THE SWINEY LECTURESHIP ON GEOLOGY.—An intimation appears in the *Athenæum* for December 20th, of the intention of the trustees of the British Museum to appoint, in May 1857, a lecturer on this foundation. The office is to be tenable for five years, and the stipend is stated to be L.144 per annum. The lectures are to be delivered in London or Edinburgh, as the trustees shall decide; and the lecturer must be a Doctor of Medicine of the University of Edinburgh. Certificates of the degree, and testimonials as to qualifications, are to be transmitted by candidates to the Principal Librarian of the British Museum, on or before Friday, the 10th of April 1857. We gladly give publicity to this announcement, and only regret that we have so few inducements to offer those of our graduates who devote themselves to scientific pursuits. Had we lectureships attached to our Scottish universities, a greater impulse would be given to the successful investigation of purely scientific questions in medicine and the natural sciences. To the student of practical physiology, especially, the assistance afforded by a lectureship would be of the utmost value, and had we such institutions amongst us, we could soon boast of our school of Physiology, a subject which, more than any other, demands, for its successful cultivation in the present day,—and in which we contrast by no means favourably, with our French neighbours. We trust, that when so much is said about university reform, and academic privileges and honours are eagerly insisted on, that the substantial rewards of science will not be forgotten, and that the money which it has been the fashion of late to waste upon *charitable* foundations, will be devoted to the interests of science, which has so often helped *millionaires* to make their fortunes.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

The President and Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons held their first conversazione for the season in their large hall, on Friday evening, Dec. 5th. It was numerously attended by the members of the College, and invitations had been issued to the Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians, and to the members of the medical profession generally. Dr Andrew Wood, P.R.C.S., presided, and welcomed the guests, which included the Lord Provost, Dr Maclagan, President of the Royal College of Physicians, Dr Deas, C.B., Dr Archibald Gordon, C.B., Mr Lister, sen., Professors Christison, Syme, Goodsir, Allman, Bennett, and Balfour, Staff-Surgeon Anderson, Bailie Blackadder, Bailie Grieve, Dean of Guild Wemyss, Mr R. Chambers, etc. The President, in opening the proceedings, referred to the great success which had attended their meetings in this hall last winter, to which they had in turn invited the leading members of all the various literary and scientific professions. The series, now to be commenced, promised to be fully as interesting and attractive, and he had great pleasure in announcing that, among those to whom they would have the pleasure of listening in the course of the season were, Professor George Wilson, Professor Allen Thomson of Glasgow, Professor Balfour, and their Conservator, Dr Sanders.

The lecture of the evening was delivered by Joseph Lister, Esq., F.R.C.S., Eng. and Edin., Assistant-Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, and Lecturer on Surgery, "On the Early Stages of Inflammation, as observed in the Foot of the Frog."

After alluding shortly to the structure of the blood vessels and the nature of the blood, Mr Lister discussed at considerable length the physiology of the circulation. He next gave a sketch of the opinions of the principal authorities

regarding the appearances presented by the web of the frog's foot under circumstances of irritation; and then proceeded to describe various experiments and observations of his own, which had led him to the inference, that inflammation consists essentially in diminution of the functional activity of a part, and that the effects upon the blood are secondary phenomena. Mr Lister illustrated his statements with numerous diagrams, enlarged from his original sketches.

Professor Goodsir, in proposing a vote of thanks to the lecturer, spoke in high terms of the originality and importance of his observations and conclusions, and expressed his belief that they had that evening had but the first fruits of those hereditary powers which Mr Lister undoubtedly possessed, and which must enable him not only to take a high position as a man of science, but also to add to the reputation of the school with which he had connected himself.

Professor Bennett seconded the motion in complimentary terms.

The thanks of the meeting were accordingly conveyed to Mr Lister by the President. The company then withdrew to the adjoining hall, where tea and coffee were served, and separated about half-past ten.

MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.

SESSION XXXVI., 1856-57. SECOND MEETING.

December 3d, 1856.—WILLIAM SELLER, M.D., President, in the Chair.

PATHOLOGICAL MEETING.

I. CASE OF HYDATID DISEASE OF THE LUNG. BY DR RUTHERFORD HALDANE.

Dr Haldane exhibited the diseased structures which had been removed from a patient who had died from hydatid disease of the lung. The specimen was interesting as presenting an instance of this disease, which was rarely met with in Edinburgh, though it occurred much more frequently in other quarters, where certain local causes could be traced in its production. During six years, in which Dr H. acted as Pathologist in the Infirmary, and during other six or seven years over which his observation had extended, he had not previously met with a similar case. The right pleura was very densely adherent throughout, except over the base of the lung, where the adhesions consisted of pretty recent lymph, which readily broke down. When the lung was removed, it was found to be voluminous, its central part fluctuated, and was evidently occupied by a large cavity; towards the apex and base, the pulmonary tissue felt firm and dense. On making an incision into the fluctuating portion, the knife at once entered a cavity containing a white membranous substance, as well as some fœtid purulent matter. The cavity was of a tolerably regular circular form, about six inches in diameter. Superiorily, it commenced two inches below the apex of the lung, and descended to about the same distance from the base. There was more destruction of the tissue of the lung anteriorly than posteriorly, so that the anterior wall of the cavity was much thinner than the posterior. Anteriorly, the wall of the cavity consisted entirely of thickened pleura; the visceral layer was rather more than a tenth of an inch thick, and of perfectly fibrous consistence, the parietal layer, to which the former was so closely adherent that the two could not be separated, was of about the same thickness, but of looser and more cellular structure. Adherent to the inner wall of this part of the cavity, were a few minute shreds of pulmonary tissue. The posterior and lateral walls of the cavity were composed of condensed pulmonary