

yet quite what we would like to see. The preliminary examination should be passed before the student commences to study medicine, and a course of four years should be required, as in Ontario.

DR. SULLIVAN'S PAPER.

The Hon. Dr. Sullivan's paper on "Hernia," read before the Ontario Medical Association, appears in the present issue of THE CANADIAN PRACTITIONER. We trust that it will be carefully read, not only by the general practitioner, but by the specialist in surgery. The individual who has a rupture, suffers from a condition the gravity of which it is difficult to over-estimate; we are apt to think lightly of it because of its great frequency; it is a class of disease with which we are all familiar; it is a common thing, too, for us to come in contact with afflicted patients who have been absolutely neglectful of their hernia, because they do not realize the serious nature of the complaint. The danger of strangulation, which may prove fatal in a few days, should always be kept in view, and the treatment, therefore, demands our greatest care.

Dr. Sullivan has written a valuable paper; he has had extensive experience, and he has presented to us his views, as the result of that experience, in an able manner. The truss is often spoken of as if it were a palliative form of treatment only, and that a cure is not to be anticipated. We are pleased to see that Dr. Sullivan differs from this view, and states that the truss "is still the safest, surest, and most permanent radical cure we possess"; he rightly condemns all bosses and protuberances, which keeps the canal open, and prevents the possibility of cure.

We heartily endorse his views with regard to the grave dangers of delaying the operation where the bowel has become strangulated, and the exception he takes to the opinion of some authorities, who advocate returning gangrenous or "doubtful" bowel into the abdominal cavity. There are many other valuable suggestions in Dr. Sullivan's paper, which we cannot refer to at length, but which will be appreciated by all, coming, as they do, from a man of exceptional skill and experience.

PYOKTANIN, THE NEW ANTISEPTIC.

The antiseptic powers of the aniline dyes have long been known to bacteriologists, who have observed their effects upon gelatine cultures. Stilling and Wortmann, of Strasburg, have been studying their action, with the idea of applying them to practical medicine. Their researches have led them to regard certain anilins as antiseptics even more powerful than corrosive sublimate. Merck has patented them, and introduced them under the name of Pyoktanins, the pus destroyers. Of these there are two, the blue and the yellow.

Pyoktanin, under the name of methyl violet, is well-known to every physician and microscopist as a staining agent. It may be used in the form of a pencil made of the pure drug, or as a powder, two parts of Pyoktanin to 1,000 of talc, or in watery solution, 1 in 1,000 or 2,000.

Pyoktanin is free from any smell or any toxic effect, a great advantage as compared with the antiseptics now in use. Unfortunately, unless very carefully handled, the clothes and the hands are deeply stained by it. These stains may be easily removed by a dilute solution of hydrochloric or of nitric acid.

Pyoktanin has proved itself specially useful in soft or in hard chancres, and in all sorts of syphilitic ulcerations. One reporter claims that by its use soft chancres are soundly healed in from three to ten days. It is said to give satisfactory results in gonorrhœa, when used as an injection of 1 in 1,000.

There would seem to be in these anilins a dangerous rival to the derivative analgesics, such as antipyrine, for it is now proposed to use methyl blue to relieve pain.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO MEDICAL SOCIETY LECTURES.

A letter from Dr. Ferguson, the President of the University of Toronto Medical Society, appears in this issue, and gives some interesting particulars respecting the regular courses of scientific lectures which are to be delivered annually for this society. As our readers are aware, the first course was delivered a few months ago by Dr. E. C. Seguin, and the lectures were highly appreciated by all who heard