Potter: the muscles of the back, thigh, and leg. The epilogue or conclusion by Dr. Archibald Pitcairn."

Another remarkable circumstance is the rapidity with which this long-neglected study advanced, mainly owing to the ability of the distinguished men by whom it was taught—these being *Monro, primus and secundus*; the first appointed Professor of Anatomy in 1720, with a yearly salary of £15, the second, as his father's successor and colleague in 1754; who in his turn was succeeded by his son, *Monro tertius*, in 1798.

Dr. Struthers, in his account of the Edinburgh Anatomical School, collegiate and extra-collegiate, perhaps attaches too much importance to this branch of medical education as regards the celebrity which Edinburgh acquired as a school of medicine. In fact, during the whole of the time that the third *Monro* filled the anatomical chair in the university, viz., from 1798 to 1846, anatomical study was at its lowest ebb, and yet it was during that period that the university was most resorted to, its classes were largest, and its reputation highest. This may be attributed to many circumstances, and chiefly, first, to the excellent system of clinical teaching there carefully followed out; next, to the eminent men who filled some of the more important chairs; and further, to a society, the Royal Medical Society, instituted and governed entirely by students, and possessed of an excellent library—a society truly of emulation, where alone honours were attainable, and where, in all the presumption of youth, as shown in their debates, its members considered themselves often in advance of the professors. Moreover, during a considerable part of this period, it should be kept in mind that the Edinburgh Medical School had scarcely any rival, there being then no provincial schools, and the system of instruction followed by those of London attached to the great hospitals being, with the exception of anatomy, of the most elementary kind.

The biographical notices, which occupy a large proportion of the pages of Dr. Struthers' work, are very unequal; they are amplest concerning the extramural teachers, some of whom must be familiar to our readers, others, perhaps, unknown. The notes are ample, and in them will be found the details of most interest as regards the rise and progress of the *alma mater* of so many of our profession.

ART. II.—*On Insanity, and the Criminal Responsibility of the Insane.* By THOMAS MORE MADDEN, M.R.I.A., &c. Dublin, 1866, pp. 23.

WE have read with much satisfaction this ably written paper,

in which its author points out the inhumane manner of the judicial treatment of the insane under trial for criminal acts, on the plea that, provided the accused can distinguish between right and wrong, they are to be held responsible. And he adduces a considerable number of individuals decidedly insane who have been condemned to death under that plea, and of whom many have been executed.

What specially called Dr. Madden's attention to the consideration of the subject was a remarkable case of much interest, which he describes; that of a youth, ill educated, his mind vitiated by the reading of the low sensational novels of the London press, who attempted the murder of his mother, followed by an attempt at suicide, after an attack of fever; and who, when brought before a police magistrate, charged with these acts, would have been sent for trial, had not a physician shown that it was a case, not for a jury, but for a lunatic asylum, where he was accordingly sent, and where, under proper medical treatment, he was restored to health, and capable of following his former occupation.

To meet what our author holds to be the defects in the judicial proceedings in cases of the kind, he suggests two measures, short and simple, which he thinks would be effectual, viz.—

1st. That the 64th article of the French code should be adopted by our law in its entirety.

2nd. That the question of madness should be decided by a tribunal of experts.

The article of the French code is the following :

“Il n'y ni crime ni délit, lorsque le prévenu était en état de démence au temps de l'action.” And he quotes a similar law which has been enacted in the state of New York.

Reasoning on the propriety of employing medical assessors in lunacy, who could advise the court on all professional points, as nautical assessors do in marine cases, he well remarks—

“No rational man would be likely to take the opinion of a jury of grocers, publicans, or tallow chandlers, as to whether his lungs were sound or his watch in order, in preference to that of a physician or watchmaker. And yet in a question far nicer than either of those the question of a man's healthy or diseased physiological condition—of all scientific investigations the most delicate and difficult—is, by the laws of England, left to the decision of such persons, assisted by a judge whose knowledge, however extensive it may be in legal matters, is hardly if at all greater than theirs in any department of medical science.”

It is right to remind our readers that there are two acts by which at present, in cases of insane persons condemned for criminal acts, execution may be arrested and humanity not outraged.

One, that of the 3rd and 4th of Victoria, cap. 54, that, even after sentence has been pronounced, "it shall be lawful for any two justices of the peace of the county or place where any person under sentence of death is confined to inquire, with the aid of the physicians or surgeons, as to the sanity of such person; and if it shall be certified by such physicians and surgeons that such person is insane, it shall be lawful for one of Her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State to direct, by warrant, that such person be removed to a proper receptacle for insane persons." The other, that of the 27th and 28th of Victoria, cap. 29, by which the power of medical inquiry into the state of mind of persons under sentence of death is confined to physicians and surgeons specially appointed for this purpose by one of Her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State.

We heartily concur in the hope expressed by the author in his conclusion—"That a wiser and more humane spirit may before long pervade the laws of this country relating to the so-called criminal insanity, and that the most horrible punishment that man can inflict shall no longer be awarded to the most unfortunate of all victims of disease."

ART. III.—*Report on the Health of Liverpool.* By W. S. TRENCH, M.D., Medical Officer of Health for the Borough. 8vo, pp. 32, &c.

WE purposed noticing this pamphlet before now, but though it refers to the public health of nearly two years ago, yet as it is concerned with subjects of general interest and operation, we think that it is right even now to draw public attention to it. It appears that the year 1865 was very sickly and fatal in this great commercial port, with its half million of population. Rather more than 36 in every 1000 of its inhabitants were cut off; the deathrate in different districts varying from between 24 and 25, in some districts, up to 49 per 1000 in others. This high mortality is considerably above the corrected averages of the previous ten years. The excess was mainly due to a marked increase of fever in Liverpool ever since the end of 1862. This home pestilence is never absent from the town; but for the last three years it has prevailed in the epidemic form. In 1863, the deaths from fever (chiefly pure typhus) were 1304; in 1864, the number rose to 1774; and in 1865, they were no fewer than 2338. Dr. Trench gives a projected diagram, which shows the weekly mortality from the disease during these three years; and also a mortality map of typhus in 1865, the worst districts being coloured yellow, and the number of deaths in each street indi-