

FOR CONSTIPATION IN YOUNG CHILDREN.—Dr. Poulain, in *British Medical Journal*, extols the use of a tablespoonful of fine bran night and morning, in a cup of bread and milk. The bran is warmed in the milk and then poured on the bread.

Ether, as an expectorant in subacute or chronic bronchitis, is placed before all other remedies of this class by Dr. Kemper, in the *Therapeutic Gazette*. 5 to 10 drops on sugar every 3 or 4 hours is the dose. It can be used by inhalation also.

DENTAL MALPRACTICE.—Dentists are likely soon to realize the responsibilities of treating diseased teeth and leaving them in the patient's jaws. Dr. Osmun, of Newark, N. J., reports a case in the *Dental Cosmos* of a lady who had a wisdom tooth "treated" and filled, and seven months afterward it was discovered that an extensive alveolar abscess had developed at the root; this was followed by great rigidity of the jaws, necrosis, absorption of pus, and pyæmia. The woman had previously been in excellent health. Dr. Osmun said: "I had the hardest work in the world to keep that woman from bringing a suit for malpractice against the dentist who had filled the tooth." It would be well for dentists to remember that the treatment of diseased tissues requires a medical education.—*N. Y. Med. Record*.

The *Lancet* of April 4th, referring to a case where a surgeon sued for the amount of his account, says: "The charges were, roughly, at the rate of 7s. 6d per visit and 2s 6d. for medicine. The visits often occupied from three quarters of an hour to an hour. The distance from the patient's house was two miles, and the defendant was in good circumstances. In spite of some medical evidence on the defendant's side, alleging the excessiveness of the fees, the judge allowed them, and remarked that he did not know a class of men who were paid worse than doctors in the country. He considered the charges were quite reasonable. We refer to this judgment with pleasure. Medical men are perhaps a little too slow to assert their legal claims against ungrateful patients.

A St. Louis medical college recently, in a moment of weakness, yielded, tentatively, to the demand of the profession, that the recipients of medical diplomas should know something about medicine; and just for the sake of experiencing the sensation, actually plucked a candidate for its degree. The result was very disastrous—to the student. The horrified young man felt the injury which had been inflicted on him so keenly that he went out and committed *felo de se* with a gun. We trust this experiment of the St. Louis brethren will have its effect on college professors everywhere. To thus suddenly institute the requirement of any knowledge of medicine of their graduates, would be to run the risk of making cadavers a drug on the market.—*Medical Age*.

THE DIVULGENCE OF PROFESSIONAL SECRETS.—A physician who was also a pharmacien, but who practised only in the latter capacity, lately died. Dr. Constantin Paul, in announcing the event at a meeting of the Société de Thérapeutique, of which the deceased gentleman was a member, stated that the death was caused by tubercular meningitis, of which he had an attack ten years previously. The Insurance Company in which the deceased had insured his life for 200,000 francs, or £8,000, having taken note of this circumstance, has refused to pay the widow, on the grounds that her husband's life was insured subsequent to the attack he had ten years before, he being at the time the subject of a fatal malady which eventually carried him off. The case, which is interesting from more than one point of view, is pending, and it is said that if the Insurance Company should persist in their refusal, Dr. Constantin Paul will be prosecuted for divulging a professional secret. Examples of this kind are daily to be met with, for we see in the medical and lay papers full descriptions of maladies of persons of note, ante mortem and post mortem. At this very moment the nature of the malady from which General Grant is suffering is being publicly discussed on both sides of the Atlantic, and so was that of General Garfield and M. Gambetta, and yet no one ever dreamt of prosecuting the authors of the published articles.—*Paris Letter—Lancet*.