THE SOLUBILITY OF FALSE DIPTHERITIC MEMBRANES.—The *Journal de Chimie et de Pharmacie* for May contains a short review of the work of MM. Bricheteau and Adrian on this subject. One of the experiments is of interest: "A false tracheal membrane, weighing about twenty centigrammes, thick, resistant, and representing a square centimetre of surface, was placed in a tub containing about five grammes of water. To this was added two drops of lactic acid; the solution was then agitated. In two minutes the membrane began to disintegrate, and gave signs of dissolving. A few drops more of the acid brought about the complete solution of the membrane. A more complete result was obtained by using lime-water, so as to form lactate of lime. Solutions of potash and soda acted much less powerful. Bromine water, chlorate of potassa, and common salt were all found less active in promoting solution of the membrane." The authors, therefore, recommend the solution of lactic acid as the best topical application to the false membranes of diphtheria.—*The Practitioner*, July, 1868.

AMPUTATION OF THE RIGHT ARM AT THE SHOULDER-JOINT, AND EXCISION OF THE SCAPULA FOR SEVERE INJURY OF THE LIMB.—The case which was communicated to the British Medical Association, at its late meeting, by Mr. V. Jackson, was that of a man admitted into Wolverhampton General Hospital, December, 1864, having previously been knocked down on the railway by the buffer of an engine, the wheel of which passed over his arm. The injuries were so severe that the removal of the limb at the shoulder-joint, followed by excision of the scapula, offered the only chance of saving life. The author drew particular attention to the fact that the scapula had been excised by sawing through the acromion process, thus saving the point of the shoulder—the first time, in fact, that this had been done, all previous excisions of the entire bone having involved a portion of the clavicle.—*Medical Times and Gazette*, Aug. 15, 1868.

CARBOLATED GLYCERINE.—George W. Lawrence, M.D., Hot Springs, Arkansas (*Med. and Surg. Reporter*, February 2d), gives the following process for making carbolated glycerine. In a water-bath ranging from 100° to 150° F., place one ounce of pure crystalized carbolic acid mixed with nine times its bulk, when melted, of *pure* glycerine, and agitate while hot until thoroughly incorporated. This preparation variously diluted *with water or glycerine*, is invaluable in phagedena, sloughing ulcers, bedsores, syphilitic ulcers, and all that class of obdurate ills. It is beneficial in cutaneous diseases of a parasitic origin. Diluted with ten to twenty times its bulk of pure water, it can be used with the atomizer

Laceration of Perineum—Baker Brown's Operation.—In the Cincinnati Commercial Hospital (*Lancet and Observer*, Feb., 1868) two cases are reported in which this operation was performed by Dr. W. W. Dawson, with complete success in one and partial success in the other. Quill-sutures inserted deeply were used, which were removed on the third day after the operation. Opium was given freely, and the urine drawn off frequently. The bowels were kept locked up for several days.

Gunshot Wound of the Cervical Vertebræ and Spinal Cord—Survival 51 Days.—In the Atlanta *Medical and Surgical Journal* a case is recorded where Private G. was wounded in the neck by a bullet. He lived 51 days. An examination revealed that the ball had passed through the lamina attached to the vertebræ from the spinal portion, so that the spinal portions of the bone were lying loose in the half-formed sac around the injured bone. The sheath of the spinal marrow, posteriorly, was cut across, and about two-fifths of the spinal marrow, was severed.

Character of the Wounds inflicted by the Chassepot Rifle—We find it stated in one of our foreign exchanges, that although with this arm a multitude of missiles can be scattered over the field in a few minutes, and therefore a great number of men rendered *hors de combat*, yet, by reason of the small size of the projectile, the number of fatal injuries is very small in proportion to the total number of wounded.

It has been ascertained on many battle-fields that the Chassepot bullet rarely shatters a bone, but, in a large majority of cases, passes around it.

Entozoa in Carbuncle—The Paris correspondent of the *Leavenworth Medical Herald* for May, 1868, contains the following interesting item:—"Dr. Davaine, in a paper on Carbuncle, states that the blood of an animal that had died from this disorder, was found to be filled with microscopic filiform animalcules, belonging to the *vibro* or *bacterium* kind. This is not the first time such a fact has been ascertained; but the question is, whether the animalcules are the cause, or only the effect of the malady. or, again, whether their presence is a mere accident. From a series of experiments made in order to throw some light on the subject, Dr. Davaine concludes: 1. That the animalcules in question are constantly found in the blood of animals attacked with carbuncles. 2. These animalcules appear in the spleen, the liver and blood *before* the symptoms of the disease make their appearance; and, 3. The blood of infected subjects ceases to be contagious as soon as the animalcules have disappeared."

Fractures of the Elbow-joint.—Dr. Henry J. Bigelow, of Boston, Mass. (Boston *Med. and Surg. Journal*), holds that in simple fractures of the elbow, except of the olecranon, *passive motion*, as laid down in works, is radically wrong and unnecessary; it occasions excessive pain during the operation, and begets active inflammation, besides injuring severely the part under repair, which nature in her own good time will restore better without than with it.

The Diagnosis of Rectal Diseases.—Prof. Horatio R. Storer, of Boston, in an article published in the second number of the *American Journal of Obstetrics*, on "The Rectum in its relations to Uterine Disease," gives some useful hints on the diagnosis of rectal diseases in women.

Of late years he has thrown aside every form of anal speculum, save in the treatment of diseases, and depends not only upon the digital examination, but upon eversion through the anal orifice by pressure within the vagina.