THE CANADA MEDICAL RECORD.

It is hardly reasonable to infer, and clinical experience does not justify us in believing, that blood is absorbed from the rectum without a breaking down of the corpuscles; but there are good reasons to suppose that it enters the system without marked chemical change, and it has been satisfactorily proved by Dr. Smith, and other scientific physicians, that its use is remarkably beneficial to patients. How much this is due to the hemoglobine and its action on the nerves, remains an interesting matter to determine.

56

Blood for rectal alimentation must be from healthy animals. Inflammatory blood from diseased cattle will not do, or blood from animals fatigued from long journeys. None but powerful, vigorous bullocks, fed and rested until the heart's action regains its accustomed tone, should be selected for this purpose.

Killing must be done in a manner to secure healthy blood. This can be accomplished only by bleeding to death. Striking on the head, or in any other way causing death from apnea, prevents a proper arterialization of the blood. Blood from animals killed in this manner, or the inflammatory blood from diseased cattle, is unfit for use in the arts, and therefore must be too imperfect for employment in therapeutics.

Great care also must be taken in the preparation, due attention being paid to all chemical and vital phenomena. Long exposure to the air in a fluid condition, or too high heat, not only decomposes, but devitalizes it, and if the heat be raised to 160° F., coagulates the abumen. No heat above 110° F. should be used in the drying of blood, and the process should be as instantaneous as possible, and without agitation. Desiccated blood, as thus prepared, is completely and readily soluble in water at all temperatures below 160° F., and contains all the elements of blood, except water and fibrin. The loss of the latter does not seem to impair its nutritive value, being but a very small proportion of the nitrogenous constituents of the blood.

A little more than a drachm of the dried rticle is necessary to represent a fluid ounce of ablood of ordinary specific gravity, but it is sufficient to remember, in using, to employ a drachm to the ounce of water. To dissolve, it should be thrown into water; and allowed to stand until albumen becomes perfectly soft, to prevent sticking to stirring-rod or dish. Gentle agitation will then convert it into a perfectly homogeneous fluid, closely resembling fresh blood. It is a very difficult matter to dissolve dried blood by pouring water upon it, for it immediately adheres together in lumps, and sticks to everything brought into contact with it.

from four to six drachms of the powder daily, or more, is the dose, which may be given at once, at bed-time, or in divided portions during the day, as circumstances seem to require.

If a greater amount than can be absorbed be injected at once, and decomposition result therefrom, it is advised to wash out the rectum with tepid water before continuing the medication.

tepid water before continuing the medication. For further information on this subject, the reader is referred to Dr. Smith's paper, read before the New York Academy of Medicine, to his paper before the Therapeutical Society, and to the minutes of these respective societies for their action in the matter.

The Medical Record and New York Journal have reported on these papers, and are also referred to as containing very nearly as full information.—N. Y. Medical Record.

TRANSFUSION WITH DEFIBRINATED BLOOD.

To the Editor of The New York Medical Record.

Sir :—The interest awakened by the successful employment of defibrinated blood, per rectum as a valuable auxiliary in the treatment of disease, leads me to call attention to the experiments of Prof. Ponfick,* which have not been recorded, to my knowledge, in any of our journals, and which seem to open a new sphere of usefulness for this agent. I allude to the intraperitoneal injections of defibrinated blood, which Prof. Ponfick ranks as a simple and effective method of transfusion, devoid of the difficulties and dangers attending the ordinary procedure of transferring the blood directly from one person to another.

For some years back Prof. Ponfick, by way of experiment, had been injecting defibrinated blood into the peritoneal cavity of dogs, and noticed that the reaction following was hardly perceptible, while the absorption of the injected fluid was exceedingly rapid. Encouraged by these uniformly favorable results, he has lately employed this novel method of transfusion in three patients with perfect success, the only phenomena following the operation being a slight febrile movement and abdominal pain, both of very short duration. The quantity injected was 250 grammes in the first case, 350 in the second, and 220 in the third patient, and Prof. P. thinks that a larger quantity of blood can be introduced without any strain on the heart, lungs, or brain, owing to the gradual manner in which the absorption of the defibrinated blood is effected.

The apparatus employed is identical with that used by Prof. Thomas for intra-venous injection of milk, and the whole procedure consists in the introduction of the canula through the abdominal walls into the peritoneal cavity, and then allowing the required quantity of blood to flow in.

Should further experience with a larger number of cases be productive of the same happy