

to judge by some of Dr. Skvottzow's, *Sem. Med.*, observations, that tincture of strophanthus may arrest an attack of dipsomania very quickly. This curious effect of the medicament in question was discovered accidentally by the author in a corpulent man of 63 years, who drank large quantities of brandy. As he exhibited feebleness and intermittence of pulse, the author considered it necessary, to relieve the embarrassed cardiac action, to prescribe a dose of seven drops of tincture of strophanthus three times a day. The patient was seized, after the first dose, with nausea, and experienced such a disgust for alcohol that he abandoned its use abruptly and definitely. The same effect is reported by the author in two other instances. Strophanthus always provoked a nauseated condition, soon followed by abundant perspiration—an effect not ordinarily observed in non-alcoholic persons. The abrupt suppression of alcohol is said not to have produced any delirium, which is contrary to the usual experience with drunkards.

THE EFFECT OF ETHER AND CHLOROFORM ON THE KIDNEYS.—Wunderlich (*Annals of Surgery*), after the examination of the urine in 125 cases, before and after anæsthesia, draws the following conclusions as to the effect of ether and chloroform narcosis on the kidneys: 1. An already existing albuminuria is often increased by etherization. No such case in which chloroform was given was observed. 2. Albuminuria can be caused by narcotization with chloroform and ether, more often with chloroform, the relative frequency with which it occurs after the use of chloroform and ether being 11.5 to 6.9. 3. As a result of the use of chloroform, casts may appear in the urine. This is less frequent after the use of ether. The relative of frequency is 34.8 to 24.6. 4. When casts are already present, both anæsthetics have the effect of increasing the number.

BLOODLESS OPERATION FOR HÆMORRHOIDS.—Manley, *Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*, describes his bloodless method of treating hæmorrhoids. A brisk purgative is given the evening before the operation. Before operating, two to four ounces of whisky are administered and effective cocainization applied hypodermically. Anal dilatation, gradual and steady, without rupture of the mus-

cle is done, and after drying and mopping with cocaine solution, each hæmorrhoid is separately seized, close to its base, firmly between the tip of the thumb, index and middle fingers. It is put on full stretch, then twisted, and finally so completely crushed that it is reduced to a pulp, and none of the investing tunics remain, except in the mucous membrane and its under stratum of fibrous tissue. The mass is then returned and an opium suppository introduced. He has treated thirty-two cases in this way with perfectly satisfactory results.

OBITUARY.—The sad news has been cabled from London, Eng., of the death of Dr. Hugel Guelph on Oct. 24th, one of our recent graduates, and a man giving promise of much future usefulness. He had just commenced a post-graduate course at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, London, and was looking forward to a speedy return to Toronto, where he had lived with his aunt, Miss Kent, in Gerrard Street. His death was caused by meningitis. Much sympathy will be expressed by all who knew Dr. Guelph for his bereaved relatives.

The death of Professor Hermann Ludwig Helmholtz leaves another great blank on the roll of living scientists whose names are household words wherever science is known. The Professor was born in 1821 at Potsdam, and died on the 8th ult.

FOR ACNE AND COMEDONES.—Dr. Spaulding, says, *Med. World*: I have found by actual treatment in numerous instances of acne or comedones that an ointment of red iodide of mercury and vaseline, made up in the proportion of two to ten grains to the ounce, has been a sure cure in all cases where used with perseverance in the following manner:—First wash the face thoroughly with some non-astringent soap and warm water; after drying the flesh, apply by thorough rubbing, to all diseased places, the ointment once a day. This treatment should be kept up for at least a month, or until every remnant of the disease has disappeared. The ointment should be made very mild for delicate, thin skin, but hard, thick, dry flesh will often require the full strength of ten grains to the ounce. If made too strong it will blister the surface.