

## THE CANADA MEDICAL RECORD,

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MONTREAL, JANUARY, 1891.

## TO OUR EXCHANGES.

Owing to the smallness of the type used in addressing some of the exchanges sent to us many of them have gone astray. As we value our exchanges highly, and keep many of them on file, this is very annoying. The only remedy we can suggest is to have the addresses printed in large clear type.

## LIABILITY OF THE JEWS TO CANCER.

It was stated recently by a leading Rabbi in the course of a lecture on the Jewish laws concerning diet that owing to their abstinence from pork, the Jews enjoyed a special immunity from cancer. On referring, however, to statistics which we have just received from Washington we learn that this is not the case. On page 15, table xi, we find that of 1000 deaths among Jews there were 13.58 due to cancer for males and 21.65 for females, while for the whole of the United States the death rate was 13.09 for males and 23.59 for females. So that the statement above made does not seem to be borne out by facts.

## THE KOCH TREATMENT.

In reading over our exchanges during the last month or more, the prevailing topic both of original communications, correspondence and of editorials, has been Koch's remedy for consumption. At first the enthusiasm knew no bounds. Everybody seemed to be going mad over Kochism. Several thousand physicians suddenly abandoned their lucrative practices to visit Berlin in order to learn the method of manufacture of the wonderful golden brown curative fluid. Even consumptive patients who could afford it, like drowning men grasping at a straw, braved the dangers and hardships of a winter trip to Berlin in order to avail themselves of a last hope for life. The results have been both disappointing and encouraging. Disappointing to the patients who were far advanced in phthisis pulmonalis, for in these cases the remedy has been worse than useless, but encouraging to those in the early stages of that disease, for marked and decided benefit has been obtained in many cases. In lupus the lymph has shown a virtue beyond all precedent, and in those hospitals where it has had a fair trial no one disputes its wonderful effect. As to whether this effect will be permanent or not time alone can reveal. Again, in local tubercular affections, although by no means invariable, the results have been encouraging. We venture to predict that in twenty years at most it will be generally recognized that consumptives must be isolated as long as bacilli can be detected in the sputum, just as much as the small-pox patients are now isolated as long as crusts are coming off their bodies. Neither would this sure and only means of stamping out the disease involve such hardships as would at first appear to be necessary. It is rather a matter of dollars and cents than personal hardship. Let the Federal Government of every country build and equip sanitarium in the most suitable part of its dominions capable of affording a comfortable home for every known consumptive in the