

sively added in such a manner as not to cool the mixture too much, until the vessel is two-thirds full, and the same temperature is continued until the mass becomes completely liquid and assumes a slight amber colour. The acid is then modified; the vessel is removed from the fire and the contents allowed to cool until the acid can be manipulated without adhering to the fingers, when it is pressed into cakes, quickly cooled, and put into well-stoppered bottles. In preparing the magnesian solution, three-fourths of the water are poured on the mixture of acid and carbonate of magnesia: the reaction is brisk, and the solution is complete in ten minutes. Heat must be avoided, because contact with boiling water causes the modified tartaric acid to re-pass immediately to the state of ordinary tartaric acid, and the tartrate of magnesia is precipitated. The respective proportions of metatartaric acid and carbonate of magnesia required are two parts of acid to one part of magnesia.

ACTION OF CROTON-CHLORAL HYDRATE.

Dr. Oscar Liebreich gave an account of the action of this substance before the British Medical Association, comparing it with chloral hydrate, and pointing out some of the conditions indicating its use. Its action differed from that of chloral hydrate in that, while it produced sleep, it did not affect muscular tone or interfere with circulation or respiration. Its use was indicated where chloral hydrate was inapplicable on account of heart disease, and in cases of neuralgia affecting the trigeminal nerve. Where large doses of chloral were necessary to procure sleep, Dr. Liebreich recommended the addition of some croton-chloral.

DIABETES CURED BY THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF MEAT AND LACTIC ACID.

This is a newly recorded case of diabetes mellitus in which Professor Cantani's mode of treatment, as above, was perfectly well borne by the patient, and produced a rapid and persistent cure. The treatment did not extend beyond seventeen days. The case is recorded in Fascicolo 5 of *Lo Sperimentale*, 1873.

MEDICAL NEWS.

Dr. Stellwag von Carion has been appointed ordinary professor of ophthalmology in the medical faculty of the University of Vienna. Until room is found in the General Hospital, he will continue to give clinical instruction in the Garrison Hospital.

At Benguela, in Angola, says the *Correio de Sul*, the military hospital is in such a state that wolves have entered it in search of human flesh. The *Correio Medico de Lisboa*, commenting on this, says, "Speaking plainly, our colonies, as regards the hospitals, are for the most part the most perfect examples of carelessness, indifference, and contempt of humanity, that can possibly be found."

M. Coste, the eminent savant, has just died, at the age of sixty-six. He was Professor of Physiology in the College of France, and was distinguished for his researches on the development of the embryo in man and animals, and more recently for his labours in the cause of pisciculture, in regard to which he held the same position of eminence in France as Mr. Frank Buckland does in England.

It is stated that Mr. Tolles, of Boston, has just achieved the great result of producing a one-seventy-fifth objective for microscopic uses, a glass of such difficult construction that it is believed that no optician has ever attempted it before. The power of this objective is such that a single white blood-corpuscle covers the entire field of vision. Mr. Tolles has produced two of the finest one-fiftieth objectives ever constructed. The angular aperture of one is 120°; that of the other, and the last constructed, is 165°. The Boston Journal of Chemistry asserts that these objectives are of great excellence, and in the opinion of competent microscopists, far surpass in defining power and clearness of field those of European make.

Speaking of a visit to one of the Paris hospitals, a recent writer says:—"As we passed into the hall we heard groans, evidently of a child in great pain. The door leading to the sick ward was ajar, and as we approached we heard the voice of a man talking earnestly with a little sufferer. There was something very affecting in the imploring tones of the child's voice and the tender and sympathizing replies of the physician, and it seemed to us no breach of etiquette to witness unseen through the crack of the half-open door the scene that was passing within. On a narrow pallet near the window lay a fine boy, nine or ten years of age, dying of cancer developing itself between the eyes and behind the nose. It had not shown itself externally, but had destroyed the sight, and was attended by excruciating suffering. By his side sat a stately white-haired man holding with one hand the two of the little patient, while with the other he caressingly smoothed his hair. The child told the story of his pain. Ah, je souffre tant! to which the old man listened patiently, promising to devise some relief. Then he rose to go, but first bent over the boy, and with tears dropping from his eyes kissed his forehead as lovingly as a mother. The white-haired man was the world-renowned Nelaton; Nelaton, lately summoned to attend the fallen Emperor."

THE PRESCRIPTION OF UNUSUAL DOSES.

This subject was discussed at the recent meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference at Bradford. The discussion was opened by Mr. Hampson, who made a proposition for a sign to be used by medical men to mark unusual doses in prescriptions. With slight exceptions, the paper of Mr. Hampson, and the views of the various speakers, were characterised by good judgment and moderation. There was a wise abstention from any detailed allusion to the recent case at Ramsgate, which has been sufficiently criticised, and to which we need not revert. Mr. Hampson's proposition, though not original, is very worthy of consideration. We ourselves made a similar proposition some weeks ago. The sign recommended by Mr. Hampson is the initials of the prescriber written in brackets immediately after the unusual dose: thus—

Tr. Digitalis, half-fluid oz., [J.R.L.]

He further said that the address and name of the prescriber on every prescription would be an inestimable advantage, and that this is the invariable practice in the United States. The general opinion of the Conference was in favour of the sign suggested by Mr. Hampson. The medical profession, we feel sure, would be willing to adopt any reasonable proposition on the subject. Fellows and members of the College of Physicians are required by its bye-laws to write on their prescriptions the name of the patient, the date of the prescription, and the initial letters of their names. We see no objection to attaching the full name of the writer, which is the habit of many practitioners. The use of some sign to relieve the mind of the pharmacist in the case of unusual prescriptions is clearly desirable. It is the custom in Germany and Austria to use a point of exclamation. The College of Physicians should take up the question, and recommend a sign. Meantime there can be little difficulty on the part of any prescriber in indicating that he really means any dose which he prescribes, either by attaching his initials or, what seems to us less ostentatious and equally efficient, by underlining the quantity.—[Lancet.

PROSPECTUS.

THE CANADIAN MEDICAL TIMES.

A NEW WEEKLY JOURNAL,
DEVOTED TO PRACTICAL MEDICINE.
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NEWS, AND CORRESPONDENCE.

The Undersigned being about to enter on the publication of a new Medical Journal in Canada, earnestly solicits the co-operation and support of the profession in his undertaking.

The want of a more frequent means of communication between the members of this well-educated and literary body has been long felt; since monthly publications such as alone have been hitherto attempted in this country, do not at times fully serve the requirements of the controversies and pieces of correspondence which spring up. It necessarily diminishes the interest of a correspondence to have to wait a month for a reply and another month for a rejoinder; and it is in consequence of this drawback, no doubt, that many important or interesting points are not more fully debated in the monthly medical journals.

THE CANADIAN MEDICAL TIMES, appearing weekly, will serve as a vehicle for correspondence on all points of purely professional interest. It is also intended to furnish domestic and foreign medical news: the domestic intelligence having reference more particularly to the proceedings of city and county Medical Societies, College and University pass-lists, public and professional appointments, the outbreak and spread of epidemics, the introduction of sanitary improvements, etc. Many interesting items of this nature, it is hoped, will be contributed by gentlemen in their respective localities.

If the interest of a correspondence can be maintained and its freshness preserved by a weekly publication, it must be yet more valuable to have weekly notices instead of monthly ones of the advances which are continuously being made in the medical art. Obviously the sooner a medical practitioner hears of an improvement the sooner he can put it in practice, and the sooner will his patients reap the benefit. In this manner, the value of a weekly over a monthly or semi-annual medical journal may sometimes prove inestimable. Medical papers and clinical lectures, in abstract form or in extenso, will regularly appear and constitute a considerable portion of the new journal. In this way it is intended to furnish the cream of medical literature in all departments, so that a subscriber may depend upon its pages as including almost every notice of practical value contained in other journals.

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