

ardent in their expectations of immediate success. They were entering a service in which the general level of professional qualification is remarkably high; consequently, reputations for singular merit are won slowly and with difficulty. To rise in India a man must possess high qualifications, not only as a surgeon, but as an officer and a member of society. He went down the roll of Netley prizemen, which is affixed to the wall of the theatre. Kenneth McLeod, Cameron, Macrae, Lethbridge (formerly one of his own pupils), David D. Cunningham, Lewis, all had obtained reputation in India, where, health being preserved as it generally is, merit will always eventually come to the front. They were about to enter a society of high intellectual culture, in which the character of each individual is perfectly well known both to Europeans and natives. As there must be no blood on the judge's ermine, there must be no stain on the character of the Indian physician, which lies open, as if under a microscope, to all his world.

He spoke of the great social influence which the cultivated physician exercises in India; and referring, not by name, to one of their own professors now present, declared that upon the death of his colonel, immediately after landing in Calcutta, at the outbreak of the Indian mutiny, the surgeon, as the senior officer in the corps and a man of noble character, became, morally and intellectually, the commander of one of the finest regiments in the British service. He wished that he could accompany them to the scene of their labours and his own, to a course of life which, although fraught with difficulty, is singularly free from the petty cares and sordid jealousies which too often embarrass an English career.

The meeting was attended by a number of visitors, including several military and naval medical officers.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MENTHOL: AN ANTI-NEURALGIC.

To the Editor of the Edinburgh Medical Journal.

BRACO, PERTHSHIRE, 5th August 1879.

SIR,—Allow me to mention that in neuralgia of the face I have several times applied a solution of menthol—a solid derived from the Chinese or American Oil of Peppermint, elsewhere referred to as a powerful antiseptic, and theoretically anti-neuralgic agent.

The solution used was, on a first trial, one of the melted crystals only—but, to avoid the irritation of the eyes from the great volatility of the remedy, I afterwards used a mixture of—Menthol, gr. i.; sp. vin. rect. ℥l.; and ol. caryoph. ℥x.—shaken, and then painted over the affected tract. Relief was had in from two to four minutes, and within one or two minutes at most after this, the then existing attack was cured.

This, I think, goes far to show that the Chinese custom of

painting with oil of peppermint in neuralgic cases owes its reputed efficacy to menthol as its active constituent.

In cases of toothache, I have cleaned out the cavity of the tooth with a little cotton-wool, then placed a single crystal on another small piece of the wool, inserted it, and the pain instantly disappeared. And a tincture of strength 1 to 50 is equally effective.

From what I have said, it is easy to go to sciatica, and I would recommend a trial of the crystals, melted, with a very small quantity of an essential oil, applied over the back of the thigh, and, if necessary, over the area of distribution of the popliteal and posterior tibial nerves as well.

Intercostal neuralgia and brachialgia would also probably be relieved by the use of menthol.¹—I am, etc.,

A. D. MACDONALD, *Stud. Med. Edin.*

MURCHISON MEMORIAL.

To the Editor of the Edinburgh Medical Journal.

7 HERIOT ROW, EDINBURGH, 8th August 1879.

DEAR SIR,—At the request of the Lecturers in the Edinburgh School of Medicine, I beg to hand you the enclosed copy of Resolutions come to by them with regard to the Murchison Memorial, for publication in the *Edinburgh Medical Journal*.—Yours faithfully,
 CLAUD MUIRHEAD.

Which day the Lecturers in the Edinburgh School of Medicine met, when, *inter alia*, the subject of the Murchison Memorial was brought before them, and there were then discussed the terms of competition for the proposed memorial scholarship, when awarded in Edinburgh, as explained in the circular issued by the Memorial Committee, viz., that “in Edinburgh the Scholarship will be administered by the Medical Faculty of the University, and be open to all its medical undergraduates,” resolved—

1. To protest against the unfair and invidious exclusion of the students in this School from participation in the competition for the proposed Murchison Memorial Scholarship, while the students of all the London Medical Schools are to be permitted to take part in it.

2. To endeavour to get the promoters of the scheme to remove this restriction, and to make and publish the necessary alterations both as regards the competitors and the judges of the award in Edinburgh.

3. To withhold all countenance and material support from the scheme until such amendments have been made and duly notified.

4. That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the secretaries to the Memorial both in London and Edinburgh, with a request that they be immediately submitted to their respective committees for consideration and adjudication thereon.

¹ At the same time, of course, it will not be overlooked, that in the more severe cases constitutional as well as local measures should be adopted.