

cured the patient. The longer one is in practice the smaller the number of drugs he will employ, and the greater will be his success. Whenever it is possible, it is far better to depend upon a solution of the alkaloid than upon tinctures and extracts of the crude material, for the reason that one ounce of the alkaloid may represent all the way from a cwt., to a ton of the raw material, it being well known that plants gathered in different countries and at different seasons of the year vary enormously in the amount of active material they contain.

Instead of ordering tincture of *nux vomica* we should order liquor *strychniæ*; instead of tincture *belladonna*, we should use liquor *atropiæ*; instead of crude aloes, aloine; instead of opium, morphine; instead of *hyoscyamus*, *hyoscyamine*; and so on. For those who keep their own medicines, there are two ways of using these active principles; either in the form of tablet triturates from a thoroughly reliable maker, or else to purchase the alkaloid and to make alcoholic solutions of the strength of four grains to the oz. We say alcoholic solutions, because made of distilled water alone, they will not keep. It does not require that the alcohol should be pure, as between 25 and 50 per cent. of it will be sufficient to prevent the growth of bacteria; or if there is any objection to alcohol, then 25 per cent. of glycerine will do. The strength of any of these liquors is invariably $\frac{1}{120}$ of a grain to the minim or one half grain to the drachm.

New drugs are constantly being introduced, and out of every one hundred brought before the notice of the profession, perhaps one becomes permanent in the pharmacopœa; but it will be better that the experiments should be made, not by the young practitioner, who can ill afford to lose his one patient because the new drug fails, but by the hospital and dispensary physician who can establish the worthlessness of the majority of them without in-

jury to his practice. Many of the new drugs, while not being worthless, are not so good as the best of their particular class, and it is unwise to lay aside a well tried and reliable remedy for one which often fails.

DR. ROBERT COSTIGAN.

We record with feelings of pain the death of Dr. Robert Costigan, which took place at Los Lunas, New Mexico, the end of October, where he had resided for a number of years. Dr. Costigan was a native of Montreal and was employed for sometime by the old drug firm of Lamplogh & Campbell, which he left to study Medicine at Bishop's College in this city. He was among the first to enter as a student of that school in its organisation in 1871, and the first graduate to receive his entire medical education within its walls. He graduated from Bishop's in 1874 taking the prize for the best final examination. He had formerly taken in 1872, the Junior prize in Practical Anatomy and in 1873 the Physiology prize, for the second time, Dr. Costigan was held in high estimation by all who knew him, and his death at an early age will be heard of with regret. His body was brought to Montreal and interred.

PERSONAL.

Dr. J. M. Jack (M. D. Bishop's 1889), has been elected Dermatologist to the Montreal Dispensary.

Dr. Lafontaine of Waterbury, Conn. (M. D. Bishop's 1884), was in Montreal the end of October, and paid a visit to his Alma Mater.

Miss Grace Ritchie and Miss Maude Abbott, both B. A. of McGill University, are attending the Medical courses of University of Bishop's College.

Dr. J. M. Jack (M. D. Bishop's 1889), who has decided to devote himself to Dermatology, has left for Vienna, where he will devote a year in studying up his specialty.

Dr. Lefebvre of Vancouver B. C., was in Montreal the early part of November, and attended the meeting of the Medico - Chirurgical Society on the evening of the 7th.

The many friends of Dr. George Ross, Vice-Dean of the Medical Faculty of McGill University, will learn with great pleasure of his steady convalescence from his recent illness.