persons, require a little more; but when in the country and, taking plenty of exercise, I feel very well and contented upon a moderate allowance of good simple food without any stimulants whatever. The experience of some members of my family who have lived to be old, and that of many persons of whom I have inquired, accords with my own. As a general rule, young healthy persons are, I believe, better without stimulants and tobacco, and those who take these things habitually and freely, get old at an earlier age than if they indulge only moderately or abstain entirely. But, at the same time, some persons do seem to require stimulants even before the age of forty; and it is sometimes necessary to allow children to take stimulants. In old age, stimulants are really required. I feel sure life may be much prolonged by their judicious employment, and I think that some people who have been very careful all through life, take far too little stimulant when they become old.

The contrast between the work of the early years of a professional man and that period of his life when he has achieved success and attained a position of eminence, and has perhaps become popular as a practitioner, will always be considered with interest; and in no profession is there a greater difference than in that of medicine between the days when a man commences his career and those when he begins to reap the benefit of his early toil and self-denial. Few persons, probably, can form an accurate notion of the extended education and training to which many of us subject ourselves, and the long period of probation through which we have to pass before the actual business of our medical life can be said to begin. In many callings, payment for work may be expected almost as soon as the student period of life has been successfully completed; but with us it is far otherwise. A physician, unless placed in a very exceptional position as regards friends, fortune, and opportunity, must be content to wait many long years before he can hope to derive an income from his profession; and during the whole of this time he must work, and work almost without remuneration. If he is to attain any eminence, he must be a hard student far into life, constantly attending the hospital, and following some branch of original investigation as intently and as devotedly as if scientific inquiry was his only object in life, and, in fact, his profession.

Nor have there been wanting in our ranks many who, besides being successful practitioners, have added as much to science as others who have followed science for their calling. The *Transactions* of our Royal Society contain numerous purely scientific contributions from medical men; and I am proud to say that there are conspicuous instances of this in every branch of the profession; for it must not be supposed that even general practice renders impossible the attainment of eminence in science. Several memoirs of the highest merit in the *Philosophical Transactions* of the last few years are the work of scientific men who are engaged in the incessant labours of general practice; and it is much to be deplored that original investigators of such eminence are not brought more prominently forward as lecturers and teachers. Our great medical corporations have lecture-rooms which are cheerless from want of use. Hundreds of intelligent students are hungering for information. All that is required to bring about a state of things of which all who have at heart the interests of the London school of medicine most ardently desire, are funds to pay the teachers for their labour, and for the expense of illustrating their lectures. And how small a sum would be sufficient! One thousand pounds a year would give us the advantage of the teaching of every scientific investigator in the profession, and those interested would be able to attend upwards of three hundred lectures a year. Many of my juniors, as well as seniors, will smile at the proposal. All I can say is, let the experiment be tried.

The medical profession has done, and is doing, and, it is to be hoped, will continue to do, in a quiet unobtrusive way, very much for the advancement of science; and few practitioners were more alive to the importance of the prosecution of various branches of science in connexion with medicine than Dr. Todd, who encouraged scientific work among his pupils in every way in his power. Often, during a hard day's work in London, has he spent an hour or two with pupils who were working at some original inquiry—studying, perhaps, some chemical experiment, or looking at microscopical specimens; and I have frequently observed that it was with great reluctance he tore himself away from the scientific workshop for the more pressing practical duties which he had to discharge.

It may not prove uninteresting if, before I conclude, I attempt to give a brief outline of a day's work before Dr. Todd had acquired great fame as a practical physician. Few persons are probably acquainted with the numerous duties devolving upon those who for many years of their life combine the duties of original investigator, public lecturer, and clinical teacher, with those of a practical physician; and it must always be productive of good to discover and record the successive steps by which professional success is attained, and a position of great public usefulness prepared for. Dr. Todd rose early. His morning

would be occupied with seeing patients and writing. At midday, upon four days of the week, up to the year 1846, he had to go to King's College to give his lecture on Physiology, and immediately afterwards went round the wards of the hospital. After 3 P.M., he was occupied with private practice, visiting patients till the dinner-hour. Most evenings would be taken up with arranging cases, preparing his lectures for the next day, and writing. Various committee-meetings and other public appointments required his attendance on certain days; and not unfrequently he had to take a prominent part in the management of different institutions to which he was attached. Notwithstanding all this active and regularly recurring work, he nevertheless found much time for writing; and during several of his earlier years he must have devoted many hours, by day or by night, to scientific work. Now and then, part of the evening would be spent in the society of friends, for he was eminently genial, and of a social disposition; but often has he retired and at a late hour commenced literary labours, which not unfrequently were continued far into the night. It is not possible to give an idea of the many duties which fall to the lot of a very successful physician or surgeon. To answer the letters, to attend to the business of friends which from time to time devolves upon him, to study the interests of the societies and institutions with which he may be connected, would alone be almost sufficient occupation; but such duties constitute a very small part of the day's work of the successful London physician.

Dr. Todd's powers of work were very great, and many would be astonished at the numerous engagements he would discharge in a single day. Although constantly occupied, he seldom appeared hurried; and of late years it had been often remarked, that he often devoted as much care and time to a case as in his earlier years, when he had more time at his disposal.

After about the year 1852, Dr. Todd's practice became considerable; and from this time it increased to such an extent as to compel him to resign his public appointments—his professorship, as already stated, in 1853; and his duties as a clinical teacher at the close of 1859, only six weeks before his lamented death. Dr. Todd, though active, had always looked old for his age. For some time before he gave up his professorship, it was painfully manifest to his friends, and it was well known to himself, that his health was failing; but, although weak, he was able to work hard to the very last. On Monday morning, January 13th, 1859, he returned from a harassing journey into South Wales, having slept on Sunday night at Gloucester. Although feeling very ill on reaching home, he nevertheless contrived to see several patients. Early in the afternoon, however, hæmorrhage from the stomach, which had commenced on Sunday night, recurred with such increased violence as to prostrate him completely; and he died in the evening, in his consulting-room, only a few hours after the last patient had left it.

Measured by time, his life was short; but his labours were great. Few men in the same number of years have done more. A cursory examination of the literary work which Dr. Todd has left behind would lead any one to suppose that he had reached the verge of the period ordinarily allotted to man. In this place, his memory will ever be held in honour. When he came here, there were very few pupils; there was no hospital. He lived to see the medical school of King's College one of the best in this country, and remarkable as the nursery of many medical teachers and scientific investigators. Of the exceptionally distinguished staff of those days, no one contributed more largely to this result than did Robert Bentley Todd.

NOTE ON THE USE OF METHYLETHYLIC ETHER AS AN ANÆSTHETIC.

By J. E. B. BURROUGHS, Clinical Assistant, Eye Department, Guy's Hospital.

A TRIAL was made of the methyl-ethyl ether on March 28th, with the following result.

CASE I. *Congenital Cataract*.—Two drachms of the methyl-ethyl ether were administered. There was no complete anæsthesia after two minutes and a half had elapsed. For the fellow-eye, half a drachm of the bichloride of methylene produced anæsthesia in half a minute.

CASE II. *Iridectomy, both Eyes*.—One drachm of methyl-ethyl ether was administered. There was incomplete anæsthesia. After complete recovery, half a drachm of methylene produced anæsthesia in less than half a minute.

CASE III.—One drachm at first of the methyl-ethyl ether was administered. The patient was insensible for a few seconds, and became very blue, but recovered very rapidly. A second drachm was given; but the patient was never completely under its influence.

All the cases were very troublesome, screaming, and restless; none became perfectly anæsthetic; while, in the same patient, the operation was completed with a much smaller dose of methylene.