many private operators who had reported their unsuccessful as well as their successful cases—now amounting to thousands—show a proportionate saving of one in from three to four cases. Individual records must be taken at their individual worth. He believed with Trousseau that, with proper care and attention, at least one-half of the cases suitable for operation ought to be saved in private practice.

Dr. O'Harra asked the question whether an anesthetic should be used.

Dr. Hodge remarked that while he employs anesthetics in almost every other operation in surgery, he does not use them in tracheotomy. When the trachea is first opened, there is, for a few moments, almost a cessation of respiration; and not unfrequently artificial respiration has to be resorted to. For this reason the child should be in the best possible condition to respond to the surgeon's efforts, and not unconscious from an anesthetic. The child does not suffer much pain, as the impeded respiration has long since lessened his sensibilities. Dr. Hodge recommends that a portion of two or three rings of the trachea be excised, as has been done in this city for a number of years by Professor Pancoast. In addition to this, Dr. H. employs a tracheal tube for a few days. When such a section of the trachea has been made, the tube is easily inserted without a director, may be removed without any danger of impairing respiration, and can easily be replaced. Dr. H. referred to one case of membranous croup, in which the child would have died if it had not been for this section. In a paroxysm of cough and apnea, with the tube in place, death was imminent; the tube was withdrawn and a mass of membranes discharged through the section which could scarcely be forced afterwards through the tube. Some have objected to the section of a segment of the trachea, that in after-years the scar, by contracting, would interfere with the respiration and the voice. Experience has shown that this does not result in the least degree. By the operation many lives may be saved which otherwise would be lost; and even when life is not saved, relief is given to the terrible dyspnea.

Dr. Hodge reported four cases of tracheotomy on account of membranous croup; and of these four, three lives were saved. He would recommend that the trachea be opened just beneath the isthmus of the thyroid gland, as high as possible without injury to the gland bloodvessels; that a segment of the trachea be excised, and that the patient be kept for a long time in a moist atmosphere at a temperature of 80° Fahr.—*Philadelphia Medical Times*, April 11, 1874.

TREATMENT OF ALCOHOLISM BY NUX VOMICA.

Dr. Luton has obtained excellent effects from the use of nux vomica in chronic alcoholism where the evil has not passed into the absolutely degenerative stage of tissue-change. In the tremors, and the cerebral, gastro-intestinal, and thoracic disorders of alcoholism he resorts with confidence to the use of extract or tincture of nux vomica in ordinary doses.—*Irish Hospital Gazette.*

THE CANADA MEDICAL RECORD

A Monthly Journal of Medicine and Surgery.

EDITOR:

FRANCIS W. CAMPBELL, M.A., M.D. L.R.C.P., LOND.

SUBSCRIPTION TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM.

All communications and Exchanges must be addressed to the Editor, Drawer 56, Post office, Montreal.

MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER, 1874.

MEDICAL EDUCATION.

As the various medical schools will soon be in active operation, some thoughts have suggested themselves in regard to the subjects which are taught therein.

In this country where there is no division of medical practice into Medicine and Surgery, as it exists in England, the student is obliged to inform himself on all the subjects appertaining to both. This entails a vast amount of application, which, considering the time at his disposal, is almost, if not altogether, incompatible with the preservation of health, otherwise a mere smattering of each subject will be all that is obtained.

On reflection, we feel assured that, even with the most systematic disposition of his time, it is impossible that the student can acquire a tithe of what at present is required of him; and, therefore, a graduate on commencing his career is only possessed of a mass of crude ideas which takes years of doubt and anxiety to arrange in proper order. There may be some with such conspicuous abilities and retentive memories, who are able to master the difficulties before them, but the great majority can never attain to anything without persevering industry, and it is for these that all studies must be arranged. In the short space of four years the student will have opportunities, which for the majority will never recur, and therefore it is of the greatest importance that he should learn how to utilise them to the utmost, and that his time be not occupied with superfluous studies. At present medical students are overburdened with a great deal of unnecessary work and a great part of time is thus thrown away as regards the business of life. This has been our opinion ever since we commenced the study, and this opinion has been strengthened by the perusal of the expressions of many eminent men. We do not wish to lower medical studies or narrow the mind to mere professional detail, the benefits to be derived from a liberal and scientific education are not to be imputed, but we cannot see any practical