

PHOSPHIDE OF ZINC.—Gros, in *La France Médicale*, extols this article, and advises its use in nervous affections, and especially in hysteria; giving at the same time a long list of neuroses in which it has been successfully used by physicians in America and England. He says that, though hysteria is an affection strange in its termination, so many cures have been reported that we should prefer this remedy to others because of its promptness of action, its facility of administration, and its innocuousness. It is stated that, contrary to expectation, it is innocuous, because if a toxic dose is given vomiting invariably occurs, which prevents the poisonous action of the drug. The best form for administration is the granule.—*Medical Brief*.

SEA-SICKNESS.—Nitrite of amyl is highly recommended by Dr. Patton, of Mississippi. He has repeatedly used it upon himself for the past five or six years, and always with success. He has also given it frequently to suffering passengers, and with success in all the cases if administered *early* in the attack; those that had been sick some time were not much benefited by it.

CROUP.—As a substitute for tracheotomy, Dr. Palvandeau (*La Tribune Méd.*) recommends a hypodermic injection of equal parts of sol. ferri chlo. and water into the trachea. It is said that shreds of the membrane come rapidly away. [We would think Monsel's solution better.]

GASTRIC ULCER.—Dr. Beil, in *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, recommends eucalyptus in stomachic troubles simulating ulcer, or in ulcer itself.

Reports of Societies.

OTTAWA MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the above society was held in Ottawa on the 23rd of January, 1879. There were present Drs. Sweetland, Wilson, Whiteford, M. K. Church, Ross, Rogers, Carmichael, Scott, Horsey, Henderson, Powell, H. P. Wright, W. Malloch, McRae, Sauv , and S. Wright.

After routine business, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—*President*, Dr. McDougall; *1st Vic-president*, Dr. Carmichael; *2nd Vic-president*, Dr. Henderson; *Sec.-Treas.*, Dr. McRae; *Executive Committee*—Drs. Sweetland, Wilson, Powell, Whiteford, and M. K. Church.

The retiring President, Dr. H. P. Wright, then delivered the following address:

GENTLEMEN,—Before handing over the keys of office to my worthy successor, whom you have just

elected, I would like to say a few words, and to give an account of my stewardship during the past twelve months. Towards the end of the year '77, the "Ottawa Medico-Chirurgical Society" was in a dying condition—dying, too, for the mere want of attention. This was at last recognized, a healthy reaction set in, and it was determined to make the society a success. A committee was appointed to secure more comfortable rooms, which it did most successfully. It was then determined to hold two meetings in the month instead of one as before, and we adopted the plan of announcing each night, the subject for discussion on the following night, in order to encourage among ourselves the desirable habit of reporting cases, and of thinking over and reading different authorities on the questions under consideration. All this was the result of the reaction, and we commenced the year 1878 with much higher prospects of success, and we have succeeded fairly well, considering the time, though much remains to be done. Our meetings are certainly growing larger, yet not as large as they ought to be. With nearly forty medical practitioners in the city, we should average about twenty every night, and we have only averaged nine during the year; yet, as I have said before, the attendance is increasing steadily, and all we have to do is to persevere in making the meetings attractive and interesting, and we are bound to succeed. In another year I hope we will have as an active member, every man in the city who cares for his profession, for we are better off without those who do not. It is the only means we have in Ottawa of keeping each other; of interchanging ideas on subjects of common interest; of explaining difficulties so often more imaginary than real; and of rubbing off asperities which, in the course of nature, must form, and in the absence of attrition will certainly become insurmountable obstacles. Then, too, we must not forget that "union is strength," a strength we fully require, for we have to deal with the public, and the public knows nothing of medicine as a science. It is only in this way we can support the laws that are made to protect us, and it is only in this way we need ever expect to gain that influence in society which we ought to possess.

And now, gentlemen, before proceeding to a more detailed account of the society's doings during the past year, I may here mention that we, as medical men, do not make ourselves sufficiently well known to the profession throughout the country. While deprecating in the strongest terms the pernicious habit of using the secular press. Papers are edited in Toronto and Montreal, and an occasional communication from our Secretary reporting transactions, would be, I am certain, cheerfully acknowledged by them. An occasional paper might, and all reports of interesting cases, should be published. I do not mean to