

of his favourite views being affected; perhaps, his showing some ardour in such a cause might help to make up for his unpopular doctrines on other subjects. Let him not leave too many such questions to be taken up by his expectant successors, by which they would be able to make themselves popular with a set of gentlemen who are not few in number, nor without interest in the community, who are scattered over every county and borough in the United Kingdom, who can and will act on election committees, and who can, and if necessary will, assist in the putting out of any member of Parliament who refuses the justice which they demand. If the present Ministry wish to stand well with the great body of the medical profession, let them do something, or let them pledge themselves to do something, which may justify their friends and supporters in giving them time. Above all, let them not allow it to appear as if indolence of their own, or flattery of interested parties, weighed more with them than the almost unanimous opinion of those who are best qualified to judge, in every part of the United Kingdom."

The following Bill has been prepared and brought in by Mr. FOX MAULE and the SOLICITOR-GENERAL. We regret that the amendment is not more extensive; and that steps have not been taken to place the administration of the law in the hands of competent medical authorities :—

#### A BILL

##### *To amend an Act to extend the Practice of Vaccination.*

Whereas an Act was passed in the fourth year of the reign of her present Majesty, intitled, "An Act to extend the Practice of Vaccination;" but no express provision was thereby made for defraying the expenses of carrying the same into execution;

Be it therefore declared and enacted, by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That it shall be and be deemed to have been lawful for the guardians of every parish or union in England and Ireland, and the overseers of every parish in England by whom the contracts for vaccination may respectively be or have been made under the provisions of the said Act, to defray the expenses incident to the execution of the said Act out of any rates or monies which may come or may have come into their hands respectively for the relief of the poor.

And be it further declared and enacted, That the vaccination, or surgical or medical assistance incident to the vaccination, of any

person resident in any union or parish, or of any of his family under the said Act, shall not be considered to be parochial relief, alms, or charitable allowance to such person, and that no such person shall by reason of such vaccination or assistance be deprived of any right or privilege, or be subject to any disability or disqualification whatsoever.

*A Manual of Chemistry.* By RICHARD D. HOBLYN, A.M., Oxon. Illustrated by Seventy-five Engravings. Scott and Co.

THIS is an excellent compendium, and is well calculated to confer benefit both on the student and on the medical practitioner. To the student it recommends itself by the conciseness and clearness of its explanations, and by the useful introduction which it affords to works of more recondite research. While to the practitioner it will be especially acceptable, as containing so much of the principles of chemistry as will be needful and applicable in his daily path of life. But it is not merely in a professional light that the work should be considered; it equally deserves our commendation as an important guide to general education. It were useless in us to dilate upon the necessity of a knowledge of chemistry, since that necessity is, at the present day, admitted on all sides; and no education can be regarded as complete, which does not embrace not merely an acquaintance with the leading principles of the science, but also many of its details, and particularly its application to science and art. The importance of chemistry to the science of medicine is illustrated at every step of its progressive improvement; and in its relation to general education, the author observes :—

"It can no longer be pretended that a liberal education may consist with an ignorance of those laws by the operation of which the order of Nature herself is preserved, the ever-varying changes of matter are regulated, and the innumerable processes which minister to the convenience, the wants, the happiness of man, are conducted. To mention one instance of the wonders opened to our view by a knowledge of this interesting science—Who, in the present day, would avow his ignorance of the application of steam to the whole science of navigation,—that 'new and mighty power,' to use the elegant language of Canning, 'new, at least, in the application of its might, which stalks the water like a giant, rejoicing in its course, stemming alike the tempest and the tide, accelerating intercourse, shortening distances; creating, as it were, unexpected neighbourhoods, and

new combinations of social and commercial relation; and giving to the fickleness of winds, and the faithlessness of waves, the certainty and steadiness of a highway upon the land?"

An important feature in Mr. Hoblyn's manual, and one calculated to be of great benefit to the student, is the introduction at the end of each chapter of a series of questions upon the principal points discussed in each division. The plan of the work is thus briefly stated by the author:—

"The plan which will be adopted in this treatise will comprise three sections. The first section will be devoted to the consideration of the Imponderable Agents of Chemistry. The second section will be devoted to the Chemistry of Inorganic Bodies. This section will embrace the laws of chemical affinity and combination, together with the chemical history of all the elementary bodies, and of the compounds which belong to inorganic matter. Of the elementary bodies, oxygen performs a most prominent part in the operations of Nature, from its tendency to combine with other bodies, and from the importance of the compounds it forms with them; this element will, therefore, be considered first. For the same reasons, in considering the other elementary bodies, the combination of each of them with oxygen will be particularly noticed. The other compounds which the non-metallic substances form with each other will next be considered. The metallic substances will be treated of, each in its individual character, and with reference to its combinations with the non-metallic substances and with each other. The third section will be devoted to the Chemistry of Organic Bodies, which may be divided into the products of vegetable and those of animal life."

With another short extract, in which the author portrays vividly the objects of his labours, and the essential advantages of the science, we shall conclude; which we do with the fervent hope that so valuable a science as chemistry will not be neglected by the medical student, to whom we again recommend the perusal of the little volume before us.

"The object of this treatise is to make the student acquainted with the facts which chemistry is daily presenting to our notice, to enable him, from consideration of these facts, to contemplate the laws which regulate the economy of Nature, to stimulate him to pursue the science even into its farthest recesses. Let him not suppose that all has been effected. 'Science,' observes Sir J. Herschel, 'in relation to our faculties, still remains boundless and unexplored; and, after the lapse of a century and a half from the era of Newton's discoveries, during which every department

of it has been cultivated with a zeal and energy which have assuredly met their full return, we remain in the situation in which he figured himself—standing on the shore of a wide ocean, from whose beach we may have culled some of those innumerable beautiful productions it casts up with lavish prodigality, but whose acquisition can be regarded as no diminution of the treasures that remain."

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## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE

OF THE LATE

THOMAS HODSON, ESQ.,

*Surgeon, of Lewes.*

By GIDEON MANTELL, LL.D., F.R.S.

THE death of an eminent physician or surgeon is not only a loss to the domestic circle, and to the inhabitants of the neighborhood in which his talents were exerted, but also to the community at large; for with such a man perishes a vast store of knowledge and experience, which cannot be communicated to others, or be bequeathed to those who shall come after. This remark applies even to individuals who have largely contributed to the professional literature of their time; but it bears with still greater force on one who, engaged in extensive practice, is unable or unwilling to record his opinions and experience. The great loss which surgical science and suffering humanity have sustained by the death of Sir Astley Cooper will not be questioned; yet, in the metropolis, that grand mart for talent and ability of every kind, the crowd of able surgeons ready to supply the place of departed excellence, renders the bereavement less obvious and important. But in a provincial district, the removal by death of a professional man who, gifted with great natural abilities, had enjoyed the advantages of a sound medico-chirurgical education, had been engaged in practice for more than half a century, and during that long period had maintained an intercourse with the principal surgeons and physicians of the metropolis, and had kept pace with the advancement of professional knowledge, is a loss to society which cannot readily be supplied. Such a loss the county of Sussex has sustained by the death of that eminent surgeon, T. Hodson, Esq., of Lewes. This gentleman was the son of the late Rev. J. Hodson, of Old-place, Sandhurst, Kent, and was born at the residence of his father in 1762. After the usual course of scholastic education, and a surgical apprenticeship of five years, Mr. Hodson became a student at the Borough Hospitals, and was a pupil of Mr. Cline, at the same time as the late Sir A. Cooper, with whom he contracted an intimacy that ripened into a friendship, which terminated but with life. Having com-