

dition of his experiment that a satisfactory annuity be provided for his family in the event of the infection being fatal.

It is presumable that this sporting offer will be refused. One swallow does not make a summer, and even if Dr. Monson were to escape infection it would not afford sufficient data to prove the Koch contention.

A short time ago the local press were constantly exposing the condition of the Camberwell Infirmary. Now the Guardians are going ahead. A magnificent new infirmary is in course of erection, and a special feature of the new pavilions is that the upper floors are prepared for consumptive patients, the wards being so designed that practically three sides can be entirely open to the air. This feature, with flat roofs, allows of the adoption of the open-air treatment for the poor at their very doors. At present Camberwell is the only parish in the kingdom in which special provision for consumptives is being made.

But the success of the open-air treatment for consumption has so impressed some of the London local authorities that the question of providing accommodation for the very poor is being considered by the guardians where any extension of infirmary space is contemplated.

Camberwell is fortunate in having in Miss Marquardt a Matron fully alive to the necessity for progress in the nursing department, and when the fine new Home is ready this Infirmary will doubtless take its place as a first-class training school.

An appeal is being made by the authorities of the Royal National Hospital for Consumption, Ventnor, for the funds to lay out the twenty-one acres of under-cliff overlooking the sea in walks of easy gradients to suit the strength of the patients, and to provide exercise in accordance with the latest medical requirements. A donor of £100 will be invited to name a walk, and will be given all the privileges of governorship.

Mr. James Tolman, of Goswell Road, has bequeathed £1,050 to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, £1,000 each to the University of Oxford, to Newnham College, Cambridge, the Brompton Cancer Hospital, the Royal Free Hospital, the British Home for Incurables, the Islington Fever Hospital, the National Benevolent Institution, the Commercial Travellers' Schools, the City Road Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, the Fitzroy Square Hospital for Consumption, the Commercial Travellers' Benevolent Institution, and "to the Asylum of Idiots." The residue of his estate Mr. Tolman left in trust for distribution among such charitable institutions not mentioned in his will as the trustees, who have an absolutely free hand, shall think fit. After payment of the other legacies bequeathed by the will, the amount thus available will probably exceed £50,000.

Professional Review.

A RETROSPECT OF SURGERY DURING THE PAST CENTURY.

We have received from the publishers, Messrs. Smith, Elder and Co., 15, Waterloo Place, London, a copy of "A Retrospect of Surgery during the Past Century," by Mr. John Poland, F.R.C.S., price 5s. This retrospect was the Hunterian oration delivered during the present year before the Hunterian Society, and sums up, in a concise and interesting manner, the progress of surgery in the last hundred years. The recognition of surgery as a distinct branch from medicine took place in 1660, when Richard Wiseman, the father of surgery, put it upon a separate basis, and expressed his conviction, after forty years' practice, that surgery should be treated as a distinct branch from medicine. Up to this time it had been regarded as an art and a mystery, and the College of Physicians had remained in exclusive possession of the right of performing surgical operations.

It is, however, only a little over 100 years ago since John Hunter, who is universally recognized as the founder of scientific surgery, passed away, so that the progress, and the triumphs made along the lines of science, essentially belong to the 19th century. Speaking of the rapid progress of surgery, the writer of this thesis says: "I may say briefly that surgery at the present day has undergone an entire transformation, the change being not less rapid than complete, and so continuous that we cannot at present see finality. Who can predict what will be the retrospect in the year 2001 of the great achievements of surgery?" During the past century science has also conferred upon mankind the immeasurable boon of anæsthesia. We are told the methods of anæsthesia were first brought to light in the United States of America in October, 1846, and three months from that date "ether anæsthesia had spread all over the civilised world. No single announcement ever created so great and general excitement in so short a time. Surgeons, sufferers, scientific men, everybody united in simultaneous congratulation." Speaking of the importance of proper administration of anæsthetics, Mr. Poland says he is one of those who think that an examination in anæsthetics as part of the final test for medical and surgical diplomas has long been a desideratum. Every year a large number of men become qualified as physicians and surgeons with absolute ignorance of this important element of their profession. At the present time there is no uniform teaching of anæsthetics in Great Britain.

Next reference is made to Lord Lister's researches into the causes of putrefaction in wounds, followed by the introduction of antiseptics and the influence of the antiseptic system not only on the actual progress of surgery, but also upon the education of medical practitioners, students and nurses, the construction of hospitals and hospital wards, and even the management of hospitals themselves. Thus the antiseptic treatment, with its absence of pyæmia and septicæmia, has perfected the inestimable boon of anæsthesia by rendering possible the performance of operations which the surgeon was formerly deterred from performing by dread of the septic complications certain to ensue.

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