

THE MEDICAL ACT.—J. R. Smith, an herb doctor, was tried before Mayor Field, at Woodstock, on Jan. 11th, for practising medicine without a licence. He was fined \$25 and costs. He gave notice of appeal to a higher court.

IS CONSUMPTION CONTAGIOUS?—Some experiments and observations recently made on the transmission of tuberculosis or phthisis from one animal to another, are worthy of note as indicating one fruitful source of pulmonary disease. Thus it has been found, that when an animal with tuberculated lungs is made the yoke-fellow of a perfectly healthy animal, and the two are housed and fed together, so as to inhale one another's breath, the one which was at first sound, before long exhibits the symptoms of tuberculosis. Again, Krebs has produced tuberculosis by giving animals milk from those which were diseased. In addition to rabbits and guineapigs (which animals are very susceptible to the production of the malady,) he accidently induced the disease in a dog, by feeding it with the milk of a cow in the last stage of phthisis. As a result of his observation, he asserts that tubercle virus is present in the milk of phthisical cows, whether they are slightly or gravely affected. On vigorous subjects such milk may produce no injurious effects, but the case is likely to be different with children and those of enfeebled constitution. Similar results may result from eating the flesh of animals affected with tubercle, and by inoculation with the virus. Thorough cooking of milk and flesh meat neutralizes their injurious action.—*The Popular Science Monthly*.

ON THE RATIONAL TREATMENT OF COMMON TAPEWORM.

At a late meeting of the Medical Society of London, Dr. BRUNTON read a paper on this subject (*Lancet*, December 4, 1875). After stating the varieties met with in this country, and mentioning the anomalous symptoms to which they give rise (their very anomaly, he remarked, affording a clue to the diagnosis), he stated that the chief points to be observed in the treatment were: a preliminary starvation of twenty-four hours, and the administration of

a combination of kameela and male fern—namely, two drachms of kameela to be rubbed up with a little gum and water till an emulsion is formed, and then two drachms of oil of male fern to be added, and the whole triturated in a mortar, with a gradual addition of water till a three-ounce mixture is formed, of which half is to be given at bedtime, and the remainder four hours later. This he had never known to fail. He insisted on the quality of the drugs being good, and spoke of the after-treatment by tonics.

THE MILLS MURDER.—It having been reported in the daily papers that physicians of the general school refused to assist in the post-mortem examination in this case, because the deceased had been attended by Homœopaths. We insert a letter from Dr. Macdonald to the *Globe*.

To the Editor of the Globe:—

SIR,—With reference to the wretched incident which occurred here lately, permit me to correct a statement of your correspondent, that in consequence of Dr. Vernon and Husband, who attended upon Mr. Mills, being Homœopaths, the Hamilton Physicians, of the General School, all refused to assist at the examination after death. I believe the physicians requested to hold a post-mortem examination on the part of Mr. Mills' friends were Dr. O'Reilly, Dr. Ridley, and, through the latter, myself. I declined for myself, and I recommended my friend Dr. Ridley to decline, because the body of the deceased, being in the care of the coroner such interference on our part, as was proposed, would be an officiousness which would in due time receive its reward. This was the only reason for the refusal, and I have no objection to accept the responsibility of it.

I am, sir,

yours, &c.,

J. D. MACDONALD, M.D.

Hamilton, Jan. 10th.

TORONTO GENERAL HOSPITAL.—A new medical Superintendent has been appointed to this institution. Doubtless the trustees selected the best man they could find ready to take the position—possibly no better appointment could be made. We must, however, protest against the manner of making such appointments. Surely when a vacancy occurs applications should be advertised for, so that all who may