

NEWS AND TOPICS OF THE DAY.

[Continued from page 242.]

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH. A meeting of this Association was held in the University on February 16th: George Ramsay Ogilvy, Esq. (Advocate), in the Chair.

A Report, prepared by the Committee appointed at last meeting, was laid before the Society. In that Report the objects recommended to be kept in view by the Association were:—1. The recognition of the Graduates as a component part of the University; 2. The acknowledgment of the degree of M.D. of Edinburgh as a license to practise in England; 3. The representation of the Scotch Universities in Parliament. 4. Generally the promotion of the interests of the higher education in the University. Several practical suggestions were also thrown out, such as procuring access to the University Library for the resident graduates, etc.

Mr. J. BLACK (Advocate) moved the approval of the Report in a speech of some length; in which he called the attention of the meeting to the unfavourable contrast between the Scotch and English Universities in regard to the provision made to foster learning and science among those who had finished their education, and taken their degree; and argued that the formation of a society like the present would tend greatly to increase the value of the literary degree, and thus be of essential service in promoting education.

The motion was seconded by Mr. J. Carmichael, A.M. (High School), and unanimously carried.

Mr. W. E. Aytoun (Professor of Rhetoric in the University) was then appointed President of the Association for the following year; with Mr. A. Fraser (Professor of Logic in the Free Church College), Mr. G. Ramsay Ogilvy (Advocate), and Dr. George Wilson, as Vice-Presidents.

A letter was read from Professor Christison, highly approving of the Association, and promising to lend his valuable assistance in promoting its views.

The Report which had been submitted to the meeting was directed to be communicated to the Senatus Academicus; and a numerous permanent Committee was appointed to prosecute the objects of the Society. (*Edinburgh Guardian*, Feb. 24th.)

QUACKERY:—LOCOCK'S PULMONIC WAFERS. The following letter from Mr. Giles to Dr. Symonds of Clifton, establishes the presence of morphia in an advertised secret remedy.

"52, Royal York Crescent, Clifton, February 3rd, 1855.

"SIR,—At your request, I have made an examination of Locock's pulmonic wafers, for the purpose of determining the presence of morphia, which has been always believed to be the essential ingredient in their composition, in spite of the emphatic denial of its presence by the proprietors.* I should mention that my own curiosity had formerly induced me to make a slight investigation, which, in consequence of some difficulties in the way, had not been attended with conclusive results.

"The lozenges are of a drab colour, and when dissolved in water and filtered, give a solution tinged with a pink hue sufficient to prevent the recognition of morphia by the blood-red colour which moderately strong solutions exhibit when treated with nitric acid. It is not unwarrantable, with the fact of the proprietors' denial of the presence of morphia before us, to suppose that this pink colour is introduced for the sake of veiling the red reaction of nitric acid, which would otherwise be so easily obtained, as at once to expose the character of the lozenges. Some other means of obtaining the morphia, unobscured by this coloration, were then adopted; but the most satisfactory result was arrived at by macerating some of the lozenges reduced to powder, in ether, decanting the clear solution, and allowing it to evaporate spontaneously. The result was a formation of feathery crystals, resembling hydrochlorate of morphia, and giving the well known blood-red reaction with nitric acid, and the equally distinctive indigo blue with perchloride of iron.

"Although the present experiment was not designed to be a quantitative determination, the above method would probably offer the most convenient, and certainly a very ready mode of ascertaining the proportion of morphia in each lozenge; but it would be advisable to operate upon a considerable quantity.

"I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

"JOHN A. SYMONDS, M.D."

"R. W. GILES.

* Dr. Symonds some years ago saw an autograph letter from Da Silva and Co., to a lady then living at Clifton, in which it was solemnly declared that the pulmonic wafers contained not a particle of morphia.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Koussou.—(Brayera Anthelmintica.)

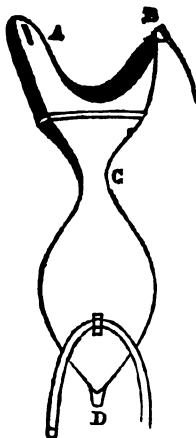
—THE NEW REMEDY FOR TAPE-WORM.—Mr. KEATING begs to inform the Profession that he receives constant supplies of this invaluable drug, hermetically sealed in Abyssinia, which he begs to offer the Profession at 1s. 4d. the ounce, postage free. By means of this remedy Mr. Keating has lately had a case in which the worm was completely voided, including the head.

79, St. Paul's Churchyard, London.

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Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

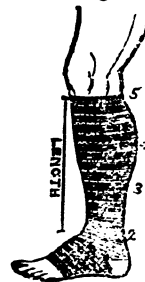


Fig. 1. KNEE-PIECE AND ANKLE-PIECE.—These may be worn together or separately. The former is especially useful in chronic enlargement of the knee-joint, weakness in the articulation, &c. &c.; and the latter should always be used after subsidence of the inflammatory stage in sprains dislocations, &c. &c.

Fig. 2. THE WHOLE SPIRAL STOCKING: most valuable in varicose veins, oedema of the leg, from various causes, &c. &c. No cure of varicose veins can be expected without it, and the stocking should be used even after the tortuous vessels have been tied. The spiral pressure may be increased or diminished on any point.