

are delivered in the medical schools of Great Britain and Ireland." You say: "Systematic lectures are delivered in every medical school in the United Kingdom; and it is difficult to believe that the translator could have been unacquainted with the fact." Now, I do not admit that it is the duty of a mere translator to correct all the errors of the original, and, as a matter of fact, I have, I think, only once put the author right (at p. 109); but I do not admit the author to be wrong in his assertion. Looking through the *Medical Directory* for this year, I find that eleven medical schools make no provision whatever for ophthalmological instruction, and I doubt very much if the "Ophthalmic Demonstrations," "Clinical Lectures on Diseases of the Eye," "Ophthalmic Surgery," &c., advertised at many of the other schools, would properly come under the head of Dr. Fuchs's "regular lectures," or the "systematic lectures" you speak of. As it is upwards of forty years since I was a student at a medical school, I may of course be mistaken respecting the present state of ophthalmologic education in this country; at all events, I had not any knowledge of an opposite state of things which would have enabled me to say that Dr. Fuchs was wrong in saying that "as a rule no regular lectures on ophthalmology are delivered" in our medical schools, and the facts I have given above seem to prove that "regular lectures" on ophthalmic medicine are still the exception in the medical schools of the United Kingdom.

R. E. DUDGEON

53, Montagu Square, November 4

[We have referred Dr. Dudgeon's letter to the writer, who replies as follows:—

Dr. Dudgeon's letter will not bear a moment's examination.

In the first place he misstates what he calls the "first accusation." He was not accused of "often" rendering "Augenheilkunde" by "Ophthalmology," but of having done so in one particular place, in which the effect of the mistranslation was to give a certain amount of colour to a statement which, in the original, was wholly untrue.

It is obvious that "Ophthalmology" is neither English, French, nor German. It is common to all three, and the forms of it differ only in termination. "Ophthalmologie" should be rendered by "ophthalmology," and *vice versa*. Its meaning embraces everything appertaining to the eyes, and its German equivalent is "Augenlehre."

"Augenheilkunde," on the other hand, is a word of limited significance, the meaning of which embraces only the treatment of affections of the eyes. Dr. Dudgeon's suggested rendering, "Ophthalmic Medicine," is so far inadequate that it might not be understood to include surgery, and it could hardly be understood to include the use of optical appliances. "Augenheilkunde" forms part of ophthalmology, an important part indeed, but a part only.

Dr. Fuchs asserted that, "as a rule, no regular lectures on 'Augenheilkunde' were delivered in the medical schools of Great Britain and Ireland." This assertion, very possibly made in honest ignorance, is absolutely the reverse of the truth. Dr. Dudgeon altered it into the statement that "no regular lectures on ophthalmology" were so delivered. This, in a sense, is true; because the lectures, which cover the whole extent of "Augenheilkunde," neither cover, nor attempt to cover, "ophthalmology."

I do not think it is too much to expect that a translator shall correct a misstatement in the original work, especially when that misstatement is one which casts a wholly unmerited stigma upon the institutions of the translator's native country. Instead of correcting it, Dr. Dudgeon casts it into an altered form, in which it may be said to be true literally, although calculated to produce an entirely erroneous impression upon the reader.

Dr. Dudgeon must not go to the extremely condensed statements of the *Medical Directory* for complete accounts of the work done by British Schools of Medicine, but to the prospectuses of the schools themselves. There are thirteen such schools in London, and regular lectures on "Augenheilkunde" are delivered at all of them; at Bartholomew's by Messrs. Power and Vernon; at Guy's by Mr. Higgins and Dr. Brailey; at King's College by Mr. MacHardy; at the London by Mr. Waren Tay; at the Middlesex by Mr. Lang; at St. George's by Mr. Brudenell Carter and Mr. Frost; at St. Mary's by Mr. Critchett; at St. Thomas's by Mr. Nettleship; at University College by Mr. Tweedy; at the Westminster by Mr. Cowell; at the West London by Mr. Vernon; at the School of Medicine for Women by Mr. Mackinlay. At Charing Cross the lectures

are delivered by arrangement with the staff of the adjacent Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital. It would be tedious to enter into particulars with regard to the provincial, Scotch, and Irish schools, but similar lectures are delivered in all of them.]

The Helm Wind

THE *helm wind* of Cumberland has been the subject of much discussion in England. I wonder how the true explanation has not been found, viz. that the *helm wind* is a *bora*, i.e. identical in character with the extremely strong dry east and north-east winds blowing on the coasts of Istria and Dalmatia, as well as on the north part of the east coast of the Black Sea, especially at Novorossiisk. At the latter place it blows from the Varada chain, about 2000 feet high, and, as with the *helm wind*, it is not felt a little distance to the east. I give the translation of a passage on the *bora* in my book on "The Climates of the World":—

"Seamen call the *bora* an *air-waterfall*. There is reason to believe that it begins when the stable equilibrium between the air-strata on the mountain and the bay is disturbed, i.e. when the latter is more than 10° warmer than the former. The Varada chain falls in a gentle slope eastward towards the broad Adegoa valley, to the north-east of which is the Svinzovy (Lead) chain. In this walled-in valley the temperature is much lower than on the coast, especially in winter and autumn, and when the cold air fills it to overflowing there arises an unstable equilibrium towards the west, and the colder it is on the mountain in comparison to the bay, the stronger is the reaction, i.e. the *bora*."

Here also the *bora* may arise, not only on account of a strong local cooling of the air in the Adegoa valley, but also accompany general north-east winds to the north of the Caucasian chain. They bring cold air from afar, are sometimes prevented by the Varada chain from sinking to the sea-level, and during this time the equilibrium is disturbed and they appear as *bora*, even if they blow as gentle farther to the east.

I have no doubt the English *helm wind* is also due to a disturbed equilibrium. The east is colder than the west, and the contrast is stronger when east winds blow, i.e. local radiation makes the east yet colder, and in short a difference of temperature of about 14° is likely to occur between the Cross Fell Range and the Penrith valley. In summer the wind is not felt—the west being then colder than the east; and it is less frequent in winter than in November, March, and April, because the prevailing west winds and the cloudy weather which necessarily accompanies them equalise the temperature.

St. Petersburg, October 19 [31]

A. WOEIKOF

The Resting Position of Oysters

THE evidence adduced by Mr. Cunningham to prove that oysters rest on the right or flat valve in their natural state seems conclusive. Remembering, however, that I possessed a young oyster-shell detached from a sandstone rock years ago on the coast of Arran, I turned to it, and was surprised to find that the lower or attached valve was unmistakably the larger, overlapping the other at the hinge and all round. I have another single valve of some foreign species taken from a *Haliotis* shell, which furnishes similar evidence. Apparently, therefore, in the young or attached state it is the larger or convex valve which is the lower, and probably this is the evidence on which the ordinary statement in conchological books rests. It will be curious if the truth turns out to be that the oyster changes its position when it becomes unattached. Perhaps the remarkable inequalities in the shape of the convex valves may arise from the inequalities in the objects to which they are originally fixed.

W. TURNER

27, Queen's Crescent, Edinburgh

The Australian Lyre Bird

HAVING been stationed at intervals for some years on the mountains of Eastern Manaro, in the southern part of New South Wales, the habitat of the Lyre Bird or Native Pheasant (*Memura superba* or *Paradisæa*), I have thought some fuller particulars regarding its habits, than are usually obtainable, might be interesting to your readers.

This range of mountains, the more sheltered sides of which form the home of these interesting birds, attains a height of over 4000 feet above sea level. The sides, sloping towards the coast at a general angle of about 45°, are heavily timbered with