

THE
Canadian Practitioner

A SEMI-MONTHLY REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS
OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES.

Contributions of various descriptions are invited. We shall be glad to receive from our friends everywhere current medical news of general interest.

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TREATMENT OF PHTHISIS.

The innumerable discussions on phthisis which have taken place during the last two years have done much to encourage us to work up the therapeutic aspects of the disease. We have learned that it has a specific cause, and we hoped for a time that the discoverer of the cause had given us a specific cure. What the future is going to bring forth with reference to the efficacy of the lately purified tuberculin, it would be difficult to surmise; but we are inclined to expect great things from it. Apart from this, however, we think a more hopeful feeling is springing up, and we are commencing to realize more fully that in a certain proportion of cases phthisis is a curable disease. We have no doubt that such is the case, and we believe that the proportion of these cures is rather large.

A very interesting discussion on the etiology and treatment of phthisis took place at the last meeting of the British Medical Association. We publish in this issue a portion of an interesting address by Dr. Thorowgood on the use of drugs in the treatment of the disease in its early stage, which will be found well worthy of careful consideration.

An interesting question frequently arises as to what we should advise for our patients whom we are sending away from home. In the early stages of phthisis a change of scene, with all it involves, frequently works wonders in the direction of a cure; and yet we are inclined to shrink from sending an invalid away from home to take his chances in hotels, boarding houses, or at health resorts, where there are no home com-

forts, and where the surroundings, from a sanitary point of view, may be about as bad as possible. We publish also in this number an abstract of a paper by Dr. Fite, of New York, on "Institutions for Consumptives," which will be found very interesting in this connection. There are few such institutions in North America, and the paper gives a brief description of these. We fancy, from all we have heard, that probably the "Winyah Sanitarium," at Ashville, N.C., is one of the most reliable of this class. We understand that the sanitary arrangements are complete, and the superintendent, who looks after the treatment of the patients, is a thoroughly competent physician—at least so we are told by men of standing in New York. Physicians who are at their wits' end to know what to do with their phthisical patients might do well to make enquiries as to this sanitarium, as well as the others which are mentioned by Dr. Fite.

THE PAN-AMERICAN MEDICAL
CONGRESS.

We are pleased to learn that the prospects for this congress, to which we have before alluded more than once, are very satisfactory with its promoters, who are still working actively in its interests. The work of organization was completed at the recent meeting of the committee appointed for the purpose by the American Medical Association held in St. Louis on October 14, 15, and 16. It was decided that the congress will be held at Washington on the first Tuesday of October, 1893. The chief officers elected were: Dr. William Pepper, of Philadelphia, President; and Dr. Chas. A. L. Reed, of Cincinnati, General Secretary.

We regret to learn that the harmony of the meeting of the committee was, to some extent, marred by a rather unpleasant occurrence. The American Association appointed a surgeon to represent the navy on the committee. The gentleman designated was unable to attend, and the Surgeon-General of the navy named another to take his place, but when the substitute arrived he was not allowed to act on the committee. We can scarcely see how the committee, under the circumstances, were in a position to recognize the legality of such an appointment, and we cannot, therefore, refuse to sustain their action; but we regret the necessity for the