

Medical Items.

TO ABOLISH THE OFFICE OF CORONER.—The Constitutional Convention now in session for the State of New York has voted to strike out the office of coroner as a constitutional position by a vote of ayes 97, nays 43. This is one step in the direction of giving to New York a system of medico-legal experts such as has been adopted by Massachusetts for many years. The ratification of the action of the convention must be obtained at the polls by the general vote of the people of the State. There seems to be a strong presumption that the revised constitution will be adopted. —*Journal of American Medical Association.*

TRANSFUSION OF BLOOD IN ITS LEGAL ASPECTS.—Our Paris letter of June 23rd contained a report of an interesting trial that had taken place in France. It being necessary to resort to transfusion in a desperate case of illness, the servant of the patient volunteered, or consented, to supply the blood. Some time afterward the giver fell sick, and, attributing his disease to the sacrifice he had made for his master, sued the latter for 60,000 francs damages. Experts were appointed to examine and report on the case, but in the interval the plaintiff died. The action was continued by the widow at the Civil Tribunal of the Seine, where the court gave judgment for the defendant. The decision was obviously equitable if, as we assume, compensation was claimed simply on the ground that the illness resulted from the operation and from the effects of the loss of blood. When a person is asked to furnish blood for the purpose of transfusion it is the duty of the receiver, by himself or agent, to state precisely the possible dangers attending venesection, and to insure that reasonable care is taken to prevent untoward consequences, that is, the wound should be made under strict antiseptic precautions, and the patient