracted partly by the past reputation of Paris as an educator, although she has lost much of her former fame, partly because living and instruction are cheap here, and no doubt partly because neither father, priest or layman here think it at all amiss for a medical student to have a furnished room, and to contract, on good terms, with a pretty girl of 16 or older, to be housekeeper and mistress for him during his college course. Christian curators must blush at this statement, but it is true.

Many of the great men have died within the last five years, and those of their compeers, Nelaton, Ricord, Paul Dubois and others who add lustre to the schools of the French capital, are so old that neither of them does much teaching now. Ricord does an enormous and profitable private and consultation practice, but does not lecture at all. It was my pleasure to call on him by personal invitation. He received me with great courtesy—speaks English fluently (resided in Baltimore, U. S. A.;