

rent. In other cases currents alternately increased and diminished may prove most effective. The general application of the faradaic current sometimes proves an important factor in the method of treatment. It is not very difficult to believe, he remarks, nor to understand why general faradization is so effective in lowering a pulse that is rapid as a result of nervous excitement, and in increasing its strength when it is both rapid and weak through nervous exhaustion. It is more difficult to explain why this result is so pleasantly obtainable in cases of exophthalmic goitre in which the galvanic current, after benefiting up to a certain point, fails to do more. The faradaic certainly does not affect the sympathetic so directly and powerfully as the galvanic current does, and we are obliged, for an explanation, to refer to its well-known superior tonic properties, and to the fact that the complete and thorough excitation of the cutaneous nerves by general faradization is followed by a greater and more desirable reflex influence. In a case of over thirty years' standing, which the author recently treated, but in which he failed to cause any appreciable reduction in size, this power of one current to supplement the action of the other was well illustrated. The pulse of the patient was constantly at or above 115. The action of the galvanic current reduced it to 105, but failed to do more than this after considerable effort. General faradization was then attempted, with the result of effecting within a week a further and seemingly permanent reduction of twelve beats. At the same time the patient's general condition was much improved.

#### BISHOP'S COLLEGE SCHOOL, LENNOXVILLE.

We are pleased to hear that all the suggestions which last winter were made by the Medical Commission appointed to investigate the cause of the outbreak of Typhoid Fever at Bishop's College School have been carried out, and are now completed. We are informed that the School will re-open at Lennoxville in the autumn. Confidence is being rapidly restored, and we hope for a future for this school which will far exceed its past success. We are glad to know that the labors of the Medical Commission (consisting of Drs. Simpson, Osler and Cameron) are warmly appreciated by all the friends of Bishop's College. The resolution given below, and which was carried unanimously at a meeting of the Corporation of the College, held on

the 2nd of June, is but the formal expression of this grati. de.

It was moved by Revd. Canon Norman, seconded by Mr. John S. Hall, and resolved:—

"That the sincere thanks of the Corporation are due and are hereby tendered to Dr. Simpson, Dr. Osler and Dr. Cameron, the Medical Commission, for their services rendered gratuitously in relation to the investigation as to the recent outbreak of Typhoid Fever."

#### IODIDE OF ETHYL IN ASTHMA.

The *New York Medical Journal* for June, 1881, publishes three cases of asthma treated with inhalations of iodide of ethyl, with remarkable benefit. They occurred in Dr. R. M. Lawrence's service at the Boston Dispensary. Following the cases are some remarks by Dr. Lawrence, in which he says of the iodide of ethyl: "Its speedy absorption into the blood, its antispasmodic quality, and prompt reflex stimulation of the respiratory muscles, may reasonably account for its beneficial action in the asthmatic paroxysm, while its power of liquefying and detaching accumulations of mucus sufficiently explains its curative influence in chronic bronchitis.....Experience has confirmed my faith in its remedial worth in a large majority of cases of labored respiration (whether due to bronchial spasm or to increased mucous secretion), and also in certain obstinate cases of dyspnoea, not due to organic pulmonary or cardiac lesions, where other remedies may have proved inefficient. In a small minority of cases it has failed to afford relief." He does not recommend it as a substitute for internal medication, but rather as an adjunct thereto.

#### TO TEST HOUSE DRAINS.

In London house drains are tested by pouring in at the highest point of the pipes an emulsion of oil of peppermint and water, following this up with a couple of buckets of water to wash the emulsion through the drains. Should there be any leaks they can be located by the penetrating smell of the peppermint. The same system is, we believe used in Boston and in Montreal.