

A DEGREE IN MEDICINE FOR LONDON STUDENTS.

SIR,—Under the above heading, a correspondent (Mr. G. Birt, M.B.Lond.) writes, in the JOURNAL of January 30th, with reference to the University of London, stating that it is "the only university in the United Kingdom that is open to all, without residence at any particular college."

Now, sir, this is not a fact. In 1881, the Royal University of Ireland came into existence, taking the place of the old Queen's University, which was dissolved on account of the opposition of a section of the Irish people to it. One of the fundamental clauses in the Act of Parliament founding the Royal University, was the placing of all colleges on a level as regards its degrees. Accordingly, the Royal University of Ireland is identical in principle with the University of London. Its degrees are open to all comers. The standard of examination is rigid, namely, 50 per cent., and the examinations themselves are of an essentially practical character. The course for the medical degree includes the following examinations, namely, Matriculation, First University Examination in Arts, First Medical, Second Medical Examinations, and Degree Examination. Anatomy and Physiology are particularly stiff, and are required both at the "half" and the "degree."

The Royal University is endowed with £20,000 *per annum*, in addition to private endowments, and accordingly there are valuable exhibitions for competition.—I am, sir, faithfully yours,

HIBERNIA.

ERRATUM.

In the JOURNAL of February 13th, under the heading of the pass-list of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of Edinburgh, Mr. Herbert Peck's surname was incorrectly spelt Peck.

MORTALITY FROM ROUND WORMS.

SIR,—The case related by Mr. Philip Birch, in the JOURNAL of February 6th, more than ever convinces me of the fallacy of prescribing one dose only of santonin, and expecting a favourable result. The children in this locality are infested with round worms, and I have had one or two deaths from what appeared to me to be "worm-fever" only. The number of worms passed in individual cases is surprising. In one case which I treated, a girl aged 13, after taking one dose of santonin, passed twenty by the month, nearly all in a lump, and over thirty by the rectum on the same day, and continued to pass some daily for a week. I have often found that four or five doses of santonin can be retained without any result when the worms are present; therefore I invariably put up six powders of from three to five grains each, according to the age, with a quarter of a grain of calomel in each, and order the first two to be taken twelve hours apart, and the rest every twenty-four hours; and, about four hours after the last, the patient takes a dose of castor-oil. I have never known any remain after this treatment.—I am, faithfully yours,

Pill, Somerset.

A. H. BOYS.

THE SPONTANEOUS EVOLUTION OF URINARY CALCULI.

SIR,—Allow me to add, in connection with my narrative of General Martine's case, that I have two specimens of this condition in my collection. They were both given to me, some years since, at Peshawur, the first by Mr. Sub-assistant-Surgeon Chetun Shah, a well known native practitioner, on whom the Government of India had just then conferred the distinction of Bahadur—a distinction, I may add, that is as much sought after in the East as the honour of knighthood is among ourselves; and the second by a private soldier of the (then) 72nd Highlanders. Both are, I think, well calculated to show the relative capacity or calibre of the urethra of the two sexes. They came into my possession under the following circumstances.

Knowing my weakness for such curiosities, Mr. Shah kindly presented me with the first of these, and he wrote, at my request, on the paper in which it was enclosed, that the woman, named Chikree, who passed it spontaneously during urination, was then 44 years of age; and he added, I think, that she had been a prostitute. Its weight was, at this time, 601 grains; but it was subsequently sawn through, and when I examined it again at Warrington, in April, 1879, it only weighed 478 grains, or two grains short of an ounce. It measured, at this time, 2½ inches in its longer diameter, and 1½ inches in its shorter one, that is, laterally. Hence it must have lost considerably, both in size and weight, as well by the "sawing" as by the friction, desiccation, etc., it has been since subjected to. Its shape is oblong, and it has a peculiar calcareous accretion on its sharper end, which is not unlike the stump of a broken bow-sprit. This was, doubtless, the medium through which it expanded this canal and by which it escaped through the urethral opening; and there was, I think, no after-dribbling or other ill consequence.

The second was presented to me, about the same time, by a Welshman, named George Jones, whose attention had been directed to it and me by, as I assume, the fact that I had just then successfully extracted a mulberry calculus from the bladder of one of his sergeants. (A report of this latter case appeared in the *Edinburgh Medical Journal*. It was the only one of its kind that I saw in the service.) It is bean-shaped, and weighs now 12 grains. It caused its owner terrible suffering on his long march from Umballa to Peshawur, during which he passed it, one day, after much straining and bleeding, in his "topper," a kind of bathing-machine-like bamboo structure, in which, hoisted on the top of a hackery, married soldiers travel in India; and I know that it weighed considerably more when I first got it. It, too, is the largest specimen of its kind with which I am acquainted.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

Auriol Road, W.

WM. CURRAN.

P.S.—Having just come across another case of this kind, I hasten to send it to you, and to ask that it may be published. It occurs in Suetonius's description of the personal appearance, habits, or weaknesses of Augustus, the successor of Caesar, and runs as follows. After mentioning the spots, evidently syphilitic, which his (Augustus's) body was covered, Suetonius says that "questus est et de vesica, cuius dolore, calculus demum per urinam eiecit, levatur," and this, being interpreted, means that "he (Augustus) complained also of his bladder, but was relieved from the pain of this, when the calculi it contained were finally expelled from it, along with the urine."

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