

any such legislation. Montreal is yearly visited by rapacious charlatans who make money by public exhibitions of people in the hypnotic state.

—The treatment of ascites by faradization of the muscles of the abdomen is said to be frequently successful. A sufficient strength of current to bring about distinct muscular contraction is recommended. One pole can be placed over the lumbar spine, or probably over an indifferent place, while the other is to be passed over the abdomen. From one to three sittings daily of ten minutes' duration are considered necessary.

—In a recent paper in the *London Lancet*, Drs. Winkler and Ballaen contend that instrumental delivery of the child is in a few cases the direct cause of idiocy. Dr. Langdon Down points out the fallacy of the above conclusion. In his experience of idiocy, he found that in only three per cent. were the forceps employed. In only a small fractional percentage could he arrive at the conclusion that the use of the forceps was the principal cause of the calamity. In every case of idiocy where they had been employed, the friends of the child believed that the instruments alone was the cause of the disaster, while in the great majority of the cases he was able to find in the family history a sufficient cause.

NEW LIGHT ON AN OLD SUBJECT.—In view of the approaching Carnival the following extract from Mr. J. E. Muddock's *Guide to Davos Platz* may not prove altogether uninteresting or uninstructional: "In addition to the pedestrian and sleighing excursions, the visitor will be able to find amusement in the Canadian exercise of *Tobogging*. The toboggan consists of a small wooden sleigh, the seat being composed of bars of wood. Seating yourself on this, you glide swiftly down a suitable snow slope, steering the sleigh with your heels, which project forward, or by means of two small sticks trailed behind. The latter method, however, is difficult and requires practice. The exercise is most enjoyable and exhilarating. It will be interesting to state that the word '*Tobogging*' was introduced by the Gaelic speaking emigrants to Canada. It is