

but I had to pay £5.0.0 to register my diploma, so that I don't gain anything. Still it is easy work, and a change, and I take a constitutional drive round the Park every day to get an airing, with a solemn-faced coachman on the box. What I have an eye on other things than these - viz. the F. R. C. S. the M. R. C. P., and the M. D. of Brussels. Good diplomas count a great deal in after life, and of themselves entitle one to respect among one's medical brethren; and they are within my reach by the end of next year, if I choose to go in for them. By that time I shall be 25, and fitted, I hope, to do my part vigorously in the battle of life, as is becoming a man. Sydney Smith says, "Take short views," I prefer to take long ones and to perceive means to the end, and then to follow them if circumstances will allow. I have been reading the Life of Machiavelli, and thereby learnt that he was not by any means the monster that people in general choose to imagine him, in fact he was a patriotic, clear-

sighted Florentine, with more brains than the rest of his countrymen, and who saw in the then state of anarchy in which Italy was that the end justified the means, i.e. to bring about a state of order and cohesion. A prince or ^{statesman} was justified in being, nay, was absolutely called upon to be unscrupulous, even to the extent of wholesale murder, breaking of contracts, and unlimited deceit, provided that thereby solidity of the state resulted.

I have now got on to "The Oracle of Richard Feveril" by Meredith; let me recommend it to you, you will find it pass an hour or two very pleasantly and not unprofitably, at least that is my experience. Of course such reading comes but as a relief from my studies properly so called. I find one gets very stale if nourished on nothing else but books. And it is well to develop evenly and be in touch with the times, instead of so warping oneself as to imagine that it is the times that are disjointed. "Diana of the Crossways" by Meredith is also well