

to practise." After a short holiday, he returned to University College Hospital as House-Surgeon to Mr. John Marshall, and thereafter passed from success to success.

During 1882-1884 he was Surgical Registrar to the Hospital, when his work included giving "informal teaching to the house-surgeons, students and nurses." In 1882 also he was appointed Assistant-Professor of Pathology. "He was most indefatigable in his work and a most pleasant man to have any dealings with." But it must have been a strenuous life, and it is pleasant to find it recorded that "one of ours" endeavoured to take care of him. "He invariably came to the Hospital between nine and ten o'clock at night, and dear old Lizzie Church, the head nurse of the ward, always made him a large basin of bread and milk before he left for home."

He and Mr. C. J. Bond paid a delightful visit to Italy, in 1882, after a strenuous and important year's work. We read of his keen imaginative enjoyment of Rome; and the horrid sight in a Rome hospital of maggots, dropped from wounds, on the floor of the ward.

November, 1882, saw him established in Gower Street with his friend—afterwards his brother-in-law—(Sir) Arthur Whitelegge. During his time there he wrote a slashing indictment "On the evil effects of Tobacco." It is, says Mr. Paget, unanswerable. But he is even more concerned with the ethical objections, so characteristic of his clean fastidiousness, "Why spoil the beautiful things on God's earth by creating such a horrible smell?"

ENGAGEMENT.

In October, 1883, he became engaged to Miss Eldred Bramwell, a daughter of Sir Frederick Bramwell. The engagement was a long one, for it was not until October, 1887, that they were married quietly at St. Margaret's, Westminster. We read, "On September 26th, Horsley writes from the Brown Institute to Semon, about their work together. 'I do so look forward to our resuming work in the winter when life will be a paradise, not the hell it has been.' He and Miss

Bramwell had been engaged for four years; he was sick of waiting. He used to say, in later life, that the four years had been a waste of time, not real life; that they had done nothing for him; that he had only been marking time."

FOUR YEARS OF STRENUOUS WORK.

Nevertheless, his professional work during this time was of the highest quality. The year 1884, when he was 27 years of age, was memorable for the beginning of his work with Professor Schäfer, and with Dr. C. E. Beevor, and also his appointment to the Brown Institution at Wandsworth.

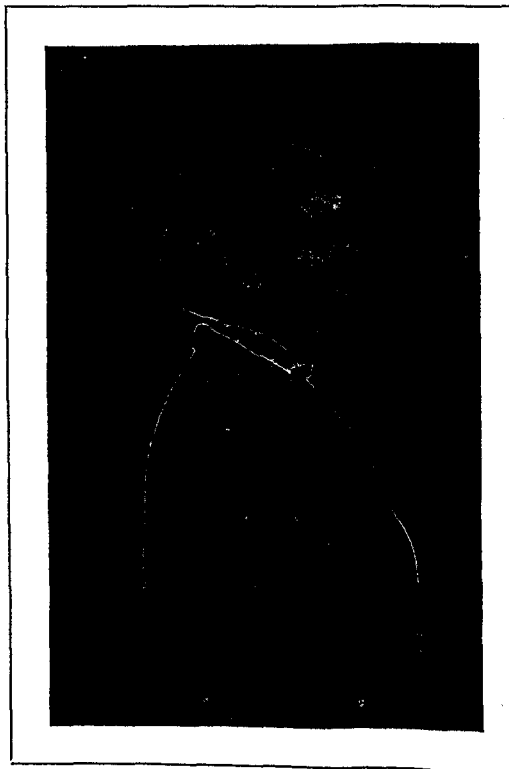
THE CURE OF MYXŒDEMA.

It was in November, 1883, that the Clinical Society of London appointed a committee, of which Victor Horsley was a member, to inquire into the whole subject of the closely allied conditions of cretinism, myxœdema and cachexia strumipriva, and recognising "the hitherto undreamt-of importance of the thyroid gland, they asked Horsley to study it by the experimental method." This he did in Professor Schäfer's laboratory, and at the Brown Institution.

In December, 1884, he gave two lectures at the University of London, "The Thyroid Gland: its relation to the pathology of myxœdema and cretinism, to the question of the surgical treatment of goitre, and to the general nutrition of the body." Of this problem we are told "Horsley,

so far as this country is concerned, did more than any man to solve it."

But when the long expected Report of the Investigation Committee of the Clinical Society was published it contained not a word of hope of any cure of the disease. Finally, on February 8th, 1890 Horsley published in the *British Medical Journal* his "Note on a possible means of arresting the progress of myxœdema, cachexia strumipriva, and allied diseases," and advocated the transplantation of thyroid tissue into the patient. Later, other observers advocated feeding cases of myxœdema with fresh thyroid glands, or with taking thyroid extract by mouth. At the present time chemists are able to supply preparations of



VICTOR HORSLEY.
Aged 11 years.

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