

THE CANADA MEDICAL RECORD,

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MONTREAL, DECEMBER, 1888.

"THE MARITIME MEDICAL NEWS."

As medical journalists we take great pleasure in extending a hearty welcome to our new contemporary, which made its first appearance in November, 1883. It is a bi-monthly of twenty-six double columned pages, published at Halifax, N.S., and edited by Drs. D. A. Campbell and Arthur Morrow, of Halifax; T. W. Daniel and L. C. Allison of St. John, and James McLeod, of Charlottetown. In the introductory it presents a just claim to existence by saying that the medical men of the Maritime Provinces have hitherto had no professional journal which they could regard with any lively sense of interest and ownership. Being a transplanted Bluenose ourselves, we personally wish our salt water brethren every success in their venture, hoping that its life may be as hardy as that of their native toilers of the sea.

SALICYLIC ACID OR SALICYLATES.

In view of the well known danger of causing ulceration and even perforation of the stomach by the internal use of salicylic acid, and considering that all the advantages, and even more, can be obtained by employing the salicylate salts, it is rather surprising to learn from several leading druggists of this city that the acid is still largely prescribed. Many physicians who

do not order the acid alone, add bicarbonate of soda to their prescriptions, thus rendering it more difficult to prepare, as it is evidently easier to have the chemical reaction take place on a large scale in the laboratory than to effect it in the drug store each time the medicine is required. It is claimed that the acid is less likely to be adulterated than the salts, but this would hardly apply in first class establishments. The other objection which might be raised is that the number of salicylate compounds has very largely increased. In the *Therapeutic Gazette* for November, 1888, there is an exhaustive article on the salicylates by Dr. W. A. Caldwell, of Chicago. The principal salicin compounds are salicylate of sodium, salicylate of ammonium and salicylate of phenol, or, as it is called, salol. This latter salt is especially valuable in typhoid fever, which may readily be believed when we remember the powerful germicide action of both salicylic acid and carbolic acid. In acute rheumatism the preference should be given to salicylate of ammonium, or, as we have been in the habit of doing during the last ten years, adding thirty minims of aromatic spirits of ammonia to each ten-grain dose of the salicylate of soda, a practice which has led us to consider salicylate of soda as an infallible specific for rheumatic fever.

CANADIANS IN ENGLAND.

Arrangements are almost completed by which there will be unrestricted reciprocity between the medical governing board of England and the Province of Quebec, so that any Quebec graduate may have himself placed on the medical register of England on presentation of his degree or diploma and on payment of a fee of five pounds. Although a considerable number of Canadian graduates have already qualified themselves for practising in England by having taken the diplomas of F. R. C. S., M. R. C. S., L. R. C. P., etc., there are many others who cannot afford either the time or the money in order