

VI. *A Museum and Library.*—The Museum will not be specially pathological, but will contain chiefly objects of clinical and practical interest, such as drawings, models, surgical instruments and appliances, instruments of research and apparatus for demonstration. The Library will be fitted up so as to serve as a reading-room and place of resort."

It will be observed that this movement is an advance on, and a development of the system of post-graduate instruction, which has long been in existence in the chief medical centres on the Continent, and for some years in the principal medical centres of the country. By means of the new college it is sought to place at the disposal of the medical practitioner all that is best and newest in the doctrines taught in the schools and method pursued in the hospitals.

IS MEDICAL ENTHUSIASM DECADENT IN CALCUTTA?

That Calcutta should be devoid of any instrument or agency of post-graduate instruction—even of that elementary and casual stimulus and outlet to observation and study, to the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge, which is supplied by association in a medical society, is not right. The absence of this sort of enterprise is a sign of stagnation, if not of decadence. I would, therefore, earnestly urge upon medical men of every race, office or degree to be up and doing in the matter, and to band themselves together for mutual improvement. I know no better nucleus of a medical society in Calcutta than the Medical College, and no fitter promoters and sustainers of such than the able men who officer the large Calcutta hospitals. There are, and always have been, difficulties in keeping a medical society going in Calcutta; but they will yield to energy and sustained enthusiasm.

A SUBJECT FOR RESEARCH.

Those who have read Dr. Patrick Manson's work on tropical diseases, will have noticed a Chapter XXIX on a disease to which the name of "ulcerative granuloma of the pudenda" has been given. The observations on which the description was founded were made in British Guiana. Cases of the disease have been since the publication of Manson's work recorded by Maitland and Williams in your pages. The condition is one of which I have seen several examples in the Medical College Hospital; and in the issue

of this Journal for the year 1882 (p. 121). I recorded short notes of two cases under the name of "serpiginous ulceration of the genitals." Pathologically the disease presents the feature of lupus; but there is good reason to believe that it is of venereal origin. On the subjects of causation and pathology additional information is much wanted, as well as on the questions of geographical distribution and frequency. This is a matter which might very profitably engage the attention of the Calcutta Medical Society if I am wrong in assuming that it has ceased to exist.

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC.

With a spell of cold easterly winds, and pretty severe frosts there has been in this country a considerable revival of influenza which has caused a rise in the general mortality and proved as usual very trying to persons advanced in years. The disease has been severely felt in London. The latest return shows a death-rate of 22.1 per 1,000, the death from influenza numbering 97 against 113, 74, 50 and 22 in the four preceding weeks, reading backwards. It is not in the metropolis alone that the outbreak has been felt. It seems simultaneously to have made its appearance all over the country. It looks as if the microbe giving rise to it were ubiquitous, ready to be roused into activity by favouring meteorological conditions. No doubt much of what goes by the name of influenza is not true influenza, but "cold" in its multiform manifestation; still experience, personal and otherwise, makes it easy to draw the line between the effects of a depressed temperature and the results of specific infection by the influenza germ. The severe and persistent depression of the nervous system which is present, whatever the form or type of the case may be, is probably the best diagnostic; but there are other means of differentiation. Take for example the pulmonary cases. The true influenza lesion, whether congestive or hepatising, is lobular and successive; one patch clearing while another is undergoing acute change: and withal the temperature is maintained at a very high level and there is a constant tendency to cardiac depression and failure.

ITS VICTIMS.

This is the nature of the illness which has recently laid Rudyard Kipling prostrate and centred the world's concern around his sick-

bed. Several persons of note have recently succumbed to this type of the disease in this country. Among them I may mention F. N. Macnamara, who retired from the Indian Medical Service many years ago, after having with great credit and success held the appointment of Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Examiner in the Calcutta Medical College and became very successful and popular as a practitioner. Since his retirement, Dr. Macnamara has been Examiner of Medical Stores at the India office—a position in which his special knowledge and the experience which he gained in India were of great advantage to Government and the medical services. Dr. Macnamara was a man of great ability, well cultivated mind, sound judgment, and amiable disposition. He made a very careful study of Indian waters and wrote a book on the physical geography, climate and diseases of the Himalayan and Sub-Himalayan regions, with particular reference to the prevalence and causation of goitre.

Another victim of influenza is Professor William Rutherford of Edinburgh, a man of striking personality, a great teacher of physiology, and a keen industrious student and investigator. He possessed the faculty of oral exposition in an eminent degree, and constituted in himself and his manner a telling proof of the power of lecturing, which is apt to be discredited in these days. No doubt, he combined with the gift of eloquent language the great gift of demonstration, by pencil and specimen and experiment, and he thus combined in happy excellence all that makes oral instruction interesting, attractive and useful. Sir John Struthers, who died about the same time, was also a highly successful teacher for similar reasons. Many Edinburgh and Aberdeen men, into whose life he introduced some of his own rare enthusiasm and love of work, will have received tidings of his death with sincere regret.

THE LATEST SERVICE EXAMINATIONS.

The recent examination for the Royal Army Medical Corps and the Indian Medical Service have been successful in filling all the advertised vacancies in both. Judging by the marks obtained, the quality of candidates has been up to the standard of recent years. The Indian Medical Service maintains its pre-eminence in the competition, and, notwithstanding all that has been said and written regarding its deterioration, continues to attract good men. The

following figures, showing the marks obtained by the first and last man of the R. A. M. C. and I. M. S., respectively, at the last four London examinations, are interesting:—

	Aug. '97.	Feb. '98.	Aug. '98.	Feb. '99.
R. A. M. C.	2933-1800 ...	2775-1943	2602-1965	2393-1846
I. M. S.	3142-2500 ...	3470-2721	3179-2274	3457-2295

THE R. A. M. C.

It is an open secret that the R. A. M. C. is still far below its normal strength, and the estimates have made provision for eighteen new officers in view of the augmentation of the Army. It is therefore possible that men may be admitted by nomination in addition to those selected by competition as happened in August last. The nominations were made by the schools, and the men thus selected proved by the results of the examination at the close of the Netley course to be quite equal to those who had been admitted by competitive examination.

THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The autumn meeting of the British Medical Association is to take place this year at Portsmouth. There is to be, as at the Edinburgh meeting, a special section for the discussion of tropical diseases. I hope that Indian men who happen to be in England on furlough will make a point of attending the meeting and supporting the section by their presence and co-operation. Great preparations are being made locally for the convenience, entertainment and enjoyment of visitors. The Solent is at that time of year at its best, and there are many places of beauty and interest within easy and cheap access from Portsmouth. The meeting will take place during the "Cowes Week," when all that is fashionable and attractive in yachting and yacht-racing is in evidence.

9th March, 1899.

K. McL.

Current Topics.

THE JIGGER PEST.

WITH reference to this troublesome African insect and its ravages, which are described on another page, the Government of Bombay are endeavouring to prevent its importation from British East Africa into India, and have issued a resolution on this subject. The resolution contains a letter from Captain Kilkelly, I.M.S., who had charge of the 4th Bombay Infantry when that corps was in East Africa. He says he has no reason to doubt the probability that the insect will establish itself in India and emphasises