

INTRODUCTION. *to Sanderson's pamphlet.*

Until three or four years ago the progress of the Oxford "School of Medical Science" was so slow and uncertain that its very existence was doubtful. Its present more prosperous condition is due to legislative changes which have step by step removed obstacles before insuperable; and the University has very recently expressed its opinion as to the expediency of making special provision for Medical studies so decidedly, that the discussion on that subject may now be considered as closed. But in some connection with it a question has arisen, the importance of which we all recognise the question what the relation ought to be between the training which fits a candidate to compete with success for distinction in the Natural Science School, and those scientific studies which are of value to him as an introduction to the study of Medicine.

The question is one which has occupied my attention ever since I entered on my duty as Professor of Physiology in 1883. From the first I considered it undesirable to teach Physiology without reference to its application to the science of medicine. I accordingly co-operated with the Regius Professor during the first four or five years which followed my appointment, in making arrangements for the teaching of those subjects which are of most importance as constituting, in connection with Physiology, the basis of that science, viz. Descriptive Anatomy, and Chemistry in its physiology and pharmacological relations. But no real progress could be made until in 1888 the Statute was passed which exempted Science Students from Moderations, and enabled them immediately after passing Responsions to enter on the study of Physics and Chemistry. Since that period the number of students of Medicine has so increased, that last year the time appeared to have come for asking the University to vote a large sum for the erection of a permanent building for practical instruction in Anatomy. The willingness with which this grant was voted affords the best evidence that it is no longer necessary to advocate the claim of Medical Science to be regarded as a University study. Certain recent discussions have, however, convinced me that it is desirable to place before the University such an account of the system of study which is followed by students of Medicine, as will enable those who are interested in the subjects to judge of its nature and scope, and of its relation to the work done in other sciences. In doing so I shall not fail to indicate the sources of weakness which in my judgement still exist, and the lines along which we are striving to advance.