

Dominion, has brought an action, fixing damages at \$10,000, against two prominent physicians who have called him a quack. The Canada Medical Act requires that a physician shall not only be a graduate of a medical college in good standing, but that he shall also pass an examination before the licensing body, who shall be independent of the teaching bodies. This law secures practitioners possessing a much higher average of education than obtains among the physicians in countries not having this salutary law, and the fact of a man's being allowed to practice in Canada is guarantee that he is not what Webster defines as a quack, viz., "a boastful pretender to medical skill; an empiric; an ignorant practitioner." This is the meaning of the word "quack" among the laity, but in the profession a man may have all knowledge of medicine and yet be a quack; and his knowledge may be of very mediocre order, and yet his standing may be good. The outcome of the suit mentioned will be awaited with interest. Will the court decide that "quack" means what the laity hold it to mean, or will it allow the profession to define its meaning? In the former case the verdict must be in favor of the plaintiff; in the latter for the defendants, who unquestionably intended the term to apply not so much to the skill of the plaintiff as to his methods of doing business, his advertising, unwarranted promises of curing, exaggeration of minor ailments for sinister purposes, ostentatious parade of qualifications, depreciation of the ability of brother practitioners, and the various other unethical and immoral devices of the itinerant physician."

ADMINISTRATION OF SANTONIN.—Dr. L. Lewin recommends, in the *Berl. klin. Wochenschrift*, the following forms of administering santonin:

1. R—Santonini 0.2 gm. = 3 grs.
Ol. cocos nuciferæ 60.0 " 2 fl. oz.
Dose: a tablespoonful two or three times daily.

2. R—Santonini 0.2 gm. = 3 grs.
Ol. amygdalæ expressi. 60.0 " 2 fl. oz.
Ol. cinæ (Levant worm-seed) gtt. 4 gtt. 4.
Dose: a tablespoonful two or three times daily.

3. R—Santonini 0.2 gm. = 3 grs.
Ol. ricini 20.0 " $\frac{3}{4}$ fl. oz.
Ol. cinæ gtt. 4 gtt. 4.
Dose: a teaspoonful two or three times daily.

4. R—Santonini 0.2 gm. = 3 grs.
Ol. ricini 20.0 " $\frac{3}{4}$ fl. oz.
Ol. cinæ gtt. 4 gtt. 4.
Sacchari q. s. q. s.

Make into a soft paste with sugar. To be given in doses, during 48 hours.

5. R—Santonini 0.05 gm. = $\frac{3}{4}$ gr.
Ol. ricini 5.0 " 75 grs.
Ol. cinæ gtt. 1 gtt. 1.

Fill into four capsules.

Dose: one capsule two or three times a day.

Lewin finds fault with all the usual methods of administering santonin. According to him, it should be given in its least soluble form, *i. e.*, in that form in which it will be the least readily absorbed, as the effect desired is not a general, but a local one. An oily solution of santonin undergoes, according to his experiments performed on animals, not the slightest absorption in the stomach, so that under no circumstances is any trace found in the urine. Almost any kind of oil may be employed—cocoa-nut oil, olive oil, cod-liver oil, or castor oil. He recommends that three grains of santonin be mixed with two ounces of oil, and given in four doses. He thinks that a useful addition to the above would be that of an oil contained in santonica, the oleum cinæ æthereum, for the reason that all ethereal oils have been shown to act as poisons on the lower forms of animal life.

TREATMENT OF CHOREA.—In the course of a clinical lecture on chorea, Professor H. Nothnagel remarked that when the disease followed articular rheumatism, salicylate of soda was given; but this treatment had to be pursued empirically and carefully, as nothing was yet known of the nature of the disease. (*The Medical Press*.) Opiates had no effect, neither had calabar bean. Now-a-days potassic bromide was almost always given, but without any good result. As calmatives, and for the purpose of procuring sleep, morphia and chloral might be given. He had convinced himself by numerous experiments that propylamine was useless. Arsenic, in the form of Fowler's solution, was still the most effective remedy. It could be given by itself or in water. He suggested the following:

R Liq. Fowleri, grm. v;
Aq. destill., grm. xv. M.

Five drops to be given in a tumbler of water immediately after meals, and the dose to be increased by three drops every day until it reached thirty drops, after which it was to be slowly diminished. The constant current was another effective remedy in chorea, combined with tepid bathing or the application of ice-bags to the spine.—*Lou. Med. News*.

THE THIRD ELEMENT OF THE BLOOD.—Hayem has repeated his convictions on the subject of the newest phases of the histology of the blood before the Acadèmes des Sciences. As it will tend to make clear some of the confusion which has grown around the question, we give in a few words Hayem's conclusions. We do this the more especially because our readers may compare them with the papers by Norris, lately published in our columns. The hematoblast of Hayem is regarded as the precursor of the red-blood disc and as the agent concerned in the coagulation of the blood.