

## Progress of Science.

### A NOVEL SOCIETY.

A medical society has been started at Omaha, in the United States, on a novel principle. There are neither rules nor officials, not even a president, and, what is more, there is no annual subscription. The society meets twice a month, at the residence of the member who desires to read a paper. Such an organization is well adapted for provincial towns of small size, if the rival doctors could only be induced to put aside their mutual jealousies for awhile.—*Med. Press.*

### CARBOLATE OF CAMPHOR.

The carbolate of camphor is prepared by rubbing together one part of camphor in three parts of carbolic acid. The result is an oily substance with a well marked odor, which, when mixed with an equal bulk of oil, is an excellent application for boils, the smarting of herpes and vulgar pruritus. Injected hypodermically it gives rise to a burning sensation, followed by local anaesthesia. It has been given internally in capsules containing from five to ten drops.—*Med. Press.*

### DOCTOR'S BILLS.

The medical fraternity of Johnson county, Mo., adopted the following resolution: "After January 1, 1888, no account will be allowed to run over six months from date of first visit without satisfactory settlement. All accounts are due when services are rendered. Parties who are in the habit of running bills from one year to another without paying, must continue to employ their former physician until he is paid in full, or pay cash for every visit in advance to the new one.—*Texas Health Journal.*

### GLYCERINE SUPPOSITORIES.

The sudden popularity of the suggestion to treat constipation by means of rectal injections of glycerine has led to the employment of glycerine suppositories, which are much more convenient to use than the syringe. These suppositories are prepared in the form of capsules, containing sixteen minims of pure glycerine, and they operate in from fifteen to twenty min-

utes. The employment of glycerine *per rectum* seems to be specially indicated when the constipation is associated with gastric derangements.—*Med. Press.*

### THE DISINFECTION OF SPUTA.

According to the *Bulletin Medical*, an apparatus has just been devised and placed in the Hôpital Lariboisière, which, by a new antiseptic process, will be used for the purpose of disinfecting all the sputa given forth by tuberculous patients. The idea is by no means a novel one, though it can readily be understood that the sooner the infectivity of sputa swarming with the tubercle bacillus is effectively destroyed the better. There are no details to hand in respect to the special features of the apparatus, but the assumption is that it cannot be of a very elaborate description in order to carry out the object in view.—*Med. Press.*

### ATROPIN AND HYOSCYAMIN.

Some remarkable results have been obtained in regard to the interchangeability of atropin and hyoscyamin. It has been shown that in treating belladonna root for the purpose of extracting the alkaloid, it is possible to obtain either atropin or hyoscyamin, or a mixture of both alkaloids by varying the process. These results would seem to authorize the supposition that atropin does not exist as such in the belladonna plant, but is really hyoscyamin, which is converted into atropin in the course of manufacture. The discovery was made at the Chemische Fabrik at Aktien, and possesses considerable interest from many points of view.—*Med. Press.*

### STUDENTS AND WORK.

To students who are diligently inclined, it is as refreshing to get back to systematic work once again as it is, at the end of the session, to lock up the books and turn to less arduous occupations. The discipline of lectures and classes is as invigorating as the cold blast which heralds the approach of the winter, and the fact of having plenty of work to do, coupled with the will to do it, is an excellent and consoling set off to the dreariness of the autumnal skies. The energies must be braced up for a good six months' "spell" of work, broken only by the ephemeral and short-lived festivities of Christ-