

be prejudicial both to the teacher and the student. Be this as it may, the Committee of Reference in its new scheme only requires attendance on forty lectures, and it is obvious that it has no right to expect that the deficiency of its proposed curriculum shall be supplemented by such spontaneous energy on the part of the teacher.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

W. S. PLAYFAIR.

George-street, Hanover-square, W., March 29th, 1879.

## PARIS.

(From a Correspondent.)

THE election to the Professorship of Legal Medicine, vacant by the death of M. Tardieu, has resulted, as was anticipated, in favour of M. Brouardel, who inaugurated the practical teaching of this subject instituted at the Morgue last year. The chair of History of Medicine was hotly contested by MM. Ollivier and Laboulbene, and the first two ballotings showed fifteen votes for each candidate. As, under these circumstances, the Dean of the Faculty has the privilege of deciding the question by his casting vote, it was considered more than likely that M. Ollivier, for whom he had voted in the first instance, would be nominated. Unwilling, however, to assume this responsibility, M. Vulpian withheld his decision, and declared that in the case, as was expected, of another *tour de scrutin* giving the same result, he would leave the matter in the hands of the Minister of Public Instruction. The third vote was about to be taken when it was discovered that one of M. Ollivier's supporters had disappeared. His friends then wished to adjourn the meeting, but this was opposed by the Laboulbene party, and the opinion of the Faculty being taken upon the question, it was decided by fifteen to fourteen to proceed with the election, which of course then terminated with a majority of one for Laboulbene.

The Prix Lacaze, of which some details have already been given, has been awarded to M. Colin for his work on Typhoid Fever. It may be well to remind your readers that the next competition will take place in 1880, and that foreigners are allowed to enter the lists, providing they write in French, or forward a French translation with their essays. As the subject of the prize is alternately typhoid and phthisis, it will be the latter on the next occasion. Candidates must send in their memoirs to the secretary of the Faculty before the 1st July.

An interesting discussion has taken place at the Société de Thérapeutique, on the value of Nutrient Enemata. Basing his opinion on MM. Carville and Bochefontaine's experiments on dogs, which show that when food is introduced by the rectum only in the form of bouillon, the animals survive no longer than when water alone is injected, M. Dujardin-Beaumez maintains that feeding by the bowel is a delusion. If, as is no doubt the case, patients who receive nourishment by no other portal do live for a considerable time, this is no proof that the intestine absorbs what is introduced. Hysterical subjects, and those suffering from cancer of the cardia, vomit all they swallow, and yet continue to exist notwithstanding. These views have met with much opposition; it was objected that what might be true of the dog did not necessarily follow in man; and most of the speakers who took part in the debate quoted cases tending to prove the efficiency of this way of feeding. Eventually, on the proposition of M. Ferrand, a commission was appointed to study and report on the question.

M. Constantin Paul has brought forward a new method of treating thoracic aneurism. According to him the improvement in the symptoms which follows galvano-puncture is equally satisfactory when acupuncture only is practised, and he affirms that this operation is completely innocuous. M. Dujardin-Beaumez also believes that in Ciniselli's operation the clot formed at the pole within the sac is very trifling, the useful coagulum originating at the inflammatory spot on the wall of the vessel caused by the introduction of the needle. As, however, rupture of an aneurism more generally takes place internally, it is advisable to thicken, if possible, the inner wall, and this he proposes to effect at the next opportunity by complete transfixion of the tumour by the needle.

THE LANCET of March 22nd contains a paragraph on fatty embolism which has caused some remark here. Two cases are mentioned as coming from a Vienna correspondent, but coupled with the name of M. Vulpian. From the account given, it is evident that these are the two cases which were originally reported in the *Progrès Médical* of Nov. 23rd, and reproduced shortly after by the *London Medical Record*. One was under the care of M. Cusco, at the Hôtel Dieu, and the other belonged to M. Brouardel, of St. Antoine. This rare cause of death has not been much noticed in England, the Germans having hitherto almost monopolised the subject. It has, however, given rise to several publications in France, and attention is now fairly roused to its importance. In this connexion I may mention that an Englishman, Mr. Alfred Lingard, has been studying the question experimentally at the Collège de France for the last twelve months, and intends very shortly to publish his results. He finds that fat-embolism invariably follows fracture, and as a rule it is rapidly removed from the circulation. In this he closely agrees with Busch and others who have preceded him. The chief point of interest, however, is that he makes imperfect removal of fat from the lung a starting-point of tubercle; and if, as maintained by some, fatty embolism is of common occurrence in other pathological conditions than fracture, this possibility becomes of real clinical importance.

Paris, April 1st, 1879.

## Medical News.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise, on March 27th:—

Coles, Donald Alexander, Plymouth.  
Emson, Alfred, Dorchester.

The following gentlemen on the same day passed the Primary Professional Examination:—

William Sullivan Battiss, London Hospital; Donald Alex. Fraser, St. Mary's Hospital.

THE Sanitary Authority of Kingston have increased the salary of Mr. E. M. Shirtliff, the medical officer of health, from £50 to £75 per annum.

A MEETING has been held in the Mayor's Room, Town Hall, Brighton, at which a Mutual Provident Medical Aid Institution was established, as a supplement to the Brighton, Hove, and Preston Provident Dispensary.

DR. BROWN, of St. Margaret's Bank, having recently resigned as one of the surgeons to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Chatham, from ill health, has been presented with a purse containing £130, and an appropriate address, in consideration of his valuable and gratuitous services for many years.

DUBLIN CONVALESCENT HOME.—It is expected that the purchase of suitable premises for the proposed convalescent hospital, and certain additional expenses, will cost close on £4000; and it is believed that it cannot be properly maintained under an annual expenditure of £2000.

BEQUESTS TO MEDICAL CHARITIES.—The Walsall Cottage Hospital has become entitled to £500 under the will of Mr. J. Highway. The Jessop Hospital for Women at Sheffield has received £100 under the will of Miss Lydia Shepherd. Miss White has given £300 to the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest.

STEWART INSTITUTION FOR IMBECILE CHILDREN, PALMERSTOWN, CO. DUBLIN.—During the past year the donations and subscriptions contrast favourably with those of the preceding year; while in addition a sum of £440 was obtained from a bazaar held in May, 1878. The new buildings having been finished, the inmates of the institution at Lucan were removed last January to their present locality at Palmerstown. One portion of the building is utilised for the accommodation of imbecile and idiotic children, and the remainder for the reception of lunatics from among the middle classes. This latter has produced a clear profit during the past twelve months of close on £1000. The institution is a most deserving one, its avowed object being to educate as far as possible a most pitiable class of the community, some of whom must otherwise remain wholly dependent on the assistance of others.