

of cases reported has been large. the general death-rate has not been higher than usual. It was estimated that nearly three thousand cases were under treatment.

VISCERAL PHLEBOTOMY.—George Harley, of London, Eng. (*Med. News*, July 23, '92), recommends in inflammation of any of the internal viscera to withdraw blood directly from the organ by means of a trocar of the size of a No. 2 or 3 catheter. He says the operation is easy of performance and is without danger. In two cases of inflammation of the liver marked benefit was obtained by this method.

PREPARATION OF IODOFORM SPONGES.—The following is the method of Haug (*Nouv. Rem.*) : Small, soft, cleansed sponges are immersed for five days in water to which five per cent. of hydrochloric acid has been added ; after which they are thoroughly washed in an abundance of water, and dried. They are then placed in a 7½ per cent. ethereal solution of iodoform ; the ether is allowed to evaporate, which being completed, the sponges are preserved in well-stoppered bottles.

DEATH OF THE HON. JOHN ROBSON.—Mr. Robson, the Premier of British Columbia, died recently in London from pyæmia. While driving in a hansom cab, about ten days before, he had accidentally jammed his finger in the door and bruised it severely. A physician examined it, but did not consider the accident a serious one. The finger did not heal well, however, and when medical advice was sought again the patient was found to be suffering from pyæmia, and died in spite of amputation of the finger.

THE APOTHECARY'S OATH.—A correspondent of the *Medical News* writes : " While reading Boas's ' History of Medicine,' I found the following oath, as taken by the apothecaries of the 13th century : ' To honour, esteem, and serve the doctors of medicine, . . . to speak no evil, . . . and to do everything which may contribute to the honour, reputation, embellishment and majesty of medicine.' Is there a 19th century apothecary that would show his allegiance to and dependence upon the