

enough to warn those who are beginning their career in their glorious profession, that hydrate of chloral is a deadly agent, powerful to do ill, and almost, if not entirely, useless as a curative agent.

To my seniors I say you are warned, death caused by such agents as chloral and chloroform, though it may not be as yet looked on as murder by our fellow men, yet I believe them to be so in His eyes to whom nothing is hid.

I hope you will insert this public warning, which should long ago have come from some able hand, and which I would not feel myself justified in sending for publication were I not aware that my opinions on the subject are held by some of the ablest men in the country. *Med. Press and Circular.*

Medical Items and News.

Two hundred and forty-one operations for ovarian diseases have been performed by Dr. W. L. Atlee.

DISINFECTANTS.—A student, undergoing his examination, was asked what was the action of disinfectants. He replied: "They smell so badly that the people open the windows, and fresh air gets in."

It is stated that the costs of the recent lawsuit to establish the claims of women to medical education at Edinburgh University amount to \$4241, and that those costs have been thrown on the lady students.

The cattle plague has broken out afresh in Russia. The Prussian Government has forbidden the import and export of cattle or meat, as well as all animal substances, except milk, butter, and cheese, across the infected frontier.

A medical paper has been started in Kingston, Ont., under the editorship of Dr. Neish. It is called the "Medical Times," and is an eight-page weekly sheet. It is issued at the low price of \$2 per annum. We hope our enterprising confrère may not lose money by the experiment.

CINCHONA GROWING IN INDIA.—There are at present growing on the British Government plantations in Bengal, 2,394,799 plants, cuttings, and seedlings of the various species of cinchona tree; 2,000,000 belonging to the *Cinchona succirubra*, and the remainder to five other species. Mr. George King, Superintendent of the Botanical Gardens, says: "It has indeed, been demonstrated that cinchona trees can be grown successfully up to the age of about ten years, and that their bark is quite as rich in alkaloids as that obtained from South American forests; but whether they will reach maturity remains to be seen."

William Gordonio was the first person upon whom the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred. It was granted by the College at Ostia in 1320.

ARSENICAL PASTE IN THE TREATMENT OF CANCER.—Dr. Alex. Marsden ("A New and Successful Mode of Treating Cancer") says: "The arsenical-mucilage mode of treatment is applicable to all forms of cancer, except the cystic or colloid, provided they have not exceeded certain limits, viz., four square inches, and then not more than a fourth must be attacked at once. The mode I adopt is as follows: A thick paste of arsenic is made according to the following formula:

R.
Arsenious acid, 5 ii
Mucilage of gum acacia, 5 i

To be well mixed together and made into a thick paste, and spread over the surface. At the end of from forty-eight hours to three days, poultices are to be applied to favor the sloughing away of the cancerous mass.

CONIUM IN THE TREATMENT OF INSANITY.—Dr. Daniel H. Kitchen (*Am. Jour. Insanity*, April, 1873), in an excellent article on this subject, speaks of the valuable experiments with *conium*, hypodermically administered by Dr. J. W. Burman, of the West Riding Lunatic Asylum. Twelve cases are related in which this drug was successfully given. His conclusions on its action are as follows: 1st. Muscular relaxation. 2nd. Duration in proportion to dose. 3rd. Physiological effect in proportion to purity of the article used. 4th. The brain is not affected directly by conium. 5th. Pulse and temperature both reduced after a full dose. 6th. A gentle perspiration covers the whole body as soon as the physiological effects are observed. 7th. No appreciable effect on any of the secretions. 8th. Quietness lasts from two to four hours, and then disappears, leaving only a sense of lessened muscular energy. 9th. Conium, not acting on the brain, may safely be given in all febrile diseases. 10th. Conium, when applied to the skin, causes slight redness.

ACTION OF THE INTERCOSTAL MUSCLES.—Thos. Dwight, Jr., M.D., Prof. of Anatomy at the Medical School of Maine (*Boston Med. & Surg. Jour.*, May 1, 1873), concludes that the action of the intercostals during ordinary respiration is very slight, if indeed they act otherwise than as ligaments. Both sets, at the upper part of the chest, tend to raise the ribs. Owing to the fixing or drawing down of the lower rib, both sets in the lower part of the chest may tend to draw the ribs downward. By sudden contraction, drawing the ribs together, they are muscles of spasmodic expiration. Position, muscular action, disease, deformity, and various slight and undefinable causes, may modify the action of any of them.