NOTES

ON

SOME GERMAN UNIVERSITIES.

By WALTER K. SIBLEY, M.B.CAMB.

I.—THE UNIVERSITY OF STRASSBURG.

(Continued.)

Examinations: Maturität, Physikum, Candidatus Medicus, Staats-Examen. Lectures: Scholarships.—Title of Doctor.—Public Speaking.—Assistants.

THE system of examinations in Germany is simple, there being but one qualification given by the State. The examinations for this are held in all the universities, and are practically the same throughout the country. A student commences medicine after passing his final school examination, the *Maturität*, which he usually does between the ages of 18 and 21. He then joins some university, after having matriculated, that is, paid a small fee and filled up some papers of the university in which he intends to study:

There are two semesters, or terms, every year, a winter and a summer. After four semesters a student generally goes in for his first examination in the *Physikum* or *Vorprüfung*, in anatomy, physiology, physics, chemistry, botany, zoology, and mineralogy. The examination is entirely *vivâ voce*, lasting some three hours, about half an hour being devoted to each subject. In this examination no papers are written, nor is there any practical work; thus, for instance, in anatomy no parts or even bones are shown. Although a student is supposed to take all the subjects at once, it appears possible to take most of them separately. If he is plucked in any subject, he takes this up again after an interval of at least six weeks, unless he fail in anatomy or physiology, in which case he must take the whole examination again.

Until a student has passed this examination, he devotes the whole of his time to the subjects set, and does not trouble himself about clinical work. Having passed this the student, who before was designated as *Studiosus Medicus*, is now *Candidatus Medicus*, and a student, who has passed his *Physikum*, is much offended at being addressed as "student" instead of "candidate," and he has the latter title printed on his visiting cards.

A candidate now prepares himself for his final examination, working in the various laboratories and hospitals, in which, generally towards the end of his time, he becomes *amanuensis* (clerk or dresser). This post he holds for a month, but he may occasionally hold it for two months, and may, of course, be *amanuensis* first in the medical and then in the surgical wards, or *vice versâ*.

The student goes to lectures or not, as he likes. He has to take out and pay fees for definite courses, but no record is kept of his attendance, nor has he periodical examinations or prize examinations unless he is one of the holders of scholarships, who have to do satisfactorily in periodical examinations in order to retain them. Thus, if a candidate holds a money scholarship and ceases to keep up his work, the scholarship is withdrawn—a very good plan, for we so often see in England men with scholarships obtained upon first commencing their curriculum who never do good work afterwards, the scholarship holding good for three or four years without any conditions as to what use the student makes of it.

Some nine semesters, that is, four and a half years after commencing medical studies, or two and a half years after passing the first examination, a candidate may present himself for his final or *Staats-Examen*, which consists of the following subjects, each forming a part or section by itself:—1, Anatomy; 2, Physiology; 3, Pathological Anatomy and General Pathology; 4, Surgery and Ophthalmoscopy; 5, Medicine; 6, Midwifery and Gynaecology; 7, Hygiene.

It is possible for a candidate to pass in all these sections in four months, but most take six months over it, and each consists of written, practical, and oral parts. Each section is done separately, and a candidate must finish one section before he proceeds to the next. As each section takes about two weeks, the candidate often has to wait some days between the various sections. We will proceed to give a condensed programme of the

various parts of the *Staats-Examen*, together with an outline of the method of conducting the examination itself.

I. *The Anatomical Examination*.—1. To dissect out one of the chief cavities of the body, and to demonstrate the parts and relations, or to expose and describe topographically a region of the trunk or of an extremity. 2. To demonstrate one of the anatomical preparations dissected by himself, and then to give a disquisition upon a subject from osteology, and also one from the digestive, nervous, or vascular systems. 3. To prepare and explain a microscopical anatomical preparation, and to mount a histological one.

II. *The Physiological Examination*.—To discourse upon two given physiological subjects.

III. *The Pathological Anatomy, and General Pathological Examination*.—1. To make a *post-mortem* examination, and to write a description of the same. 2. To describe one or more pathological anatomical preparations, and then to discourse upon a subject from general pathology, and from pathological anatomy.

IV. *The Surgical and Ophthalmoscopical Examination*.—This consists of four parts, three in the surgical, and one in the eye clinic. A. 1a. To examine in the presence of the examiners, on two successive days, a patient, and to state the general outline of the case, together with a plan of treatment, and to record the case at once in one of the books; to write at home on the same day a critical essay on the case, which is to be given to the examiner the next morning. 1b. For the next seven days to visit the patient at least twice daily, and to write out a clinical journal of the case with notes as to progress and treatment. If the patient should die in the meantime, he must be present at the *post-mortem* examination, and write out the results. During these days he is also examined on other cases. 2. To give a disquisition on a point of operative surgery, and to discuss orally the value of some general method; to perform an operation on the body, together with ligature of an artery, and to show his knowledge of the instruments. 3. To give a disquisition on the bones and dislocations; to indicate the procedure on the dummy, and to bandage according to the rules of the art. B. To examine an eye case, to write it out fully and finish it at home, to watch and treat the case under the direction of the examiner, and to note the progress of the case for three days; also to be examined in other eye cases.

V. *The Medical Examination*.—1a and 1b. The same as in the *Surgical*; he is also examined in diseases of children and the nervous system. 2. To write a discussion on some medicine, and orally to give the maximal doses of given drugs.

VI. *The Midwifery and Gynaecological Examination*.—1a. To examine and attend a woman in labour in the presence of one of the assistants, to state the prognosis and probable course of events, and within twenty-four hours to write a critical essay on the case. 1b. To visit the patient for the next seven days, twice daily, and to note the progress of the woman and child; during this time to show a general knowledge of pregnancy and diseases of women, and in case of the death of the patient to write out an account of the *post-mortem* examination. 2. To show a knowledge of the operations, and to diagnose the presentations on a dummy.

VII. *The Hygiene Examination*.—To discuss orally two given subjects.

Having passed these two examinations, the *Physikum* and the *Staats-Examen*, he is a qualified practitioner, and entitled to call himself *Praktischer Arzt*.

If a medical man wishes to become *Doctor*, he must pass another examination for this degree, which examination is not so hard as the *Staats-Examen*, but costs more money; for this he has a thesis to write. Here again he can take his M.D. in whatever university he pleases, not necessarily in the same where he has passed his final examination. This is usually done after the *Staats-Examen*, but in the universities of Prussia he can do it before if he wishes.

The *Staats-Examen* takes place, as we have seen, in the various universities, and generally the professors of the same universities are the examiners; but this is not necessarily so, the examination itself having nothing whatever to do with the university, but with the State. It is thus fairly uniform in severity.

It is quite different with the degree of *Doctor*, which is given by the university under conditions agreed upon by the several universities separately, the main item for the degree being a thesis which is supposed to consist of original work; but here the boundaries of original work are very broad. Thus the thesis often con-

sists of some statistical matter or the like. Having written a thesis, he must get one of the professors of the university to pass it; the candidate must then get it printed at his own expense, and a copy has to be sent to every university throughout Germany. The rest of the examination is generally purely formal, and consists of a short friendly discussion over the thesis.

The fee for the degree varies in the different universities from 300 to 500 marks (£15 to £25), and the cost of printing the thesis adds about another 200 marks, but this may be often considerably lessened or even avoided when it is accepted by one of the various medical journals, and therefore printed by them.

Special arrangements are made by the different universities for foreign medical men wishing to take their degree, the two fixed items being the fee and the thesis.

In Leipzig there appears to be a special arrangement by which foreign practitioners can do the *Staats-Examen* and *Doctor-Examen* together. The M.D. degree in itself without the *Staats-Examen* is no qualification, and the possessor of it cannot call himself *Arzt*.

The striking feature of the German examinations as compared with ours is the absence of written answers to set questions. A list of short questions to be answered on paper is unknown here, not only in the universities but also in the elementary schools. The examinations are almost entirely oral, nor do they consist of yes or no answers to catchy questions, where the number of correct answers given is in proportion to the good luck of the candidate.

Whatever are the failings of a German student, he undoubtedly learns to speak—a faculty which is sadly conspicuous by its absence in the majority of our students; in the examinations he has to discuss or speak upon a given subject for about half an hour, and this he has to do in every section of the examination, though, of course, he may be interrupted and questioned by the examiner in the middle of his speech. The result of this training is that every medical man in Germany can speak, and generally does upon every possible occasion. I am sure that this preliminary training in speaking would, if introduced to a greater degree into our teaching, be exceedingly beneficial. The system we often saw pursued in some of the wards in Paris struck us as very good; the professor, his intern and externs (assistant and clerks), would separately examine a case and give a short discussion upon it as to signs, diagnosis, and treatment. This would be gone over in turn, first by the clerks, then by the assistant, and afterwards the professor would criticise both, each giving his reasons for diagnosis and for treatment. This is done upon every new case admitted into the hospital, so that every clerk becomes well accustomed to discuss cases at the bedside with his colleagues and his superiors. But I believe this principle may be carried too far, so that in after-life, when once started upon a subject, the individual never knows when to stop. We have often observed that it is very hard to get a short, concise answer to a simple question out of a German. He must always make a small speech upon it, and, although this must be very good for the memory, it is often burdensome to the hearer. Thus, in asking a definite question we can obtain no answer without first hearing a few pages of some textbook practically repeated by heart; we noticed that many of the senior students were unable to give an opinion upon any given case, but were most fluent in particulars of cases of a somewhat similar nature that they had read of. Here speaking aloud is carried somewhat too far, while with us it is completely neglected. Advanced as the Germans are in most of their systems of education, none of the universities or examinations are as yet open to women. Women here are still treated as inferior animals, and debarred from most of the higher intellectual paths open to the other sex.

LIST OF AUTHORS AND OTHERS WHO HAVE PRESENTED BOOKS TO THE LIBRARY OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

FIFTH LIST.

The following books have been presented by their respective Authors.

- ILLINGWORTH (C. R.). The Abortive Treatment of Specific Febrile Disorders by the Bismuthide of Mercury. 1888.
JACOBSON (W. H. A.). The Operations of Surgery. 1889.
MITCHELL (Dr. Kate). The Drink Question: its Social and Medical Aspects. 1889.
MOORE (Norman). Visceral New Growths; Bradshaw Lecture. 1889.
PLAYFAIR (W. S.). A Treatise on the Science and Practice of Midwifery. 5th American Edition, from 7th English Edition. 1889.

Presented by THE ASSOCIATION FRANCAISE POUR L'AVANCEMENT DES SCIENCES.

COMPTE RENDU DE LA 16ME SESSION, TOULOUSE. 2 vols. 1887.
17ME " " 2 vols. 1888.

Presented by Messrs. CANNELL and Co.
FOOD IN HEALTH AND DISEASE (Clinical Manual Series). 1 vol. 1889.

Presented by SURG.-MAJ. SHIRLEY DEAKIN (the late).
THE INDIAN MEDICAL JOURNAL. 1882. 1889.

Presented by THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL.
MINUTES OF COUNCIL (completing set). 8 vols.

Presented by ERNEST HART, Esq., London.

ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, REPORT FOR 1887. 1889.
BERNTSEN (A.). A Textbook of Organic Chemistry. 1889.
BOSTON GYNÆCOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Transactions). Vol. I. 1889.
BRACHET (Dr.). Aix les Bains (in Savoy). 1884.
BRUN (E. T.). Outlines for the Manipulation of Diet. 1887.
BUCKNILL (J. C.). The Care of the Insane and their Legal Control. 1880.
BURNETT (C. H.). Diseases and Injuries of the Bar. 1889.
CLELAND (John). Directory for the Dissection of the Human Body. 3rd Edition. 1888.

Memoirs and Memoranda in Anatomy. Vol. I. 1889.

COATS (Joseph). A Manual of Pathology. 2nd Edition. 1889.
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CRUDEN (G.). A Manual of Musical Drill. 1889.

DAVAINE (C. J.). L'Œuvre de. 1889.
Traité des Entozoaires et des Maladies Vermineuses. 2nd Edition. 1877.

DÉJÉRINE-KIUMPKÉ (Madame). Des Polynévrites en Général. 1889.

DONRÉ (Louisa Emily). A Manual of Home Nursing. 1889.

FINLAYSON (James). An Account of the Life and Works of Maister Peter Lowe. 1889.

FRESHFIELD (D. W.). Hints to Travellers, Scientific and General. 1889.

HAMILTON (J. B.). Enteric Fever in India. 1888.

HUGHARD (Henri). Maladies du Cœur et des Vaisseaux. 1889.

HUGHES (D. E.). Compend of the Practice of Medicine. 3rd Edition. 1888.

IRELAND (W. W.). Through the Ivory Gate. Studies in Psychology and History. 1889.

JAMES (Prosser). A Guide to the Alterations in the British Pharmacopœia of 1885. 3rd Edition. 1889.

KINKADE (Professor R. J.). A Guide for Irish Medical Practitioners. 1889.

KLEIS (Dr. E.). Die Krankhaften Störungen des Hauts und der Zusammensetzung. 1889.

LAW (D. J.). Captain Lobe; a Story of the Salvation Army. 1889.

LEIDY (Joseph). An Elementary Treatise on Human Anatomy. 2nd Edition. 1889.

LETCHWORTH (W. P.). The Insane in Foreign Countries. 1889.

LYONS (F. A.). Translation of L. von Lesser's Surgical Emergencies. 1883.

MARYLAND, STATE OF (Transactions of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of). 1889.

MILLS (C. K.). The Nursing and Care of the Nervous and Insane. 1887.

MIXTER (W. G.). An Elementary Textbook of Chemistry. 2nd Edition. 1889.

MÜLLER (HARON Ferdinand). Select Extra-Tropical Plants. 7th Edition. 1888.

MUNDÉ (P. F.). The Management of Pregnancy, Parturition, and the Puerperal State. 1887.

MURRELL (W.). What to do in Cases of Poisoning. 6th Edition. 1889.

NEWMAN (David). Lectures to Practitioners. 1888.

OLD BLUE (An). The Tale of Eyam, or a Story of the Plague in Derbyshire. 1888.

POLLOCK (James E.). Medical Handbook of Life Assurance. 1889.

POORE (G. V.). London (Ancient and Modern) from the Sanitary and Medical Point of View. 1889.

PORTER (Alex.). Diseases of the Madras Famine of 1877-78. 1889.

PREUSCHEN (Franz von). Die Allantois des Menschen. 1887.

RANNEY (A. L.). The Applied Anatomy of the Nervous System. 2nd Edition. 1888.

RECOLLECTIONS OF A NURSE. 1889.

RIZKALLAH (Alex.). Etude Critique du Traitement des Salpingites. 1889.

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SMITH (R. Meade). The Physiology of the Domestic Animals. 1889.

SOLLIER (Alice). De l'État de la Dentition chez les Enfants Idiots et Arriérés. 1887.

STRASBURGER (E.). Handbook on Practical Botany. 1889.

STRUTHERS (John). Memoir on the Anatomy of the Humpback Whale. 1889.

THWING (Rev. E. G.). Windows of Character. 1887.

TIBBITS (Herbert). Massage and the Allied Methods of Treatment. 2nd Edition. 1888.

TOWNSEND (F.) and OTHERS. Extra-uterine Pregnancy (a discussion). 1889.

TUKE (D. Hack). Past and Present Provision for the Insane Poor in Yorkshire. 1889.

VACCINATION (First Report of the Royal Commission appointed to Inquire into the Subject of). 1889.

VAN FRAAGH (W.). Papers on the Pure Oral Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb. 1884.

VOLTOLINI (Dr. R.). Die Krankheiten der Nase. 1888.

WEISS (J.) and SON. Illustrated Catalogue and Price List. 1889.

WHITE (W. Hale). A Textbook of General Therapeutics. 1889.

WORTHINGTON (L. N.). Thérapeutique, Ligatures des Artères, etc. 1889.

YEARBOOK OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND LEARNED SOCIETIES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND. 1888.

YOUNGE (G. H.). Hepatitis and Hepatic Abscess. 1889.

ZIEGLER (Professor E.). Beiträge zur Pathologischen Anatomie. Band IV. 1888.

Pamphlets, Papers, etc.

BERGMANN (Ernst von). Die chirurgische Behandlung v. d. Hirnkrankheiten. 1889.

B. M. B. Nurses for Sick Country Folk. 1887.

CAIRO. Annual Report of the Administration of Sanitary Services. 1889.

COE (H. C.). A Successful Case of Laparotomy and Supravaginal Amputation of Uterus for Rupture. 1889.

COGHILL (J. G. S.). Chlorate of Potash.
 CONGRÈS INTERNATIONAL D'HYGIÈNE ET DE DÉMOGRAPHIE. 1889.
 EVATT (E. J. H.). A Code of Rules for the Prevention of Contagious Diseases in Schools. 1888.
 EYLES (G. H.). Malarial Fever as met with in the Gold Coast. 1886.
 GORI (M. W. C.). Sur le Transport des Malades et des Blessés.
 GOULD (G. M.). The Modern Frankenstein. 1880.
 HARE (F. W.). The Influence of Cold-Bath Treatment on Hospital Mortality of Typhoid. 1889.
 JACOBI (A.). Enteralgia and Chronic Peritonitis. 1889.
 JAPAN. Annual Report of the Imperial Navy of. 1888.
 MARTIN (H. S.). Johns Hopkins University. Studies from the Biological Laboratory. November, 1889.
 MEYER (Dr. Hermann von). Der Klumpfuß und seine Folgen für das übrige Knochengerüst. 1888.
 PIETRA-SANTA (Dr.). Modern Cremation. 1889.
 RUFFER (M. A.). Experimental Investigation into the Nature of the Disease produced by the Inoculation of Bacillus Pyocyaneus. 1889.
 WEBER (A. S.). Traitement par l'Électricité et le Massage. 1889.
 WOOLDRIDGE (L. C., the late). The Coagulation Question. 1889.

Presented by the LEWIS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE.

PHYSIOLOGICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL RESEARCHES OF THE LATE T. R. LEWIS. 1889.

Presented by Messrs. MACMILLAN and Co.

FOSTER'S TEXTBOOK OF PHYSIOLOGY. 2 vols. 5th Edition. 1889.

Presented by J. C. B. MOHR, Freiburg.

CLOETTA. Lehrbuch der Arzneimittellehre. 6 Aufl. 1889.

VIERORDT. Bactinococcus. 1886.

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Presented by the NEW SYDENHAM SOCIETY.

LEXICON OF MEDICINE AND THE ALLIED SCIENCES. Part XVI. 1889.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION AT BIRMINGHAM.

THE Mayor of Birmingham has taken occasion officially to express to the Executive Committee of the forthcoming annual meeting, of which Dr. W. F. Wade is Chairman, the great interest which he takes in the Association, and has indicated his intention to invite it to a *conversazione* on Wednesday evening, July 30th, in the Council House and Art Gallery, unless prevented by the assize arrangements, and, in that case, in the Town Hall.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

COUNCIL.

NOTICE OF MEETING.

A MEETING of the Council will be held in the Council Room of the Association, at No. 429, Strand (corner of Agar Street), London, on Wednesday, the 15th day of January next, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

The following Committees will also meet:—

Tuesday, January 14th, 1890.—Branch Organisation Committee, 3.0 P.M.—Premises and Library Committee, 4.0 P.M.—Arrangement Committee, 5.0 P.M.—Proxy Voting Committee, 6.0 P.M.—
Wednesday, January 15th, 1890.—Journal and Finance Committee, 11.0 A.M.

January, 1890.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary*.

LIBRARY OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

MEMBERS are reminded that the Library and Writing Rooms of the Association are now fitted up for the accommodation of the Members, in commodious apartments, at the offices of the Association, 429, Strand. The rooms are open from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Members can have their letters addressed to them at the office.

NOTICE OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS FOR 1890.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

MEETINGS of the Council will be held on January 15th, April 16th, July 16th, and October 15th, 1890. 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 27th, June 25th, and September 4th, 1890.

Any qualified medical practitioner, not disqualified by any by-law of the Association, who shall be recommended as eligible by any three members, may be elected a member by the Council or by any recognised Branch Council.

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*.

NOTICES OF BRANCH MEETINGS intended for insertion in the JOURNAL of the current week should be forwarded, addressed to the Editor, so as to reach the office not later than mid-day Wednesday of that week.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: EAST LONDON AND SOUTH ESSEX DISTRICT.—The next meeting of the session will be held on Thursday, January 16th, 1890, at the Hackney Town Hall, at 8.30 P.M. Dr. Brodie Sewell, late President of the Branch, will preside. The evening will be devoted to the reading and discussion of papers, not exceeding ten minutes in length, by members of the District. Members proposing to read papers are requested to communicate as soon as possible with the Honorary Secretary, J. W. HUNT, 101, Queen's Road, Dalston, N.E.

OXFORD AND DISTRICT BRANCH.—The next meeting of the Branch will be held on Friday, January 31st, at 3.15 P.M., in the Radcliffe Infirmary. Notice of papers to be read and cases shown, etc., should be sent to W. LEWIS MORGAN, Honorary Secretary, 42, Broad Street, Oxford, on or before January 17th.

NORTH OF IRELAND BRANCH.—A general meeting of this Branch will be held in the Board Room of the Belfast Royal Hospital, on Thursday, January 30th, at 4 o'clock P.M. Gentlemen proposing to read papers, show cases, etc., will communicate as early as convenient with JOHN W. BYERS, M.D., Honorary Secretary, Tower Crescent, Belfast.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH.

A MEETING of this Branch was held at Birmingham on Thursday, December 12th, Mr. D. C. LLOYD OWEN, President, in the chair.

New Members.—The following members of the Association were elected members of the Branch: Messrs. George Heaton, Samuel Nicklin, J. R. Ratcliffe, and Christopher Martin.

Dr. Rentoul's Proposals.—The report of the committee appointed to consider Dr. Rentoul's proposals was received and adopted.

The scientific proceedings will be found at p. 80.

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH.

THE eighty-sixth general meeting of this Branch was held in the Royal Society's Room on Friday, November 1st, 1889. Dr. FIASCHI, the President, was in the chair, and twenty-one members were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

New Members.—Dr. TRINDALL, of Helensburgh, was elected a member of the Branch and Association.

Communications.—The PRESIDENT read a paper on a case of Goitre treated by Electrolysis, for Dr. MARANO, who was unavoidably absent.—Mr. G. T. HANKINS read some notes on Wind Instruments, their relation to Health and Disease, with Special Reference to Phthisis and Emphysema of the Lungs, with demonstration and exhibits. A discussion ensued, in which Drs. SCOT SKIRVING, BEITH, O'REILLY, JENKINS, and FIASCHI took part.—Dr. CAMPBELL WILLIAMS read notes of a case of Inguinal Colotomy, which was discussed by Drs. WORRALL, HANKINS, and WM. CHISHOLM.

Notices of Motion.—The following notices of motion were read:—1. That a committee be appointed to explain to newly arrived medical men who intend practising in New South Wales the laws and ethics regulating medical conduct in the colony. 2. That such committee seek the assistance and co-operation of any delegates commissioned for the same object by the sister medical assembly in Sydney.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: EAST LONDON AND SOUTH ESSEX DISTRICT.

THE third meeting of the session was held, by the invitation of the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Robinson, at the Infirmary, Bancroft Road, on December 19th. The chair was taken by Dr. ALEXANDER GRANT.

Cases.—After the transaction of the usual formal business, Dr. ROBINSON showed a number of cases in the wards of the Infirmary, including Osteitis Deformans, Myxedema, Locomotor Ataxy,