

SMARTWEED AS AN EMMENAGOGUE.—The *Medical News*, in a recent editorial, directs attention to the emmenagogue properties of the *Polygonum Hydropiperoides*. As an emmenagogue it is indicated in states of anæmia, functional torpor of the ovaries and uterus due to systemic depression, and is contraindicated in the condition of plethora. Its power to stimulate the uterine circulation renders it useful in menorrhagia, and in metrorrhagia due to relaxation of the uterine vessels. Subinvolution of the passive kind, with a sluggish circulation, cold hands and feet, and general depression, are also benefitted by this remedy. The best form for administration is the fluid extract in 5 to 30 minim doses, mixed with glycerine and wine, 3 or 4 times a day.

OVARIOTOMY FOR FIBROUS TUMOR.—W. WIEDOW (*Zentral. für Gynakol.*) gives the results of twenty ovariectomies for fibrous tumors of the uterus. In fifteen recovery took place at the menopause; in one case the menses returned; in another recovery subsequent to enucleation; in one there was temporary improvement and some disappearance of the tumor, but death in nine months from another cause; and in three cases death occurred, in two from the operation, and in one from the disease.

SYNTHESIS OF URIC ACID.—It has been announced from Vienna that Dr. Horbaczewski, in Ludwig's laboratory, has accomplished the synthesis of this substance. This is the first synthesis in physiological chemistry that has ever been made.

THE QUANTITY OF BLOOD IN THE BODY.—Messrs. Ghreant and Quinquaud have determined the volume of blood contained in the system of a live mammal, and find it to be between one-twelfth and one-thirteenth of the body weight.

Dr. A. V. Macan has succeeded Lombe Athill in the Mastership of the Rotunda.

Miscellaneous.

CADAVERIC MOVEMENTS.

The *Journal of Medicine and Pharmacy*, of Algiers (Sept., 1882), publishes a paper of MM. Puga-Borne and Richard Cannon (of Valparaiso) on the *post mortem* movements of the cadaver of a woman. These movements had, it appears, been the occasion of an inquest and medico-legal inquiry.

The movements that are observed after death are numerous: 1. Microscopic movements, Brownian and vibratile; the first independent of life, the second persisting 30 hours after death. 2. Movements due to the cadaveric rigidity, produced by the hardening of the muscles (flexion of the thumb on the palm of the hand, elevation of the lower jaw.) 3. Movements of the elastic tissues, retraction of the arterial walls, for example. 4. Movements by spontaneous contractions of the muscles of organic life, such as defecation and miction *post mortem*. 5. Movements of the heart. 6. Movements by spontaneous contraction of the muscles of the life of relation. Such are the muscular palpitations by irritation of the muscular fibres from contact with the air. 7. Spontaneous movements of the limbs in choleraics. The example is well known of the Indian soldiers whose limbs were obliged to be bound after death (*Cholera Gazette*, 1832), and the oft-quoted fact which Brown Séquard witnessed in 1848 at the Hospital Gros Caillou. 8. Movements from direct excitation of the muscular fibres, such as those of the contraction called *idio-muscular*. 9. Movements from direct excitation of the motor nerves. 10. Movements by direct excitation of the sensitive nerves, such as the reflex movements of the heart, the digestive passages, and secretive ducts.

These movements do not indicate persistence of life, as is vulgarly believed. The kind of death has also a bearing upon the production of these movements of the corporeal period of life. This fact, not men-