A CONTRIBUTED article to the daily Scotsman (25th August) deals with the hardship entailed on students from the middle classes, by the prevailing high price of commodities, and the increase of University fees. The medical student is not specified in particular, but he has certain items of necessary expenditure, which makes his lot even more stringent than that of others. The contretemps is a serious one, but there is that in the Scottish character which will carry the best man forward, be the economic situation never so bad. To those who are facing the music just now, it may be of interest to learn how their grandfathers laid out their home allowances, while attending classes during the session.

For the Winter Session of 1849-50, as a youth of seventeen years, the author of an account book which recently fell into the writer's hands came to Edinburgh to study medicine, and there he graduated M.D. after three years' study. From a middle-class home, his father being a professional man of moderate means, he came with a realisation that time is money, and that time is more easily lost than gained—an understanding which adds an earnestness to our national stability at once the butt and the admiration of the world.

Fees, board, and books are rightly mentioned by the Scotsman's contributor as necessary outlay, but it is only when the student comes from abroad that "clothing" has to be taken into consideration. That item is part of the personal, not of the student's outfit; is not incurred in virtue of the medical curriculum; and is recognised by youth as a parental obligation. It is, as it were, a charge against capital, not against revenue; and the student recognises that what he receives is revenue which entails acknowledgment, whereas the parent is "capital" for which the student is not responsible.

But to our tale. That session commenced on 7th November, and the student left home on the 5th with £20 in his pocket. It is but natural that the first note of expenditure should be for his railway journey, and it is of interest that the ticket then cost within a few pence what it does to-day. One experiences a feeling of revengeful satisfaction, however, on learning that
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the cab-fare from the station to his lodging was but 6d., and as no "tip" is entered, it is pretty certain that for such liberality the cabman uncomplainingly assisted the student to take his baggage upstairs.

Calling-cards were evidently written in those days, not engraved as now, for "Cards and case, 1s." and "Note-books, 2s. 2d." purchased on the following day met the preparation for the session. The opening of classes on the 7th brought heavy outlay, for we find:

7th.—Lectures on Anatomy.
Perpetual Ticket. . . . . £5 5 0
Practical and Demonstrations . . . . . 4 4 0
Ticket for Chemistry and Pharmacy . . . . . 3 5 0
Ticket for Natural Philosophy . . . . . 3 3 0
Gregory's Chemistry (12s. 6d.) . . . . . 0 5 6
Pocket Note-book . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 0 2 0

which materially reduced his funds; and with

Board and Lodgings for one week . . . . . 0 7 9

left him with £2, 19s. 1d., which lasted him till 9th December, when a remittance of 30s. from home enabled him to go on till Christmas. The other academic expenses during that time were, "Registration of tickets, 5s." and "Half a Superior Extremity for Dissection (sic), 3s. 6d." Two books were purchased—"Ellis' Demonstrations of Anatomy (12s. 6d.), 10s." and "Harris on Heat and Electricity (1s.), 10d."; while apparently for relaxation, "Lights and Shadows of Life by Dr Wilson (3s.)" he obtained for 2s. 4d. Just before going home for Christmas he had his hair cut, which cost him 3d., but that must have been a special concession, for during subsequent years the item does not reappear at less than 6d.

The recurring entry of "Church 1d." occasionally raised to 6d. at "Quarterly collection" or even to 1s. at "Collection for the Royal Infirmary" shows that he must have been a regular attender in the House of God; a trait which has not since conformed to Mendelian law.

He purchased his first pair of gloves (2s. 6d.) in December 1849, and though these were doubtless worn only on Sundays, they did well, for they are not replaced until exactly two years later at the expense of 2s. During his undergraduate career expense for clothing is not a feature, and "Repairs to clothes 2s. 6d," and "Repair to hat 2s." each occurs on only
Seventy Years Ago

one occasion. Boots, however, were another story. A few weeks after his arrival in Edinburgh we find he expended 2s. in "Soleing boots with gutta-percha and mending ditto," and a few weeks later, "Improving boots by getting iron on heels and toes, 10d." "Soleing" at 2s., "Heeling" at 1s., and "Soleing and heeling" at 2s. 6d. seem to have been the charges during those years. The expenditure of 1s. on a "Loop button" suggests nothing, but that of 6d. for a "Plaid pin" calls up visions of Hugh Miller or of Blackie, and one wonders what students looked like in those days and when they used their plaids.

The "Board and Lodgings" ran per week between 6s. and 8s., and when on one occasion it had risen to 9s. 1d., "including Christmas" is inserted in small writing to explain the extravagance; while on another occasion, when it actually reached 9s. 3d., the explanatory insertion "(Aunt P——)" indicates realisation that relatives' indiscretions are costly luxuries. Daily at midday he had "Bread and milk," and this totalled during the session 5s. His washing cost him 1s. 6d. every ten days.

"Parts" were less expensive then than now. The "Half of a Superior Extremity" has already been referred to, and it, with a "Thorax" at 2s. and a "Leg" at 3s. 6d. seems to have completed his practical anatomy during his first annus medicus. The item of 7s. for a head and neck comes early in the following year. Perhaps less was expended by this student on "Parts" than usual, for he was a medalist in anatomy both junior and senior, and being appointed prosector, was relieved of some of that outlay.

At the close of the first session he makes a résumé of his expenditure as follows:—

Total expenses during the Winter Session of 1849-50.

| Item                  | Cost       |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Classes and Subjects  | £21 18 6   |
| Lodgings, Washing, etc.| 10 9 0     |
| Books and Paper       | 1 11 7     |
| Sundries              | 2 10 11    |
| **Total**             | **£36 10 0**|

Doubtless the dissection of such dead animals as he could get he carried out, but on occasions this had to be supplemented. Thus we find in "Private dissections—Cow's eyes, etc., etc. 1s."
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and in "Sheep's head for dissection 1s. " evidence of what he was doing; but the entry in May 1851 "Salmon roe 7s." suggests, not work, but that he had his father's instinct, if not his ability, as a fisher.

"Oysters, biscuit, etc., 2s. 6d." remind us that times have in some ways changed for the worse, and one sees "stout" not "chablis" in the "etc." For "Private tuition in French," his class and books cost but 8s. Even now we would like to find that Frenchman!

Our student does not appear to have returned for the Summer Session of 1850, but the following Winter Session found him again at anatomy and surgery. Much serious consideration must have been given to the expenditure "Portraits of Professors, 9s.," but no doubt he found them as stimulating as the student does to-day. The initials of the friend whose visit raised his board and lodging one week to 10s. are inserted in brackets at the entry. The expenses for this session were as follows:

| Classes and Subjects | £16 16 0 |
|----------------------|----------|
| Lodgings             | 9 11 6   |
| Books and Papers     | 1 0 0    |
| Sundries             | 4 12 6   |

\[£32 0 0\]

The Summer Session of 1851 was occupied with classes in botany and natural history, though he had practical anatomy and operative surgery as well. He obtained a whole superior extremity for 5s. and this seems to have been all he dissected. The "Classes and subjects" cost £13, 5s., and the total expenditure for the session was £24.

The Winter Session of 1851-52 was a busy one, which anatomy, chemistry, surgery, practice of physic, and hospital attendance must have filled well. The class fees amounted to £34, 16s. 6d., including £4, 4s. for "first examination for M.D." and the total expenditure for the session reached £50. The following Summer Session saw medical jurisprudence, midwifery, and "eyes" as his classes. Fees came to £7, 9s., and the total expenses to £16.

Though this student worked hard and his expenses were small, he gives evidence of healthy enjoyment, both physical and mental. Regularly, as Saturday came round, some part
of the day was devoted to excursion in the neighbouring district. He does not appear to have gone to the same place twice. Burntisland, Cramond, Newhaven, Roslin, Zoological Gardens, the Pentlands and elsewhere were visited at an outlay of 1s. to 5s. per "jaunt." He was a member of the "Hunterian Society" whose subscription was 5s. and whose supper cost him an additional 2s., and he occasionally went to the theatre where his ticket cost him 2s., so we may take it he did not frequent the dress circle. It is obvious he measured his pleasures to his purse, not *vice versa.*

There is no necessity to moralise. The writer of the account book was a good student who gained honours and medals in many of his classes. Hard-working, life-absorbed in his profession, he was a good type. His business habits and his professional ability stood him in good stead through an honourable life, and making a point of always seeing ways and means clearly, as every student should, he reached the highest pinnacle a provincial general-practitioner may attain.

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**LETTER FROM VIENNA.**

*(From our own Correspondent.)*

In German Austria, quite recently, circumstances have arisen which have a very important bearing on the well-being of the medical fraternity there, and are also of interest to the profession generally.

The Austrian State has up to the present displayed very little consideration for doctors. By way of example, the fact may be cited that until a short time ago certain Imperial decrees of the time of the Empress Maria Theresa (1740-1780) remained binding on doctors, and that the barber of a gaol received a better salary for cutting the hair of the inmates, than did the prison doctor who examined and attended them. In many of his activities, indeed, the doctor was made to feel his inferiority, sometimes socially, sometimes financially, sometimes in both ways. Added thereto there came, along with modern health legislation, such as the Insurance Acts, in which the interests of the medical profession are deeply involved, not merely a total disregard of the wishes of doctors, but a neglect even to inquire what their wishes or views might be. A crisis was reached when the National Assembly, without any previous consultation with the profession, passed a law bestowing on dental mechanics—that is to say, lay persons—the privileges and powers of doctors. At this, the patience of the medical