

## USE OF PICROTOXINE.

To the Editor of the "Canada Lancet."

SIR,—Would some of your readers give their experience in the use of Picrotoxine in the sweating of phthisis, and also in what liquid it is best dissolved.

THERAPEUTIC.

New Brunswick, Mar., 85.

**Books and Pamphlets.**

THE LAW AND MEDICAL MEN, by R. V. Rogers, Jr. of Osgoode Hall Toronto, Barrister-at-Law. Toronto: Carswell and Co.,

This little work consisting of about 200 pages, fills a gap in the library of both the physician and lawyer. It deals with the laws relating to the practice of medicine, fees, (who should pay the same), civil and criminal malpractice, privileged communications, expert testimony, defamation, relations with patients, dissection, resurrection, etc., etc. In discussing the subject of malpractice he cites the following, page 61, (J. Woodward in *McCandless v. McWha* 22 Pa Rep. 261) "A patient is entitled to the benefit of the increased knowledge of the day. The physician or surgeon who assumes the healing art is bound to be up to the improvements of the day. The standard of ordinary skill is on the advance, and he who would not be found wanting must apply himself with all diligence to the most accredited sources of knowledge." Where would the fossilized members of the profession who never read a medical journal or any new work on medicine be found in the face of the above ruling?

The book is a very interesting and readable one and should find a place in every physician's library, in view of the fund of information it contains. The statements of law contained in the book are in nearly every instance the rulings of the judges in the particular cases, with citations. We would suggest to the author the propriety of printing the code of medical ethics, as an appendix, in the next edition.

THERAPEUTICS OF THE RESPIRATORY PASSAGES.—  
By Prosser James M.D. London.

This is one of the best of the monthly issues of "Wood's Library of Standard Medical Works." Every valuable medicament employed in the treatment of the affection of the respiratory passages is

subjected to impartial consideration. The chapters on alcohol, denutrients, and antipyretics are peculiarly instructive, clearly indicating that the author whilst free from the sentimental prejudices of the extremists, is yet gifted with that spirit of candour which should ever be the dominating influence in medical science. The book cannot be read by any practitioner without great profit.

DISEASES OF THE URINARY AND THE MALE SEXUAL ORGANS.—By W. T. Belfield, Chicago. W. Wood and Co: New York.

Dr. Belfield has had the advantage of practically studying the above diseases in a prolific region, and his book presents abundant proofs of his careful observation. In a large city like Chicago, teeming with a very fast population, with strong propensities to illicit pleasures, and exempt from abhorrence of facile divorce, the diseases treated of by Dr. B must constitute no trivial part of daily routine, and and if they are sedulously cultivated, the pecuniary results must be very enticing.

DOCTRINES OF THE CIRCULATION, by J. C. Dalton, M.D., Emeritus Prof. of Physiology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York. Philadelphia: Lea Brothers & Co. Toronto: Williams & Co.

This is a most interesting and well written handbook of the doctrines of the Circulation from Aristotle, Praxagoras, School of Alexandria, Galen, Period of Renaissance, to the dawn of light on this subject, following the discoveries of the Professors of the Universities of Padua, Pisa, Bologna, and Rome. The author also gives the subsequent opinions of Servetus, of the transfer of the blood from the right side of the heart to the left, taking place in the lungs, and not through the septum of the ventricles; also the discovery of the valves in the veins by Fabricius ab Aquapendente, their form, and speculations on their use. He next refers to the doubts of Harvey regarding the correctness of these theories, and his subsequent discovery of the peripheral circulation from the arteries to the veins, and of the return circulation of the blood through the veins to the heart. Space will not permit further notice of the scope of this work, which is of great research, and one that we welcome as a valuable addition to medical literature.

**Births, Marriages and Deaths.**

On the 2nd ult, J. B. Howell, M D., of Thornbury, aged 34 years.

On February 9th 1885, wife of Dr. A. McTavish, Staffa, Ont., aged 39 yrs.