

### DEATH FROM A DRUGGIST'S MISTAKE.

Richard Wanless, aged 16, a druggist's clerk, was tried at Walkerton, April 12th, for manslaughter. It was supposed that, in making up a prescription for Mrs. Moore (written by Dr. Smith), he made the mistake of substituting prussic acid for hydrobromic acid, and the prussic acid had caused the death of the woman. Although the case appeared very clear, the prisoner was released on a technical point arising out of the fact, that no *post-mortem* examination had been made, and consequently there was no evidence to prove positively the cause of death. His Lordship the Judge, while withdrawing the case from the jury, remarked that he felt there was rather a lamentable failure of justice.

The case is a very sad one in every respect, and teaches us the alarming fact, that the lives of our citizens in some places are continuously imperilled by the loose and careless way in which drug stores are managed. The evidence at this trial showed almost (if not quite) criminal neglect on the part of the proprietor of the drug store. In the first place, there was not proper care taken in separating and distinguishing the poisonous from the comparatively harmless drugs, either by conspicuous labels, or peculiar colour or shape of bottles; in the second place, an opportunity was afforded a lad, ignorant of the properties of the medicines he was handling, to deal out deadly poisons to any one who might call for them, notwithstanding the fact that he was *several times* forbidden to make up prescriptions during his employer's absence.

**THE SPLENIC PULSE.**—From Dr. Roy's late observations "it appears (*Brit. Med. J.*) that normally (in cats and dogs at least) the spleen alternately contracts and expands with great regularity, presenting systolic and diastolic phases about once a minute, and that it thus carries on its own circulation, independently of the general blood pressure." Dr. Roy's paper is to be found in the *Journal of Physiology*, vol. iii. No. 3.

**SENATE ELECTION, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.**—The voting papers will be opened, May 3rd. The candidates are William Oldright, M.A., M.D., John Boyd, M.A., B.C.L., John Galbraith, M.A., C.E., and William Houston, M.A., three of whom are to be elected.

**ECHINOCOCCUS DISEASE.**—We desire to ask our readers who have met with or who know of instances of hydatid disease occurring in Ontario, if they will kindly forward to us without delay references to, or particulars of such cases.

**THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO.**—The second meeting of the Ontario Medical Association will be held in Toronto, on Wednesday, June 6th.

### PERSONAL.

Dr. Tye, of Thamesville, has moved to Chatham.

Dr. J. H. Duncan, of Seaforth, takes Dr. Tye's place in Thamesville.

Dr. John Campbell, of Seaforth, Ont., has been admitted L.R.C.P., Edinburgh.

Dr. Sheard, of Toronto, sailed for England in April, and expects to be away some months.

A new museum is to be built for the University of Michigan at a cost of \$60,000.

Dr. D. J. Cunningham has left Edinburgh to become Professor of Anatomy to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Sir Edward Burrowes Sinclair, King's Professor of Midwifery in Trinity College, Dublin, died on 24th March, aged 57.

The death of Sir Wyville Thompson, LL.D., Professor of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh, is announced.

Dr. J. E. Graham, of Toronto, sails for Europe, May 4th. He expects to spend a few months in London and Leipzig or Vienna.

The late Dr. Pancoast, of Philadelphia, was worth a million dollars. His favourite amusement was playing checkers.

There were two female students at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy during the past session.

Mr. E. Ray Lankester, M.A., F.R.S., of University College, London, has been elected