

The lectures are in the native language. The students now have an amply supply of Chinese text books.

The Railway Age has an account of a certain physician out West who tried "to sell an abscess on the posterior part of his anatomy to a railway company for \$10,000." The doctor, it seems, was going by train to Indianapolis for the purpose of attending a Democratic meeting there. The cars were full, and he was obliged to seek refuge in the baggage car and sat down, not only upon an egg-crate, but also upon a nail which protruded from the said crate, and entered, penetrated, and pierced that portion of the doctor's body which must necessarily come into use if one sits down at all. It further appears that the railway company had negligently omitted to scour this nail with brick or sand-paper, and had permitted it to become rusty. The result of the puncture, it is alleged, was an abscess, which caused the doctor great trouble, and even endangered his life. As a plaster to this wound, he now asks the railway company to pay him \$10,000, and has called upon the court to enforce his request. The case is full of fine points—fuller of them than the egg-crate. Did the company invite and request the physician to enter the baggage-car and sit down on the egg-crate? Is it the duty of the company to polish up the nails in the egg-crates which it carries? Should not the doctor have looked out for nails before he sat down? Was the sore really an abscess, or only an old-fashioned boil? Was the doctor's blood in good order when he sat down on the nail, or did he inflame it unnecessarily by getting mad, and prancing around in warm weather, when he discovered that the nail had gone where it ought not? Can a man's blood be in good order in the midst of a "heated" Presidential campaign, and when he is on his way to a big political meeting? Might not the doctor in his enthusiasm have taken that method of nailing his colors to the mast, and only become sorry for it when inflammation ensued? Altogether the case embraces many very interesting medico-legal questions, and will, no doubt, result in settling many points hitherto undecided. It is a case of which it may truly be said that there is a point in it."

The exact value of the salicyl compounds in the treatment of rheumatism and rheumatic diseases is pretty well indicated in papers by Dr. J. S. Bris-

towe (*British Medical Journal*, August 22nd) and Prof. T. R. Fraser (*Edinburgh Medical Journal* July, August and September, 1885) and by discussion of the former paper by Drs. Latham of Cambridge, Dr. Pavy, Dr. Sidney Coupland and other well-known physicians. It is generally conceded that the anti-rheumatic action of the compound of salicin is to be classed with quinine in ague, and of iodine and mercury in syphilis. When twenty-grain doses of sodic salicylate or salicine are administered every two hours the temperature usually becomes normal in a day or two, and remains so if the treatment is continued.

Both Prof. Fraser and Dr. Bristowe point out that salicyl compounds fail in several important instances, viz: where there are complications of important viscera, persistent inflammation of a single joint, chronic rheumatism, gonorrhoeal rheumatism and in rheumatic gout. Fraser also claims that these compounds are equally good in ordinary acute polyarthritis, in the variety that is associated with chorea and scarlatina, in acute muscular rheumatism, rheumatic scleratitis and iritis, and in acute gout. Most Canadian practitioners can testify to their value in lumbago when it appears as a true acute muscular rheumatism.

This is how the Editor of the *New York Times* made himself merry over an article on microbes. After describing the prevalence of these minute forms of life, he says: It is very evident that all must make persistent effort to reduce the number of microscopic animals to at least the extent to which their predecessors reduced the number of wild beasts. Every man must become the protector of his own household. The cautious man will hereafter never venture to open his door without sweeping the front yard with his microscope, to see if the foe is at hand; and no one will venture out of doors without a gun loaded with carbolic acid, and without a microscope worn like a pair of spectacles, ready for instant service. Man will probably have to abandon his present house, as it affords little or no protection against the fierce bacillus; and he will be compelled to live in glass houses surrounded by ditches filled with carbolic acid, and provided with ventilators so contrived as to forbid the passage of the enemy. Governments will doubtless offer rewards for the capture or killing of microbes; and bands of scien-