

HYDROCHLORATE OF COCAINE IN GYNOCOLGY.

Dr. Polk, of New York, reports in the *Medical Record* two cases of trachelorrhaphy in which he tried the application of hydrochlorate of cocaine as a local anæsthetic. After douching the vagina, soaping its upper portion, washing this off, and then thoroughly drying, he applied a four per cent. solution over the cervix, in the canal, and over the adjacent vaginal wall with a camel's hair brush. Three applications were made at intervals of two or three minutes, and the operation was commenced within three minutes of the last application. No pain was felt for thirty minutes in the first case, and twenty in the second. In the latter a fresh application was made during the operation directly to the cut surfaces. The results were satisfactory.

The doctor is also testing its value in obstetric practice by a series of observations in the Emergency Hospital. The same solution is being applied to the cervix and upper part of the vagina during the severe pains of the first stage of labour. He will report results hereafter.

DR. CARL JENSEN'S PEPSIN.

Dr. Jos. H. Richardson, Professor of Hygiene in the University of Pennsylvania, after having made a series of investigations with Jensen's pepsin, certified that its solvent power was not less than twelve times as great as that of the "pepsinum saccharatum" (U. S. Pharm. 1880), and that this method of preparing pepsin unquestionably placed within the reach of physicians a vastly improved means for aiding the stomach digestion of nitrogenous food.

BELLEVUE HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE.—

Dr. Paul Grawitz, assistant to Prof. Virchow, has just been appointed Professor of Pathological Anatomy in Bellevue Hospital Medical College, and Director of the Carnegie Laboratories. Dr. Grawitz was in this country during the past summer. We learn that, as the result of the informal understanding which was then had with him, no doubt is felt as to his accepting the position.—*Medical News*.

Correspondence.

COPY OF A LETTER ADDRESSED TO EDITOR OF "BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL."

SIR,—I have had very much pleasure in perusing a large number of notices, in the American medical press, of the address which I was privileged to deliver to the Canada Medical Association in August last. The compliments paid to me in these notices have been far greater than I deserved, but the pleasure derived from all of them is more than counterbalanced by the pain I have felt at an editorial comment in your paper. Therein you express your opinion that my address was intended more for the castigation of Sir Spencer Wells than for the purpose of laying before the profession the results of my own experience and observation.

I am truly grieved that it should be possible in any way to put such an interpretation upon anything that I have said, for certainly nothing was further from my purpose. That I detailed my differences from Sir Spencer Wells, in words which were strongly expressed, is true, for when I feel strongly I am in the habit of fully expressing my meaning. That I strongly condemned language which was used rashly and indiscriminately by Sir Spencer Wells is equally true, but that I had any intention of castigating that gentleman is an impression which I desire to remove; and if any word or phrase throughout my address can be legitimately understood in that direction, I hereby freely and unreservedly withdraw it, and express my regret for it.

But let it be clearly understood that mere strength of language in the expression of my opinion is neither to be retracted nor to be regretted. I do therefore trust that you will allow me, in order that I may not appear in an unfair position in the eyes of the numerous readers of your influential journal, briefly to narrate the relation which Sir Spencer Wells has adopted towards me during the past few years. Until the month of August, 1881, I was on terms of intimate, almost close friendship with him, and I have discussed with him in private freely, and without the slightest difficulty, all the