

following strength: R.—Sod. bicarb, grs. xv; acid carbohc, grs. ij; aq. ad., ʒj. Sig.—A teaspoonful to be added to half a teacupful of warm water, and used by means of posterior nasal syringe, or sniffed up the nose night and morning. The following being also thoroughly applied to the anterior and posterior nares and pharyngeal walls twice a week by means of a brush. R.—Iodoform, ʒj; ether, ʒj.

In chronic suppurative catarrh of the ear, where the discharge is slight, the perforation considerable and granulations absent or nearly so, Dr. Macdonald prefers the dry treatment, and considers pulv. acid boracic superior to all other powders. He orders the ear to be thoroughly cleansed by syringing, each time previous to the application of the boracic acid, which is to be blown into the ear through a quill or glass tube. This is repeated once daily at first, and after the discharge is considerably diminished, every third day will prove sufficient.

CANADIAN.

## OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

*From our Own Correspondent*

NEW YORK, March 20th, 1888.

Dr. Robinson treats epithelioma, where the disease has not progressed far enough to involve the glands, in the following manner, and promises a good result. Make a paste—"Marsden's paste."

R.—Ac. arseniosi; gum acaciæ aa ʒj. Sig. Apply enough to cover diseased tissue by means of rubber adhesive plaster, and leave on for about sixteen hours. Then wash with warm water and apply a simple dressing as ung't. zinc. ox., or vaseline for about a week. If all the pathological tissue be not destroyed, make further applications in the same way.

An interesting discussion on the question of treatment of syphilis in the primary stage, took place at the Academy of Medicine the other evening. Dr. Bronson read a paper advocating the treatment of the initial lesion locally by means of mercury, as soon as it became manifest. His belief was that the disease is at first a local one, and that it extends through the lymphatics and glands in proximity, to the general system. His plan was not to excise the chancre, or attempt to abort the disease by internal medication, but to

bring the mercury either by hypodermic injection, or inunction into immediate contact with the syphilitic virus of the chancre, and extending the injections into the lymphatics and glands through which the virus could reach the general system. By this means the syphilitic poison, be it a germ or anything else, is met and combated before it has reached the general constitution. He admitted he had never been able to successfully employ this method, but thought that due to the patients on whom he had tried this treatment, not conforming to his directions. Theoretically, he thought the plan the proper one, and believed it would be practically demonstrated. Dr. R. W. Taylor agreed with Dr. Bronson, that the disease was at first a local one—but the question was as to how much of the surrounding tissue was involved. He did not think syphilis had ever been aborted by cauterization, excision or any local treatment, because it was impossible to reach all of the involved cells; if the chancre were treated locally, large amounts of mercury should be used. He did not believe in the efficacy of the treatment. He said it was unwise to treat the disease before the secondary manifestations, because the disease afterwards acted disorderly, and the patient's mind was always in a state of uncertainty. Mercury acted by causing a fatty degeneration of the syphilitic cells, and hence it was irrational to give mercury, internally at all events, until these syphilitic cells existed; until secondary symptoms appeared. Dr. E. L. Keys thought the disease a general one from the start, with the chancre a local manifestation, and hence, he had no belief in any topical application, or medication with the idea of aborting or curing the disease.

The examinations in the different medical colleges take place much earlier here than in Ontario. Bellevue Hospital Medical College graduated, a few weeks ago, about one hundred and fifty, with only seven candidates rejected. The term spent in college is nominally three sessions, and the majority attend three sessions, but a great many graduate in two years. The University of New York graduated one hundred and fifty-seven. The College of Physicians and Surgeons, which is so heavily endowed by the Vanderbilts, is undoubtedly the best medical college here, and their standard is much higher than that of either of the others. Three years of