

Surgery" by Sir Holburt Waring, a sequel to an article in the preceding month by Sir Humphry Rolleston on general medical practice and the main branches of specialisation. Sir Holburt gives expression to a view which, he says, will be considered in many quarters as revolutionary, namely, that the methods which are beginning to be practised in industry—selection on account of special aptitude, mentality and physical characteristics, might well be applied in surgery and also in the various branches of medicine. Considerable space is devoted to civil aviation: in addition to the first of a series of articles on the opportunities of new careers which the development of flying will offer, there is a summary of an address by Prof. Sutton Pippard to the Royal Aeronautical Society on the training of an aeronautical engineer. Veterinary surgery as a profession for women is discussed by Beatrice Lock, this being the second of a series of articles on "Women in the Professions". Another useful series deals with the prospect for public school and secondary schoolboys in the iron and steel industry, the article in the December issue being on technical and commercial posts. Lieut.-Col. Levey, managing director of the West African Information Bureau, writes on the prospects for British commerce in West Africa. The *Journal* has not failed to direct attention to the complaint, voiced in the presidential address to the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux by Sir Richard Gregory, of the inadequacy of the arrangements made for the treatment of scientific news in daily and weekly newspapers. New fields of work should be opened up for science graduates with journalistic ability.

Science News a Century Ago

Telford and the Institution of Civil Engineers

At a special meeting of the council of the Institution of Civil Engineers held on February 23, 1835, the following extract from the will of Telford was read: "To the president for the time being of the Civil Engineer Institution in trust, the interest to be expended in annual premiums under the direction of the Council, 2,000£."

"All my scientific books, book cases, prints and such drawings, as my executors shall consider suitable, are to be delivered to the Civil Engineer Institution for its use and benefit, on condition, that all those articles, as well as the books, prints and drawings, shall, in case of the said Institution being discontinued, be delivered to the Royal Society, Edinburgh, for its use."

The council resolved that the premiums should be both of an honorary and pecuniary nature, and that the honorary premiums should consist of gold, silver and bronze medals, and that in the distribution of premiums no distinction should be made between natives and foreigners.

The Zoological Society

On February 24, 1835, Owen read a paper to the Zoological Society entitled "Description of a Microscopic *Entozoon* infesting the Muscles of the Human Body". He said that upwards of fifteen different kinds of internal parasites were already known to infest the human body, but none had been found of so minute a size, or existing in such astonishing

numbers, as the species he described. The muscles of bodies dissected at St. Bartholomew's Hospital had been more than once noticed by Mr. Wormald, the demonstrator of anatomy, to be beset with minute white specks; and this appearance having again been remarked in the body of an Italian, aged forty-five years, by Mr. Paget, a student at the hospital, who suspected it to be produced by minute Entozoa, the suspicion was found to be correct, and Owen had been furnished with portions of the muscles for examination. An account of his observations was published in the *Philosophical Magazine* of June 1835.

University of London

The annual general meeting of the proprietors of the University of London was held on February 25, 1835. The report expressed satisfaction at the prospects of the institution, and stated that the number of students in the Faculty of the Arts and Law during the year had increased from 122 to 137, the number of students in Medicine from 347 to 371. The number of pupils in the junior school had increased from 284 to 303. The total receipts for 1833 had been £9,890 3s. 0d. and for 1834 £9,971 16s. 8d.

The Natural History of Wasps

A paper on the natural history of wasps was read on February 27, 1835, by the Rev. E. T. Bigge, of Merton College, to the Ashmolean Society of Oxford. The object of the paper, said the author, was to correct the mistakes into which several writers had fallen, and to state the results of his own observation on two species, *Vespa vulgaris* and *Vespa Britannica*. The former, he said, was common in all parts of the kingdom; the latter, though occasionally met with in the southern counties of England, was abundant in the northern districts, and in Scotland, as well as in the northern parts of Europe. Having directed attention to the points of difference in the two species, the author went on to state some interesting facts relating to both species. Societies of wasps, as of bees, consist of three different classes of inhabitants, males, females and neuters. The neuters, or imperfectly developed females, are the common wasps which infest our houses and gardens, and form the majority of the colony. The author had never seen a nest of either species in which he had not observed, after 9 o'clock, in the summer months, a sentinel watching the entrance to the nest. A ground nest has two apertures, one for entry and one for exit. It is curious that if one stops up a wasps' nest, the returning wasps will not sting the aggressor, while those which escape from the inside will attack him instantly.

Weather in the United States

In the *Mechanics' Magazine* of February 28, 1835, it was stated that: "The winter in America has been one of almost unprecedented severity. In January the thermometer sunk at New York to 5° below zero—at Baltimore to 10°—at Washington to 16°—at Albany to 32°—at Montreal to 35° and at New Lebanon in Columbia county to below 40°, the mercury in the bulb being 'congealed and for some time immovable'. The harbours of Portland, Newburyport, Boston, New Bedford, New Haven, Philadelphia and Baltimore have all been frozen over; some of them hard enough to bear carriages."