

laws of health, and the treatment of common ailments before they go out to countries often unhealthy to Europeans, and in which they will be frequently far from medical assistance, and consequently thrown upon their own resources. Dr. Harford Battersby, the Principal of the College, in presenting the fifth annual report at the annual meeting recently held at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, stated that at the present time Livingstone College students are at work in Africa, India, China, and many other parts of the world. The knowledge that they have obtained at the College has enabled them to live much more healthy lives than they would otherwise have done, and they have been able to be of use to their fellow missionaries, as well as to natives, in times of sickness. At the same time they avoid taking a position which should only belong to qualified medical men.

Under wise supervision, such a College is no doubt capable of much usefulness, and the fact that its Principal is a medical man is the best guarantee that the training given will be kept within judicious limits. There is need for care in this direction, because a missionary, or any other traveller, armed with a fully-stocked medicine chest, and possessed of a little—often a very little—knowledge, is apt to be a dangerous person. Indeed, we incline to the belief that an amateur will do much less harm if he dispenses with the use of all drugs. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing, and we have good authority for stating that many missionaries do themselves serious harm by the way in which, with the best intentions in the world, they dose themselves. Constant aperients, big doses of quinine—a handful of sulphate of quinine with his tea, for instance, if he feels chilly—then ten or fifteen grains of antipyrin, if he finds he has a temperature, will break down the constitution of the strongest man. Then, often a dangerous drug, like santonine, is given to children and even infants, quite cheerfully and in good faith, the amateur doctor not in the least realizing the harm that may ensue, but having a sort of rough and ready rule, “if you can't find out what is the matter, give santonine.” We hope, therefore, that at the Livingstone College not only are the laws of hygiene taught, but the danger of the promiscuous use of drugs is also demonstrated. By this means, a very valuable step will be taken towards maintaining the health of missionaries in foreign countries.

#### “TWO-LEGGED DYSPEPTIC OWLS.”

PROFESSOR WIGGIN, one of the lecturers at the College at Chicago, has been suspended by the faculty of the College of Physicians and Surgeons for the remainder of the term, one of the young women attending his class having complained of the language used by him in his lectures.

It is asserted that while lecturing recently on the digestive systems of the sexes, the Professor said, “Woman is nothing but a two-legged dyspeptic owl,” and “that the female form was nature's greatest irony.” A lady student protested, but was hissed by the young men, and the ladies then withdrew and complained to the faculty.

Feelings are apparently running high, for the male students uphold Professor Wiggin, and demand his re-instatement. They say that “draped subjects and society talk are out of place in the dissecting room.”

For ourselves, we cannot believe that any man in his right mind would so violate the laws of courtesy and good sense as to speak in the manner complained of. We therefore suspend judgment until we learn whether Professor Wiggin is sane or insane. We do not doubt that the Federated Women's Clubs, a strong body in America, which deals with all social questions, will take up this matter, and see that justice is done.

#### “THE NURSING DIRECTORY.”

“The Nursing Directory” for 1899, issued under the authority of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, will shortly be published, price 5s., and we hope that many of our readers will procure a copy. It contains, besides a list of the names and qualifications of well-trained nurses, much valuable information relating to the Nursing Services, and the Principal Training Schools, together with the regulations of the Preliminary Schools at the London Hospital and the Glasgow Infirmary, and the Technical School at Dublin. It is of the greatest importance to nurses that such a Directory should be maintained under Professional control, and those who desire to assist the Matrons' Council in this work can do so materially by inviting any well-trained nurses to apply for admission. The Matrons' Council will also be glad to consider any suggestions for additions to subsequent issues of the Directory.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)