

it might be desirable to increase the term of study to ten semesters instead of eight, would nevertheless have preferred that the proportion allotted to the primary and final subjects should be four to six, or even three to seven, instead of five to five. Prof. Herzen, however, very properly points out that if any attempt is to be made to put the student *au courant* of the *present* position of these primary studies in relation to the science and art of medicine, and especially if they are to be employed for developing the scientific spirit and for training in scientific method, then, in view of the enormous progress of these sciences within the last twenty years, five semesters are certainly not too long to devote to them entirely.

Some other objectors desire to see the medical course unloaded of the elements of the physico-natural sciences—suggesting that only the applications of these to medical science should be treated of during the course. This obviously involves that the gymnasia (high schools and collegiate institutes) should be able to give sufficient instruction in them, and that the medical matriculation examination should cover these. At present the standing of *bachelier es lettres* from the gymnasia is all that is required for beginning the study of medicine, but already some institutions, such as we have at Neuchâtel, have begun to offer an additional year's course in science, which would be quite equivalent to the work covered in the first part of the primary.

Prof. Herzen thinks that an extension of such collegiate courses to other secondary schools, accepting of equivalents with any reduction of medical courses to four years, quite feasible.

An examination of the time-table proposed by Prof. Herzen is suggestive :

1st year, both semesters—

Zoology and Compar. Anat.	M.	F.	at 8
Botany	"	"	" 9
Physics	"	"	" 10
Chemistry	"	"	" 11

Three afternoons a week for practical chemistry, one for physics throughout the year, and one for zoology in winter, and for botany in summer.

Three following semesters :

Histology	3 times a week,	at 9
Anatomy	6 " " "	" 10
Physiology	6 " " "	" 11
Repetitions	3 " " "	" 9

Winter afternoons to be devoted to practical anatomy, and those of the summer semester to histology, embryology, and physiology.

The following seem the most salient points in the above which invite a comparison with our arrangements :

1. Simplicity of time-table.
2. Deferring practical anatomy till second winter session.
3. Deferring materia-medica till after the primary.
4. The question of demanding more science in the matriculation examination.

SIMPLE OR PERFORATING ULCER OF THE DUODENUM.*

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Comparatively little is said in most medical works on ulceration of the duodenum, many of them making no reference to it. This is doubtless due to the fact that the clinical phenomena so closely resemble those of gastric ulcer that many cases of duodenal ulcer are mistaken for the former disease. And then in autopsies, I fear, that only too frequently examination of the duodenum is neglected, so that doubtless not a few cases escape notice. According to the classical researches of Brunton, in about five per cent. of all autopsies, evidences of gastric ulceration are to be found; we are much less able to speak definitely on the frequency of duodenal ulceration, but many estimate its frequency at a ratio of about one to thirty of the stomach cases.

The first case of duodenal ulcer was recorded in 1828, by Robert of France, whose description of the symptoms is quite as clear as any that have been written in more modern times. Up to 1881, one hundred and twenty-three authors are given in the Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office of the United States. And since then, perhaps, half as many have been recorded. Some of these are doubtless not genuine, and many are cases of acute ulceration following burns, so that the undoubted cases on record do not, probably, much exceed one hundred. It is not to be forgotten in estimating the frequency of this affection, however, that many accurately observed cases have not been placed on record.

*Read before the Toronto Medical Society, Nov. 13th, 1890.