

Although contract practice of any kind is strongly to be deprecated and against the best interests of the profession, the conclusion inevitably arrived at was that the remedy is in the hands of the various medical associations, and not within the jurisdiction of the governing body.

The agreement with the Ontario Journal Publishing Co., was, after animated discussion, renewed for another year, with which action we cannot agree. We leave aside the injustice done to other journals that have invariably striven for the benefit and elevation of the profession in Ontario, and view the matter on much broader grounds. To subsidize a journal with the proviso that it be supplied free is, in the eyes of many, nothing else than giving a retainer to an advocate. For some years verbatim reports of the Council proceedings have been supplied in the Annual Announcement, and rightly, for thereby interest is aroused and laudable criticism invited. The members of the Council are representative men, and it is to be inferred ready to vindicate their record.

We sincerely regret that the respected veteran of the Council, Dr. Fenwick, has gone over to the great majority, and we congratulate the Western University in having selected as his successor a gentleman so popular as Dr. Moorehouse.

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#### POTASSIUM PERMANGANATE.

Permanganate of potassium has recently been brought prominently before the profession as an antidote in cases of poisoning by morphia, and would seem, from experimental evidence, to be a most valuable addition to our resources, in the management of these cases.

It was found that if morphia and the permanganate were brought together in solution, the presence of morphia could no longer be demonstrated by chemical tests, and the solution might be swallowed with impunity, so far as any poisonous effects of morphia were concerned.

In November, 1892, a report appeared, of experiments made by Bokai, with phosphorus and permanganate of potassium. He found that phosphorus in the presence of the permanganate was converted into innocuous orthophosphoric acid in the stomach, with the development of manganese chloride.

The experiments were made on dogs: all those treated recovering, those untreated died.

In March last, investigations made by J. Kossa (*Vratch*) on the use of this drug in poisoning by the cyanides, were recorded in the *Druggists' Circular and Chemical Gazette*.

Kossa found that rabbits were fatally affected in a few minutes by .01 gramme of potassium cyanide, but if, at the time of administration, .5 gramme of permanganate, dissolved in water, was administered, doses of cyanide up to .1 gramme failed to cause death.

Larger quantities (.2 grammes), however, proved fatal, although the action of the poison was much delayed. The same results were obtained when hydrocyanic acid was used.

It was suggested, therefore, that in poisoning by cyanides, one-half to one-third of a litre, of a three- to five-per-cent. solution of permanganate, be administered immediately.

While these various experiments are interesting, and the antagonism of the permanganate to these poisons can be demonstrated in the laboratory, it remains to be seen to what extent this drug will be useful after these poisons have been absorbed. Even if it should prove useless after the poison has passed into the blood, it will still be a most valuable means of preventing further absorption, particularly in the case of phosphorus, which causes so much local irritation and is so difficult of removal, owing to its insolubility.

Doubtless further experiments will be made, bearing on these points, but in the meantime it deserves a fair trial in these cases, and should have a place in our emergency equipments.

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#### ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of this Association, which took place last month, was in every sense of the term a success. The President, Dr. McFarlane, was an ideal presiding officer; the committees did their work thoroughly; the attendance of members was unusually large and all seemed to enjoy and appreciate the brief respite from the arduous duties of practice. The papers were, on the whole, probably above the average and were freely discussed. It has been charged in the past that the discussion of papers occupied too small a portion