

grains, given in two doses, at ten minutes interval. The effect on the pains is produced in 20-30 minutes. It may be prescribed with benefit during the weak pains in the first stage of labor, and more especially in cases of premature rupture of the membranes. M. Schwab has also given quinine in cases of retention of the placenta after labor or abortion. In three cases quoted the placenta was expelled a short time after the administration of quinine.—*Medical Chronicle*.

A FRENCH SURGEON ARRESTED FOR NOT DISINFECTING HIS INSTRUMENTS.

Dr. Laporte, who is known to many American tourists as having spent ten years of his professional career on board the French line of transatlantics as ship's surgeon, has been arrested for performing a surgical operation upon a lady with instruments that had not been properly disinfected. It is true that the patient has been ill of blood-poisoning, but until his arrest few people even in the medical profession were aware of the existence of any law exacting the disinfection of a surgeon's instruments before he used them. The offense is a technical one, and is punishable by two years' imprisonment. The Parisian hair-dressers and barbers are up in arms against the Prefect of Police, who is endeavoring, on the demand of the government hygienic council of the Department of the Seine, to enforce an equally peculiar law providing for the cleansing and disinfection of combs, razors, powder puffs, brushes, sponges and scissors before use on each individual, the object of this grandmotherly regulation being to prevent the propagation of microbes and germs of disease. The Parisian barbers declare that they have neither the time nor the inclination to obey the order, and that sooner than conform thereto they will strike and leave the male portion of the population of the most elegant metropolis in the world to go unshaven and unshorn. It is felt there that while there is a certain amount of justice

in the arrest of Dr. Laporte, the authorities are going too far in endeavoring to enforce the regulations concerning the barbers, whom it is moreover injudicious to antagonize, since these shops and establishments constitute the scene of so much political discussion and gossip.

THE LIGHT RAYS OF THE FIRE-FLY (SPECIES ?)

Prof. Muraoko, a Japanese savant, has communicated to Wiedemann's *Annalen* the results of some observations made on the light emitted by the firefly. He finds that this light, if transmitted through black paper, acquires properties similar to those of the X rays. Like the Becquerel, they are intermediate between the X rays and the ultra-violet. The firefly rays are capable of reflection, but whether they are susceptible of refraction, polarisation, and interference, it has not yet been demonstrated.

In a recent editorial in the *Denver Medical Times*, Dr. T. H. Hawkins prophesies evil things about the future of his state if the present influx of consumptives continues. He appeals to the people to have such laws passed as will benefit not only the consumptives but also the healthy persons with whom they come in contact. He says if some measures are not taken to guard the people from infection, "Colorado will become a pest-hole and a most thoroughly undesirable place of abode."

A sensational story has been started by a New York daily to the effect that Henry M. Stanley is gradually turning black—becoming a negro in fact! That his skin is already a mulatto-colored and taking a deeper hue daily. It is added that "this remarkable occurrence is attributable to the transferring of African (negro) blood into his veins on several occasions, while in the wilds, for the purpose of immunizing him against the dense miasm so prevalent in the low lands of the Dark Continent."—*Medical Times*.