MEDICAL PARIS OF TO-DAY.

NOTES MADE IN DECEMBER, 1888.

By ERNEST HART.

VIII.

The Collège de France: its History, Administration, and Revenues: The System of Transformation of Professorships: A Free College of Higher Instruction having Forty Professors: The Science Professors.—Laboratory of Normal and Pathological Histology: Professor Ranvier's Works and Lectures: Malassez's Researches on Blood Corpuscles, on Pseudo-Tuberculosis, and on Maxillary Cysts: Vignal on the Cerebro-Spinal Nervous System and on the Bacterial Ferments of the Digestive Tube: Darier on the Vessels of the Cardiac Valves and on Epithelioma of the Sweat-Glands: Specialities of the Installation of the Laboratory: Some of the Instruments Used: Improved Microtome: Hemochromometers: Camera Lucida Drawing without Distortion: Hot Stage: Vignal's Hot Chamber for the Microscope: Forms of Autoclave: Chamberland's Porcelain Filter: Improved Rocking Microtome.

THE Collège de France is an institution of higher education which is particularly worthy of study, because it offers a striking example of that liberality and largeness which I am holding up as one of the features of organisation of which metropolitan students stand greatly in need. If we can induce the State or the great corporations or private benefactors to endow London with like institutions, the advantage to science and to the students of medical progress would be obvious. The Collège de France stands altogether outside the system of the ordinary teaching of the "school." Its object is to advance science by providing professorial chairs for a certain number of eminent men, who would not find a place in the elementary teaching bodies, and whence they can teach with a settled aim. It is open to all auditors and professors chosen from any source; it neither gives diplomas to its students nor does it require them from its professors.

The total number of professorships is forty, of which about twenty are occupied by scientific men in the strict sense of the word; but as each chair is only really determined during the life of its titular occupant, the number may vary, for at the death of a professor, the Council of Professors of the Collège deliberates on the advisability of preserving the chair, of transforming it, or suppressing it; and, according as they have chosen the one or other selection, the chair is preserved with its existing title or transformed or suppressed. One or other of the two latter alternatives is generally adopted. Transformation is frequent. In the course of the last three years there have been four vacancies, and three chairs have thus been transformed. The number of professorships, therefore, varies; at the present moment the professorships of biological science, in which the medical world is particularly interested, are six in number; that of medicine, which is held by Brown-Séquard in succession to Claude Bernard; the history of organised beings, held by Marey; organic chemistry by Berthelot; mineral chemistry by Schützenberger; general anatomy by Ranvier; embryology by Balbiani.

To each of these chairs is attached a laboratory with one or several assistants of the professors, whose function consists in elucidating by their researches obscure points in science, and in aiding by their advice persons who desire to undertake original research. Thus great latitude is allowed.

I shall not speak of the two chemical laboratories, for the work which is carried on there soars into high regions of scientific chemistry, which only indirectly interest physicians, and do not at first sight relate to the immediate subjects of medicine.

A few words as to the history of the place—always interesting to the conservative instincts of Englishmen—before proceeding to details. The origin of the Collège de France dates back to the time of Francis I, who founded it with the desire of counterbalancing the too exclusively clerical teaching of the Sorbonne, which was at that time entirely in the hands of the priests. He founded several chairs, two of which at least still exist—the chair of Hebrew and the chair of Medicine. The spirit of the Collège de France has always been essentially liberal from every point of view. To cite only some recent examples, it invited Claude Bernard, who had been rejected by the Faculty of Medicine. Under

the Empire it maintained among its professors Quinet and Michelet; and, although the Imperial Government prohibited their courses of lectures from being delivered, nevertheless the professors were retained in their position, and on the fall of the Empire they resumed their lectures.

The Collège is under the direction of one of the professors, appointed triennially by his colleagues, and capable of renomination indefinitely. He has the title of Administrator. M. Renan holds the office at present, and has held it for the last seven years. The Administrator is provided with a house in the Collège, and has an extra allowance for the expenses of his position, with a secretary and two subordinates. The professors have each a salary of £600 a year. Those in the scientific departments receive £160 annually for the expenses of their course, and for the expenses of the laboratories £160 to £400 a year, according to their estimated claims. An annual sum of £1,600 is disbursed through the architect for maintenance of the buildings, servitors, furniture, and heating, or more, if special needs have to be met, at the discretion of the Minister of Education.

LABORATORY OF HISTOLOGY AND CHAIR OF GENERAL ANATOMY.

M. Ranvier is the professor of general anatomy. He was appointed in 1874, prior to which he had been assistant to M. Cl. Bernard. M. Ranvier is known to all men of science for his work in normal and pathological histology. His *Treatise on Technical Histology* is a standard classic. It contains accounts of his discoveries of the structure of areolar tissue; the nerves and their sensory and motor terminations; the structure of the retina, etc. Next in importance is his *Treatise on Pathological Histology* (with Cornil), also a standard work, and well-known to English readers by the translation of Mrs. Ernest Hart. At present M. Ranvier's laboratory is divided into two parts. The old laboratory M. Ranvier occupies, with his assistant, M. Suchard, for the preparation of his courses of lectures describing original researches, which he delivers twice a week, and which treat this year on the Areolar Tissues. The other part of his laboratory is in the annexe of the Collège de France, and is situated in an adjoining house, purchased three years since to afford more space for the laboratories of the Collège; this part of M. Ranvier's laboratory is under the direction of M. Malassez, with the assistance of MM. Vignal and Darier.

The work of M. Malassez is so well known that it is unnecessary to do more than recall by name his classic researches on the enumeration of the blood-corpuscles and the influence of various physiological and pathological conditions on the formation of the red corpuscles, which he has shown to be merely buds detached from certain cells of the bone marrow and of the spleen; his researches on ovarian cysts; on the lesions of the testicle in syphilis, etc. M. Malassez and M. Vignal, working jointly, were the first to demonstrate that there exist certain forms of tuberculosis exactly similar to those in which we find the bacillus of Koch, but which are produced by another organism. Since they published their observations on the subject—which were at the time much contested both in France and in Germany—various other investigators, such as MM. Nocard and Chantemesse in France and Eberth in Germany, have arrived at the same conclusions. The Faculty of Medicine has just awarded to M. Malassez for these researches, coupled with those he made on tuberculosis of the testicle, the Lacaze prize of the value of £400.

M. Malassez has quite recently published a series of researches on the formation of dental (maxillary) cysts; he has shown by investigations in normal anatomy that these cysts are due to the fact that in the vicinity of the roots of the teeth there remain always a series of little epithelial masses, which are nothing else than the *débris* of the epithelial follicle, which in the embryo buries itself in the jaw to form the teeth of first and second dentition. Under the influence of a variety of causes these little masses of epithelial cells proliferate, become inflamed, and form cysts of the jaw.

M. Vignal has charge of the department of normal anatomy and bacteriology. Among his recently published works are to be mentioned those which he has published on "The Cerebro-spinal Nervous System in Man and in Animals," for which he was awarded the Prix Lallemand by the Académie des Sciences in 1887. He found that the essential elements of this system—nerve-cells and tubes, and cells of the neuroglia—all take origin in the fold or thickening of the ectoderm forming the primitive nerve-tube in the embryo; and that it is necessary to reject absolutely the

mesodermic or endodermic origin of the cells of the neuroglia. These researches are being collected into a volume. He has also published, as the result of work done in this laboratory, an important series of researches in which he reports that many microbes found in the digestive tube possess in a high degree the power of transforming starch into sugar, of dissolving casein, fibrin, albumen, gluten, etc. This work brings into question a great deal that has been written up to this date on digestion; for in the attribution of such or such property to the gastric or pancreatic juice, no account has been hitherto taken of the action of micro-organisms mixed with it. The new problem thus presented is: *What is the part respectively due in digestion to the microbes and the cells of the digestive glands?* The question is the more complex in that it is not enough to eliminate the action of microbes during the stage of the actual experiment, but also before it; for, as M. Vignal has found (and well described in his forthcoming work), at least one of the microbes of the digestive tube secretes abundantly *diastases* (ferments) identical with those of the animal cells. Moreover, the quantity and quality of these *diastases* are in a great measure affected by the aliment within reach of the micro-organism. For example, the *casease* secreted by this microbe in milk is 100 times more considerable than that which it secretes in meat-broth.

M. Darier has charge of the department of pathological anatomy. He has lately published an important memoir on "The Normal and Pathological Anatomy of the Valves of the Heart." He reports that in the normal state the sigmoid, auriculo-ventricular, tricuspid, and left mitral valves do not possess any vessels, and he arrives at the conclusion that the vessels which are sometimes found in them are the result of new formation under the influence of causes as yet insufficiently known, and which deserve the attention of pathological anatomists. Last month he published also an interesting memoir on "Epithelioma of the Sudoriparous Glands," in which his conclusions are that these forms of epithelioma pursue a variable clinical course and belong structurally to different species. In the skin he speaks of at least two varieties of adenoid epithelioma (sudoriparous and sebaceous) having similar clinical characters. The tubular form of epithelioma is not peculiar to epithelioma of the sweat-glands, for those of Malpighian or sebaceous origin have also the tubular form. The sudoriparous glands contribute secondarily to form the epithelial masses of epithelioma of any origin.

Now as to the arrangement of the laboratory and the apparatus and *technique* followed—always a matter of serious interest to workers in other countries, for these sciences now depend largely upon methods, instruments, and apparatus; and the introduction of a new method of "staining," or of a new apparatus or new reagents, may (as the countrymen of Lockhart Clarke and of Lister do not need to be told) almost revolutionise a department of science or of practice. The laboratory of histology occupies the third and fourth floors of the annexe of the Collège de France. The histological department proper, on the third floor, has five rooms, large and small, with north light. The first is arranged

Fig. 1

for six commencing pupils, who each receive, for a small fee, a course of two months' practical teaching from MM. Darier and Vignal. The other apartments provide for twenty-two workers

capable of carrying on research under the direction of the same teachers. A large apartment is reserved for M. Malassez, and two other rooms serve to lodge the library and series of periodicals; the other is a chemical room. On the first floor are three "services," completely separated. On the right are asphalted

Fig. 2.

rooms with metallic cages and tables, water-jets, and air-exhausts for animals under observation. Then come the three apartments set aside under M. Vignal for microbiology. The floor is covered with (antiseptically) washable linoleum; the tables are of a special kind of enamelled lava, a very cleanly, non-absorbent material. Beyond this are a photographic room and an instrument and carpenters' shop.

The whole laboratory is lighted with naphthalised gas, which gives a very steady white light. The naphthalisation of the gas is arranged by placing on each jet a sort of copper sphere containing pure naphthaline, which melts when the gas is lighted, the vapour mixing with the gas. This mode of lighting is more intense than that by ordinary gas, and I understand that it is nevertheless less costly, the naphthaline being very cheap indeed, the quantity of coal-gas burned being very small, and the light remarkably steady.

Among the novelties in the instruments seen in the laboratories are a modification of Roy's microtome by Malassez, in such wise that each movement of the lever carrying the razor, automatically lowers it from $\frac{1}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{20}$ of a millimètre, which enables a quite unskilled person to make sections of $\frac{1}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{20}$ of a millimètre in thinness; moreover, as the part of the microtome which carries the specimen can be turned over into an alcohol bath, the sections as they are made are floated on this liquid, and do not get torn.

Fig. 3.—Malassez's microtome.

M. Malassez has also substituted for freezing by ether, which is very tedious, often imperfect, and not without danger in a laboratory with open fires, freezing by chloride of methyl, which permits the freezing of preparations several centimètres wide, and one or two deep, in a few seconds. To do this, it is enough to direct for two or three seconds beneath the stage carrying the specimen a jet of the chloride of methyl, which is contained in a copper flask.

M. Malassez's new hæmochromometers are clinical as well as laboratory instruments, and are in use in several of the Paris hospitals, among others in the wards of Dr. Potain. They estimate the quantity of hæmoglobin contained in the blood; not more than a very small amount—two or three cubic millimètres—being required, which is readily furnished by a prick of the finger. In the first of these apparatus, a graduated colour scale, made with solution of picro-carminé, corresponds to a given quantity of blood, or rather of hæmoglobin. The blood, properly diluted

Fig. 4.—Malassez's hæmochromometer.

with water, is placed in a little glass container, which is moved up and down in a metal tube having glass at each end until, on looking through the end of the optical apparatus, the observer gets the same intensity of colour in the two halves of the field. He reads off then at the back of the instrument the number of divisions which the "needle multiplier" indicates; these divisions, in order to get rid of calculations, show the quantity of hæmo-

Fig. 5.—Malassez's hæmocyctometer.

globin contained in each 100 parts of blood examined, as well as the maximum quantity of oxygen which this blood is capable of

absorbing (respiratory power of the blood). In the second of these apparatus the blood, instead of being placed in the container described, is introduced into a prismatic container, which is

Fig. 6.—Malassez's hæmocyctometer.

pushed up or down by a screw until, on looking into the optical apparatus, the half of the field situated on the side of the prismatic container presents the same colour-shade as that on the side of the picro-carminé standard. The quantity of hæmoglobin and its capacity of absorbing oxygen are given directly, thanks to a little window which allows the metallic mount of the prismatic container to be seen; on this the indications are engraved.

Fig. 7.—Malassez's camera lucida.

These instruments may be used without the optical apparatus, but the comparison with the standard is then a little more difficult, there being an interval of some millimètres between it and the blood.

Fig. 8.—Malassez's hot stage.

The drawing of microscopic preparations with the camera lucida is always inexact, for the refracting prism forms always a more or less wide angle, generally of 18° to 20°. M. Malassez has had a

camera lucida constructed in which the angle may be 15° or 20° . If the drawing is made at the side, the prism is placed at an angle of 15° , and the drawing is effected on a little stage raised on the table from the foot of the microscope, at an angle of 15° , but this inconvenient position is only employed for mobile preparations; for others, it is better to place the prism at an angle of 45° .

Fig. 9.—Vignal's hot chamber for microscope.

Fig. 10.—Chamberland's auto-clave (sterilising stove).

For this purpose, it is only necessary to move the button to the end of its course, and to incline the microscope placed in front of it to an angle of 45° . In this way the drawing does not distort

the object, and a much larger field is obtained than with the ordinary *camera lucida*.

In using the microscope the need of obtaining different temperatures constantly arises. Generally a metallic plate is used, or "hot stage," to which heat is applied at one end; and the paraffin, balsam, or the preparation to be melted or dried, is placed more or less near the flame. M. Malassez, in order to avoid using too long a plate of metal, which is cumbersome, employs one which is folded back, and which has the shape of the letter S.

M. Vignal's "hot chamber" for the microscope may be usefully described here. This hot chamber regulates itself automatically at the desired temperature. It is a d'Arsonval's oven (*étuve*

Fig. 11.—Chamberland's filter.

d'Arsonval) applied to the microscope. It enables the observer to carry on for a series of days all the necessary microscopic observations at a uniform temperature. In the study of the vital phenomena of microbes, its small size makes it more convenient than other apparatus; moreover, as it is very simple, it is not easily put out of order by the derangement of any of its parts.

M. Vignal's culture apparatus for cultivating micro-organisms is an oven in two compartments of different temperatures. It allows cultivation in one at 37° C., and in the other at 20° C., and therefore in the one, cultivations on serum, agar-agar, broth, potato; in the other, cultivations on gelatine. This oven is very simple; the lower is double-walled and the air, heated by gas-burners below, circulates between the two walls; the upper compartment has only single walls; it is heated by simple contact with the lower chamber, for its floor is the roof of the latter. Holes pierced in this septum and which can be closed

more or less by means of a little obturator, let a greater or less quantity of hot air pass from the lower into the upper compartment. The regulator of this oven is a Bunsen's mercurial regulator of greater size than usual, and to make it yet more sensitive, M. Vignal has replaced the air of the air-chamber of the regulator by vapour of ether, of which the tension is of course much more considerable.

In this laboratory, the autoclave of Chamberland is in current use for this sterilisation of cultivation media (at 100° and 120°), and for sterilisation of cold fluids the admirable porcelain filter of the same able researcher is in use.

Vignal and Hennequy have made some very happy modifications of the Cambridge rocking microtome, one of which avoids the necessity of counting the teeth of the wheel in order to know the thickness of the section; and also one which rectifies with great precision the direction of the object after its being mounted in paraffin.

SANITATION IN MALTA.

The Cholera Epidemic of 1887.—Previous Epidemics.—Improved Drainage and Water-supply.—Need for Village Sanitation.—Further Improvements recommended.

A VERY interesting report on the cholera epidemic in Malta in the year 1887 has just been issued by Dr. S. L. Pisani, the chief Government medical officer on the island. The real nature of the disease, which during the summer and autumn of 1887 prevailed so fatally on the island, was questioned by some; but Dr. Pisani observes that "its clinical history, prevalent short duration, fatal termination, and the result of *post-mortem* examinations and of bacteriological research removed every reason for perplexity in the minds of those who were unprejudiced and qualified to form a correct opinion on that subject," and showed that the disease was undoubtedly Asiatic cholera.

Malta has suffered from epidemics of cholera in 1837, 1850, 1865, and 1867. In 1887 cases of a choleraform type were observed in May and June, but the first suspicious cases occurred during the last week of July, and from July 25th to September 5th the disease almost each day broke out in some new locality. By the time the epidemic had subsided in November there had been 626 cases of cholera, of which 462, or 73.5 per cent., were fatal. In addition, there were 40 cases of cholera and 96 of choleraic diarrhoea, besides a very considerable number of cases of diarrhoea. This occurred in a population of about 136,790. The origin of the epidemic remains undiscovered. The theory of spontaneous production is discussed at some length by Dr. Pisani, but only to be dismissed by him as untenable. But how and by whom the germ of the disease was introduced into the island he is unable to say.

The most gratifying paragraphs of the report are those in which Dr. Pisani records the progress of sanitation on the island during the past twenty years, and shows the influence which the improved hygienic conditions of certain localities had in checking the spread of the infection. The need for improvement was urged on the Imperial Government by Dr. Sutherland in 1865. Since then the drainage of the towns has been remodelled; the old deep sewers cut in the porous rock have been replaced by glazed earthenware pipes impermeably jointed together; the house-drainage has been on the same principle remodelled; whilst the whole sewage of the towns is now removed by steam power to an outfall in the sea instead of being discharged into the tideless harbour. But the greatest improvement, carried out chiefly during the administration of the present Governor, Sir Lintorn Simmons, has been the extension of the supply of spring water. The Government has been enabled to place, by means of taps at convenient distances in the streets, a plentiful supply of pure water within the reach of the poorer classes, whilst the dwellings of the well-to-do are also well supplied. Greater cleanliness is also everywhere enforced in the towns, so that pollution of air, soil, and water has to a great extent been prevented.

Dr. Pisani points out that few of the villages are supplied with good potable water. Matters, however, were much worse in former times, and since 1865, and most assuredly since 1837, the sanitary condition of the villages has been improved. But a great deal more has still to be done, especially in respect of the water-supply, and of the disposal of the sewage. One of the most valuable lessons taught by the statistics of the cholera in 1887 is that the fortified towns, which are drained and supplied with good

water, suffered least; whilst among the villages, which are all undrained, those suffered most which were dependent on surface-water collected during winter in tanks. The immunity of the troops during the epidemic is also attributable to the improved sanitation in the barracks, and to the great vigilance displayed by the military authorities in keeping the men in good health.

It will be well for Malta if the recommendations with which Dr. Pisani concludes his report are carried into effect. "Experience has taught," he points out, "that on good sanitation we should exclusively rely, and that it is not in our power to prevent the importation of the germ of cholera. Restrictive measures, however strictly enforced, can never ensure its being kept out of the island, for as soon as a restrictive law is enacted the means to evade it are devised, and in our times complete suspension of all communication with an infected port or country is an impossibility in practice..... No time should be lost in carrying out all needed improvements—drainage of villages, water-supply, sanitary buildings for the poor and for the labouring classes, sanitary improvement of existing houses as opportunities permit, ventilation of overcrowded areas (such as the Manderaggio, inhabited by 2,544 people in the proportion of 636,000 to the square mile), opening of all *culs de sac* or blind alleys, prevention and abatement of existing nuisances in the villages in the country, sanitary supervision and direction in building, especially in rising centres. Then, and only then, is it to be expected that the island will have been converted into unfertile soil for the development of the cholera germ."

Dr. Pisani has summarised the prophylactic measures which he prescribes in the two words—good sanitation. If this advice be promptly carried into effect, there will be the greater possibility of the realisation of his hope that the cholera epidemic of 1887 will be the last by which Malta will be assailed.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS AND ITS MEMBERS.

An application was made to Mr. Justice Stirling, on Tuesday, February 26th, by Mr. B. F. C. Costelloe, as counsel for the Members of the Royal College of Surgeons, in an action of "Steele and others against Savory and others," which has just been commenced, with a view of determining at law the rights of the Members.

Mr. COSTELLOE said that he appeared for certain Members of the College who were suing on behalf of themselves and all the Members for certain injunctions, and for other relief, against the gentlemen who fill the offices of President, Vice-President, and members of the Council; and that his present application was for leave to serve, along with the writ, short notice of a motion to be heard at the sitting of the court on Thursday, to restrain the defendants from closing the College premises on that day. He produced an affidavit, sworn by one of the plaintiffs and the solicitor, relating to the recent controversy between the Members and the Council; and he said that the immediate dispute was as to the right of the Members to meet at reasonable times and discuss the necessary affairs of the College. Notice had been sent to all the Members convening a meeting at the College premises on Thursday, at 3 P.M., and the members of the Council, alleging this meeting to be illegal, had declared their intention of closing the College altogether on that day, a step in which counsel declared they were clearly going beyond their powers. It had not been possible to commence the action at an earlier date, as the official notice of the closing of the College was only seen by the plaintiff on Saturday, and it was most important for the Members who were going to attend the meeting that the motion for an injunction should come on on Thursday morning at the latest. He had postponed it to that late time so as to give the defendants the longest notice possible under the circumstances.

Mr. Justice STIRLING said that he was reluctant to interrupt the ordinary course of business on Thursday morning, except in a very urgent case, but in this case he would give leave. He did

so, however, in the hope that by that time some reasonable arrangement would be come to which would make it unnecessary to hear the motion.

At the sitting of the Court on February 28th, Mr. COSTELLOE, said: This is an action for which I asked your lordship's special leave to serve short notice of motion, and your lordship intimated that you would give me leave for to-day. Under the circumstances of the case, your lordship suggested that it was desirable that some arrangement should be made which would not make it necessary to hear the motion. I do not know what course your lordship would now think it right to pursue or suggest.

Mr. Justice STIRLING: Do the defendants appear?

Mr. GRAHAM HASTINGS, Q.C.: I appear for the President, Vice-Presidents, and Council of the College.

Mr. COSTELLOE: We have given them intimation of that suggestion, and we have offered an arrangement which would meet the necessities of the case, but they do not see their way to fall in with it. They have already shut the College, and refuse to allow anybody in. Of course your lordship understands the position we take. It is a plea on which the Members of the College are bound to insist, in the situation in which they are put. We are perfectly willing, if they will admit certain Members of the College, to make a formal commencement of the meeting, then, without prejudice to the rights of the parties, to at once adjourn to any convenient place, in order not to disturb them.

Mr. GRAHAM HASTINGS: Why not adjourn at once to the Holborn Restaurant close by?

Mr. COSTELLOE: We have no objection to adjourn to that or any other convenient place. The point is that we are about to promote a Bill in Parliament, and we are advised that it is necessary that some corporate action of the Members should be taken to endorse and prepare the Bill, and that the only proper form of corporate action is for the Members to meet in their own premises at first, though they may adjourn afterwards. I believe it is necessary to have some opportunity of taking a formal action. The Council have taken an extremely high-handed course; they have always refused to meet the Members or recognise their propositions in any way, notwithstanding that the vast body of Members are notoriously in favour of the very moderate proposals that have been made. Now they are practically endeavouring to steal a march upon us in regard to the Parliamentary proceedings, by making it impossible for us to hold anything like a formal meeting unless we press for an injunction of some kind against them.

Mr. Justice STIRLING: You wish to try your right?

Mr. COSTELLOE: We wish to try our right.

Mr. Justice STIRLING: Under these circumstances, I do not think it is a matter that can be dealt with now. You are quite content to say an adjournment elsewhere would meet your views. I do not quite see that I am called upon at this moment to decide whether you are right. It seems, *prima facie*, very improbable that you require to hold a meeting within the property of the Corporation.

Mr. GRAHAM HASTINGS: There is a by-law, which both these gentlemen have signed, which says no meeting is to be convened except by the President.

Mr. Justice STIRLING: I am not going to decide that now.

Mr. COSTELLOE: Of course your lordship cannot decide that to-day; that is just the difficulty in which my clients are placed.

Mr. Justice STIRLING: I am sorry for it. No doubt the Legislature will recognise your clients, and give such effect to any representations by them as may seem good, but I cannot repeal a by-law merely upon an interlocutory application.

Mr. COSTELLOE: Of course it is practically impossible for your lordship to try the question of right on such an occasion as this at all. That we quite recognise. I have, for example, affidavits here which have been served on the opposite side, setting out at length our contention as to the constitution of the College, and the inherent right of the Members, but they do not answer them except in a merely formal way.

Mr. GRAHAM HASTINGS: I answer them fully by putting in the declaration of both the plaintiffs that they would abide by the by-laws.

Mr. COSTELLOE: But if the by-law is void and of no effect, these declarations are of no value.

Mr. GRAHAM HASTINGS: You cannot say that.

Mr. Justice STIRLING: That is a question which I shall certainly not decide to-day.

Mr. COSTELLOE: I am of course reluctant to press the motion upon your lordship. I am aware that it cannot come to any satisfactory conclusion to-day in view of the course my friends have taken. If your lordship thinks it is not convenient or desirable that I should open it now, the only course will be that, without prejudice to the rights of my clients in the matter, the motion should stand over to some more convenient time.

Mr. Justice STIRLING: At some convenient time the right will be tried and decided. At this time I am not prepared to decide it. You had better make an arrangement with them by which the motion can be brought on at some convenient opportunity, and if they accede the question can be decided once for all.

Mr. COSTELLOE: The unfortunate part of the matter is that that will involve our taking some kind of formal step that may seem to them like a disorderly proceeding. We shall certainly go to the College premises and formally assert our right to get access there.

Mr. Justice STIRLING: I am sure you will not advise your clients to do anything unlawful.

Mr. COSTELLOE: I am sure they would not attempt to do such a thing. When shall the motion be heard?

Mr. GRAHAM HASTINGS: It is your motion, and I shall not offer any objection to it standing over.

Mr. Justice STIRLING: Let it stand over till to-morrow week.

[We understand that the advisers of the President and Council afterwards intimated that they had no intention of proceeding with the punitive measures already threatened pending the trial at law, and that negotiations are proceeding for an adjournment of the motion for an interim injunction on all points raised until the trial of the action.]

MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGE.

In pursuance of a notice convening the meeting, over 120 Members of the Royal College of Surgeons attended outside the College gates on February 28th, at 3 P.M. The College being closed, they formally applied for admission. In response to this application, the following printed notice was handed to Mr. Ashton Ellis:—

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.
A meeting of the Fellows and Members of the College having been convened for Thursday, the 28th instant, at the College, in violation of the by-laws, notice is hereby given that such illegal meeting will not be allowed, and that the College will be closed on that day.
By Order of the Council,
21 February, 1889.
EDWARD TRIMMER, Secretary.

On receipt of this reply, three of the Members present handed in their cards by way of protest.

The notice convening the meeting was read by Mr. ASHTON ELLIS, which was then adjourned to the Venetian Hall of the Holborn Restaurant.

A meeting was then constituted by the assemblage of Members and Fellows then present, Dr. R. Collum, President of the Members' Association, was voted into the chair.

The correspondence which had passed between the Association of Members of the Royal College of Surgeons, the Privy Council, and the Secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons, was read.

Mr. ERNEST C. ELLIS, Solicitor for the Association, detailed the legal steps that had been taken by Mr. Costelloe (their counsel) and himself on behalf of the Association.

The draft Bill, of which copies were circulated, was then considered and approved.

WE have received the following for publication:

7, The Crescent, Birmingham, February 27th, 1889.

SIR,—I enclose a copy of my reply to the circular letter embodying the resolution of the Council which you have already published. When I received it I was in utter ignorance as to what it could possibly mean. Now, having received full information, and recognising the extraordinary nature of the action of the Council, my solicitors issued writs to each member of the body individually, in the first place for a restrictive injunction, and in the second place for an action for damages, the damages being placed at £25,000.—Yours truly,
LAWSON TAIT.

[Copy.] Buskett Fletcherwood, Lyndhurst Road, near Southampton.
February 24th, 1889.

DEAR MR. TRIMMER,—The sentiments evolved in my mind by your letter are but feebly expressed by the word astonishment. Let me in the first place say that I am resting here, the victim of a poisoned operation-wound, with swollen glands which may indicate the beginning of an illness of a serious kind, and of which it is at present impossible to see the end. I am, therefore, quite likely to be unable to attend to any serious business for some time. Let me further say that I am quite unconscious of having placed myself in the position of having incurred any legal penalty at the hands of the Council of the College of Surgeons, and that I deny the position altogether.

Finally, if such should be the case, and without prejudice, I claim the right to be heard by counsel or in person, as is customary under all circumstances of the kind, provided that it does not prove to be better to remove the matter into the public courts of justice.

In any case, my solicitors are Messrs. Johnson and Co., 36, Waterloo Street, Birmingham, to whom you may make any further communication as directed by the Council.—I am, dear Mr. Trimmer, yours truly,
(Signed) LAWSON TAIT.

ENDOWMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

THE details which are afforded in the letters now appearing in our columns on "Medical Paris of To-Day" concerning the liberal Government endowments of higher education in France give additional interest and afford material for illustration in connection with the announcement which we are able to make that, under the direction of the Lord President of the Privy Council, inquiry has been made during the recess into the circumstances of certain colleges, including University and King's Colleges, London, as a preliminary to granting some assistance in the dispensation of higher scientific education. It is stated that it has been decided to make a grant, the particulars of which Mr. Goschen will shortly communicate to the House of Commons.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

THE ASSOCIATION AND ITS JOURNAL.

COPY OF CIRCULAR LETTER TO THE PRESIDENTS OF BRANCHES.

British Medical Association, General Secretary's Office,
429, Strand, London, W.C., February 25th, 1889.

DEAR SIR,—Our attention has been drawn to the subjoined document published in a medical paper, and not sent to the authorised JOURNAL of the Association for publication.

No approach has been made on the matter to the Journal Committee, consisting of the elected representatives of the Association, or to the executive officers.

We shall bring this document before the next meeting of the Journal and Finance Committee, which takes place on April 17th; and as the document contains statements which indicate ignorance of the actual constitution of the Association as set out in the Articles, and as it also makes suggestions of more than doubtful advantage, and further implies a ground of blame which does not exist in the opinion of those who know the detailed working of a JOURNAL which has to represent the wants and wishes of nearly 13,000 associates, we would earnestly deprecate any further signatures being appended to this document by members of the Association, or any action being taken by your Branch, until the document has been laid before the Journal Committee and the Council.

We must further emphatically protest against this mode of agitation, which persistently avoids preliminary consultation with, or request for information from, the representatives of the Association, comprising the elected governing body, and which, if persisted in, must tend to produce injury to the most flourishing and influential Medical Association that has ever existed.

(Signed) THOMAS BRIDGWATER, President of Council.
C. HOLMAN, M.D., Treasurer.

From the "Medical Press," February 20th, 1889.

The following communication, signed by several leading members of the profession, addressed to the Presidents of the Branches of the British Medical Association, has been drawn up with the view of eliciting an expression of opinion from the members of the Association:—

"It is universally admitted that the *British Medical Journal* is

at present ably edited, and that, while it is a great financial success, it is a repertorium of a vast amount of valuable scientific information.

"At the same time, it is believed by many members of the profession that the best interests and the honour of the Association would be greatly promoted by a change in the character of the JOURNAL.

"An opinion has for several years been widely held that the lines on which the JOURNAL is now conducted, which are similar to those of proprietary Journals, with anonymous articles and reviews and multifarious advertisements, are not suitable for the organ of our Association, for the sayings and doings of which our members individually are responsible.

"It is felt that the JOURNAL should be a faithful exponent of the proceedings of the Association in all its departments, while presenting a record of contemporary professional work elsewhere; but that anything beyond this, whether articles, reviews, or annotations, should have the authors' signatures appended, as indicating the actual authority of the communications. The character of the advertisements also should be more carefully controlled than at present, and especially all announcements of secret remedies should be excluded.

"It may be objected that such a change in the JOURNAL would involve some pecuniary loss. But our members are now so numerous that the annual subscriptions, together with income from other sources, would cover all current expenses. And it may be remarked that our individual self-respect is a matter of higher moment than flourishing finances.

"It is proposed, in the first instance, to address the Council of the Association, requesting them to consider this important subject, and should it be deemed necessary, to summon a special general meeting in London. But before taking such a step, it seems essential that there should be some guarantee that the proposed reform would be favourably regarded throughout the country. And we venture to ask that you will ascertain, as soon as may be, the feeling of your Branch upon this subject, and communicate the result to the Honorary Secretaries."

NOTICE OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS FOR 1889. ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

MEETINGS of the Council will be held on April 17th, July 10th, and October 16th, 1889. Candidates for election by the Council of the Association must send in their forms of application to the General Secretary not later than twenty-one days before each meeting, namely, March 28th, June 20th, and September 26th, 1889.

Candidates seeking election by a Branch Council should apply to the Secretary of the Branch. No member can be elected by a Branch Council unless his name has been inserted in the circular summoning the meeting at which he seeks election.

FRANCIS FOWKE, General Secretary.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

SHROPSHIRE AND MID-WALES BRANCH.—A half-yearly meeting of this Branch will be held at the Salop Infirmary on Tuesday, March 5th, at 3 P.M. Members desirous of reading papers, notes of cases, etc., are requested to communicate with the undersigned, EDWARD CURETON, Honorary Secretary.

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.—The spring meeting of this Branch will be held at the Railway Hotel, Taunton, on Thursday, March 14th, at 5 P.M. Dinner at 5.30 P.M. The question settled by the Council to be discussed after dinner is, "What is your Experience of the Use of Digitalis and Strophanthus in Heart Disease?" Members having cases or communications to bring before the meeting kindly communicate with W. M. KELLY, Honorary Secretary.

SOUTH-WESTERN BRANCH.—An intermediate meeting of this Branch will be held at the Gerston Hotel, Paignton, on Tuesday, March 12th, at 2.30 P.M. Members proposing to read papers, or to show cases, specimens, etc., are requested to intimate the same to the Honorary Secretary. Luncheon will be provided at 1.45 P.M., at 2s. 6d. per head, and members who propose to attend the luncheon are requested to communicate with Dr. Alexander, Paignton, a few days before the meeting. The following papers have been already promised: Dr. A. G. Blomfield (Exeter): Case of Cerebral Syphilis. Mr. J. D. Harris (Exeter): Case of Pulmonary Cavity Successfully Treated by Drainage. —P. MAURY DEAS, Honorary Secretary, Wonford House, Exeter.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST KENT DISTRICT.—The next meeting of this District will take place at the Gravesend Hospital on April 11th. C. B. Robbs, Esq., in the chair. Gentlemen who wish to read papers or exhibit specimens, etc., are requested to inform the Honorary Secretary of the District, A. W. Nankivell, F.R.C.S., St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Chatham, not later than March 23rd. Further particulars will be duly announced.—A. W. NANKIVELL, Honorary Secretary of District.