

AN INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONFERENCE.—

We have received the following communication from Dr. David, Secretary to the Dominion Medical Association: "At the meeting of the Canada Medical Association, held at Niagara, in August, 1874, it was suggested that a Conference between the sister society, the American Medical Association and our own would be attended with great advantages were it possible to be obtained, and resolutions to that effect were duly proposed and carried, and at the last meeting of the American Medical Association held in Louisville, the resolutions passed by the Canada Medical Association were read and unanimously approved of, and the following gentlemen: Drs. S. D. Gross, Philadelphia, Pa.; I. T. Hogden, St. Louis, Mo.; Austin Flint, sen., New York City; W. Walling, Louisville, Ky.; L. C. Lane, San Francisco, Cal.; Wm. Johnston, Jackson, Miss.; Wm. Brodie, Detroit, Mich.; J. M. Toner, Washington, D.C.; F. D. Cunningham, Richmond, Va.; E. Andrews, Chicago, Ill.; W. B. Atkinson, Philadelphia, Pa.; D. J. Bowditch, Boston, Mass. and Robert J. Bartholover, Cincinnati, Ohio, were named as a Committee of Conference 'to meet a like number from the Canada Medical Association at such time and place as may be agreed upon by the joint Committee of the Associations.' At the meeting of the Canada Medical Association held at Halifax, N.S. last August, the communication of the above having been read, the following gentlemen were named as its representatives at the Conference, Drs. Grant, Ottawa; Hingston, Montreal; Hodder, Toronto; Botsford, St. John, N.B.; Thorburn, Toronto; Farrel, Halifax, N.S.; Fulton, Toronto; F. W. Campbell, Montreal; Atherton, Fredericton, N.B.; Howard, Montreal; Robillard, Montreal; Parker, Halifax, N.S., and David, Montreal. As it was found impossible to adopt the idea of Professor Gross, the President, to hold the meeting at Saratoga, in September next, it has been decided that the Conference take place in Philadelphia, on Monday, 5th June, and we trust all the members will faithfully attend."

CARBOLIZED CATGUT LIGATURE.—The following is the method of preparing this ligature. The material is really a part of the peritoneum of the sheep, with some fibres of unstriped muscle. This having been properly cut into lengths and sizes for ligatures, might be simply dried and used, or used fresh, but in either of these conditions it is slippery, hard to tie, and when tied apt to stretch, and the knot to slip. Mr. Lister, anxious to procure a ligature which should melt away and be absorbed

without acting as a foreign body in the wound, and looking to the somewhat unsatisfactory experiences of Astley Cooper and others, found that by a special preparation this catgut was so altered as to become a firm and useful ligature. It is suspended in an emulsion of oil and water, during the first few days it becomes dull and opaque, but then a remarkable change occurs: it becomes clear, bright and hard and capable of being tied without stretching and slipping. In order to attain this changed condition it is necessary to keep it suspended in the emulsion for about two months, the bottom of the vessel being so arranged that the water, as it separates from the oil, falls down clear of the suspended catgut. It will be ready in two months, but it goes on improving if kept in the emulsion for a much longer period. In order to make a very fine emulsion the water was mixed with something which the oil would take from it—say spirits of wine—and the water was thus left suspended amongst the oil in very minute drops. Mr. Lister wished to have an antiseptic ligature, and he found that carbolic acid had the requisite properties for forming along with water and oil the required fine emulsion. Hence the *carbolyzed* catgut ligature.—*Medical Times and Gazette.*

DEATH OF M. ANDRAL.—This celebrated physician and pathologist died on Feb. 13, aged 79. The following passage is from M. DeRause's notice of his death. "Among the masters whom the generations who have succeeded each other from 1825 to our own day have learned to appreciate, to love and to respect, M. Andral has occupied the first rank, and even those who have come on to the scene since his retirement from active life have none the less undergone the influence by a kind of tradition, if not directly through himself, which he has never ceased to exercise. This influence has not remained limited to the men and the things of our country. M. Andral was at the head of the French school at an epoch when this school had no rival, and when Paris was the general resort of all foreigners who were desirous of perfecting and completing their studies and of discovering new horizons. Thus was the authority of his teachings promptly conveyed to the schools of other countries, and we have no fear in saying that a universal homage, without any distinction of nationality, will be rendered to the memory of him who will remain one of the greatest medical glories of the age."

The primary and final examinations of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario commence April 4th. There are 108 candidates.