

professional services gratuitously to the families of the volunteers called into the service of the United States.—*Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*, May 2, 1861.

*Diphtheria*.—It is said that this disease has destroyed at least ten thousand lives since its first appearance in this country.—*Norfolk Amer. Medico-Chir. Rev.*

*Dr. McLeod*.—This gentleman, celebrated for his admirable work, "Notes on the Surgery of the Crimea," has been appointed Professor of Surgery in the Andersonian University of Glasgow.

*A New Work on the Surgical Diseases and Injuries of the Scalp, Skull, Brain, and Membranes*.—We observe by the last number the *North American Medico Chirurgical Review*, of which Dr. S. D. Gross is the senior Editor, that that gentleman, who is author of so many truly valuable works on surgical science, is now occupied on another with the above title, and that he earnestly requests the cooperation of surgeons in furnishing to him "such cases and practical reflections as may have arisen in the course of their experience." "His object is to present a complete digest of the literature on the subject, and he trusts that he will be enabled to produce a work that shall be of permanent value to the healing art." We notice this for the information of our readers, as we are assured that there are many who could contribute much valuable material on this important subject.

*The Ether Patent*.—The Hon. P. F. Thomas, Commissioner of Patents at Washington, deserves the thanks of the Medical Profession and the public at large, for refusing to renew the patent issued to Drs. Morton and Jackson fourteen years ago, for the exclusive employment of Ether to induce anæsthesia in surgical operations. The patent expired on Nov. 12, 1860, and Dr. Morton, some months since, applied for an extension of the patent for seven years. Dr. Jackson, however, would not assign to Dr. Morton the right of extension, and remonstrated against it. On this account the renewal was not granted, and the result has been that the would-be patentee has succeeded in preserving his name from an amount of odium from which he never could have recovered. Such a boon should be as free as the air from heaven.

It is strange, passing strange, that Dr. Morton, after having achieved so wonderful a discovery, should have been so insensible to his fame as to seek for a patent right. Poverty is a thousand times preferable, under such circumstances, to the most inexhaustible riches extorted from the purses of the people. After endorsing Dr. Morton's claims, as we were induced to do last winter, we deeply regret that he should have permitted himself to go again before Congress. Our sympathy is with him in his poverty, brought on, as he alleges, by his attempts to introduce the use of ether, as an anæsthetic agent, to the notice of the profession and the public; and we think it is a burning shame upon our country and upon the age, that our national legislature has not made him a liberal compensation for his great and inestimable services. If the labours of Jenner in the cause of vaccination deserved the recognition of the British Parliament, surely Dr. Morton is entitled to the gratitude of his countrymen for the sacrifices which he has made to furnish them with a safe means of preventing pain in surgical operations, and in the throes of parturition.

So says the *North American Medico-Chirurgical Review*; but we may ask, and not without equal reason, why has not Professor Simpson, who gave his discovery without restriction to the world, not been rewarded by the British Government. Grants have been awarded upon the most frivolous pretexts. Thus £5000 were awarded to Joanna Stephens for her discovery of the cure of the stone, as notified in the *London Gazette* of June, 1739. Thus it appears that money may be voted by the British Parliament upon the most frivolous pretexts, even though the patient, upon whose recovery the award was made dependant, made a temporary amendment, yet it has permitted a discovery, which has alleviated the sufferings of millions, to go utterly unrewarded. Verily Prof. Simpson will have his reward in another manner. We only think it necessary to contrast the conduct of the two—that of Simpson and that of Morton and Jackson—and if nobility of character can be argued from anything, it can be argued from this.