

ture having been a comminuted one. One ununited, the patient having been in an almost chronic state of intoxication from time of injury until eleven months after. One, a gun-stock deformity. In the others the dressing had been so recently taken off that a result could not be stated, but a good result was anticipated. So that out of fifty cases, there were, but three bad recoveries. I saw ten of the patients recovered, in all of whom the joint functions were perfect, a very slight deformity in external condyle being present in one. By this method of treatment the fragment is kept in place, the joint is kept at absolute rest, passive motion is done away with, and as Dr. Powers showed, a good result was obtained in 90% or over. Ankylosis is to be expected rather where the joint is not kept absolutely at rest and passive motion employed, than when absolute rest followed by free voluntary motion is employed. Dr. Alles, of Philadelphia, treats these fractures in the same way with the exception that he puts them up with the forearm in extension; the treatment otherwise the same.

This afternoon I saw a case of leprosy at Charity Hospital. The patient, a man about 35, is not isolated from the other patients, but mingles more or less with them. For the past twenty years there has been at least one case of leprosy in this hospital, but no other cases have developed as a result of contagion.

Acute gonorrhoea is treated at the Polyclinic, by irrigating the urethra with a solution of permanganate of potash, using a drachm of a 5% solution of potash permanganate in a quart of warm water. This is done twice a day and good results are reported to be the rule.

CANUCK.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

SIR,—Now that we hear so much of "Combines" might it be asked of you: "Is there any such thing as a 'Surgical Instrument Combine'?" and if not, how is it, that such exorbitant prices are forced from us, for the most trifling surgical instrument, or appliance, or dressing?

The outrageous prices coolly demanded necessitates a purse as long as the moral law. Many instruments, such as forceps, used by skilled mechanics, can be bought for less than half what has to be paid for them, if required by a physician.

Trifling things, as antiseptic gauze, cotton wool, corrosive sublimate tablets, india-rubber tube, catgut, etc., are charged for at about 500 times their intrinsic value. A piece of gauze five yards long, soaked in five cents' worth of corrosive sublimate, is put up and \$1.50 is coolly demanded, and the tariff is blamed for it. The same way in instruments; those of the most inferior quality, tawdry, nickel-plated rubbish, is shoved off, on us, at prices large enough to stagger a plumber.

The finest quality of instruments are not to be found in the country, for sale; wretched pot-metal, nickelled imitations are all our choice, and for such as are presented to us, prices, far exceeding those of the finest English, French and German make, are forced, by our necessities, from us.

While the fact is, that the tariff is to blame for about 40 per cent. of the price, still this is merely used as the ordinary pretext for exorbitant profits being demanded. High as the New York price are, it will pay any one, even from this extreme country, to go there and make his selection, if his purchases are about \$50 worth, and trust to the capacity of his pockets to relieve him from the privileges of an importer. That it would be a good thing to have the duty removed from all instruments not made in Canada, we all admit; but a better thing far would be the welcome visit of some first-class English, German or French manufacturer, who would be welcomed like the prophet who went out and blessed Israel. In neither price or quality will we ever have a change, until the profession makes a plain, vigorous protest against the outrageous charges demanded of them, which I intend will be forth coming at the next meeting of our County Association.

Yours,

HURONIAN.

Editor CANADA LANCET.

SIR,—Shortly after your next issue, the meeting of the Ontario Medical Association will take place, and with your permission I would like to draw the attention of that body to the necessity of giving a pronounced opinion upon the subject of a Provincial Inebriate Asylum, with the hope that a committee of its members will be appointed to confer with the Government and City Council, looking towards the establishment of this much needed institution.

Many gentlemen, both in the city and the coun-