Socialistic Legislation. There can be no doubt that the present strong tendency towards legislation on a socialistic basis offers food for very grave speculation for all those individuals and corporative bodies which at the present time are enjoying privileges. It is not merely landlords and "sandlords," trusts and syndicates, that are threatened with revolutionary change, but even those corporate bodies of the nature, say, of the universities, colleges, and royal and other academic institutions. Once let the attack on privilege assert itself boldly in individual directions, then the tendency will be to make the attack general. What may at one moment be a specific criticism is likely to evolve into a general onslaught. Admit the fact, and it is likely to be raised to a principle, and the principle being admitted and canvassed, it can hardly be said that any one is safe. The whole aspect of present-day legislation is to democratise government on the lines of granting to the number the former privileges of the few. Now privileges can be got rid of in many ways. The privileged body may be bought out, or its rights may be entirely confiscated. And there can be no doubt that the principle of pure confiscation meets with more and more approval every day. A study of the legislation as far as it has affected land impresses us with the truth of this fact, and one has only to look towards Ireland and South Africa to be made aware of how far this new principle may be carried. But we are not concerned here, directly at least, with the question on such political lines. It is for us to take warning as to what we may have to face in the future in our position as members of corporate bodies, academic or otherwise, which enjoy specific privileges. Is there not a danger, for instance, that the privileges enjoyed, say, by the Royal Colleges in their relation to the government of infirmaries, in relation even to the granting of degrees, may sooner or later be attacked? The lay reformer running riot in revolution will have little timidity in disputing the rights of privileged committees, and the most optimistic of us who may hope that matters may be allowed to persist in their present satisfactory state, cannot shut our eyes to the possible dangers ahead. We do not pretend to dispute that under the present system everything is for the best, but we will probably be called upon to dispute the fact that it is for the worst. And what we have said about confiscation must convince us that the argument that these privileges have been obtained not
merely by Royal Charter but as an outcome of financial and other generosity on the part of the bodies concerned, will not save us from the attack of the reformer and revolutionist. We believe that the outcome of the present storm in the political and social camp will be to experiment in the nationalisation of privilege, to place it in the hands of the people, counted by the head. There are rights practised by such bodies as the Faculty of Advocates, the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, and other allied bodies, the Royal Academy of Arts and their confederates in privilege, that are already earning the envy of less privileged bodies. In what manner the attack will be first made it is as difficult to see as it is idle to speculate, but that it will come sooner or later (and we think sooner than most imagine) is fairly certain. The fact that this is so is likely to affect seriously the desires of those who would wish, out of their private resources, to improve the endowment of these bodies. The fear of confiscation is no mere chimeron, no mere piece of academic or abstract pessimism. It is a social fact of outstanding importance, and is slowly affecting every inch of the ground on which our present ideas of stability rest. It is likely to affect the individual who possesses privilege first, then those bodies (trusts, charitable institutions, and the like) which hold large financial interests, and, finally, those bodies that hold rights and privileges not merely of a monetary nature. The likelihood is that the bodies concerned will follow the usual ostrich fashion of burying their heads in the sand, and shutting their eyes to the truth until it strikes them forcibly from behind. And it seems to us that there is no immediate way of facing the danger with any degree of surety as to the result. The individual can protect himself better than the corporate body. He can sell out or hold his hand as the case may be, but there is no market for the disposal of corporate privilege, apart from the generosity of the State, and that depends entirely on the view the majority take as to whether or not confiscation is easier than purchase. And there are certain privileges that have no marketable value even in the State, “The will of the people is the supreme law.” That doctrine is coming more and more to be part of the decalogue of States, and the envy and ignorance of the many is likely to swamp the prescience and the sanity of the few. This is a question that should be seriously considered by all who believe in the value of privilege in the hands of the expert, and is a much more pressing question than those who believe in the doctrine of laissez faire care to imagine. After all, privilege can never be abolished, it can only be transferred, and we have to decide whether the privilege of one class (the few) is more dangerous than the privilege of another class (the many). It is not a question of classes and masses. The mass is as classic as the few, and much more impatient of contradiction. And to show that the fear we entertain is not mere idle dream, we would refer our readers to the literature of socialism,
which frankly disputes the rights of corporate bodies to limit
the freedom of the individual. The handwriting is on the wall,
and whether the prophet is to be proved right or wrong will
be seen, and seen very shortly.

The University Union. Of recent years a new factor has slowly but
surely made an impression on university life
in Edinburgh. This factor is the University Union, which, as we
write, is rapidly approaching the completion of its latest additions;
when this work reaches its culmination, it is no exaggeration to
say that Edinburgh will possess a Students' Club which is unique
in respect of extent and utility. We do not wish to enter here
into its gastronomic capabilities, which led an untravelled Oxford
undergraduate to term it an "eating-house,"—an expression which
conveys an unintended compliment to the common sense of the
Scot, who provides mental and physical pabulum together. Gissing
has said that "your common Englishman has no geniality"; we
wonder what his verdict would have been on the Scot reared in
ungenial environment. The past generations would rise in their
wrath, and mutter the names of hostels wherein the good
ale flowed, if they were accused of lack of conviviality, but we have
heard even members of that old brigade admit cheerfully the
elevation of the spirit of camaraderie which may be traced to the
enlarged acquaintance ship made possible by the Union's presence.
Here is opportunity for that proper study which Pope asseverates
is the true way in which to arrive at the motives and feelings of
humankind; for its denizens are gathered together from the ends
of the earth. Quite kaleidoscopic is the change of type passing
unceasingly before one, coming and going in a few brief years.
And the domestic life, if we may so call it, of the student changes:
o longer is he content to return to his more or less gloomy
chambers, but seeks in more social surroundings an outlet for
that flow of soul which shut up in his breast becomes useless and
of no account. In his intercourse with his fellow-students, he
loses much of the angularity and the uncompromising dogmatism
which otherwise he would carry on with him into the world; he
becomes a more reasonable, more charitable, more lovable man;
and with an increase of catholicity in his tastes, there arises a
broader outlook upon the petty foibles and vain trivialities of
mankind, which enables him to estimate these at their proper
value, and to learn of the worth they may hide. The inclusion
of students' clubs in his ideal scheme of tuition might well engage
the attention of the author of "Mankind in the Making."

The New Harvard
Medical School. Boston, in many respects the most interesting
and attractive city in the United States, has
this year been the scene of many celebrations.
In the early part of June there was held the annual meeting of
the American Medical Association, and, favoured by every condi-
tion and circumstance which might contribute to the success of such a gathering, a record was established of which any nation might well be proud. The attendance greatly exceeded that which obtains at similar meetings on this side of the Atlantic, and the members, many of whom had come from the most distant parts of their great country, were, perhaps in consequence, the more enthusiastic in taking advantage of their opportunities. Interest in the various functions was not confined to the members of the Association; the ladies—wives and friends of members—attended in large numbers, and followed with well-assumed interest the reading of papers, however abstruse or technical the subject in hand might be. A less admirable feature was the extent to which the members of the fair sex, other than doctors, invaded the hospitals and "assisted" at all sorts of operations.

Boston is undoubtedly an ideal city for a medical gathering, and those who were responsible for the arrangements achieved a veritable triumph, as everything, from the President's inaugural dinner to the final reception, went off without a hitch. It was characteristically American that the doctors had to leave the city as soon as the functions came to an end, to make room for the Christian Scientists, who, to the number of fifty thousand, descended on the place like an invading army, to take part in the dedication of the great temple of their "Science." It was the subject of amused comment amongst all classes, that when a number of "Scientists" were injured by the overturning of a motor-bus, it was to the General Massachusetts Hospital they were conveyed for treatment by the orthodox members of its staff, and not to their own temple or to any of their numerous prophets.

A most important celebration took place last month on the occasion of the opening of the New Buildings of the Harvard Medical School, to which delegates had been invited from every university throughout the world. The Harvard Medical School may be said to date from the year 1789, when John Warren, the younger brother of the hero of Bunker's Hill and the ancestor in a direct line of the present Professor of Surgery, was appointed Professor of Anatomy and Surgery to the Harvard Corporation. The lectures were originally delivered at Cambridge; but as most of the lecturers were engaged in practice, the Medical School was transferred to Boston in the year 1810. It is interesting to know that for twenty-five years the largest graduating class consisted of five members. In course of time the School was moved from one building to another to provide accommodation for the increasing number of students, until the ambition of the Medical Faculty to make Harvard the finest Medical School in the world resulted in the erection of the series of palatial edifices in Longwood Avenue. These are built entirely of white marble in the classic Grecian style, and form an architectural group which surpasses any buildings devoted to the teaching of medicine in any country. The
visiting hospitals in Boston are situated in the centre of the town, and are quite independent of Harvard. It is expected, however, that new hospitals, with adequate clinical material and under the immediate control of the School, will soon be erected in its immediate vicinity, sufficient land having been acquired by the Faculty for this purpose and for the extension of the School in years to come. It is interesting to learn that for its present clientèle of 287 students there are thirty-four Professors, four Austin-teaching Fellows, and 108 Instructors, Lecturers, and Assistants. The internal arrangements of the new buildings are remarkable for the number of small-section teaching laboratories in place of laboratories intended to accommodate large classes. We were struck, in visiting Harvard, Chicago, Johns Hopkins, and other schools in America, with the development of practical work in the training of medical students and the teaching of clinical subjects in small classes. This American example is one which the older universities of this country might do well to emulate, for the rôle of systematic lectures to large classes as the chief means of medical education is sadly out of date.

The Toronto Meeting, 1905. When the British Medical Association accepted Canada's invitation to hold their annual meeting in Toronto, they acted with most commendable wisdom. The members of the Association who were fortunately able to cross the Atlantic owe a debt of gratitude to their brother practitioners in the Dominion for the splendid opportunity thus afforded to them of extending their travels and of visiting Canadian territory. It is frequently asserted—and we are forced to confess that there is much truth in the assertion—that Britons show a great want of knowledge regarding the affairs, the customs, and the people of the Colonies. In more than one of the speeches at the Association banquet this ignorance was referred to, and unfortunately we cannot deny the impeachment. We trust that the day is not far distant when this reproach will be removed.

The meeting was an unqualified success, and every member, visitor, and delegate is deeply indebted to Dr. Starr and his colleagues not only for their organising ability, but for their unfailing courtesy at all times. The University of Toronto is eminently suited for the accommodation of a large gathering, occupying as it does one of the most important sites in the city. Its handsome administrative block and numerous departments offer every facility for the housing of a medical conference. It was fortunate that this was so, as the meeting proved to be one of the most largely attended in the history of the Association. It had quite an imperial character. It was calculated that over three hundred members were present from the Old Country, and between five and six hundred visitors from the United States, while Canada herself and the various branches of the Association throughout the Empire brought the total attendance up to at least eighteen hundred.
It was gratifying to note the strong representation of the Edinburgh School, there being no fewer than twenty-one present from the Scottish Metropolis, while the number of familiar faces which were to be seen in the University grounds and Section rooms, recalling as they did memories of old classroom days, was further evidence of the representation of the School. To the Edinburgh graduate from this side one of the most pleasing features of his visit must be the memory of the kindly welcome and generous hospitality shown to him by the Canadian alumni of his Alma Mater, and many were the inquiries they made about their old teachers and their fellow-students in England and Scotland.

It must not be assumed that the meeting was merely a social one. On the contrary, the Sections were unusually well attended, and a new departure, at any rate so far as regards recent years, was made, in that four instead of three days were devoted to scientific work. We are inclined to recommend a repetition of this programme in future meetings of the Association. It was unfortunate, however, that Eastern Canada was visited by a heat-wave during the week of the meeting. It severely taxed the energies of all, and it reflects the greatest credit upon everyone that, in spite of the heat and accompanying humidity, the work of the Sections was carried on with so much enthusiasm. Of a truth "Our Lady of the Snows" had her revenge, because it was evident that, trying though the heat was even to our Canadian brethren, there was a half-expressed feeling of satisfaction on their part that the visitors from the Old Country must perforce take home with them a very different impression of the climate of the Dominion from that made upon them by Kipling's well-known verses. We can, however, assure our hosts that long after the impressions of the heat-wave have disappeared, there will remain the pleasantest memories of a most enjoyable holiday, and the pleasure of having visited a country which is destined to play an important part in the future history of the world.

Aberdeen University Quater-Centenary.

There seems to be a tradition that Aberdeen is a city in the Far North out of touch with the refining influences of modern civilisation, inhabited by a race, hardy from perpetual contact with a rigorous climate, and strenuous by having to wring a precarious sustenance from a reluctant soil. There is a widespread idea also that the grey skies never lose their leaden hue, that the city is perpetually overhung with a haze from the Northern Sea, and that the temperament of the natives has, through long centuries of endurance, become attuned to their surroundings, and is absolutely devoid of all those softer qualities which are supposed to be the prime possession of those reared under sunnier skies. Let us begin, then, by dispelling these time-worn fancies, which have nothing to recommend them but their hoary antiquity. We have neither time nor inclination at the present moment to vindicate
our reputation in these respects, but those who wish more detailed information are advised to read the “Life at a Northern University,” one of the Quater-Centenary publications, where will be found thrilling accounts of escapades and adventures which will remove all ideas of our phlegmatic character and lack of appreciation of the humorous side of things.

It is now some four hundred years since the foundation of the University by the distinguished cleric and statesman, Bishop Elphinstone. It was the fault of all his compatriots in founding scholastic institutions in Great Britain, to neglect the scientific branches of knowledge for the purely abstract and linguistic. Elphinstone showed his width of view and far-seeing outlook in being the first to establish a constitution that included all the faculties from the beginning, and thus gave to Aberdeen the signal honour of having the first chair of Medicine not only in Scotland, but in Great Britain and Ireland. It is interesting to know that the occupant of the chair bore the title of “Mediciner,” and had a “manse” allotted to him side by side with those of the Doctors or Teachers of Canon and Civil Law. Many changes have occurred since then, and chairs, including that of Medicine, have waned, lapsed, and revived again. Later on, the fierce struggle between Protestantism and Roman Catholicism led to the foundation of Marischal College, a separate degree-granting institution, giving to Aberdeen for a period of over two hundred and fifty years the unique distinction of possessing two separate and distinct universities granting degrees independently of one another. The heated rivalry between these two lasted over a couple of centuries, and seriously hampered the efficiency of both. However, after repeated efforts, time and again futile, their fusion was at last accomplished in 1860. Since then no Faculty has made such rapid advancement as that of Medicine. During the past sixteen years new departments have been built and equipped for Pathology, Anatomy, Chemistry, Botany, Natural Philosophy, Physiology, and Medicine, while considerable additions have been made to those of Surgery, Midwifery, Medical Jurisprudence, and Pharmacology. By a happy coincidence the Quater-Centenary of the University fell to be celebrated at the same time as the completion of the new buildings erected to meet the growing demands of advancing medical science. Great as the occasion would have been in the eyes of graduates in all parts of the world, greater interest was given to it by the gracious consent of His Majesty King Edward to perform the opening ceremony. Never before did Town and Gown combine with such hearty unanimity on a matter of University and Civic interest. Distinguished delegates from all parts of the world assembled in Aberdeen to add lustre to the ceremony, and arrangements were made on the most lavish scale to afford them a truly Highland welcome. The celebrations began on Tuesday, 25th September, with a Commemoration Service in the Chapel of King’s College,
part of the original buildings erected under the direct superintendence of Bishop Elphinstone. On the same day a procession of delegates, guests, graduates, and students, to the number of about three thousand, marched from Marischal College to the Strathcona Hall, which had been specially built to provide accommodation for the great banquet, at which the Chancellor of the University, with his accustomed generosity, entertained all connected with the celebrations. On Wednesday the Honorary Degrees of D.D. and LL.D. were conferred in the Mitchell Hall, Marischal College. In the afternoon a University Reception and Athletic Sports were held at King’s College, while in the evening the students gave a Ball in the Music Hall. On Thursday the Opening Ceremony was performed by His Majesty the King, for which elaborate preparations had been made to accommodate some four thousand guests in the Quadrangle of Marischal College. The Aberdeen Medico-Chirurgical Society, which in the early years of last century had much to do with the development of the Medical School, arranged two dinners, at the first of which the chief guests were distinguished German physicians and surgeons, and at the other French medical men of note. Receptions, dinners, etc., given by the Town Council, Infirmary Directors and Medical Staff, and other bodies, not omitting the never-failing torchlight procession of the students, all figured in a programme which, it may be truly said, was worthy of so great an occasion.

There is every reason to believe that the post-graduate course which was inaugurated on 17th September, at a meeting presided over by Sir William Turner, has proved a great success. The number of graduates attending the course was considerably larger than was anticipated, and the attendance at the classes was excellent. Dr. Byrom Bramwell, who at the request of the executive committee made some remarks as to the scope of course, emphasised two important points with which we are in entire agreement. In the first place, he indicated the unique advantages which Edinburgh enjoys as a centre for post-graduate work,—a large hospital with abundant clinical material, a very large staff who have made a specialty of teaching, and in addition, and by no means of least importance, the proximity of the University, Royal Infirmary, and other hospitals, laboratories, and teaching institutions. Secondly, he emphasised the fact, which is not sufficiently known even in Edinburgh itself, that there are a number of post-graduate classes in continual progress throughout the year. That a short course, such as the present, cannot fail to be of the greatest value to the general practitioner, is certain. We should like, however, to see in the future, in addition to a short course similar to the present, a co-ordinated series of classes extending over a longer period of time, and adapted to meet the requirements of those who wish to work at any of the special branches of medical science.