

Billroth united the two sets of qualities in a very conspicuous manner. Yet it was always the guiding intellect rather than the manual dexterity which impressed itself on the spectator. Truth to say, in the actual performance of an important operation Billroth showed no very marked superiority over his fellow-surgeons. He avoided any show of brilliancy or flourish, went steadily to work, erred, if at all, on the side of slowness, and was neither more nor less discomposed by any complication or untoward event than any one else. The finish of his operative work was rather the result of his immense experience than of any remarkable aptitude. Nevertheless, as an operator, he must be held to have justly earned a very high place.

MR. GLADSTONE'S EYESIGHT.—We are authorized to state that a careful examination was made of Mr. Gladstone's right eye on Thursday, the 19th inst., exactly eight weeks after the operation for cataract. The eye is, and has for some time been, strong and quiet. In the earlier period there was rather more than the usual ciliary redness, and for a short time, at about the end of the first week, there was some threatening of inflammation of the iris; the pupil, however, dilated promptly and widely under the influence of atropine, and no iritis occurred. Though the lens was hard, and came out easily, the pupil is now sufficiently obstructed to render a needle operation necessary sooner or later, the operated eye being, in its present state, somewhat less useful than the other. With the other eye, which is affected by immature cataract, Mr. Gladstone can still, with the aid of a weak solution of atropine, see to write and to read good print moderately well. Mr. Gladstone is remarkably well and very vigorous, but he is troubled with an occasional slight return of his old ailment if he walks too much.—*London Lancet*.

REWARDS FOR FECUNDITY.—The Province of Quebec has a law bestowing one hundred acres of government land upon every father of a family who has twelve living children, issue of a lawful marriage. Up to the present 174,200 acres of rich agricultural land have been given away in bounties to 1,742 fathers of twelve or more children, who have complied with the conditions of the act. Not all of these proud fathers, however, are satisfied with the amount of the bounty, for instances of families of twenty or more children are not rare, and the fathers of these want a proportionately higher reward for their patriotic efforts. One old gentleman, Mr. Paul Belanger, of River du Loup, wants three hundred acres, and bases his claim upon the fact that he has thirty-six living children. Another claimant for an increased allowance is Mr. Theoret, of St. Genevieve. His wife, who is but thirty years of age, has presented him with seventeen children. She has just given birth to triplets for the second time in five years, and has had twins three times. Mr. Theoret hopes to acquire a large portion of the province if his wife will continue to do her share.—*New York Medical Record*.

THERAPEUTICS OF SYRUP OF FIGS.—The medical profession should understand at once the composition of "Fig Syrup," so extensively advertised in the leading medical journals of this country. Its laxative properties are obtained from the well-known drug, senna. The company make no secret of