

## Obituaries.

The death of Edward Ledwich, F.R.C.S.I., is announced. By his death Mercer's Hospital, Dublin, loses two-thirds of its surgical staff within eleven days. Mr. Ledwich was one of the founders of the School of Medicine which bears his name; and, in conjunction with his brother Thomas, was author of the famous Ledwich anatomy.

John Macrolin, M.D., 4th February, 1870, æt. 74, Emeritus Professor of Medicine of Aberdeen, and, up to 1875, Dean of the Medical Faculty.

Benjamin F. McDowell, M.D., Dublin, Lecturer on Materia Medica at the Ledwich School of Medicine, a Member of the Council, R.C.S.I., and Surgeon to Mercer's Hospital, æt. 38.

Suddenly, on 6th February, at the age of 56, Professor Marie-Paul-Emile Chauffard. His death renders vacant the chair of General Pathology at the Paris Faculty created in 1831 for Broussais and subsequently occupied and adorned by Andral and Lasèque.

Jacob Bigelow, M.D., LL.D., of Boston, U.S., died on the 10th of January, æt. 91. He was early distinguished as a botanist, and published several botanical works. He formerly occupied the chairs of Materia Medica and of Clinical Medicine at Harvard. His son, Henry J. Bigelow, is the eminent Boston surgeon. "His character," says a contemporary, "is one which it is a pride to record, a pleasure to recall, a profit to imitate. Well saith Rome's greatest orator, 'Brief is the time, short is the space allotted to man upon earth; but the memory of a life nobly rendered is immortal.'"

ZYMATE.—Professor Tyndall is strongly in favour of quarantine; and he thereby shows himself a donkey, the great medical thunderer, the *Lancet*, thinks. Tyndall bases his advocacy of quarantine on the germ theory. This reminds us of the definition of *zymate*, which is, "a supposed compound of an imaginary acid!" Verily there could be no better commentary than this on the germ theory—that beautiful and delusive and specious and baneful *ignis fatuus* now leading hosts of honest and useful men away from clinical experiment, that almost sole source of medical truth. The germ theory, we incline to believe, is one of the wiles of the devil.—*Louisville Med. News*.

## Miscellaneous.

The very unpleasant pungent odour of iodoform can be completely masked by oil of peppermint. For instance, iodoform 2·0, vaseline 30·0, rubbed up with six drops of oil of peppermint make an ointment with a pleasant aromatic scent.

OPIUM HABIT AND AMYL NITRITE.—Dr. Leyman has successfully used amyl nitrite in insomnia consequent upon suddenly discontinuing the opium habit. Two or three whiffs, the flushing of the face being the criterion, were usually sufficient, being followed by refreshing sleep.

"I do not dispute, as for many generations has been admitted, that antiseptics are of service in surgical practice; but they are accessories and not essentials. The essentials for successful wound treatment are—accurate coaptation, dry and infrequent dressing, uniform gentle pressure, and absolute rest."—(*Samson Gamgee, F.R.S.E., in London Lancet.*)

NITRO-GLYCERINE IN ANGINA PECTORIS.—Wm. Murrell, M.R.C.P., in the *Lancet*, recommends nitro-glycerine highly in angina pectoris. He begins with drop doses of the one-per-cent nitro-glycerine solution thrice daily, and increases it as the case may be. Fifteen-drop doses have sometimes produced unpleasant symptoms. The homeopaths, no doubt, give this medicine in "explosive vomiting."

EXTEMPORE FORMULA FOR AN ANTIDOTE TO ARSENIC.—Dr. James B. McCaw remarked that dialysed iron is simply a peroxide of iron, and is exceedingly sensitive to oxygen. Hence, on slight exposure to the atmosphere (as when the bottle remains unstopped), it unites with the oxygen of the air, and the solid oxide of iron is formed. He suggests the following formula as one not generally known for an antidote to arsenic, and claims for it precedence over all others; first, because it forms the surest antidote, and secondly, because the agents are almost always accessible—even to the country doctor who carries saddle-bags: B. Murista