

be all the better for them if they did ; but doubtless, also, they do not. To struggle through the hospital course to a legal qualification to practice, is the height of the ambition of the rank and file. Tremendous as the competition is among the general practitioners of to-day, the prospect of general practice in, perhaps, a poor and crowded district, at infinitesimal fees, is the highest life open to many of the less brilliant young men who entered at the hospitals yesterday.

Now, lads of this class regard University training as something which is outside their purview altogether. And we are far from sure, *pace* Dr. Allbutt, that this will not always be the state of the case. University training, in the fullest sense of the term, is the beautiful dream of an age which is nothing if not educational. But whether in sober reality it will ever be possible to extend to the many, advantages which have hitherto been confined to the few, may well be doubted. Dr. Allbutts points to the effects of University education on the Scotch practitioner. But, with all respect for a most respectable type of character, we are bound to say that we have not observed that the Scotch doctor is so very far ahead of his English *confrere* in his "great logical power, familiarity with ideas, and power of handling them." Without irreverence, we may perhaps venture to attribute the apparent superiority to the fact that all Scotchmen are argumentative, and the scientific Scotchman is most argumentative of them all. Be that as it may, we are certainly a very long way indeed from any system which shall confer what is ordinarily meant by University education on the young man whose ambition is to become M.B.C.R., and to succeed in due time to the gig and that trotting mare which his father drives—himself the hardest-worked creature in the parish, as Sir Walter Scott said, except the quadruped herself. To this young aspirant, as to his more ambitious brother, who dreams already of Harley-street and a medical baronetcy, we offer our best wishes in the terribly arduous career on which both have just entered with the *cœur léger* of youth and hope.

## LIBRARY TABLE.

"The Microcosm." A monthly journal of substantialism and collateral discussion. A. Wilford Hall, 22 Park Row, New York. Fifty cents a year. Full of interesting matter.

"Nineteenth Annual Announcement of the Faculty of Medicine." Montreal. Session 1889-90.

"Thirtieth Annual Announcement of Harneman Medical College." Chicago. Illinois. 1889-90.

"Urinary Calculous and Lithotomy." By Thos. W. Kay, M.D., Scranton, Pa. With case of uterine adeno-sarcoma with pyometra.

"The Comparative Danger to Life of the Alternating and Continuous Electrical Currents." By Harold P. Brown, 201 West 54th Street, New York.

"Pulmonary Consumption. Considered as a Neurosis." By T. J. Mays, M.D., Professor of Diseases of the Chest in the Philadelphia Polyclinic.

"The Bee Hive" Y. M. C. A. A Liverpool publication. Also pamphlet, "Farming in Canada." For young men without premiums. By W. H. Newett, gen. secretary. Y.M.C.A., 56 Peter St., Manchester.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

DEATH IN A DENTIST'S CHAMBERS.—A peculiarly painful death occurred in a dentist's house in Edinburgh last week. Lady Milne, of Inveresk Lodge, an old lady of over 75, visited a dentist for the purpose of having a tooth removed for disease of the antrum. The operation was successfully conducted with the aid of nitrous oxide, but, while the cavity was being treated, the patient was observed to lapse into a state of unconsciousness. All efforts at resuscitation proved ineffectual and, before further medical advice could be obtained, death had resulted. It appears that Lady Milne had suffered previously from weak cardiac action.