

posterity, stamped as it were upon the parts or organs which they severally laboured to investigate and explain.—The still greater improvements of late in the study of anatomy, in common with other branches of medical science, was lucidly shown, and in illustration of this, and moreover as one of the more striking evidences (among a host of others with which the human body abounds) of the existence of a great and intelligent First Cause, he adduced the *moderator band of King*, an admirable yet simple piece of mechanism discovered in the right ventricle of the heart by the late Dr. T. Williamson King, of Guy's Hospital,—and he explained its attachments, and the principle upon which it acts, as a safety valve to the heart. The learned lecturer then noticed the very great improvements effected since the introduction of that grand aid to the modern anatomist, the *microscope*, and alluded to the researches and investigations now being instituted in Britain and France into the functions of some of the more obscure organs, especially the spleen and pancreas. He then, in the second place, called the attention of the audience, to the importance of this branch of study to the medical man, whether Surgeon, Physician, or Obstetrician, and the necessity of extending enquiries to the science of Physiology. He then reviewed and illustrated various organs pertaining respectively to the relative, the organic, and the reproductive functions; and the value of the knowledge of comparative anatomy, to facilitate our comprehension of human Physiology,—and he pointed out, that before entering this difficult study, the importance of a sound preliminary education—amongst others, the value of a knowledge of Natural Philosophy to the student of Physiology was essential, and he instanced various parts and organs as subservient to its laws. In the third place he alluded to the value of Anatomy as an art, the advantage of the practice of dissection, apart from the mere observations of the parts themselves, inasmuch as it imparts manual dexterity and a facility of manipulation, indispensable to the Surgeon, or in fact to the *Medical Man* in general, and finally he stated that whilst the mind is being stored with that knowledge which is to prove the basis of future success, the contemplation of the human frame, is calculated to teach us a lesson of humility, that the study of its intimate and delicate structures, teaches us that ours is at best a precarious existence—the slightest blow, the merest breath being anon sufficient to disturb the harmony and integrity of the whole, and to engender disease and death,—and moreover that from the fact, stated with respect to the mechanism of the heart, we learn the verity of the saying “*Our life hangs upon a thread*,” and that the slightest accident may suffice to usher us into the presence of our Maker. He then concluded with the following quotation from Paley:—“Upon the whole, then, in every thing which respects this awful, but we trust glorious charge, we have a wise and powerful Being, the author in nature of infinitely various expedients for infinitely various ends, upon whom to rely for the choice and appointment of means adequate to the execution of any plan which His goodness or His justice may have formed for the moral and accountable part of His terrestrial creation—that great office rests with Him—be it ours to hope and to prepare under a firm and settled persuasion that living and dying we are His. That life is passed in His constant presence, that death resigns us to His merciful disposal.”

MATERIA MEDICA AND THERAPEUTICS.

Dr. HALLOWELL commenced by deducing the argument in favour of the importance of Materia Medica and Therapeutics to the Physician, from the multiplied and Protean character of disease, and the proportionable number of objects from the Materia Medica necessarily brought to bear upon it. After a lucid definition of the terms, Materia-Medica, and Therapeutics, and a statement of the objects in the Organic and Inorganic Kingdoms which the study embraced, he demonstrated the instructive interest with which the science was invested to the Medical philosopher, from a consideration of its being incorporated with early Medical history down to the present time. He proceeded to deplore the ignorance and superstition which had shrouded many of the truths in Medical Science—truths which, he remarked, were fixed and unalterable as the Divinity from whence they sprang. After some lengthened remarks upon the paramount importance of making truth our grand aim in the study of every branch of science, he observed that the deeds of heroes may be blotted out from the annals of mankind, the achievements of statesmen may scarcely outlive the century that witnessed them—ancient dynasties may be uprooted and overthrown—but the pursuit of truth can only cease when the race of man is extinct, and though its light may be dimmed by ignorance, craft, and cupidity, it cannot be extinguished, because it is indestructible. He then, after pointing out the difficulties with which medicine has had to contend from priestcraft, from the inroads of barbarism, and from ignorance, shewed that oppression, instead of breaking the chain of philosophic enquiry, had only riveted it more firmly, and that “adversity” had, in this, as in every other instance, proved the best school of practical wisdom. He then went on to prove the antiquity of medical agents, making them coeval with the sufferings entailed upon our race by the Fall, and established their claim upon this score beyond all doubt, by a reference to copious testimony from sacred and profane history. He candidly admitted the desultory and unequal steps that had marked the progress of medicine compared with other sciences, but offered already explanation, in the prejudice and knavery of mankind. He stated some of the prominent causes that had produced the various revolutions in Materia-Medica, namely, superstition, scepticism, false theory, inattention to Chemistry, credulity. Upon the latter he particularly enlarged, as the radical vice of the human species and the one which had afforded the widest field for the operations of the crafty and designing. He alluded graphically to the instance of the Athenian Philosopher Socrates, as a victim to his love of truth; and said that even were we to rear our temples of learning to mid-heaven, and direct thither the current of all knowledge, whence it might flow to the uttermost part of the earth, in a perennial stream, the inherent attribute of the human species, (viz., credulity) would still obtain and diffuse its chill blighting influence everywhere around. Having referred to the numerous systems that had been fostered and encouraged by credulity, he alluded to the quack Asclepepiades of Bythnia, and his dupe Aristides, as the antetypes of the charlatan and their numerous victims in modern times. He illustrated the monstrous absurdity of Homopathy and the infinitesimal doses of Hahnemann, by asking his audience to suppose a drop of any tincture (opium for example,) duly mixed *à la Hahnemann* at the Falls of Niagara, and allowed to pursue its course, unalloyed with baser matter, until it arrived at the shores of our own noble lake, at an infinitesimal state of dilution; and then the Homopath has nothing more to do, than

dip his tiny phial in the stream, and inasmuch as, according to Hahnemann, the higher the state of dilution, the greater the efficacy of the cure, if his patients after partaking of it, are not lulled to “life’s sweet restorer, balmy sleep,” and if the very fish are not narcotized, then thanks to him who undertakes and carries out the experiments, the system has sustained a mortal blow. The lecturer after glancing rapidly at the various objects afforded by the organic and inorganic kingdoms for supplying our many temporal requirements, observed in conclusion, that while we daily encounter and acknowledge some of the myriads of material agents with which an all-wise Providence has supplied us, that we may more successfully grapple with the Protean maladies, entailed on us by a fallen race, we should not neglect those moral and mental means of treating disease which come legitimately within the scope of our subject, and which in the hands of the judicious and skilful physician, are rendered available and blessed, when corporal remedies prove ineffectual, let us bear in mind (and happy would it be for the members of the medical profession if mankind at large would also bear in mind) that with all the appliances that nature has vouchsafed us, we cannot perform miracles; while we are made by God the honoured instruments of cooling the fevered cheek and assuaging the torments of bodily as well as mental anguish, let us recollect that we are only the handmaids of a higher power. These frail bodies, for the restoration of whose health our skill and energies are put forth, have only a stated term of existence; accident, the pestilence, disease contracted or hereditary, premature decay, or old age, awaits each one of us, and is but the harbinger of final dissolutions. Since the Elixir of life, like the philosopher’s stone, will ever remain a grand desideratum, it behoves us to be mindful that in all our investigations we are treading on critical ground, and to pursue science only to that point which is its legitimate boundary; and in the words of the late eminent Dr. Abercrombie, the scientific Physician and the Christian gentleman,—“when baffled in our researches, we should bend in humble adoration beneath a power we cannot fathom, and a wisdom we cannot comprehend.”

CLINICAL INSTRUCTION.

Dr. MELVILLE, after alluding, in a clear and interesting manner, to the preparation necessary for commencing the study of surgery, then proceeded to recommend to the students constant attention to Hospital and Dispensary practice wherever available, as it was only by familiarizing themselves with the appearance of disease in all its stages, and under all combinations of external circumstances, that they could acquire a proper faculty of surgical diagnosis; nor should this acquaintance be derived solely from visual inspection—the touch should be educated as well as the sight. They should accustom themselves to the feel of the injured part, tumour, or diseased structure, under examination. He justly observed that clinical instruction is the foundation of medical education—that it is at the bedside of the patient, around the operating table, and by autopsial investigation, a thorough practical knowledge of disease is alone to be obtained;—that in vain will the lecturer exert himself to condense and bring under their attention, the recorded experience of the old and modern writer;—in vain would they pore over the pages of the masters and philosophers of the profession—unless they enter the world with some considerable practical information derived from the sources referred to—they must commence their professional career under grievous disadvantage. Distrustful of their own competence, they would lack that self-reliance so essential to successful practice, and render themselves obnoxious to the scrutiny and suspicion of a discerning public or an uncompromising antagonist; above all, they might be assailed by the remorseful consciousness of neglected opportunities, at a time, perhaps, when the life of a fellow-being is in their hands. He (Dr. M.) then observed that the moral obligations of the student are equal in proportion to those of the practitioner, and, in some degree, of a more imperative nature;—that the student has to qualify himself to play his part in the world, by the acquisition of knowledge, under the most favourable circumstances. His success depends upon his own unaided efforts and industry, and the consequences of his neglect or incapacity, not only involve his ultimate success in life, and the welfare of those dependent on him, but they injure the character of the school in which he has been educated. These results accrue immediately, and attach themselves most justly to the individual—for with the full knowledge of his own responsibility, his acquirements, or his defects, he plunges boldly or rashly, as the case may be, into the vortex of professional engagements. On the other hand, the practitioner, having once assumed a position in the scale of reputation, is enabled to take advantage of the counsel of his fellows, and by such means justify or correct his proceedings, and divide his responsibility. It may, however, happen, that this aid shall be wanting at the trying moment, and then, indeed, observed Dr. Melville, the feelings of a practitioner so circumstanced, must be very far from enviable. And whilst he made this observation, in the spirit of friendly warning, not that he anticipated an inglorious career for any, yet he should have been wanting in his duty, had he neglected to place before them, in the strongest language he could command, the imperative necessity which exists for close application and unremitting attention to clinical instruction.

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.

Dr. BOVELL commenced his lecture by a happy allusion to the recorded feelings of the greatest genius of his age, on entering St. Peter’s, at Rome. His mortification at his utter inability to realize the grandeur and sublimity of the holy pile, and his feelings of self disappointment whilst he mused on his own incapacity. Thoughtfully his eye wandered over the vast structure, and concentrating his thoughts on more immediate objects, he contemplated the great whole until his mind had got by heart its eloquent proportions, and unrolled its mighty gradations part by part. Thus did he confess his inability to take in at a glance the beauties he knew but could not feel were there, and such no doubt were the feelings which oppressed perhaps some of those who heard him on approaching this temple, on whose shrine they purpose to consecrate the talents which have been committed to them,—a temple vast in its proportions, comprehensive in its design, and grand in its details—one dedicated to the relief of human sufferings—from its altars issue the voice of pure and unaffected charity, and from its portals go forth its ministrations of good to all who are wasted by disease or suffering. It is there they were to learn the means which a gracious Providence supplies for preventing and removing those ills which afflict us, and restoring the body to health and strength. It is a noble, he might almost say a glorious pursuit. Contemplate it from whatever position we please, we must admit its moral and intellectual greatness. Unconfined by narrow limits or restricted boundaries, she exacts contributions from every portion of the broad dominion of science, and elaborates and stores for use the collected sweets. Its foundation, laid at the time of man’s fall, when sin

and death entered into a guilty world, has been constantly built upon in succeeding ages, and venerable from all antiquity, yet, ever presenting something new, the great work speeds on commensurately with man’s increasing knowledge. Hence it is natural to expect that at this remote period a superstructure has in part been raised worthy the objects and designs of those who have successfully laboured at the work until a degree of perfection has been attained, at once delightful and satisfactory. Yet its truths, like that great truth with which it at once formed a sacred alliance, have alike, from time to time, been obscured, and its great principles perverted by those dark and dismal nights which have hung over a world long shadowed in ignorance and superstition. Yet the hindrance to its progress was not received from that source alone. As great impediments have been heaped in the way, and false and inharmonious structures raised by the hands of enlightened, but speculative theorists. Yet such are ever swept away before the steady advance of this inductive philosophy, and are now only preserved in the pages of history as beacons to warn us of the futility of conclusive assumptions, and as splendid monuments of fruitless and misapplied labour. Such was the fate of the doctrines advanced by the celebrated Broune. Such was the fate of Darwin when abandoning clear inferences from facts for metaphysical declamation, whilst Hallen stands proudly preeminent among those great lights who shed their lustre on the world, discarding all opinions not founded on reason and deducing general principle from observation alone and from legitimate experiments. Thus, he arrived at the discovery of truths now firmly established, and which, throughout all time, must remain for ever unchangeable. Dr. Bovell then dwelt upon the fearful responsibility of the profession, in which the student would have to deal, not with a mere perishable machine, but with the entire man, physical, moral, and intellectual. On the medical practitioner must frequently rest the dreadful responsibility of alleviating diseases of the body, nay, diseases affecting his moral nature, and on him will frequently depend his retrieval from ruin and disease. The medical profession shews a bold and noble front, against which the waves of Infidelity may rage and swell, while within her bosom Christianity may find a harbour of strength and safety, and such being its character he confidently predicted the reclamation of many through its instrumentality, whilst the present improved system of medical education must establish a state of society, reaching the most sanguine expectations of its most sanguine well wisher. He then gave some striking illustrations of the harmony of medical, with divine, as well as moral precepts, from which we might learn how much of the well being of society depends on the moral worth and integrity of the physician and surgeon.—Hence it became the manifest duty of the medical student to look beyond the mere ailments of the body, to consider his calling ennobled and elevated by enjoying both the power and privilege of ministering even to that better portion of our existence, the welfare of the soul, to the mind diseased, and even at times, to remove from the memory deep rooted sorrow, which but frets and wears the soul. That his duties did not stop here—that religion and humanity have yet other demands, both upon the better feelings of his nature, and those sound principles which can alone guide him to a correct and profitable judgment. It is for the medical practitioner to warn the sinking patient of his approaching end, and though in the case of those, who, like Enoch of old, see in the hollow tomb that crown of victory which has for them robbed death of its sting, there be little difficulty in discharging the duty, yet such difficulty will infallibly be found, where the wholesome influence of religion had never been exercised, and the position is truly painful with the sick man verging on an awful eternity—an agonized family watching with intense anxiety every look, and eagerly dwelling on every shadowy hope which may fall from the physician’s lips. Towards him their hearts yearn with a peculiar dependence, and he stands in their midst an agent of blessed good or eternal woe. In such cases the path of duty is the path of safety, and from his own experience in the profession, he had no hesitation in declaring that, in no case, has the knowledge of the sick man’s condition exercised an improper effect of any kind upon him, and he always considered it a leading obligation upon his conscience never to hide positive danger from the patient or his friends. The physician in such cases should act as the handmaid to religion and the Church, and ere the endangered body rocks under the tempest of dissolution he should send to the immortal and sinking soul the pilot and the chart to guide to that haven of rest which all must hope, one day, to enter. Thus all responsibility, all obligation is removed from them, and they recognize the true value of Christianity, and the weighty and sacred obligations under which the whole human family lies, to an all-wise and bountiful Creator. Dr. Bovell next dwelt on the relationship that should exist between the lecturer and his class, most of whom are often distant from the comforts of domestic life, and released from the wholesome restraints of affection. He said the lecturer should attract, not repel, the student, he must win his confidence, while he gains his respect, and by entering warmly and sincerely into the regulation of his pursuits, his comforts, and his living, he must teach the student to respect himself, by treating him with the kindness and attention due to one who is embarking on a difficult and embarrassing course. He should be ever accessible, anxious, and ready to enter into the feelings and desires of the pupil, and willing to communicate all the information within his reach. In the profession there is much to excite and urge on the student, and a wide field is open for the exercise of talent, and by patient industry he will attain that knowledge which it is his duty, and perhaps his inclination to reach. Whilst thus employed, let industry, integrity, and perseverance be the rule of the Toronto Medical Student, as well as of the Toronto Merchant. To these, as of paramount value, should be added faith, hope, and charity, and for the exercise of the last and greatest of these they will find constant opportunities. Let them be affectionate and tender to the sick poor, and remember that while their necessities compel them to permit their inexperienced visits, that in return they owe them a willing sympathy and warm thanks. The poor, said Dr. Bovell, are the leaves of that book of Nature which the students are about to read, and from them will they drink in that knowledge which may, if well digested, serve both for here and hereafter. Each branch of Medical enquiry must be studied with diligence, to raise a solid and enduring superstructure. They should do all to improve their means of ministering to human welfare, and never for a moment forget the responsibilities of their position; remembering always that according to their knowledge so will their hand uplift either the poisoned chalice or the healing cup. (Dr. B. concluded amid loud applause.)

William Walker and Joseph London, under sentence of death in the Hamilton Jail, have had their punishment commuted to imprisonment for life in the Penitentiary.—*Spectator*.

THE ASSIZES.

TUESDAY, Oct. 12, 1850.

The jury in the case of Jones v. Dunn, for malicious arrest, having been locked up all night, and stating their inability to agree, were discharged at half past ten this morning.

HAMILTON v. MONROE.—Chetwood Hamilton, Esq., for Plaintiff; J. H. Cameron, Esq., for Defendant. This was an action for damages for the seduction of plaintiff’s daughter by defendant. The case was specially set apart for to-day, and elicited much interest, from the position in society of the parties concerned, as well as their relative position in the same regiment. The counsel for plaintiff, in conducting his case, dwelt strongly upon the evils to society from the repeated occurrence of the offence imputed to the defendant, and the misery for ever afterwards inflicted upon the victims in such cases. In aggravation of them in this instance, he depicted in glowing colours the relative position of the parties—the defendant being the subaltern of the plaintiff, and stationed along with him with a detachment of the regiment; under which circumstances a strong intimacy grew up with the defendant and the plaintiff’s family, particularly the younger daughter, who was unfortunately the sole evidence of her own unhappy position. The learned counsel stated to the jury, that the value of the defendant’s commission in the army—the sale of which would be the only means for paying the penalty that would be inflicted by the jury upon him for his conduct—would realize from £750 to £1000. The counsel for the defence very feelingly abstained from offering any evidence in the case, or causing embarrassment to the young lady, by putting any questions to her while giving her evidence. In his speech, he described himself as not desiring to appear as in defence of a seducer, but to set the jury right on points which might be erroneously stated by the plaintiff’s counsel. He said that nothing should be stated by him against the propriety of conduct of the young lady. He, however, could not avoid alluding to the duty that was incumbent on the fathers of children in watching over them. Mr. Cameron argued, that the claim for damages for the full amount that could be realized by the sacrifice of the defendant’s position in the army, savoured rather of the desire to gratify revenge, than to aim at obtaining compensation for the wrongs inflicted.

The circumstances of the case appear to have been briefly these:—Lieutenant Monroe was attached to Captain Hamilton’s Company, and naturally became on intimate terms with the family. In April, 1849, the Company was stationed at a small island opposite Montreal. Here it was that Monroe first paid any marked attention to Miss Hamilton, third daughter of Captain H., then about the age of nineteen. He avowed his affection for her, acknowledged his love; and not content with this poisoned her mind against her family by telling her, that she no longer enjoyed their affection, that her father thought harshly of her in consequence of his attentions being paid to her, and not to either of her elder sisters, and that he Monroe, was the only one in the world who cared for, or loved her. He finally declared his intention of marrying her so soon as he had obtained his Lieutenant’s Commission.

Having thus gained her confidence, and won her affection, he played the base part of the betrayer and seducer, and accomplished her ruin. He continued his attentions, until about three months after, when he coolly told the young lady that he could not think of marrying a girl who had not money.

The parties at this time removed to Niagara—on learning from the young lady that she was likely to become a mother, Monroe exclaimed, “Good God! then I must clear out of this.”—About three weeks after, he left Niagara, and has had no communication with the family since, Miss Hamilton, broken-hearted and wretched, was taken ill, and for months confined to bed, under the continual care of medical attendants. The Doctor attending her discovered the cause of her complaint, and at her request, communicated it to her parents.

The Jury after a short deliberation, found a Verdict for £700 damages.

There were no other cases to-day, of any public interest.

The Grand Jury yesterday found four indictments against Lay for felony.

The Court was this day (Wednesday), mainly occupied with an action for trespass in which the Hon. Col. Adamson was Plaintiff, and Alexander Proudfoot, Esq., Defendant. After a protracted trial in which many witnesses were examined on both sides, the Jury found a verdict for the Pursuer.

Lay was arraigned on the several indictments found against him, and his trial will be proceeded with this day.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The documents transmitted to us by the Hon. P. B. de Blaquiére came too late for insertion this week, but they shall appear in our next.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

LETTERS received to Wednesday, Nov. 13, 1850:—Mr. W. Y. P. Trefalgar, vol. 13; L. M. Seneca, rem; C. Watkins, Esq., Hamilton.

THE CHURCH.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, NOV. 14, 1850.

THE NEW CATHEDRAL.

As stated in our last, the foundation stone of the Cathedral Church of St. James will be laid on Wednesday, the 20th inst. There will be Divine Service at the Church of the Holy Trinity, at One o’clock, when a sermon will be preached by the Lord Bishop, and a collection made in aid of the Building Fund. After the Service, the congregation will proceed to the site of the building, when the solemn ceremonies peculiar to such occasions will be proceeded with. We understand that Mr. J. P. Clarke, Mus. Bac., has composed an anthem taken from the first verse of the 136th Psalm, being the words *sung together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the Lord* on the laying the foundation stone of the second Temple (see Ezra iii. ver. 11).

The order for the Services will be printed and circulated this week, and may be had at The Church Society House, on Saturday.