

Miscellaneous.

CAMPHOR AND TOBACCO.—In an article in the *Practitioner*, Dr. Edward Noakes says that in cases of overdose of tobacco, as in the sickness from smoking, etc., a dose of camphor has repeatedly proved antidotal in his hands.

M. Anglada, Prof. of Internal Pathology at the Faculty of Medicine of Montpellier, died at the end of April, aged 69. The Faculty of Nancy also lately lost one of its most distinguished masters, Rameau, Prof. of Medical Physics.

ALKALINITY OF THE BLOOD.—M. Lepine has been engaged upon researches on the variations of the alkalinity of the blood in disease. In order to determine them he mixes 1 c.c. of blood with a sufficient quantity of oxalic acid to render the mixture acid. He has observed that in chronic articular rheumatism the alkalinity of the blood is always less than in the normal state.—*Lyon Med. Soc. de Biol., Paris.*

One of the most eminent and universally beloved members of the profession in Hungary has just passed away in the person of Dr. Kovacs-Schestsény Endre of Budapest. He was the intimate friend and professional adviser of the great Hungarian patriot Déak, and during life enjoyed many marks of his sovereign's personal favour.

FATAL PISTOL-SHOT WITHOUT PERFORATION OF THE SKIN.—Dr. Hofmann (*Lehrbuch der Gerichtlich, Medicin*, 2 Band, Wien, 1878) relates the following remarkable case. A man, aged 40, fired a pistol-shot at himself in the region of the left breast. A skin-burn resulted of the size of the palm of the hand, but no rupture of continuity of the external skin. Beneath this, there was an effusion of blood; the costal cartilage was broken. In the pericardium lay a pound and a half of blood; and at the apex of the heart, on each side of the longitudinal sulcus, was a rent of the muscular fibres, extending into the cavities of the ventricles.—*British Medical Journal.*

LACTOPEPTINE.—In the treatment of Infantile Diarrhoea produced by imperfect digestion, we have had most satisfactory results from the use of Lactopeptine, also in cases of Impaired Digestion in old persons. This is one of the most valuable pharmaceutical preparations that has been placed in the hands of the profession. We take pleasure in attesting to its value from a considerable experience in the use of it.—*Cincinnati Lancet and Observer, Jan. 1878.*

AUGUSTE ALPHONSE AMUSSAT, born in Paris, on the 25th September, 1820, died in the same city, on the 31st May, 1878. His thesis for the doctorate was on the subject of the "Employment of Water in Surgery." Besides this his literary labours consisted chiefly in editing his father's papers, and a number of memoirs of his own on the use of the galvano-cautery in various affections. With him dies out a name borne with distinction by three generations of physicians.

NERVOUS PHENOMENA OF URÆMIA.—M. Picard sent to the *Société de Biol.* a note upon the cause of the nervous phenomena of uræmia. He has succeeded in producing eclamptic attacks in the dog, by injecting rapidly a concentrated solution of urea. In these cases urinary excretion ceases; but if the injection be made slowly, or if the dose be not strong enough, there occurs, instead of the uræmia, an abundant diuresis, and, the urea being eliminated along with the urine, there is no eclampsia.—*Lyon Médical.*

CAUSE OF CONTRACTION OF PUPIL FROM MORPHIA.—M. Picard sent to the *Soc. de Biol. de Paris* a note upon the mechanism of pupillary contraction under the influence of morphia. It appears to be due not to an excitation of the motorius oculi communis, but to a paresis of the great sympathetic. For if a small vein from the submaxillary gland be laid bare and opened, the flow of blood will be seen to increase after the injection of morphia; a result not modified by section of the chorda tympani. Morphia therefore produces a weakening of the action of the sympathetic.—*Lyon Médical.*