

The Medical Council is a body elected from the different Colleges and Universities of the United Kingdom, to examine into and order the registration of the degrees of those institutions, which are especially designated by Act of Parliament. The Medical Register is made by law, the test, in Courts of Justice, of the legal right of all persons to practice, in Great Britain and Ireland. The Medical Act is extremely plain and positive, and only requires perusal to be understood. And the false position in which our McGill University has been unnecessarily placed, before one of the highest tribunals in the world, by a late petition of the Dean of its Medical Department for admission of its degrees for registration contrary to law, is greatly to be regretted. It certainly behoves all persons placed in trust of our honour and reputation, to be wary not to expose us needlessly to ridicule. The response of the body referred to is characteristic — "read the Medical Act."

COLOCYNTH.—A gentleman in Aylmer, Canada East, informs us, that being in a drugstore and noticing the seeds in a colocynth apple, he procured a few and planted them, late in spring, in a poor piece of ground with his potatoes. They thrived well and bore fruit, a few of which ripened before being destroyed by frost. He describes the plant as resembling very much that of a water melon, and the fruit to be like oranges in size and appearance. Acting on this success we sowed a few seeds in the open ground on the first of May last, the plants are now several inches in height but have not yet commenced to run.

ELATERIUM.—Dr. Thomas, near Philadelphia, informs us that he has been very successful in growing Elaterium plants in the open ground, by seeds sown in a sunny situation in May. He collected well matured fruit from the plants for exhibition in the latter part of August. A few seeds dropping on the ground outlived the winter and grew thriftily the following spring.

THE NEW PHARMACOPOEIA.—The printing of this volume is at present steadily progressing, and the pharmacopoeia committee assert that this national work will be published between now and October next, when, by a late act of parliament, it will become the standard and supersede all existing pharmacopoeias in the United Kingdom, and will without doubt be adopted as the guide in Canada.

REMEDY FOR CATARRHS.—Dr. Janot of Toulouse, states that the alcoholic tincture of lavender, (oil of lavender and alcohol) frequently rubbed to the nape of the neck and occipital region, proves a sovereign remedy for every species of catarrh, and succeeds in cases that have resisted the application of blisters, sulphurous water and even sea bathing.—*Phil. Med. and Surg. Reporter.*

VENTING OF PREGNANCY.—Dr. Muter of Shakspeare, Canada West, recommends the following combination, as much more efficacious than any of the remedies taken singly, viz:—

℞ Bismuth Trinit gr. vi.
Cedil Oxalat gr. 4.
Hydragr; Sabmur; gr. 1.
Morphie. Sulph; gr. 4.

To be taken at once and repeated every three or four hours until relieved.

He says that he has never yet found it to fail in irritable states of the stomach, and earnestly recommends it for trial.

Accidents.

OBSTETRICS. The Science and the Art: by Charles D. Meigs, M.D., late Professor of Midwifery, and Diseases of Women and Children, in Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, &c. 4th edition, with 129 illustrations, pp. 730, 8vo. Blanchard & Lee, Philadelphia, 1863.

This curious work is written by one who, notwithstanding his eccentricity, is acknowledged by all to be thoroughly master of his art. His countrymen, however, although admiring his genius, have always regretted the peculiarity of style with which he clothes his long and valuable experience, and which, at each succeeding edition, giving way as it were to their remonstrances and wishes, he modifies, this his fourth being his freest and best. He delights in throwing the student in all kinds of awkward positions, and then quaintly informing him at each, of some simple mode of extrication. But we confess our total incapacity at a description of our author, and shall let him speak for himself. We will open the book at random—*placenta previa*—

"I wish the student to understand this,—a full sized placenta is a cake consisting of a mass of blood vessels inclosed in copious areolar tissue lying upon the inner face of the womb "it is as large as the inside of a common sized dinner plate." After speaking of its situation being the cause of hemorrhage, he continues,—*"The floodings that come on during the early months do not generally last very long, and therefore the student will seldom be able to reach the bedside of the patient until after it shall have ceased"* Upon inquiry, he will probably be told that it came on suddenly, and that the woman has at once lost a very large quantity of blood. Let him not suppose that the half pint or even the pint of blood which is shown him in the chamber vessel could have issued from the veins in some three or ten seconds. It was not so, and could not be so; but the flow had been going on unperceived for some time, and the product slowly accumulating in the vagina, had been retained by the sphincter, until it gushed forth from some movement, probably that of sitting down to make water. Should the bleeding, however, be going on at the time, the student will be tempted to do something, what will that something be? After stating his objections to plugging, he continues,—*"Hence, to fill the vagina with a tampon is to shut the windows of diagnosis, and to expose the patient to the great risk and evil of having all the blood, which she continues to lose notwithstanding; the tampon, driven back upon the placenta to infiltrate its connecting tissue, or with a dissecting force to separate it entirely from the womb. Very well, then, if he may not do this, what can he do? Take away all the pillows; put a big family Bible under the foot of each bedpost; spread a thickly folded towel wrung very hard out of cold water over the hypogastrium and groins; give small draughts of iced lemonade, or vinegar and water, or exhibit five grain doses of alum with a little grated nutmeg in honey or syrup; let the doors and windows be opened wide; remove some of the bed covers; exclude strong lights; forbid talking or sudden movements by attendants; and lastly, insist upon the patient remaining in the recumbent position, and not to quit it for any purpose whatever. Should necessity demand it, let the foot of the bed be*