

violent vomiting and purging, and which must be reckoned among the acrid poisons. Van Hasselts, a number of years ago, declared one seed to be sufficient to sicken a grown person, and twenty to be sufficient to kill him. This statement was contradicted by Bernelot Moens, who suspected that the seeds of another euphorbiaceous plant had been experimented with. But such was not the case; on the contrary, a number of well authenticated cases of poisoning by castor-oil seeds are on record, most of them from France, where the seeds are much in use for various purposes as a popular remedy. Chevallier mentions a case, with recovery, of a boy of seven or eight years, who had taken only one—at most, two seeds. Other cases of alarming intoxications are on record, after taking three or four seeds. In all European cases of poisoning, the number of seeds taken has rarely exceeded twenty. It should not be forgotten that the seeds are poisonous, both in their unripe and ripe state, and that the cakes remaining after the expression of the oil retain most of the acrid principle, and have often caused the death of horses and cattle.—TH. HUSEMANN, in *Pharm. Zeit.*, No. 67.—*New Remedies*.

REMOVAL OF STRONG ODOURS FROM THE HANDS.—The *Schweizerische Wochenschrift für Pharmacie* has a communication from F. Snyder, in which he states that ground mustard, mixed with a little water, is an excellent agent for cleansing the hands after handling odorous substances, such as cod-liver oil, musk, valerianic acid and its salts. Scalepans and vessels may also be readily freed from odour by the same method.

A. Huber states that all oily seeds, when powdered, answer this purpose. The explanation of this action is somewhat doubtful, but it is not improbable that the odorous bodies are dissolved in the fatty oil of the seed, and emulsified by the contact with water. In the case of bitter almonds and mustard, the development of ethereal oil, under the influence of water, may perhaps be an additional help to destroy foreign odours. The author mentions that the smell of carbolic acid may be removed

by rubbing the hands with damp flax-seed meal, and that cod-liver oil bottles may be cleansed with a little of the same or olive oil.—*Doctor*.

THE VALUE OF DRAWING.—Mr. Hensman, in his eminently practical address to the students at Middlesex Hospital, strongly insisted on the value of drawing as a means of training to hand and eye. It is more: the faculty of measuring the apparent dimensions and relative proportions of objects, plays a prominent part in the attainment of all forms of knowledge. Even an ideal subject is worked out in thought with the aid of mental forms and figures. The lecturer sees heads and subdivisions of his discourse; the lawyer, the topics and connecting link of an argument, in his "mind's eye." No practice is more generally useful to the mind as well as the body than drawing, and of all forms of this art that of sketching from memory is most exacting and educational. Let the student so examine the "appearances" before him in the dissecting-room, the museum, the pathological laboratory, and the hospital, that he may carry away a mental image of the form and colour, the relative size and the relations of the several parts. Then let him sketch from memory, and, returning to the object, verify his work, correcting its inaccuracies and supplying omissions. The mental results of this system of study will not be less beneficent than the manual. The same principle applies to note-taking. It is better to write *after* observation or hearing than during a demonstration or lecture, and it will greatly facilitate study if the jottings made are as far as possible pictorial and arranged in figure. The hint is a slight one, but if worked out intelligently it will produce good effects.—*The Lancet*.

TORONTO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE—FOURTH ANNUAL DINNER.—The fourth annual dinner of the faculty and students of the Toronto School of Medicine took place at the Rossin House, on Friday evening, Nov. 9th. As usual, the dinner was a great success, the number of students entered this year being so large, rendered it especially so in point of the