

good as well as the bad. One of the leading New York journals pleads for a reconsideration of this sentence on the ground that it might offend the United States contingent to the International Medical Congress; but we think that it would be better to make use of the action of the Berlin University as a powerful argument in favor of raising the standard by means of state control until these disreputable colleges are improved out of existence.

GENERAL MEDICATION IN THE TREATMENT OF SKIN DISEASES.

Dr. A. H. Ohman Dumesnil, in the *St. Louis Clinique*, January, 1890, says that general medication is frequently of more importance in the treatment of skin diseases than local measures, and he cites an example of a strumous child of eight years suffering from eczema and tinea tartarsi who was cured by the internal administration of cold liver oil. We cannot let this opportunity pass without expressing our gratification at thus seeing a specialist for the skin advocating general treatment. With the exception of parasitic diseases, there are no diseases of the skin in which local treatment is absolutely necessary, while even in many parasitic diseases constitutional treatment is very beneficial.

LEPROSY IN CAPE BRETON.

The Government has decided to retain permanently the services of Dr. A. C. Smith, of Newcastle, N.B., as a medical expert on leprosy. Since the discovery of three cases of leprosy in Cape Breton last year, Dr. Smith has been making a thorough investigation into the ramifications for the disease, and, although there is no cause for alarm, it has been deemed expedient to continue the investigation and claim Dr. Smith's undivided attention to this work. Dr. Smith has for some years acted as visiting physician and medical adviser to the Hospital for

Lepers at Tracadie, N.B., and in that capacity has done excellent work in helping to lessen the sufferings of the poor unfortunates. The decision of the Government to permanently retain his services meets with general commendation. Dr. Smith took the *ad eundem* degree of M.D. at Bishop's College, in 1889.

COLD WATER IN TYPHOID.

From time to time we have drawn attention to the value of a therapeutic measure in typhoid fever, which has been so far, we think, too much neglected. While one after the other of the new antipyretics has been tried, and soon abandoned owing to their depressing action upon the heart, water not only holds its own, but is increasing in favor as its virtues become better understood. Let us remember once more what these virtues are. First, cold water is an antipyretic, not by depressing the vital powers, but simply by abstracting a portion of the abnormal heat; so many pints of water going into the body at 32° or 40° and coming out at 104° will cool the mass of the blood so many degrees. Secondly, when applied to the internal surface of the body at frequent intervals, by means of a sponge, it is rapidly converted into vapor; and, according to the well known law of physics, when a solid is converted into a liquid, or when a liquid is turned into a vapor, cold is produced. An example of this is seen in the freezing of microscopical specimens by means of the ether spray. In exactly the same way the temperature of the typhoid patient can be kept down as low as we like. As a rule, sponging over the whole body every four hours with tepid water will keep the temperature down to 102 degrees. Placing the patient in a cold bath, or keeping him in a wet pack, or having a spray of cold water playing upon him constantly, are all very effective methods, but there are manifest reasons why they should never become popular.

In order to propitiate the prejudice which