

## THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE IN ZULULAND.

[Early in the year the Medical Society decided to offer two prizes for the best articles submitted to the "MARTLET" by Medical Students during the year. The compositions received have been carefully considered and we are publishing the First Prize essay beneath.]

My country—written in blood in the pages of history—is now a land of peace and prosperity. Mining, agriculture and cattle farming being seen in all parts.

As observed by true lovers of nature, there is no animal but has some knowledge of Medicine, although knowing nothing of the McGill Medical Course. As we wander through the country we see cattle, oblivious to their daily food 'neath their feet, feeding on leaves of shrubs or trees whose medicinal properties are well-known to the highest order of Mammalia-man. The dog, the lion, even the domestic cat, exclusively living on a high proteid diet, turn away from the capture of the antelope, and various species of redentia, to munch certain plants. The practising physicians noting this realized that they had properties which would cure certain diseases and thus we have acquired knowledge of many of the drugs of our modern time—thus Kneipps, the father of hydropathy, discovered the famous water treatment, the only true cure of diseases. Noticing a well-beaten path which led to a little stream and there the trail stopped, he was curious to ascertain the cause of this beaten track, so in the later midnight hours he did in the bush or thicket, so as to be in full view of the stream and track. Much to his surprise, at the kiss of the morning dawn he saw a beautiful deer, limping very lamely indeed, down the beaten path, and it entered the stream. Here it stood until the sun rose and then returned over the same trail. This continued for several days and it was seen that the deer was slowly yet surely being cured of its lameness, until at last, it returned no more, being in good health, once again. The father of Hydropathy wrote books on this treatment which to-day is universally used in hospitals, clubs, etc., only in a modified form. So are the races of the people everywhere, civilized and uncivilized, using the same drugs in one form or another, even though they be under another name.

Now I will bring before my readers a short article on

- (a) Preparations to study Medicine;
- (b) Practical Work on the Practice of Medicine;
- (c) His Graduation and Practice;
- (d) How he receives his fees.

A young Zulu wishing to study Medicine calls on a well-known practising physician with a view to taking up the profession. Like the white boy, he has a difficult matriculation to undergo, which calls forth all his courage, stamina, and coolness. It consists of one question only, which must be answered in full