

THE CANADIAN PRACTITIONER

FORMERLY "THE CANADIAN JOURNAL OF MEDICAL SCIENCE."

U. OGDEN, M.D.,
R. ZIMMERMAN, M.D., L.R.C.P., Lond., } Consulting Editors.

A. H. WRIGHT, B.A., M.B. M.R.C.S., Eng.,
I. H. CAMERON, M.B.,
R. B. NEVITT, B.A., M.D., } Editors.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$3 PER ANNUM.

✉ All literary communications and exchanges should be addressed to DR. CAMERON, 273 Sherbourne St.
✉ All business communications and remittances should be addressed to the Publishers, Messrs. CARSWELL & CO., No. 28 Adelaide Street East.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1883.

Original Communications

NOTES ON THERAPEUTICS.

BY R. L. MACDONNELL, M.D., M.R.C.S., ENG.

Demonstrator of Anatomy, and Lecturer on Hygiene, McGill University, Montreal.

ANTHELMINTICS. *

Santonin should be given in such a way as that not only the efficacy of its action shall be ensured, but also that it may come into contact with the worms it is intended to destroy. From experimental investigations performed by L. Lewin on rabbits (*Berliner Klin. Woch. No. 12*) it would appear that santonin unless given in an oily solution is rapidly absorbed from the stomach, so that in a short time none of the drug can be detected, either in the contents, or in the walls of the stomach. An oily preparation of the vermicide is absorbed by the small intestines, though not rapidly, according to Lewin, who believes that the only rational mode of employing santonin as an anthelmintic is in the oily state. The likelihood of the appearance of toxic symptoms, such as xanthops, headaches, giddiness, shivering, and spasmodic attacks is also thereby reduced to a minimum.

This plan was recommended years ago by Dr. Ringer:—"In the treatment both of round and thread worms, two to four grains, according to age, are to be mixed with a drachm or more of castor oil, and taken early in the morning before break-

fast, repeating the dose two or three mornings successively."

This mode of administering santonin has always, in my hands, been most satisfactory. Kuchenmeister found santonin and castor oil, used as an injection, a powerful method of destroying ascarides.

And so with male fern, * its frequent failure as a remedy against tapeworm is due to its irrational administration. It has become known that the popular "worm doctors" who use almost exclusively the oleoresin of male fern administer the remedy in conjunction with castor oil, instead of following it by the oil, after two or three hours, as is usually done by practitioners. The object is to bring the extract in an unaltered or undigested condition into contact with the worm. The experiments which have been made by mixing one part of the oleoresin with two parts of castor oil have been very successful, and this mode of administration deserves, therefore, the preference. Oleoresin of male fern is apt to derange the stomach, and when enveloped partly in the oil is likely to pass it more rapidly, which constitutes another advantage. The mixture, it is true, has an unpleasant taste. This, however, may be disguised by filling it in capsules of about 45 grains each. The dose may be regulated from six capsules to seven or eight, or more according to circumstances.

It is advisable to empty the bowels the

* *Lancet*, June 2nd, 1883.

* Dr. E. Dieterich, *London Medical Record* and Braithwaite, Part LXXXVII., p. 246.