

essential oil, in which the peculiar specific action of the remedy is not believed to reside. The employment of the active principle, cotoin, therefore removes all obstacles which might otherwise cause the rejection of the remedy. In the first place, only very small doses are necessary to produce the desired effect, and besides no secondary disturbances of any kind, nor any disagreeable sensations are produced by it. According to the investigations of Jobst, cotoin must be classed with the so-called indifferent principles; and it is not only "indifferent" chemically, but even physiologically; for on administering it to animals, not the slightest change of any physiological functions could be observed, even in doses of one gramme. This absence of toxic effects is no doubt a great advantage, in comparison with those remedies upon which we mostly rely in such diseases, namely, opium and lead. Although cotoin may seem to be much more expensive than any other antidiarrhœic remedy, it is not so in reality, for only very small and infrequent doses of it need be employed. Eleven cases of gastric catarrh and diarrhœa have been treated with the remedy, of which 0.05-0.08 gm. were dissolved in 120 gm. of distilled water, to which ten drops of alcohol were added, and the solution mixed with thirty gm. of syrup. A tablespoonful was administered hourly. Some of the cases were of old standing, some were very severe attacks of cholera morbus, and a number of them had either been but little benefited by opium, tannin, or lead acetate, or not been bettered at all. The above mixture produced speedy improvement, generally in a few hours, and complete recovery in from 12 hours to 6 days.—*Buchn. Repert. f. Ph.* 1876, 520.—(*New Remedies.*)

CALABAR BEAN AS A LACTAGOGUE (*The British Medical Journal*, October 18, 1876).—Dr. W. Munro, remembering the power of calabar bean to dilate the peripheral blood-vessels, and wishing to restore the secretion of milk after it had disappeared from the breast for about three days, thought this dilating power might be made useful. He accordingly prepared an ointment of the strength of twenty grains to the ounce, and ordered it to be applied, and washed off carefully before the baby was allowed to suckle. After two applications, *the baby not having been put to the breast meanwhile*, the milk returned in full flow.—*Philadelphia Med. Times.*

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MEDICAL SCHOOL MORTALITY.

The possession of a graduating power is commonly regarded as the *sine qua non* for a successful Medical School, and yet, strange as it may appear, the only Medical School in Ontario, to-day, with an unbroken record of a quarter of a century, is one that has never directly possessed such a power.

There have been, within our recollection, no less than four Medical Schools in this Province, organised as integral parts of as many Universities, each having the power of conferring degrees upon its own students, viz.:—The Medical Departments of King's College, Trinity College, Victoria College, and Queen's College; and yet, one after another, they have all succumbed to some occult or malevolent influence, while the School without a direct University connection still survives its thirty-fourth year, alike honoured and successful.

Why this strange fatality should follow the University Medical Schools we do not now pretend to explain, but simply draw attention to it, as an unexpected and, perhaps, anomalous circumstance. It is true, the Medical Department of Trinity College, after a lapse of several years, was some time ago resuscitated, when it was thought the new faculty had consigned to the grave of its predecessor all cause of former mischief, and marked out for itself a long and prosperous career; but the old fatality follows the connection still, and we see the new School taking steps to sever its connection with the parent University again, by asking for a separate Act of Incorporation, under the name