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MONTREAL, JANUARY, 1889.

THE DIRECT APPLICATION OF COPAIBA IN GONORRHOEA.

It has long been known that balsam of Copaiba, when taken internally, separates itself into the two constituents of all balsams, viz., the essential oil or turpentine and a resin, the former of which is eliminated by the respiratory tract, and the latter being eliminated by the kidneys. Gubler, the French authority on therapeutics was, we believe, the first to suggest the administration of either the oil or the resin separately, according to the locality it is desired to act upon. Some eight years ago a case was mentioned by Dr. Smith, at the Montreal Medical Society, of a lady having been successfully treated for gonorrhœa of the vagina by the injection of medicated urine, obtained either from herself, or from an employee, who was engaged for the purpose of secreting urine charged with copaiba resin. In many hospitals in Europe the administration of the balsam has been abandoned, partly owing to its deranging the stomach, and partly because it was wasting the volatile oil, which was wanted by the manufacturers of perfumery for reinforcing the more delicate perfumes; for, strange to say, one drop of oil of roses and ten drops of oil of Copaiba give a stronger perfume of roses than would eleven drops of the costly oil alone. A proper under-

standing of the physiological action of remedies, a subject we fear is very often neglected, would in many cases show the absurdities of administering some remedies in certain cases, such for instance as Copai-ba in the gonorrhœa of women. In an article in the *Med. Reg.* of Phila., 29 Dec., 1888, Dr. Martin Rively says that, having read an article by Dr. T. H. Stearns, of Mansfield, Mass., on the abortive treatment of Gonorrhœa by the direct application of Copaiba, he applied it by means of a No. 23 steel bougie, smeared with the balsam, to the urethra of eight men in the first stage of gonorrhœa, with the result of curing all but one, who disobeyed the ordinary directions. Of course it is of no use in gleet, which is *always* due to narrowing of the urethra. It will be a boon to men who object to the exposure entailed by smelling of Copaiba oil, and to women, to whom it is perfectly useless to give it, as the urine when so medicated does not pass naturally over the diseased surface of the vagina.

BRAIN SURGERY.

In view of our determination to provide our readers with a record of all that is newest and best in medical knowledge, we trust they will forgive us for having devoted several pages of our space to the subject of advances in brain surgery. The article referred to, a portion of which appears in this issue, is exceedingly well and carefully written, and not only deals with the surgical treatment of lesions of the brain, but also goes thoroughly into the subject of cerebral localization, which must be a topic of practical benefit, in one way or another, to nearly every practitioner.

This being the first issue of the RECORD for this year we take advantage of the opportunity to inform our readers that with the October number of last year the proprietorship of the journal has changed hands. Dr. F. Wayland Campbell, the