

Northwich and District Working Men's Hospital Saturday Committee in recognition of services on behalf of charity. Prince is a fox-terrier belonging to Mr. Arthur Holland, and during the last two or three years he has collected no fewer than 2,000 coins on behalf of the Northwich Victoria Infirmary. All sorts of good stories are told of this intelligent doggie. A soldier was putting some change in his purse, when he dropped a florin. A search was at once made, but the quest was futile. Afterwards Prince proudly walked into the room with the coin in his mouth and laid it at the feet of the owner. An infirmary box was provided, and Prince is now continually soliciting assistance. If a coin is dropped anywhere within hearing, Prince is on the spot with alacrity to claim it.

**A SPLENDID DONATION.**—At a meeting of the Paisley Infirmary directors it was recently announced that Mrs. Polson, of West Mount, widow of a cornflour manufacturer, had intimated her intention of giving £10,000 towards the endowment fund of the institution.

**A "JACK IN OFFICE" CAUSES A REBELLION IN DUBLIN.**—For the past fortnight the medical profession in Ireland has been in a state of revolt consequent upon a Dublin Castle ukase. Some Castle official with revolutionary tendencies at one fell swoop struck the names of the Presidents of the Royal College of Physicians and of the Royal College of Surgeons off the list of those entitled to the private *entrée* to Vice-Regal levées and drawing-rooms. An agitation, angry and vigorous, made itself speedily felt; the Castle Drawing-room was boycotted. The profession refused to submit to the snub and swallow the insult implied. If the private *entrée* was open to the Lord Chancellor's purse-bearer, his train-bearer, and his private secretary, to the police-court magistrate, and a gentleman described as the treasury remembrancer, certainly the Presidents of the Royal Colleges, argued they, had a right to claim on professional grounds that they should not be placed on a lower level. Needless to say, the "Castle" surrendered. As a Nationalist journal humorously put it, "The barricades have been removed, the portcullis raised, the drawbridge lowered, and Sir Arthur Macan and Sir Lambert Ormsby march in triumph to the levée."

## Japanese Medicine Ancient and Modern.

Science in Japan at the present time is in quite an advanced state. But it is only of recent years, since 1868, that it has risen to a standard recognised by Western countries. Previously, the practice of medicine was of a most unscientific and superstitious character. When the nation determined to stand on a level with other countries the whole system of government was reconstructed. Among the various improvements inaugurated was an entire evolution in the medical work of Japan. Since that time, up to the present, the country has been steadily gaining knowledge, wisely being assisted in their work by able men of other nations, the Japanese being only too glad to have all the help they could to perfect their scientific learning. It is wonderful

how, in a comparatively short space of time, such progress has been made.

In early times the medical practitioner was the Chinese doctor; not necessarily a Chinaman, but using Chinese methods to cure his patients.

In those unenlightened days, chemistry was not applied to medicine, consequently chemicals were not prescribed. Vegetable substances were frequently employed, but the favourite drug, if we can call it such, was "bones." They were ground down to a fine powder and taken internally. For cases of weakness, tigers' bones would be prescribed to give strength; for toothache, ground teeth, and so on. It is even hinted that human bones were also used.

The saying that there is nothing new certainly seems to apply to medicine, for of recent years research work has been extensively carried on in western countries, with the object of discovering the therapeutic characters of numerous animal substances, which has resulted in the production and use of various "animal extracts." We may smile at the thought of ground teeth, but many a curious custom of a dark age has given rise to a brilliant idea in later years.

In those early times "bones" were quite the medicine of Japan. The inhabitants had much more faith in their efficacy than in any herb that was used.

In the present day, Japan has a number of fully-qualified native medical men, also several from other countries. The Japanese study medicine mostly in Germany. Their medical works are written in German and Japanese. It is not unusual at a German University to see a large number of Japanese students, while we are quite familiar in England with a certain number who come over to obtain their degrees from us, though the first step towards Western methods in medicine was obtained from the Dutch books treating on the subject. Nowadays the medical and surgical treatment of the sick is such as we ourselves are used to, allowing for differences in climate, customs, &c. Chemicals are in general use, while, needless to say, the prescribing of "bones" has died out.

But it died a hard death; even at the present time many an old Jap has a secret faith in the drug of ancient days, thinking it far superior to any modern prescription, and will, if possible, resort to it when procurable.

Occasionally there is a discovery that a chemist has been selling "bones." There is great excitement; everyone is, of course, terribly shocked, or professes to be, including the purchaser. But still *sub rosa* the sale goes on, though it is only occasionally that a case comes to light.

The two specifics in the present day seem to be ice and hot water. A very conspicuous article exposed for sale in a chemist's shop in Japan is a bladder.

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