

this disease with impure water used for ablution purposes by the troops. He shows that dogs who drink this water get boils on their noses, while human beings are affected at the points where the skin is rubbed in the process of ablution. Microscopic preparations of the boil appear to show the presence of ova of distomata similar to those detected long ago in London waters by Dr. Hassal.

Professor Longmore furnishes some valuable remarks on the Prussian arrangements now in actual operation for transport of wounded in time of war. These remarks have a special interest at the present time, and they are illustrated by Professor Longmore's own personal experience. Ordinary railway-carriages and goods-waggons have been selected by the Prussians for the conveyance of wounded by rail. In ordinary fourth-class carriages hooks are screwed into the opposite sides of the carriage, and the field-stretchers with wounded are carried inside and suspended by elastic rings on the hooks. The operation is facilitated by the lower class carriages having a door at each end. When goods-waggons are used, the stretchers are either suspended or, which is far better, they are placed on poles laid on semi-elliptical steel springs inserted in the floor of the waggon. Professor Longmore prefers the arrangements in the fourth-class carriages, as being easier in practice.

There is in the Prussian army a complete organisation of medical officers, bearers, stretchers, field ambulances, &c., for collecting the wounded, dressing them on the spot, and conveying them either to the railway or to hospital, where, as we are glad to learn, they are now meeting with every care and kindness at the hands of humane men and women, whose motto may well be that adopted by one of the societies—"Point d'ennemis pour nous."\* After describing the exercises he witnessed, Professor Longmore very properly suggests whether we in this country might not do something in the way of organising a suitable ambulance corps? This was one of Lord Herbert's proposed reforms, but we are afraid little has been done in giving effect to it.

Another subject discussed is the method adopted for identifying the bodies of the killed by means of tickets attached to the clothes or worn round the neck.

There are several other papers, including monthly meteorological abstracts for stations scattered over the whole British Empire, which we should have gladly noticed had our space permitted. But we have said enough to show that, in scientific advantages, the Army Medical Department, with its efficient school at Netley, stands second to none in Europe. It is for those who have the direction of the army to see that there is an organisation provided to give practical effect to it in the field where its services are most required.

#### THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

FOR some years past it has been a custom at the College of Surgeons for the Conservator to collect the various specimens that have been mounted during the preceding twelve months into one room; enabling not only the Museum Committee, but the members of the medical pro-

\* Contributions in aid of this great work may be sent to the National Society for the Aid of Sick and Wounded, 2, St. Martin's Place, Trafalgar Square, S.W.

cession, or visitors introduced by them, to see at a glance the additions that have been made during that period. We consider the plan to be an excellent one. It is a powerful incentive to the Conservator to work so that each year's results may surpass the previous one; whilst it calls forth gifts from those who have the opportunity of obtaining rare or valuable specimens, when they see what loving care and diligence are spent on their preparation and exhibition, and to how large a number they afford instruction. We had recently an opportunity of minutely inspecting these additions, and must express our warm admiration at their number and beauty. The Museum, as every naturalist knows, was commenced by the genius of Hunter, who, recognising the value that would attend the comparison of the same organ in the different groups of animals in enabling us to acquire precise knowledge of its function, and to penetrate the mysteries of disease, collected from all quarters typical specimens which he carefully dissected and described; but worker as he was the preparations he left have constituted but landmarks for the direction of succeeding observers. Although neither his time, strength, nor opportunity permitted that he should bring home more than a few examples displaying the wondrous fertility of the new region he had discovered, his success stimulated others to do their utmost. Preparation after preparation of every organised being that could be obtained by purchase or gift was rapidly added, and many times it has been found necessary to enlarge the receptacle for the sake of the new and important preparations that had been obtained, till at length it has attained its present lordly dimensions, and stands without a rival in the world. Nothing, perhaps, could give such an idea of the vast increase it has undergone—which would surely have well pleased its founder, could he have seen how his small though valuable beginnings had increased and multiplied—as the fact that a roomful of preparations that would handsomely furnish forth an entire country museum, is year by year absorbed into it, and scarcely appreciably augments its size.

The additions are divided into six classes—1, The Pathological Collection; 2, The Osteological; 3, The Physiological; 4, The Teratological; 5, The Dermatological; and 6, Anatomical preparations. The first of these has received many additions, and in particular one very important one, in which the carotid and subclavian arteries were tied by Mr. C. Heath for aneurism, and in which life was preserved for four years, and would probably have been considerably prolonged but for the extremely unsteady habits of the patient. The duration of life after the operation has permitted the collateral circulation to be fully established, and all the parts have been beautifully dissected out by Mr. Mosely.

In regard to the osteological collection, a large collection of ancient and modern Italian and Greek skulls has been purchased from the well-known Italian ethnologist, Dr. G. Nicolucci, of Isola di Sora. The number of these skulls was 166, and the entire number in the museum now amounts to 795, the great proportion of them being well authenticated and characteristic examples.

It is one thing, however, to have fine specimens, and another to display them to the best advantage; and often the chief value of a specimen, or even of a collection, is spoiled by the slovenly manner in which the mounting is effected,

or the imperfect way in which they can be examined. The difficulties which have hitherto lain in the path of osteological investigation of the skeletons of different animals, have been admirably overcome by the workmen under Mr. Flower's direction. The skeletons are mounted upon very light frames of iron, and the limbs are so articulated with the body as to be removable on the extraction of a single rivet, and their several segments can be detached with equal facility. The head can be removed, and even its interior be examined, whilst the several vertebræ can be separately taken off without disturbing the position and arrangement of the skeleton generally. The advantages of this mode of mounting for the purposes of comparison and investigation to the real worker are simply incalculable. The mode in which the preparing has been done reflects the highest credit on Mr. Mosely and those who assisted him. We must call attention in particular to a wonderful skeleton of a pike, weighing 32lb., in which every bone has been cleaned and re-attached with wonderful dexterity. The fish was presented by Mr. Petre, of Westwick, Norwich, at the instance of Mr. Frank Buckland. The council of the Zoological Society have given a very fine adult specimen of the recently discovered long-tailed Chinese deer (*Elaphurus davidianus*), with one of the very rare and remarkable South African "Aard wolf," or *Proteles*.

Mr. Flower is gradually performing a great service to all comparative anatomists by carrying out the original idea of Hunter, and placing side by side the same organ as it presents itself in a great variety of animals. By such a method many points are seized in a moment, which it is impossible for the most careful describer to render into words, or for the most diligent reader to grasp, whilst likenesses and correspondences hitherto unrecognised everywhere make themselves apparent. This year we observe that a large number of specimens of the intestinal organs and of the larynx have been mounted, the plan pursued with the latter organ being similar in all; on one side the bones, cartilages, and ligaments being displayed, whilst on the other the muscles are exquisitely dissected.

The Teratological Division, or that treating of malformations and monstrosities, has scarcely received the scientific attention it deserves, whilst the specimens that have accumulated in the College are very numerous, and we are glad to observe that the work of their arrangement has been entrusted to so laborious and intelligent a worker as Mr. B. T. Lowne, whose work on the Blowfly is, we have no doubt, in the hands of many of our readers.

In regard to the Dermatological collection it may be remarked that the past year has been signalled by the institution of what may be termed an entirely new department of the collection; for such illustrations of diseases of the skin as the Museum formerly contained were very limited in number, and were incorporated in the general Pathological series. Moreover, the great majority of the morbid appearances presented by the skin cannot be shown in an anatomical museum by actual specimens, but recourse must be had to models and drawings to perpetuate and illustrate their characters, and no collection of such objects had hitherto been formed in the College.

When the Professorship of Dermatology was founded and endowed last year by Mr. Erasmus Wilson, it appeared necessary that the means of illustrating the lectures should

also be provided; and for this purpose, as well as for the general advancement of the study of the subject, Mr. Wilson has presented to the College an extensive collection of drawings, casts, and models of cutaneous diseases, the greater proportion of the latter having been recently executed with great artistic excellence and fidelity by M. Baretta from patients in the Hospital St. Louis at Paris.

In order to provide space for the exhibition of this collection, and for any further additions that may be made to it, the council determined upon the erection of a set of rail-cases around the upper gallery of the western museum, on the same plan as those put up in 1863 in the lower gallery. Their cost will be defrayed out of the proceeds of the Endowment of the Chair of Dermatology, so that the cases as well as the collection must be looked upon as the gift of Mr. Wilson to the College.

Since the completion of the cases, Mr. Wilson has been engaged in arranging the preparations in systematic order, and in preparing a descriptive catalogue of the whole collection, the manuscript of which is now ready for the press.

#### PSYCHOLOGY IN ENGLAND

*La Psychologie Anglaise Contemporaine (Ecole Experimentale)*. Par Th. Ribot. (Paris: Ladrance, 1870.)

THIS book expounds to French readers the psychological doctrines of Mr. Jas. Mill, Mr. J. S. Mill, Mr. Herbert Spencer, Professor Bain, Mr. G. H. Lewes, and (more briefly) of Mr. S. Bailey, Mr. Morell, and Mr. Murphy. It ends with a short summary of general results won in the course of the great English psychological movement marked by these names, and is prefaced by an introduction giving the author's view of the development of the sciences, and particularly the science of psychology. For the English thinkers, also, of another type (Hamilton, Whewell, Mansel, Ferrier), he seems to promise to do next what he does here for those whom he classes together as making, after the proper tradition of English thought, an experimental school.

The appearance in France of such a work, at the present moment, has a real significance. Taken along with M. Taine's new and weighty contribution to psychological science (*De l'Intelligence*), and with another work or two, it means that the tide of thought is there turning, if it has not already turned. Between the contempt of M. Comte and the airy attentions of M. Cousin, it has fared indifferently with psychology in France for more than a generation. At a time, when in England, a number of active inquirers, continuing the work of last century, have been pushing forward psychological research in a spirit of strict science; when in Germany a number more, reclaimed from high priori roads of speculation to habits of careful introspective search, or starting from a physiological base, have been vying with their English compeers in efforts to resolve the subtle complicacy of psychical states, and thence to explain the most obscure and varied of all growths; the philosophical mind of France has been mostly turned to the history and criticism of opinion, content to retail the cut-and-dried psychology of an earlier day. From this state of things the original scientific inquiry of M. Taine is a refreshing departure, and M. Ribot's work, though in the main expository merely, has its face