

No ; cocaine hydrochlorate, muriate. or more properly *chloride* ($C H NO CL$), has nothing to do with that edible substance called *cocoa* or chocolate. The latter is derived from the bean of the *thcobroma cocoa* ; the former is a salt of a rare and expensive alkaloid (present value \$5,000 per pound) obtained from the leaves of *erythroxyton coca*, a native of Peru and Bolivia. This is the plant about which such remarkable stories have been told regarding its tonic and stimulating properties—how the natives can travel for days without either food or sleep by simply chewing the leaves. The alkaloid is the active principle of the plant, and until recently was considered as a chemical curiosity. The chloride is not the only anæsthetic salt, as the citrate has lately been employed by German dentists for “preparing” sensitive teeth before filling them. It is made into small pellets which are wrapped in wadding and placed in the hollow of the tooth. All sensation is soon destroyed, and the tooth can easily be cleaned out and filled without pain.

P. A. LAVER, M.D.

MONTREAL, January 15, 1885.

PERSONAL.

The Hon. Dr. Robitaille, ex-Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Quebec, has been nominated a Dominion Senator, in place of his brother, who has resigned.

The Hon. Dr. Ross, Premier of the Province of Quebec, had recently a large public dinner given to him at Three Rivers by his political friends.

Dr. Roddick, one of the editors of the *Canada Medical and Surgical Journal*, Montreal, who was quite unwell recently, is, we are glad to say, once more able to return to active work.

Dr. J. Brodie, formerly Demonstrator of Anatomy in Bishop's College, who has been practising in Honolulu since his removal from Montreal, about five years ago, has lately taken unto himself a wife from among the fair daughters of California. Dr. Brodie has a large and remunerative practice in his Pacific home. We wish the doctor and his wife success and happiness in all their undertakings.

Dr. A. A. Browne, Professor of Midwifery in McGill University, has resumed his lectures, having recovered from the illness which confined him to the house for a short time.

Dr. Godfroi Dubuc (C.M., M.D., Bishop's, 1872), of Sutton Flats, Que., has removed to Chippewee Falls, Mass.

Dr. Osler, of Philadelphia, late of Montreal, visited his friends here during his Christmas vacation. We dropped in upon him at his new home in Philadelphia, while in that city for a day, the middle of this month, and received a cordial welcome.

Dr. Gerald Howard, son of Dr. R. P. Howard, Montreal, has successfully passed the examination for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians, London.

Dr. Colin Sewell, of Quebec, who has been seriously ill, is, we are pleased to learn, now quite convalescent.

REVIEWS.

A Practical Treatise on Diseases in Children. By EUSTACE SMITH, M.D. New York: Wm. Wood & Co.

Dr. Smith has written this book in a careful and concise manner, discussing the whole subject of disease in children. From his large experience he has been able to dwell upon the clinical features to be observed, and thereby has produced a work valuable on the diagnosis and treatment of infantile disorders. Prominence has been given to the diet and hygiene required. The physician will find a perusal of the contents valuable and instructive.

A Manual of Obstetrics. By E. L. PARTRIDGE, M.D., with sixty illustrations. New York: Wm. Wood & Co.

The author in attempting to outline the knowledge of obstetrics in this very small manual has certainly accomplished his aim. It is very concise, yet not at all obscure. Such manuals can only refresh the memory, for which purpose they are intended, and from this point of view we can recommend it as a book to be slipped into the pocket of the practitioner whose time does not permit a careful study of more extensive textbooks.