

He is good enough to suggest as an excuse for our bad politics the fact that the laborious training needed for the medical profession leaves us no time to learn anything else. Well, that training has taught us not to make sweeping assertions without proof, and that is a lesson which Mr. Robertson has evidently not learnt. When he says that if the Insurance Act had been "a proposal to make the people's food and boots dearer, there would have been no meeting of doctors to protest," he makes a statement as silly as it is unwarrantable. Would not the doctors' own food and boots be dearer? And would not the people have less money to pay their doctors? The truth is, we are bad politicians, in Mr. Robertson's opinion, because we fail to appreciate the merits of a measure which as it stands, while doing little good to the people for whose benefit it is ostensibly intended, will do the medical profession much harm. Mr. Robertson has evidently learnt arithmetic at the feet of the Gamaliel of the Treasury, for he assured his Tyneside constituents that "about six millions sterling would be available for the payment of doctors, and, as 10,000 would be sufficient under the Act, that worked out at £600 per doctor per annum." This is indeed a promise of "rare and refreshing fruit" for the parched lips of the profession! But alas! it turns to ashes in our mouths when we are confronted with the hard fact to which Dr. James Muirhead, of North Shields, calls attention, that as there are to be, roughly, fifteen million persons insured, the number of persons named at 6s. a head allows a sum of four and a half million pounds sterling—this sum to pay both doctor and chemist. Where is the doctor to get his £600 a year from? We may also ask, where does Mr. Robertson imagine Mr. Lloyd George is to get the ten thousand doctors from? When the Messenger announces to Macbeth "There is ten thousand —," the harassed despot asks, "Geese, villain?" Mr. Robertson would answer "Doctors, sir." He must know that there is nothing like that number available if they stand firm and faithful to their pledges. The profession will insist on express and unreserved compliance with its just demands, and will decline to be cooked with any sauce offered by politicians who seek to buy popularity at its expense.

#### THE "CARNEGIE UNIVERSITY."

AMERICA is the land of many inventions. Among them is the quack university. An account of some of these will be found in Mr. Abraham Flexner's report to the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching on Medical Education in the United States and Canada, issued in 1910. By a strange irony of fate Mr. Carnegie's name has been taken by a "university" which has its seat at Wilmington, in the State of Delaware, from which it holds a charter. An account of this institution is given in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* of November 18th, 1911. Affiliated with the "Carnegie University" is the National Institute of Mechano-therapy of New York City chartered by the State of New York. It has an imposing staff of officers and "regents" whose varied and manifold titular distinctions almost exhaust the resources of the alphabet. Among these learned suffixes the letters M.D. are conspicuous. The effect of this array is somewhat diminished, however, when we learn from the *Journal* that a careful search of official records has failed to reveal the existence of these men of many letters in any list of licensed practitioners of medicine. Our contemporary therefore suggests that these gentlemen may have conferred their degrees on each other. We have heard of a meeting of a medical body which was attended by two persons. One of these elected the other President, and that gentleman thereupon elected to the office of Secretary the "dearly beloved Roger," who formed the rest of the assembly. But let us hear what the institution has to say for itself. The "Annual Announcement" states that the "Carnegie University is the oldest and most celebrated institution of learning of its kind in the United States of

America. It was initiated, promoted, and financed by a few of America's most prominent gentlemen in the financial as well as the professional world. These gentlemen knowing the progress that Drugless Therapy (healing) has made in the last twenty years, and understanding the great future for this science, saw the necessity of devoting one of the colleges of the great university to Drugless Therapy, so that those earnestly desiring to become drugless physicians and bloodless surgeons could acquire a thorough and scientific knowledge of the various sciences which constitute the natural method of healing. The university is named in honour of Carnegie, the great philanthropist, who has done so much for the dissemination and promulgation of knowledge and education." We have no doubt that Mr. Carnegie duly appreciates the honour thus done him. It would be interesting to know whether he has given the institution which has taken his name a free library; we cannot help thinking that a present of books, such as an English Sovereign once sent to the University of Oxford, might be useful. The university, it is further stated, "gives instruction in all Drugless Arts, Sciences, and Philosophies, and in any other Art, Science, or Philosophy. It also confers degrees in any art, science, or philosophy." This is a fairly ambitious programme, for "Drugless Art, Sciences, and Philosophies" include the whole of knowledge, except, we suppose, that of drugs, and even that might be covered by the words "any other Art, Science," etc. The diplomas issued by the *Carnegiana Universitas* are described as magnificently engraved pieces of white parchment, 19 by 24 in. When it is added that the recipient is told that whatever "course" he may take "the degree is legal in every country on the globe, and the graduates are protected by the high standing of the corporation, with its immense resources," it will be seen that the successful candidate gets full value for his money. The diploma reminds us of that given to the candidate in the *Malade Imaginaire*, which gave *licentiam, virtutem, et puiscanciam medicandi \* \* \* et occidendi impune per totam terram*. The examination itself could not be bettered for absurdity, even by Molière. A member of the staff of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* wrote to say that he was going to England to start an office as a bonesetter and asking if he could have a diploma in mechano-therapy without going through the course. He offered to pass an examination if the questions were sent him, and to pay the fees. The offer was at once accepted. A few of the questions asked and the answers—purposely drawn up so as to show ignorance rather than knowledge—are given to show the character of the examination and the sort of stuff that was accepted as entitling the candidate to the degree of Doctor of Mechano-therapy. Embryology was described as the study of the newborn baby and how to care for it. The portal circulation was stated to be the circulation of the chile and chyme which is found in the stomach when the food is being digested. But the cream of the thing is the description of the fornix, which is said to be "that part of the throat at the back of the tonsils which is affected in catarrh. An adjustment of the vertebrae of the neck will often help it." Keratitis should be treated by manipulating the muscles and nerves of the back, and by adjusting the vertebrae of the neck. Malaria is to be treated by massage to make the bowels move, and the spine should be adjusted to improve the circulation. After this exhaustive examination the candidate was informed that he had passed "very satisfactorily," and that the Carnegie University had conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Mechano-therapy. This valuable diploma is to be had for the trifling sum of 50 dols. (£10). The process of graduation could scarcely be made easier or cheaper. If the *Carnegiana Universitas* could be established, the number of "drugless physicians" of wide range in ability, "surgeons" will increase and multiply a high intellectual plane. supply the Chancellor of the Exchequer with the range of work enough to work his *monstrum*!