indications for stimulants, which are usually considered to be such, and at one time I was in the habit of administering ammonia, wine, and brandy accordingly. I have abstained from giving them, and had more recoveries, therefore the weakness of the patient is no test for their use. I have had cases of pneumonia, in which I could say nothing against the propriety of giving stimulants, by considering alone the want of power of the patient; nevertheless, I have been more than satisfied by a persevering effort to withhold them; on the other hand, I have had no reason to regret an universal order for brandy and wine in all cases of erysipelas. Let me say, finally, there is often more knowledge of the effects of remedies evinced by the man who may consider it judicious in a particular case to do nothing, than there is shewn by him whose only resources are those which tend to 'keep up' the patient. The latter may believe in physic, but knows nothing of its operation.

MEDICINE: ITS YOUNG PRACTITIONERS AND FUTURE ADVANCES.

BEING AN EXTRACT FROM THE EDINBURGH MEDICAL GRADUATION
ADDRESS, GIVEN ON 1ST AUGUST, 1868.

BY SIR JAMES Y. SIMPSON, BART.,
M.D. EDIN. AND DUB., D.C. LONDON, ETC.

Do not trust your fate and fortune to the letters and the influences of others. Be your own patrons. Write out your own professional claims in the results of your own professional achievements and skill, and in your professional devotion and zeal to the weal of your patients, be they rich or poor. "The poor you have always with you," may be said of all true physicians, and particularly of the young physician. They are specially his objects of care and his charge. He will find the phenomena and the treatment of disease, the same in the body of the pauper and in the body of the millionaire. And do not suppose that the devotion of your time and talents to the sick poor may not be the very steps by which you may ultimately obtain success in life. They often prove the direct means of advancement. Many physicians have found it to be so. "I crept," observed one old Edinburgh graduate, and afterwards the most eminent and best employed physician of his day in London, Dr. Fothergill—"I crept over the backs of the poor into the pockets of the rich." And he said it as an incentive and encouragement to young physicians like you—not with any mercenary motive. For no man was ever less mercenary than Dr. Fothergill. He scorned the idea of physicians becoming mere traders and traffickers in gold, for the relief of human pain and woe. "I would banish," he observes, "all thoughts of practising physic as a money-getting trade, with the same solicitude as I would the suggestions of vice or intemperance. . . . I endeavour to follow my business, because it is my duty rather than my interest; the last is inseparable from a just discharge of duty, but I have ever wished to look at the profits in the last place, and this wish has attended me ever since my beginning. . . . With a great degree of gratitude I look back to the gracious secret Preserver that kept my mind more attentive to the discharge of my present anxious care for those I visited, than either to the profits or the credit resulting from it; and I am sure, to be kept under such a circumscribed unassuming temper of mind, doing everything with diligence, humility, and as in the sight of the God of healing, frees the mind from much unavailing distress, and consequential disappointment."

Ordained this day as physicians, most of you will not, let us hope, be simply content to practise medicine as a mere means of livelihood and respectability. It is a progressive science and art which has lately moved forward rapidly, and which threatens to speed still more quickly onward for the future. Knowing this, the hearts of many in your ranks are, I doubt not, fired with the wish of assisting in its proud progress, and of advancing it by your own labours and discoveries. What subjects, then, are most patent for new researches—what fields of inquiry are most likely to bear rich fruits? Bear with me while I say a few words on this topic.

During the present century the scalpel and the microscope have developed for us a vast amount of new and most invaluable facts in the way of morbid anatomy and pathology; and this field is by no means yet exhausted. Science has, at the same time, laboured most successfully to place in the hands of the medical practitioner means and instruments by which we can perceive and discover the pathological anatomy of various organs within the body of the yet living individual. Thus, for example, by the invention of the ophthalmoscope we can look into that dark inner chamber of the eye where shadows and soul—where matter

and mind—so mysteriously meet and commune with each other; and can distinctly see the various diseases that may affect its walls or its fluid contents. The laryngoscope exposes fully in a similar way to our inspection the interior of the organs of voice. The endoscope reveals to us the conditions of other internal canals and organs. While to the instructed ear of the physician the stethoscope whispers back the diversified morbid conditions of the lungs—telling wondrous secrets as to their exact nature and precise seats. In this great line of discovery new victories are certain to be won. Do you search out other additional physical means of diagnosis for these and other viscera. Possibly even, by the concentration of electrical or other lights, we may yet render many parts of the body, if not the whole body, sufficiently diaphanous for the inspection of the practised eye of the physician and surgeon.

But the future greatest conquests for you, and for the coming race of physicians, are probably to be gained by researches in pathological chemistry and therapeutics. Pathological chemistry contains, doubtless, a rare, and rich, and most extensive mine of priceless ores and products for the future advancement of theoretical and practical medicine, and the only shafts yet attempted to be struck into its lodes have barely touched the mere surface of its boundless wealth. The most practical, however, and so far the most important objects for calm, earnest, and faithful researches, on your part, are probably to be found in the wide field of therapeutics. For the department of therapeutics, though the most important of all the departments of physic, has hitherto been the most neglected of all,—the one regarding which we know the least. The physiologic modes of action of medicines form a labyrinth, or series of labyrinths, to which we as yet in fact possess no clue. Will you strive to unlock its secret entrances? Besides, we know not enough of the simple powers of our drugs; though the practice of medicine is essentially and ultimately the practical application of therapeutic agents. In making this statement, do not misconstrue my meaning. The young physician trusts, perhaps, too much to mere drugs; the aged physician, perhaps, too little. "Do not," observed a former medical sage—Dr. Gregory—to a friend asking what kind of medical man he should employ when he settled in London—"do not employ too young a doctor—he will kill you; and do not employ too old a one, for he will merely let you die." The training of the philosophic physician consists in teaching himself when to give medicines, and what medicines;—and in what cases, and at what times, he should abstain from all drugs, and trust to nature, or to nature and hygienic means alone. He knows that a masterly inactivity is sometimes far more safe for his patients than the most efficacious but officious druggery. But when medicines are used, they should be the best and surest. We have a formidable farrago of them from the vegetable and metallic kingdoms;—many inefficient, some doubtful, and almost all repulsive in character and form. A most extensive field for new investigations in this line, lies temptingly open for the young and ambitious physician in the almost innumerable series of new chemical compounds which modern organic chemistry has evolved. Among the world of new organic chemical compounds will probably be yet detected therapeutic agents more direct, more swift, and yet more sure in their action, than any which our present pharmacopœias can boast of. It may be, also, that the day will yet come when our patients will be asked to breathe or inspire most of their drugs instead of swallowing them; or at least when they will be changed into pleasant beverages instead of disgusting draughts and powders, boluses, and pills. But that day of revolution will not probably be fully realised till those distant days when physicians—a century or two hence—shall be familiar with the chemistry of most diseases; when they shall know the exact organic poisons that produce them, with all their exact antidotes and eliminators; when they shall look upon the cure of some maladies as simply a series of chemical problems and formulæ; when they shall melt down all calculi, necrosed bones, etc., chemically, and not remove them by surgical operations; when the bleeding in amputations and other wounds shall be stemmed, not by septic ligatures or stupid needles, but by the simple application of hæmostatic gases or washes; when the few wounds then required in surgery shall all be swiftly and immediately healed by the first intention; when medical men shall be able to stay the ravages of tubercle—blot out fevers and inflammations—avert and melt down morbid growths—cure cancer—destroy all morbid organic germs and ferments—annul the deadly influences of malaria and contagions, and by these and various other means markedly lengthen out the average duration of human life; when our hygienic condition and laws shall have been changed by state legislation, so as to forbid all communicable diseases from being communicated, and remove all causes of sickness that are removable; when the rapidly increasing length of human life shall begin to fulfil that ancient prophecy, "the child shall die an hundred years old;"—when there shall have been achieved, too, advances in other walks of life far beyond our present state of progress; when houses shall be built, and many

other kinds of work performed by machinery and not by human hands alone; when the crops in these islands shall be increased five or ten fold, and abundance of human food be provided for our increased population by our fields being irrigated by that waste organic refuse of our towns, which we now recklessly run off into our rivers and seas; when man shall have invented means of calling down rain at will; when he shall have gained cheaper and better motive powers than steam; when he shall travel from continent to continent by submarine railways, or by flying and ballooning through the air; and when—to venture on only one illustration more—tiresome graduation addresses shall no longer require to be written by old professors, nor listened to by young physicians.

In developing these and many other analogous discoveries that in due time will be made in the medical and in other sciences, there will necessarily be expended a stupendous amount of thought, with countless hosts of experiments, and trials, and inquiries. But some of the discoveries will, in all likelihood, be reached by simpler routes. For within our own bodies, and on every side in the great world around us, are constantly at work numerous yet unseen and undetermined high general laws and actions. These laws and actions are, most of them, hidden and covered over by the thinnest films. They lie within our touch, and yet we see them not. In future times some of them will be detected by you or others—as some of them have been detected in times past—almost by accidental glimpses. If any of these accidental glimpses flash across your path, try to note and fix the value of the vision. In illustration of what I wish to state, let me cite two or three instances only from the past, and let us hope that such instances will be multiplied more and more in the future. A medical student, Galileo, sat one day idling in the cathedral of Pisa, and observed the singular regularity with which the oscillations of a lamp suspended from the roof were performed, and ultimately he elicited from this phenomenon the important laws and results to science involved in the movements of the pendulum. An Italian physician, Galvani, and his wife, in preparing the legs of some frogs for food, accidentally observed the skinned limb twitch convulsively when its muscles or nerves were touched simultaneously by two approximated metals—an observation that has eventuated in various momentous discoveries, and, among others, in the electric telegraph. A young medical disciple heard, in his master's shop at Sodbury, a country maiden accidentally prattle of the impossibility of her taking small-pox, as she already had had cow-pox. This casual remark was treasured up by the young listener, William Jenner, and at last elaborated by him into the discovery of the protective power of vaccination—a discovery which has been computed to have added three whole years to the duration of human life. An American physician, who graduated in this university in 1768—or precisely a century ago—Dr. Benjamin Rush, in his writings tells us that in cases of puerperal convulsions and coma he had seen uterine action go methodically on, and he hence inferred and prophesied that a medicine would be yet found capable of safely producing an analogous artificial coma with the effect of making parturition anæsthetic. And this prophesied medicine or class of medicines has been found. Keep, therefore, I warn you, your minds always awake, and your eyes and ears always open; and it may be vouchsafed to some of you yet to peer under and uplift the flimsy veils behind which nature's most important medical facts and laws are, no doubt, still tantalisingly masked.

THE ACTION OF BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM.—According to Dr. Pletger's observations on the human organism, bromide of potassium weakens the energy of the heart's action, and reduces the frequency of its beats, so that the pulse is frequently as low as 50. Large doses of the salt produce somnolency, loss of memory, and mental depression, and in some cases imbecility. These symptoms quickly disappear after suspension of the remedy or a reduction to smaller quantities. The continued administration of large doses causes more or less incapacity for voluntary movements, or a disinclination to perform them. The subject reels and stumbles when walking, whilst in other instances there is muscular debility of the arms without sensations of vertigo and disturbance of equilibrium. The motor nerves seem to be paralysed through the action of the bromide. The bodily temperature is lowered. The action of the salt upon the digestive organs is manifested by a mild gastric catarrh with a tendency to vomiting, an obstinate constipation after large doses, and redness of the oral and pharyngeal mucous membrane; cough and slight catarrh of the upper air-passages are sometimes produced, and, after doses of from one to two drachms, some dyspnoea. Against abnormal irritability of the genital system the bromide acts with undoubted efficacy; as a remedy for spasm and increased reflex action of the nervous centres, it excels all other means. *Deutsche Klinik.* No. 10. 1868.

OBSTETRIC MEMORANDA.

[UNDER this head, we shall, from time to time, as materials come to hand from correspondents, publish records of cases remarkable in themselves, or illustrating points of interest in obstetric practice, therapeutic or manipulative. We shall probably in this way preserve from oblivion the notes of very many useful and instructive occurrences in private practice; for the great obstetric experience is that—for the most part hitherto unwritten—of the great body of general practitioners throughout Great Britain. We will only ask those who may forward cases for record, to relate them with the utmost brevity, and equally to condense any appended remarks.]

CASE OF PUERPERAL ECLAMPSIA.

By OSMAN VINCENT, Esq., Obstetric Physician's Assistant, Middlesex Hospital.

A PATIENT of the Royal Maternity Charity, residing in Clerkenwell, was taken in labour with her fourth child at 8 A.M. on March 23rd. Shortly afterwards, she had successive attacks of epileptiform puerperal convulsions. Her three former confinements had been most easy, and her previous health good. Thirteen years had elapsed between the last and the present labour. Dr. Hall Davis was sent for immediately and, on his arrival at eleven o'clock, found the acting district surgeon, Dr. Mathews, in attendance. The head presented upon the brim. The waters had come away at 8 A.M. that morning. The os uteri was nearly fully dilated, and soft; and the patient in an unconscious state, but not convulsed. She had the aspect of a plethoric subject, but exhibited a worn expression.

As a renewal of the convulsions was to be expected on interference without the aid of chloroform, I put her under its influence; and version was accomplished by Dr. Mathews slowly and easily, bimanually, although not without introducing the left hand partially into the uterus; and the body of a putrid female child, of about eight months' growth, delivered. As the head, however, was arrested at the brim, and much traction on the body in its decomposed state might sever it from the head, Dr. Davis, by manipulating with the fingers, hooked upon the malar bones, and the margins of the orbits, thus completed the delivery. The patient shortly recovered from the chloroform; the placenta was expelled; the uterus contracted firmly; and for the present the patient was quite free from convulsions.

She was now ordered a pill of calomel, colocynth, and henbane, to be followed by a strong black draught; and beef-tea for nourishment. At night, the bowels had not acted; and at ten o'clock the fits returned. The patient was ordered five grains of calomel at once, after which she had some quiet sleep.

Next day, the patient was in a semi-conscious state, but there had been no return of the convulsions. The bowels not being yet moved, two pints of soap and water were injected into the rectum. This was followed by several dark and very offensive motions. Half an ounce of castor-oil was ordered for the morning, and the beef-tea to be continued.

On the 25th, the pulse was 120; the tongue furred. The bowels had been open twice after the oil. The skin was hot. There was pain on pressure over the whole abdomen, and some dysuria. She was ordered a mixture containing bicarbonate of potash, tincture of hyoscyamus, and camphor mixture; and mustard poultice to the abdomen.

At 1 A.M. of the 26th, Dr. Hall Davis was sent for, and found the patient in a state of violent mania, which had followed upon two sleepless nights. Fifty minims of liquor opii sedativus were at once ordered, and the patient to be carefully watched. When seen twelve hours afterwards, she had had four hours' good sleep, and had recovered her reason. The bowels had acted twice. Pulse 120. As there was a complaint of headache, a blister was applied to the nape of the neck.

From this date she made a rapid recovery for a time. Her convalescence was, however, retarded by a slight attack of bronchitis, which soon left. She was, however, again pulled down by a sharp attack of hæmaturia, lasting over a fortnight; but, after appropriate remedies, she is now (May 1st) convalescent. The patient had never had any form of fit before. She was of temperate habits, and her previous health had been good.

The proximate cause of the convulsions seemed to be of centric origin—an emotion source acting on the brain, probably favoured by prior neglect of the bowels. The patient had been much excited by the death of a neighbour, which occurred in the same street, after premature delivery of a putrid fetus, attributed to the explosion in Clerkenwell.