can be felt. That it can be smelled goes without saying. You stand just within the opening which by courtesy is called a door, and you hear breathing, as if someone were exhausted after a long run. You are not mistaken. It is a man breathing heavily in his race with death. He is still alive, and you wonder why. Groping your way you reach some stationary object and light a match. It gives just enough light to enable you to see a candle on a bench, and you light that. Then you feel that an electric arc light would scarcely be sufficient to enable you to pierce that Stygian darkness. It is well, perhaps, that you have an obscured vision. It is possible that if you could see all that is in the room at once, you, too, would be a sick man. It is a noisome den where vermin abound; where rats make their home; where the living and the dead humanity lie side by side—the one waiting for its coffin and the other for the cessation of the struggle for breath.

The Opening of the Medical Schools.

The advent of October, with the touch of frost in the air, reminds us that holidays are over, and that the time has come to settle down to the winter's work. The Medical Schools are also beginning to sound the call to duty, and at both London and provincial schools introductory addresses have been delivered.

St. Mary's Hospital.

Dr. William J. Gow, in the course of some valuable remarks to the students of St. Mary's Hospital, insisted upon the importance of attention to practical, as well as theoretical work. He said:—"In the old days surgery was regarded as a handicraft, but to-day, overwhelmed by ologies of all kinds, the student is apt to forget that from one point of view it is a handicraft still, and so he passes out into the world to practise his profession, often entirely ignorant of how to tie a surgical knot, or how to write a prescription. The modern schoolboy training, founded as it is on the Renaiscence ideal, which exalts the learner above the doer, affords him but little help when he comes to study such intensely practical subjects as medicine and surgery, and he is apt to forget that there is a technical side to his work which cannot be acquired by the reading of books. The study of surgical and medical technique, although it does not count for much in the examination room, because it does not lend itself easily to examinational tests, is of fundamental importance, and one of your foremost duties is to learn how to do things in the best possible way, whilst yet you have at hand the enormous opportunities for practice which a great hospital affords. It is only by constant practice that this part of your training can be brought to perfection, and if you do not acquire the art now you may never again have the chance to do so."

Those who have been privileged to watch Dr. Gow as he does his own work, and have noted the certainty of every movement, the dexterity with which his surgical knots are tied, and his masterly treatment of difficult situations, will feel sure that Dr. Gow is only handing on to his pupils advice which in earlier days he put into practice himself.

There is no doubt that in these days of many theoretical examinations, needful and important as these are, there is a tendency to consider that knowledge which does not "count for much in the examination room" is of secondary importance, though it is scarcely necessary to say that a more fatal mistake could hardly be made.

St. George's Hospital.

Dr. Patrick Manson, medical adviser to the Colonial Office, and Lecturer on Tropical Medicine in St. George's Hospital Medical School, in delivering the inaugural address of the present session to the students of St. George's Hospital, pleaded, and we think with justice, for a course of instruction more adequate than that usually given to qualify men for tropical practice. He asks, "What does the student, and future tropical practitioner, actually know about malaria, when he is stamped as qualified to practise his profession, even in the haunts of this disease? He may possibly recognize a tertian or a quartian ague, and he may know that quinine will cure them. Ten chances to one his malarial patients know all that quite as well as he does himself. But could he, any more than his patients, tell a malarial remittent from an enteric fever? He has heard of the malarial germ, but has he seen it? Could he recognize it? What would an examiner nowadays do with a student who could not recognize and demonstrate the tubercle bacillus? He would pluck him. And if I were an examiner, and found that a student, intending by-and-by to practise in the tropics, could not recognize and demonstrate the malarial parasite, I would do the same."

Royal Free Hospital.

At the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, Mr. J. Grosvenor Mackinlay, Senior Ophthalmic Surgeon to the hospital, delivered the inaugural address at the opening of the winter session of the London School of Medicine for Women on the 1st inst. We have great pleasure in reporting this address, and would take this opportunity of pointing out that we have always taken the greatest interest in this school, on account of the progressive attitude it has taken with regard to women. He disclaimed any intention of giving a formal lecture on the advance made in Surgery, Medicine, or Therapeutics during the last few years. He merely wished to make a few remarks based on his own experience. In querying the origin of the medical movement among women, Mr. Mackinlay traced its growth and accumulative strength through the troublous times of its initial stages to the recent rebuff met with at Cambridge, and the refusal of the Royal College of Surgeons of England to grant diplomas. He advised the students to show the authorities what they could achieve without their help, but with that of Newnham and Girton. The speaker characterized such policy as short-sighted; the fees in consequence were diverted into the more liberal spirited Academies and Colleges of Scotland, Ireland, Durham, Paris, and Sweden.

Mr. Mackinlay, in alluding to women's medical work in Her Majesty's vast dominions, laid particular stress on that carried on in our Indian provinces, the principal requisite for pursuing this being good health. He felt he might speak with some authority on the question of the great need for women doctors in the East, since his father and uncle had both spent many years in the Indian Medical Service; characterizing as derogatory to the profession those women who attend for a few months

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