

enlargement, congestion, and anteversion and flexion of the uterus, the result of an attack of severe sea-sickness four years ago. The symptoms were constant pain and hæmorrhage on exertion. Operation for removal of a growth from the interior of the uterus had been performed by Dr. Milner Moore, of Coventry, a year before, with temporary relief. There was now found to be a prominent, projecting, soft, tumour-like growth within the uterus. A second operation was contemplated; and a preparatory treatment of rest and daily reposition of uterus was carried out carefully by Dr. Brockwell, of Gipsy Hill, at the author's request. On proceeding to the operation, about ten days afterwards, it was found that the intra-uterine swelling had become enormously reduced; thereby showing that the swelling in question, which it had been feared was sarcomatous, was nothing more than the greatly hypertrophied and congested mucous membrane of the uterus. The uterus had been kept entirely in place, had become much reduced in size, and the hypertrophic mucous membrane to be removed was slight in amount. Nitric acid was applied to the surface. The patient did well. The case related demonstrated the extent to which mere congestion, produced by anteversion, might give rise to a tumour-like hypertrophy of the lining of the uterus. It also showed the effect of comparatively simple measures in reducing such hypertrophy.

NEW YORK HOSPITAL.—Dr. Bulkley will give a fourth course of lectures on Diseases of the Skin in the Pathological Amphitheatre of the New York Hospital, 7 West 15th Street, Wednesday afternoons from 2:30 to 3:30 o'clock, commencing Wednesday, October 6th, 1880. The Lectures will be Didactic and Clinical in character, going over the entire subject of diseases of the skin (including syphilis), and will be freely illustrated by coloured plates, photographs, life-sized models, the blackboard, and abundant clinical material. The pathology, differential diagnosis, and treatment of diseases of the skin will be especially considered. The course will consist of twenty-four lectures, and will be free to practitioners of medicine and medical students.

Original Communications.

ON THE BENEFICENT AND TOXICAL EFFECTS OF THE VARIOUS SPECIES OF RHUS.

BY T. J. W. BURGESS, M.B.

Read before the Canada Medical Association, at Ottawa, September, 1880.

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—The paper that I have prepared for your consideration deals with a class of plants, which, whether considered with reference to their beneficent or toxic effects on the human race, should be known to every practitioner—I refer to the various species of *Rhus*.

The most noteworthy example of this genus in our own country, and the one to which the greater part of my remarks will apply, is commonly called poison ivy. So far as my own knowledge extends, but little is known of this plant to the profession at large, except through cases of poisoning by it presented for treatment. Now, when we consider how common it is, and the number of persons liable to exposure to its noxious influence,—the labourer engaged in railway work and in clearing bush-land, the farmer working about his fences, one of its favourite lurking places, and the child so often employed in gathering the wild flowers with which our woods abound,—I cannot impress on you too strongly the necessity for a thorough knowledge of the various species, their appearance, and that of the plants with which they are most likely to be confounded, and their physiological effects, with the prevention and cure of these. Some of the varieties being used for domestic purposes and others in the practice of medicine, I will also draw your attention to their uses in the arts and their pathological effects, with the class of cases in which they have been found most beneficial when employed as medicines.

The only representative of the large order, *Anacardiaceæ*, the Cashew family, in northern North America, is this genus *Rhus*, a name derived from the Greek verb *ῥέω* (*reo*) "to flow," so called because it was thought to be useful in stopping hemorrhages. And, truth to tell, the name was not inaptly applied by our forefathers, all the varieties being possessed of more or less astringent properties, some of them in a very marked degree. The genus, to the non-botanical commonly known as sumach or shumach, is composed of trees or shrubs having a resinous or milky acrid juice; alternate leaves; small, regular, greenish-white or yellowish flowers; and a fruit forming a sort of dry drupe.

No less than fourteen varieties of *Rhus* are, or have been used in the arts and sciences (the term including medicine), and these I shall, for