

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW. On Tuesday last, the 6th instant, Dr. J. A. Easton, the newly appointed Professor of Materia Medica in the University of Glasgow, delivered his introductory lecture before a crowded audience, among whom were Mr. Hastie, M.P., Sir James Anderson, M.P., Dr. Hunter, President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, and a number of Dr. Easton's former pupils. Professor Easton was accompanied to the desk by Dr. Andrew Buchanan (senior member of the medical faculty of the University) and Professor John Macfarlane; and was introduced by Professor Buchanan. Dr. Easton's lecture, which evinced deep research and rich classical taste, and contained some excellent general counsels to the student, was heartily applauded.

ALLEGED DEATH THROUGH IMPROPER MEDICAL TREATMENT. On Saturday, October 13th, Mr. Brent, deputy coroner, held an investigation at the George, Brooke Street, Holborn, touching the death of Elizabeth Lynes, a married woman, aged 26, who was alleged to have died from improper treatment at the hands of Mr. Julian, assistant to Mr. Whitfield, one of the parochial medical officers. It appeared that during Mr. Whitfield's absence from town Mr. Julian had been called in to attend the deceased in her confinement; and it was alleged that her death arose from his neglect of the rules generally accepted and acted upon in cases of emergency. After medical witnesses had been examined at great length, the coroner proceeded to sum up, remarking upon the extremely painful nature of the case, and expressing a hope that he should meet with many more of a similar character. He did not think that the jury could bring in a verdict of a crimatory character against Mr. Julian, although he might have erred with respect to one or two points laid specially down in the practice of midwifery in such cases; but they could, if they pleased, append any remarks to their verdict which they considered the conduct of Mr. Julian might call for.

The jury having deliberated, returned the following verdict: "That Elizabeth Lynes died on the 11th of October from the mortal effects of inflammation of the womb, produced by a portion of the placenta being retained in the womb after the delivery of a certain female child; and the jury consider the deceased's death was produced accidentally, and by misfortune. The jury cannot fail to censure Mr. John Julian, the surgeon who attended the deceased woman, for having failed to attend to the instructions of Mr. Whitfield in not sending in so difficult a case for a medical practitioner named by Mr. Whitfield, and they also regret Mr. Julian should have neglected to remove at some period the entire remnant of the afterbirth, which has been stated in the evidence to be one of the most important points in midwifery practice."

THE SMOKE NUISANCE IN HUDDERSFIELD. The town of Huddersfield is in a fair way to enjoy perfect immunity from that great nuisance of manufacturing towns—smoke. Such, it is hoped, will be the case when the smoke-consuming apparatus, patented by Messrs. J. Robinson and Co., become generally used. The plan, like most others which show simplicity in construction, is very efficient. The consumption of smoke is effected by a double fire, the upper one only being fed with coal. The air for its supply entering by the door, the draught carries the smoke through the fire bars, where it meets the lower fire, which is composed of cinders only, the smoke being consumed between them. The hot air then passes into the chimney. The ordinary position of flame is reversed in the upper fire, being underneath instead of above the coal. In place of ordinary fire bars, this fire is supported by iron tubes filled with water. The fire box is surrounded by several inches of water, in an iron case, and the steam thus generated passes into a cylinder, from which it can be taken whenever it is required. Thus, not only is the smoke consumed, but steam is generated faster than usual, and a saving of fuel to the extent of 28 to 34 per cent. is effected. The apparatus can be fixed to any kind of boiler, and several are now used in the town. (*Leeds Mercury.*)

A TOWN IN A PANIC. The *Opinione* of Turin quotes a letter from Ozieri, in the island of Sardinia, giving an account of the late virulent outbreak of cholera in that town. Such was the consternation with which the inhabitants were seized, that although the municipality offered a large remuneration for the burying of the dead, not one could be found to accept the office. At length, the Vice-Syndic, M. Niccolo Taras, and Councillor Ladu, nobly resolved to cure the people of their panic by setting them an example; and they publicly carried a corpse to the burying-ground with their own hands. The experiment succeeded; many people, ashamed of their coward-

ice, at once offered their services, and every victim from thenceforward received a decent burial. But the difficulties of the authorities did not end here: the butchers closed their shops, and refused to sell their meat, except at an exorbitant price. M. Taras again displayed his public spirit in this emergency: he convoked the butchers, and, after using every persuasion in vain, at last threatened to send for the whole of his own cattle, and have it slaughtered and sold even below the market price; adding, that he was sure all the large proprietors of the place would cheerfully do the same. This threat was sufficient; the butchers re-opened their shops, and sold their meat as usual. The example of this worthy magistrate also encouraged the better class of the inhabitants to aid in alleviating the sufferings of the sick and helpless; and the scourge was at length effectually mitigated by the sanitary measures adopted.

THE PHYSICAL CONDITION, ETC., OF THE LABOURER. I see farmers are rewarded for having sheep, and cows, and pigs, in good condition; I should like to see a prize offered to the farmer who would have his labouring men in the best condition. When our young men by hundreds joined the militia at Hertford, it was publicly remarked that they were low in flesh, but high in bone; they must have come from hard work, or no work and low food, or not such as men require in this climate; their uniform hung loosely on them; but in a month's time, by the care of their noble master, the colonel, seeing they had a regular supply of animal food, they filled out to their red coats; and when they came home on a Sunday to visit their friends, they were astonished at their improvement in condition. I say, then, we want some means of putting our labouring men, as well as our cattle and sheep, in better condition—they must be well fed as well as the cattle and sheep—it behoves landlords and farmers to look to this; wages must rise with the cost of provisions. If this were the case, the poor man would not be compelled to take his little boy away from school at eight or nine years of age to go to work for food, but he would be able to keep him at school till twelve or thirteen; and then I should have candidates for my prize, No. 45, which our chairman so kindly noticed, but which this day is to be marked "no competition". What we require is, I believe, a more extended sphere of encouragement in this direction, and in other branches that would, directly or indirectly, tend to improve the moral and physical condition of the labourer. For instance, let there be a prize also for the farmer who would supply the best "home-brewed beer" for his men; let the masters take steps for the men having good beef, and mutton, and pork, as well as bread. Depend on it, it will pay well; the men will be twice as strong, and much more proof against disease. (*Rev. W. W. Malet, at the meeting of the Herts Agricultural Society.*)

SEA BATHING INFIRMARY. Accounts from Margate state that this useful institution has closed its career for this season, much to the regret of the poor and afflicted. A few patients remain, whose recovery from operations are not yet perfected. The amputations have been less, but the deaths have been more during the past season, which is easily accounted for by the institutions in London sending their worst patients down, who often arrive at the infirmary in the last stage of consumption.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

LETTERS and other COMMUNICATIONS for the JOURNAL should be directed to the private address of the Editor, 39, Curzon Street, May Fair.

TO CONTRIBUTORS. The Editor would be glad if Members of the Association and others would cooperate with him in establishing as a rule, that in future no paper for publication shall exceed two pages of the Journal in length. If the writers of long communications knew as well as the Editor does, that lengthy papers always deter the reader from commencing them this great evil would never arise. Brevity is the soul of medical writing—still more than of wit.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from SIR C. HASTINGS, MR. G. POLLOCK, MR. W. T. BELL, MR. CLEVELAND, MR. W. C. WILLIAMSON, DR. OKE, SIR JOHN FORBES, DR. G. WEBSTER, MR. W. J. ANDERSON, MR. A. G. CRAIG, MR. HUSBAND, DR. PRIOR, and DR. G. E. DAY.

THOMAS BELL, Esq. We regret that your remarks arrived too late to be appended to your paper.

Members should remember that corrections for the current week's JOURNAL should not arrive later than Wednesday.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

[\* An Asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.]

1. Medical Anatomy. By \*Francis Sibson, M.D., F.R.S. London: John Churchill.
2. Surgical Anatomy. By Joseph Macleise, F.R.C.S. Second Edition. London: John Churchill.
3. Commentaries on the Surgery of the War. By G. J. Guthrie, F.R.S. Sixth Edition. London: Henry Renshaw.