

*Med. Rev.*, opposing hanging and providing that all murderers sentenced to death shall be put out of the way by means of anæsthetics which are to be administered under the supervision of a board of physicians and scientists. The condemned man having been placed in a painless sleep, the scientists are to be permitted to take the top of his skull off and watch the actions of the brain and lay bare his heart and other organs and study life there. The author of the bill is a physician and argues that its passage would give scientists an opportunity to study the currents of life as they have never been studied before, and would undoubtedly result in the most wonderful discoveries to the benefit of humanity.

**HIGHER MEDICAL EDUCATION.**—In pursuance of the policy recently announced in the resolution to be presented to the American Medical College Association, the trustees and faculty of Rush Medical College have decided to require four years attendance at college, from students who begin the study of medicine this year, with a view to graduation in 1898; however, those who have already studied medicine one year or more with a preceptor, so that the four years of study, already required, will be completed before July, 1897, may graduate after three courses of lectures as heretofore. To encourage proper preliminary study, graduates in Arts and Sciences from high grade colleges, and graduates in Pharmacy and Dentistry, from colleges requiring a proper amount of study, two full courses of lectures will, until further notice, be allowed to graduate after an attendance on only three courses of lectures.

**A NEW REACTION FOR BILIARY PIGMENTS IN THE URINE.**—Dr. H. Rosin prepares, *Wien. Med. Presse*, his test as follows: a solution, the color of port wine, is made with the official tincture of iodine and alcohol. This color can be obtained accurately by adding 2 drops of iodine tincture to a test tube filled to  $\frac{1}{2}$  its capacity with alcohol. The solution thus prepared is carefully poured over the urine to be examined; immediately, or after a minute, there appears at the point of contact of the two solutions a grass-green coloration which often persists for hours. Should the urine contain no bile pigments, there is at the point of

contact a yellowish discoloration. The test just described has been used at the third medical clinic in Berlin, and is pronounced the simplest and most sensitive reagent for bile pigments in the urine.

**ANAL FISSURE.**—Allingham strongly advocates the local use of the following ointment, *Doctor's Weekly*:

R—Hydrarg. subchlor., . . . gr. iv.  
Pulv. opii,  
Ext. belladonnæ, . . . āā gr. ij.  
Ung. sambuc., . . . ʒ j.—M.  
Sig.—To be applied frequently.

He states that he has had many cures with this ointment alone. Another excellent ointment, recommended by the same authority, is:—

R—Plumb. acetatis,  
Zinci oxidi, . . . āā gr. x.  
Pulv. calaminæ, . . . gr. xx.  
Adipis benzoinat., . . . ʒ ss.—M.

An ointment of the oxide of mercury, 30 grains to the ounce, has cured many cases.

**WHAT IS A BLUSH?**—It seems that, unlike an osculatory demonstration, a blush can be scientifically defined, *Med. Age*. A Cincinnati physician attempts it as follows:—"A blush is a temporary erythema and calorific effulgence of the physiognomy, ætiologized by the perceptiveness of the sensorium when in a predicament of unequilibrium from a sense of shame, anger, or other cause, eventuating in a paresis of the vaso-motor nervous filaments of the facial capillaries, whereby, being divested of their elasticity, they are suffused with radiance emanating from an intimidated præcordia."

**ELECTRICITY IN AMENORRHOEA.**—Dr. D. Labbé reports three cases, *Journal de Médecine de Paris*, treated with the negative pole (cathode) of a constant current. The positive electrode is applied on the lower part of the abdomen in the linea alba. Applications did not exceed 5 minutes at a time. The intensity of the current was never more than 50 milliamperes. Instruments used should be made aseptic and in all cases the operator should convince himself that the uterus is empty.

**EPILEPSY.**—Paul Flechsig, *Neurol. Central.*, treats epilepsy first with small doses of opium