

gramme, a very important factor must not be forgotten; in fact, a most essential factor—Mr. W. A. Nichols was on the piano stool almost the whole evening.

The Chairman, wishing to add to the programme, proposed the "Press," and called on Mr. Weir for a reply. After his reply, someone got up on a table, or chair, or something, and, amid immense excitement, and cheers and counter-cheers, and groans and counter-groans, proposed the "Hon. Ed. Blake;" during the uproar the fellows began to disperse, and so one party claims that the health was honoured, and another that it was not. On the way out, England, as the most "conspicuous" man, was bounced.

"What is the matter with the dinner?"

"What is the matter with a conversazione?"

Societies.

The McGill Students Medical Society met in their rooms at the college, Saturday, January 29, at 7.30 p.m., Professor James Stewart, President, in the chair.

The Secretary read the minutes of the last meeting, which were adopted.

Mr. E. J. Evans read a very concise surgical report.

The Professor of Physiology, Dr. T. W. Mills, gave a most interesting account of some of the recent advances in Physiology, confining himself to one research in each subject. The following is a brief summary of his paper:

All studies of unicellular organisms were now especially interesting to medical men. Dallinger's investigation of a one-celled creature found in septic fluids had shown that its development proceeded from and depended on the *nucleus*.

Recent researches on muscle had gone far to establish the view that *rigor mortis* is the last act of the living tissue, a genuine contraction induced by the waste products of the tissue metabolism accumulating in the muscle on the cessation of the blood-flow. This theory did not exclude coagulation of myosin as a later phenomenon.

In connection with the circulation, the latest view in regard to the action of the vagus on the heart was to the effect that this nerve consisted of two sets of fibres: inhibitory proper, tending to increase constriction (an abolic) metabolic processes, and sympathetic fibres, which favour destructive (kalabolic) processes. The electrical condition of the heart varied according as one or the other set was stimulated, which was favorable to this view.

A lengthy paper, detailing experiments by a French physiologist, had helped to make clear the existence and the action of respiratory centres in the spinal cord. The medullary respiratory centre being isolated by division of the cord, the respiration subsequently arising was characterized by rapidity, irregularity and shallowness, with often a preponderance of the expiratory act; after section of the cord artificial respiration was, of course, necessary for some time.

It was now established that the thyroid body had no blood-forming function; when removed, the

nervous system seemed to suffer greatly, if not the general health of the animal.

Miss Greenwood, Demonstrator of Physiology at Newnham College, had studied digestion in *Amoeba* and *Actino sphaerium*, interesting because these are one-celled organisms.

Amoeba cannot digest fat globules, but *Actino sphaerium* digests them slowly; starch grains are not digested by either; protoplasm within cellulose walls is digested by both (osmotic action).

The recent surgical achievements of Horsley in the removal of cerebral tumors, diseased brain cortex, etc., founded on experiments on the monkey by Horsley and Schäfer, have established a *practical* localization of function for at least the most important "motor area." We did not as yet perfectly understand how to reconcile conflicting views, but were approaching that.

Professor Mills presented to the society several monographs, giving accounts of his own researches in physiology.

The Medical Faculty have not been altogether un-mindful of the existence of the above society, Professors Stewart, Shepherd and Mills having remembered it in a substantial manner.

UNDERGRADUATES' LITERARY SOCIETY.

The regular weekly meeting of this society, on the evening of February 11th, was opened by an Essay on "Our Country," from the pen of Mr. T. Quimby. An extract from *Shakespeare* was read by Mr. A. P. Murray. Mr. J. Naismith opened the debate on the question of "Resolved that an M.P. should vote in accordance with his own principles rather than those of his constituents;" he brought up quite an array of arguments in favour of the affirmative. Mr. H. M. Patton led the negative side. The other speakers were Messrs. Hall, Mack, Robertson and Cushing, most of whom appeared for the first time. The vote of the meeting must have followed the rules of order in deciding in favour of the affirmative: all one's prejudices would naturally be on the negative side. Mr. A. McArthur was critic,—and after his remarks the meeting adjourned.

A meeting of the society was held in No. 1 class room, Central Hall, on the 18th. Mr. Colby read an Essay—one quite worthy of himself. The leader of the affirmative, on the question of "Resolved that Free-trade is possible for Canada in her present state," was absent: Mr. A. P. Murray took his place, and merely stated the case. In a very forcible speech, Mr. J. Nicholson opened the debate in favour of the negative. Mr. E. C. Trenholme made his first appearance, but owing to a hoarseness, could scarcely make himself heard; he supported the affirmative with most of the very few arguments brought forward. Mr. Gibson followed on the negative; and Mr. F. Charters filled a blank on the affirmative. The speech of the evening was from Mr. Peers Davidson,—in favour of the negative.

When the question was put to vote, the affirmative received three (there were three speakers). Notice of motion was given to send back the piano.