

trict. I am, etc.,—E. B. FFENNELL, M. B., B.Ch.

SODIUM SULPHORENZOATE AS AN APPLICATION TO WOUNDS is highly recommended by H. Heckel, of Marseilles, who has employed it in the Hospital, St. Mandrier, at Toulon. Stress is laid upon the fact that it is free from the occasional unpleasant effects of many other antiseptics used for the same purpose.—*N. Y. Med. Jour.*, Dec. 24, 1887.

BROMHYDRATE OF CONICINE is reported as having been used successfully in the Children's Hospital at Berne, for the treatment of tetanus and trismus. The case of a child of seven years, suffering from both affections, is reported in *Nouveaux Remedes* of January 24, 1888; the medicament was used hypodermically—two doses of 2 mgm, each at the intervals of two hours, after which the child was able to swallow liquids. The same dose was given by the mouth until three doses had been given, which lessened the spasm. On the second day, four doses were given, and on the third, three, when the trismus disappeared, and the reflex troubles diminished. This is in accord with Schultz and Binz's experiments with conicine upon animals poisoned with brucine.

FAUNA OF THE TOMB.—Concerning this interesting but not very cheerful subject, Mr. P. Megin said at the meeting of November 14, of the French Academy of Sciences: "It is generally believed that the buried cadaver is devoured by worms as in the free air, and that these worms grow spontaneously. We know, however, these so-called worms are the larvæ of insects which arise from eggs deposited upon the cadavers. They consist of diptera, coleoptera, lepidoptera, and arachnida, and we find that the time chosen by these organisms for the depositing of their eggs varies in accordance with the degree of decomposition undergone by the cadaver. The time varies from a few minutes, to two or even three years after death; but the period of appearance is so regular and constant for each species that we may by an examination of the debris which they leave decide upon the age of the cadavers, that is, ascertain with exactitude the time

of death.—*Moniteur Scientifique*, Jan., 1888.

THE SPREAD OF SMALL-POX.—The manner in which small-pox is often spread is well exemplified by a story which comes from Bolton. A man who had been at a volunteer encampment was sent to his home ill. He presented himself to the borough medical officer, who found that he was suffering from severe small-pox, and sent him to the hospital. He had, however, unfortunately communicated his disease to several persons, and it was found that his wife had died a fortnight before from the same malady. An interesting part of the story is that the bedding and furniture had been sold in the district. If this be the case, it is probable that more will yet be heard of small-pox at Bolton. In all probability, the Bolton sanitary authority will have some explanation to give as to the alleged sale of the bedding, for it can hardly be expected that a town which compels notification of cases of infectious disease would allow bedding used by a small-pox patient to be subsequently sold.

OPEN-AIR TREATMENT FOR THE SICK.—The effort that was made a short time since, to secure, by means of a tent, the utmost practicable amount of open-air treatment for the Emperor of Germany affords an indication of the progress that is being made in order to secure such treatment for a large number of cases in German hospitals. The subject is dealt with at some length in an article entitled, "Notes on Modern Hospital Construction," which is contained in the current number of the *Practitioner*, where the writer, Mr. P. Gordon Smith, architect to the Local Government Board, describes, by means of illustrations and otherwise, the large balconies and verandahs in which patients in some of the German and other hospitals at times remain by day and by night for long periods during the months of May to September, both inclusive. The climate of North Germany has so many features like our own that the possibility of applying the same practice to hospital treatment in this country deserves consideration.