

NEWS AND TOPICS OF THE DAY.

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MONTHLY JOURNAL OF MEDICAL SCIENCE. The September number has appeared without the names of the "conductors", viz., Dr. Christison, Mr. Syme, Dr. Simpson, Dr. Hughes Bennett, Dr. Douglas Maclagan, and Dr. Wm. Robertson. It is not known how many, or whether any, of these gentlemen have withdrawn from the management; but it is generally understood that the polemical energy of the Journal is to be moderated.

NORTH BRITISH MUSEUM. For some time past, an agitation has been going on in Scotland, in favour of what is called "Justice to Scotland"; and it appears that, as the first fruits of this movement, government are to sanction the erection in Edinburgh of a National Museum—a North British Museum. A fortnight ago, the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, President of the Board of Trade, accompanied by the Lord Provost, Bailie Morrison, Bailie Fyfe, and Mr. Hall Maxwell, Secretary to the Highland Society, visited various sites which have been suggested as suitable. Mr. Cardwell met the gentlemen we have named at the University, and, after inspecting the splendid collection of specimens there which are rendered entirely useless for want of proper accommodation, he examined the area behind the College, occupied by the Rev. Dr. Alexander's Church, and by the Trades' Maiden Hospital. The party then proceeded to the Museum of the Highland and Agricultural Society, on George the Fourth's Bridge, where the right hon. gentleman had pointed out to him another of the proposed sites, lying between that building and the Cowgate. Lastly, he visited the County Buildings, where the party was joined by Mr. Sheriff Gordon. Mr. Cardwell heard all that was advanced in favour of the different sites; but he did not commit himself to any particular one. The general feeling in Edinburgh is in favour of the site behind the College. This is the site which the Lord Provost and those representing the Town Council consider to be the best; and we believe the Highland and Agricultural Society are of the same opinion, although they would much prefer that the ground near their own Museum should be fixed upon, rather than the County Buildings. It is not yet known, we believe, whether government will give a grant for a Museum of Practical Geology merely—similar to those recently established in London and in Dublin—or whether they will be prepared to allow a sum sufficient for a Museum of a much more extended character, including the former as a mere branch. The latter is the plan most likely to be adopted.

ARTIFICIAL PROPAGATION OF SALMON. A meeting of the salmon fishing proprietors in the Tay was lately held at Perth, for the purpose of considering the question of the artificial propagation of salmon. Mr. Thomas Ashworth, from Ireland, stated that his brother and he have, at the present time, about 20,000 young salmon in ponds, produced by artificial means. His brother and himself, having purchased "the Galway Salmon Fishery" in Ireland, they determined to try an experiment there for the artificial propagation of salmon. A suitable place having been fixed upon at Outerard, operations were commenced between the 20th December and the 1st of January last, which was about a month too late. Boxes were prepared in which the spawn of the salmon were deposited: these boxes were about eighteen inches square and six feet in length, with a zinc grating in the sluice at either end. There were twenty boxes in all, which were filled with gravel to the depth of six inches. To procure the ova and milt of the female and male salmon, the fish were taken by small nets on the spawn fords at night, and instantly and without injury put into a tub one-fourth full of water. The female fish was first turned on her back, one man holding the tail, another running his hands down each side from the head, and, pressing lightly with his thumbs, the ova was readily discharged into the tub: a similar course readily discharged the milt. About 370 salmon were treated in the above manner, and again returned to the river. Mr. Ashworth explained how the ova and milt were mixed in the tub, and then taken out of it with a cup and deposited in the boxes, when it was covered with additional gravel. The fine zinc gratings were used to prevent both trout and insects from getting into the ponds, as they were very destructive to the salmon-fry. The ponds were about twenty yards in length, and twelve to thirteen yards in breadth; and it was intended to

keep the young salmon in them for ten months, when they will have grown to about four inches in length. They would then be able to take care of themselves on their way to sea. He stated also that it was indispensable the young salmon should be fed daily with chopped flesh meat. The current of water running through the boxes must be pure and free from mud, and great care was required during the periods of incubation, when the rivers were flooded by heavy rains, to divert the muddy water from the boxes. It took about 100 days until the spawn gave indication of life. The expense of this plan of artificial propagation he did not estimate to exceed a pound a thousand, which was at the rate of one farthing for each salmon. After some discussion, it was resolved that the experiment should be tried in the Tay; and a committee was appointed to adopt the requisite measures.

ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL. The Estate Committee of this hospital have recently let on lease for eighty years a small portion of land belonging to their corporation, at the north-west corner of Finch Lane, of about four hundred square yards, to the Australasian Company, at the enormous rent of £1,300 a year, with the condition to build on it a substantial stone building. This letting, if calculated at its freehold value, at the present price of Consols, would represent the extraordinary sum of rather more than £520,000 per acre.

MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE. At a meeting of the Council, held on Tuesday last, thanks were voted to the Rev. Thomas Bazeley, the rector of Poplar, for preaching in aid of the funds of the College. The Treasurer reported that Dr. Kenny, of Canton, had, unsolicited, advocated the cause of the College in that distant country, and had remitted 222 dollars (£55:10), as the result of his disinterested exertions. Many of the Chinese are liberal contributors.

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