

THE CANADA MEDICAL RECORD,

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MONTREAL, NOVEMBER, 1888.

DISINFECTING INSTRUMENTS.

Often the simplest way of doing a thing is the best. And so it seems to be in the matter of disinfecting instruments. Dr. Davidson, writing from the Hygienic Institute of Berlin, says that he has proved by experiment that the best and simplest process is to place them in boiling water for five minutes, after which they ought to be dried with a sterilized cloth (a boiled rag), and then placed away until wanted.

SALICYLATE OF AMMONIUM.

In the journal of the American Medical Association for October 6th, Dr. J. K. Barnett, of Neemah, Wis., in an article well worth reading, draws attention to the value of the above remedy in typhoid and remittent fevers. It is generally combined with carbonate of ammonia, in a dose of four grains of the former and three of the latter every two hours. We recommend our readers to give it a trial.

PHTHISIS.

One of the most interesting and carefully prepared monographs that we have seen for some time is one by Dr. Lawrence Flick, of Philadelphia, on the contagiousness of phthisis. It is illustrated with three maps of the fifth ward of Philadelphia, in which every death from this disease

during the last twenty-five years is represented by a dot. The grouping of the dots is startling. Whenever two deaths have occurred in a certain house, there are almost certain to be eight or ten others either there or next door.

The proofs are too elaborate for us to go into in detail, but any one who has any doubt about the contagiousness of phthisis would do well to obtain a copy of this pamphlet.

THE PHONOGRAPH.

We recently experienced the pleasure of spending an evening at Mr. Edison's magnificent laboratory and manufactory at Llewellyn Park, where the great inventor himself demonstrated to us the powers of the phonograph.

By means of the recent improvements, especially the using of a wax cylinder, the machine is now able to reproduce with equal distinctness, as many as 500 times, the sentences which have been spoken into it.

The day may yet come when it will be used, not only by students in the lecture room, to familiarize them with normal and abnormal heart and lung sounds, which they would otherwise have to learn at the bedside, but even the consulting physician in his office may make use of it to drum into the ears of his patients the advice which alone can cure their disease.

As all diseases may be considered as the natural consequence of the violation of the laws of health, and as it is the prime duty of the physician to teach these laws to his patients, might it not be possible to have the phonograph in the waiting room, so that when the patient enters the sanctum the doctor will find an already cultivated soil for his words of wisdom to fall on.

PATHOLOGY AND TREATMENT OF URÆMIA.

Dr. Wm. Carter's recent Bradshaw lecture on this subject has attracted consider-