

eyes of the public, but what is infinitely worse, divided among ourselves.

The appointment of a Central Committee of Examination will deprive none of the schools of any vested right. No one can appear before that Board unless he holds a diploma.

The Board will not require the maximum standard of knowledge considered requisite by the average run of Universities entitling the holder to practice. They will simply and solely be called upon to state whether they consider the candidate is competent to practice medicine, surgery and midwifery or no.

It has been argued by the objectors to this scheme that the records of the old Medical Board ought to be a warning to the promoters of this amendment. Yet the statement may be accepted as true, that many of the older members of our profession contrast the doing of that well-abused body with those of the present Council, in a manner not very complimentary to the latter.

One more insult the editor of the *Leader* throws at us and then we have done, viz: "That no Central Board or Council, or whatever you may choose to call it, could be brought together in this country which would act from pure or high motives.

We very much regret that the editor of any respectable journal should stigmatize the honorable profession of medicine by the utterance of such a foul slander. Such a statement as the above is a proof how incompetent, to use no harder expression, many men are for the position of directors of public opinion.

The Central Board of examination must be appointed by every new Council, its existence can not be prolonged over three years at the utmost, and should therefore any reports affecting its partiality arise, it will be easy to correct them at the triennial election of the council.

This Board is intended and it is hoped will be a guarantee not only to the profession, but to the public that our younger brethren will be competent to practice and it will have the effect of forcing the Schools of the Province to raise the standard of medical education. If such should be the result of the new amendments to this Bill, and if rightly carried out (we believe it will), we need not be afraid of the last objection we shall at present notice, viz: That such a proceeding has not been considered necessary in England.

**PHOSPHORUS.**—A recent memoir by a foreign chemist asserts that the poisonous action of phosphorus is entirely due to the formation of phosphuretted hydrogen gas, which in passing into the blood, rapidly combines with the oxygen present. Hence it is concluded that death from phosphorus is nearly equivalent to death by suffocation. —*Medical Record*,

## PERISCOPE.

### *A Modification of Cusco's Speculum.*

Prof. H. R. Storer in the Boston Medical Journal describes a new speculum which he has invented, and used for a length of time with great satisfaction to himself, it is a modification of Cusco's.

Requiring a retractor in an operation he was performing, he removed the screws connecting the blades of Cusco's instrument and by reversing their relative position obtained the required retraction. By subsequently attaching a movable spring peg in place of one of the screws, and rendering the other one a fixed point, immediate change from the speculum to the retractor, and back again, became possible by a slight touch of the finger.

*Discharge of a Fetus through the Rectum.*—Dr. Koehler exhibited to the N. Y. Pathological Society the skeleton of a fetus that had been passed per rectum. A lady, twenty-four years of age, became pregnant for the second time. The first three months of the pregnancy were passed under continual hypogastric pains. Then, suddenly, a pint of coagulated blood escaped through the vagina, whereupon the pains decreased and discontinued. She went to a physician well known to me for advice. When he tried to introduce the uterine sound into the orifice, he was unable to succeed. The cervical portion of the uterus was scarcely accessible. The patient consulted several other physicians, who advised her to wait events. Normal movements of the fetus from the end of the fourth pregnancy were ascertained. The prolimina of the birth appeared at the right time. The pains, however, had no effect; they lasted for three weeks, decreased by and by, and finally subsided. Then the secretion of milk took place. The patient became emaciated and cachectic. Two months after the end of the normal duration of pregnancy, rectitis and an abscess in the anterior wall of the rectum made their appearance, and a quantity of decomposed pus and ichor soon escaped through the rectum. Hairs of a fetus were detected in the discharged matter. The skeleton of the fetus then escaped through the rectum within the period of three days. The bones of the cranium following, the other bones were removed by the means of a polypus-forceps, either entire or broken. The aperture of the abscess was located one and a half inches above the anus. The diameter of the opening, when relaxed, measured one inch. One month after the evacuation and removal of the bones, perfect convalescence and menstruation took place.

The enlargement of the abdomen during the whole period of the pregnancy was uniform, not lateral,