

A POWDER FOR VAGINAL DRESSINGS.—The *Journal de médecine de Paris* for February 6th attributed the following formula to Lucas-Championnière :

R Iodoform, Powdered benzoin, Powdered cinchona, Magnesium carbonate saturated with oil of eucalyptus,	}	equal parts.
M.		— <i>N. Y. Med. Jour.</i>

CANCER OF RECTUM.—Keene says that cancer of the rectum, which, until about ten years ago, was almost inoperable, has now taken its place among the formal and justifiable operations of modern surgery, so that as much as twelve inches of the rectum have been resected by Kraske's method. The mortality has been reduced 20 per cent., and permanent cure of such a formerly fatal disease has been attained in over one-third of the cases which recovered.—*Northwestern Lancet*.

THE PASSING OF THE FAMILY DOCTOR.—The London *Lancet* has lately expressed its regret at the signs of the wasting prestige and influence of the medical profession. That looks as if the embarrassments that beset physicians in New York were operating in London also. There seems to be some reason to anticipate a time when New York families will contract with a syndicate of physicians, comprising a complete set of the necessary specialists, for the supervision of the family health at a fixed annual price.—*Harper's Weekly*.

HEART DISEASE.—Don't feel called upon to give digitalis as soon as you hear a murmur over the heart. Study and treat the patient, not the murmur. Don't conclude that every murmur indicates disease of the heart. Don't forget that the pulse and general appearance of the patient often tell more than auscultation. Don't neglect to note the character of the pulse when you feel it. Possibly you may look at the tongue to satisfy the patient ; feel the pulse to instruct yourself. Don't think every systolic murmur at the apex indicates mitral regurgitation ; every systolic murmur at the aortic interspace, aortic stenosis. The former may be trivial ; the latter may be due to atheroma of the arch of the aorta. Don't say every sudden death is due to heart disease. Don't forget that the most serious diseases of the heart may occasion no murmur. A bad muscle is worse than a leaky valve. Don't examine the heart through heavy clothing. Don't give positive opinions after one examination — *Philadelphia Medical Journal*.