

past four years, and prevent the Homeopaths from obtaining a single Canadian graduate. It has been abundantly proved that students who acquire the preliminary knowledge imparted in the Canadian medical schools do not seek to qualify in homeopathic medicine, but prefer to join the ranks of the regular profession. There has been no accusation of unfairness against the board of examiners, and no deterring influence has been or could be brought to bear against any student wishing to become an Eclectic or Homeopathist; but the fact remains that not a single student has offered himself to the Homeopathist examiners. There is consequently a prospect of extinction and nonentity before this sect; and there would be the same prospect under the proposal in question. If the Homeopaths see it in this light we could not expect them to be satisfied with it, although it is a measure which our profession and the public have a right to insist on, so long as the principles embodied in the Medical Act are put in force towards graduates of Universities.

It would appear from the observations of the *Canada Lancet* that the Homeopaths have not yet sent in their official resignations, and are not likely to do so until they have brought their alleged grievances before the Legislature, and have received a favourable reply from that body. If this be so, a solution of the difficulty will not be reached for several months; and in the meantime the public may be left in the dark as the nature of the demands which Dr. Campbell and his friends will make upon the Legislature.

THE PNEUMATIC ASPIRATOR.

The Pneumatic Aspirator of Dr. Georges Dieulafoy is now coming into more general use, and promises to become an essential instrument. It consists of a small suction-syringe fitted with stopcocks to take the place of valves as in a pump, and is provided with long needle-like canulas, as in the hypodermic syringe. The whole apparatus packs away in a small pocket-case. The invention seems to have grown naturally out of the hypodermic syringe and the exploring trocar. Already modifications of construction are being carried out by different makers, and the price of the instrument varies according to style. A very nicely finished one is sold in New York for fifteen dollars. Probably, as the demand increases and the manufacture becomes established, they may be had for ten dollars. As in the case of the hypodermic syringe they are sure to become cheaper in course of time.

THE GALVANIC ÉCRASEUR.

It is well known to those familiar with electrical science that if a galvanic current of high intensity meets with resistance at any point along the path of its circuit, its electrical force will then be converted into heat force and the effects of heat will be manifested at that point. If a current travelling along a larger copper wire be made to enter a finer platinum one the resistance causes the finer wire to become red hot. This effect has been turned to account in firing off gunpowder; and in surgery has found an application in the galvanic canterbury. Still another and most

useful application of the same effect in surgery has been lately introduced in the galvanic écraseur for the removal of tumours and parts without hæmorrhage. This instrument seems to be a great favourite at University College Hospital, where Mr. Erichsen and other surgeons have employed it for the removal of epitheliomata of the tongue and other cancerous growths. It consists of a small écraseur, the loop of which is of fine platinum wire. It is of course fitted with a screw to tighten the loop, and the wires are connected with a galvanic battery by means of suitable adjustments. There is besides an ivory knob, commanded by the thumb of the operator, by which the current can be stopped at pleasure. Cauterization and constriction proceed together, and there is no hæmorrhage. By this instrument the removal of the tongue or a part of it ceases to be formidable; and not only is it much easier to perform, but the safety of the operation is very much increased. It is thought to be a great advantage to have the tissues surrounding a cancerous growth cauterized by means of this instrument. In London it has become a practice to let out on hire the galvanic écraseur and its accompanying battery.

SURGEY.

A CASE OF STRICTURE TREATED BY GOULEY'S CATHETER.

By H. J. SAUNDERS, M.D., M.R.C.S., Eng.

In the *Lancet* of July 5 is an article by Mr. Teevan, in which he speaks very highly of a stricture dilator invented by Professor Gouley, of New York, consisting of a filiform whalebone bougie with an olive shaped point, over which after introduction a catheter is slipped having a short canal at its end and a groove on the convex surface. Mr. Teevan has improved this, the original form, by slightly lengthening the canal, and by having a slit the width of the whalebone bougie cut in the convex surface of the catheter instead of the compressed groove as devised by Gouley. By Mr. Teevan's plan, he says any silver catheter can without much trouble be converted into an instrument as efficient as, or more so, than Professor Gouley's; more efficient because the calibre of the catheter is not diminished by the groove and a smaller size can be used.

This instrument, I believe, is likely to prove extremely useful, and will frequently obviate the necessity for puncture of the bladder or perineal section, as the whalebone bougie, though not much larger, is easier to introduce than a catgut bougie, not being softened by the heat and moisture of the parts. The following case will, I think, illustrate its use.

G. H—, set 40, auctioneer, contracted a gonorrhœa some 18 or 20 years ago, which was treated without injections, and from which he recovered with a stricture; he suffered no inconvenience from it, however, till the latter part of May last, when he found himself suddenly unable to micturate, and being in the woods where he could obtain no relief rupture of the urethra took place with extravasation of urine into the scrotum and perineum; in this condition he was ad-

mitted (May 28th) into the Kingston Hospital, with two or three fistule in the scrotum and perineum. Efforts were made by the house surgeon and attending physicians to introduce a catheter, but without success, and for some weeks most of the urine was passed through the fistule, enough coming per urethram to show that it was not wholly closed up. It seemed probable that perineal section would have to be resorted to, but before doing so Dr. Oliver, the attending physician, kindly allowed me to try a Gouley's catheter I had brought from England during a recent visit there. With some little trouble I succeeded in passing the whalebone bougie into the bladder, and then slipped the catheter over it, using force where necessary to overcome the strictures, of which there appeared to be two; on withdrawing the stylet between two and three pints of urine came away. Next day Dr. Oliver without much trouble passed a small bougie, and since then (July 24) dilatation has been practised at regular intervals, and the fistule are healing up. I yesterday passed easily a No. 7 bougie. The Gouley's catheter used was about the size of a No. 2 bougie, and was made by Baker, of Holborn, London.

Kingston, Aug. 9, 1873.

CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Canadian Medical Association was held at St. John, N.B., on Thursday, the 7th August, Dr. Grant, President, in the chair.

Dr. Maraden, of Montreal, was elected President; Dr. Wright, Toronto, Vice-President for Ontario; Dr. Hingston, Vice-President for Quebec. Dr. David, of Montreal, was elected General Secretary, and Dr. Robillard, of Quebec, General Treasurer.

It was resolved to hold the next meeting at Niagara Falls.

After some regular business and scientific discussions, the Association were entertained at a luncheon given by the resident members of the profession. This was given at the Asylum whither the party (consisting also of ladies) were conveyed by special train. The affair is described as one of the most enjoyable ever held in that part of Canada. The Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick was present, and made a humorous speech on medicine, but finally paid a handsome tribute to the medical profession, and toasted the health of Dr. Grant. Other speeches followed. We defer a fuller account.

MEDICAL NEWS.

Professor Virchow is visiting London to take part in the meeting of the Medical Association.

Sir Charles Wheatstone has been elected Foreign Associate of the French Academy of Sciences, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Baron Liebig. The election was all but unanimous.

The following gentlemen have been appointed examiners in medicine by the Senate of Toronto University:—Physiology and Comparative Anatomy, G. Wright, M.B.; Surgery and Anatomy, J. E. Graham, M.D.; Medicine and Therapeutics, J. W. McLaughlin, M.B.; Midwifery and Medical Jurisprudence, T. White, M.D.; Chemistry, W. H. Ellis, M.A., M.D.