

the discussion of the over-crowded condition of the profession. Many of the people of fair means are most anxious that their sons should not study medicine. It costs, all told, \$8,000 for the full course in France. The returns for this outlay are very poor in most cases; and for many years at first nothing but a large amount of gratuitous treatment of pauper cases. The agitation is a wise one. It would stand imitation in this country. All the large American cities are crowded now till there is scarcely standing room. If the numerous medical colleges keep on turning out an annual grist of graduates at the rate that has pertained in the past, the cry will soon be heard, "Woe is me that I am a doctor!" The school men, however, are really at fault. They send out glowing announcements to catch the unwary. The fees of the student are much in demand; and then they hope for consultations from them afterwards. This they usually get until the poor graduate has his eyes opened.

THE EFFECTS OF PERITONEAL ADHESIONS ON DIGESTION.—Dr. Byron Robinson, of Chicago, (*Medical Record*, November 28) remarks that of the many evil effects of peritoneal adhesions the following may be mentioned. There are often pain, indigestion and intestinal neuroses. These adhesions seldom give rise to pain in the fixed organs, as the spleen, kidneys or liver. The pain after the formation of these adhesions is due to the fixation of mobile organs, and the prevention of active peristalsis. The organs of greatest movements are the small intestines, the sigmoid flexure, the Fallopian tubes and the bladder. It is in these that the worst effects of peritoneal adhesions are noticed. In operating in the abdominal cavity, adhesions, as far as possible, should be broken up, more especially around the mobile viscera. About seventy-five per cent. of laparotomies are followed by adhesions that may give rise to much trouble. Hot foods and purgation increase these colicky pains. In time these organs make room for the functional activity in most cases.

TOXIC EFFECTS OF COFFEE DRINKING.—Dr. J. Y. Pugh read a paper before the Philadelphia County Medical Society (*Philadelphia Polyclinic*, November 21) in which he gives an account of a man over thirty years of age, who was a graduate in medicine, but never practised. He had gone through a period of great fatigue, up till one and two o'clock, and hard at work during the day. He acquired the habit of drinking large quantities of strong black French coffee. He would drink from ten to twelve large cups daily. The result was that he had a pulse of ninety-six, trembling and weakness, twitchings and