

modus operandi is quite comprehensible if we take alcoholic fermentation as an example. A few germs placed in a suitable medium, say grape sugar solution, multiply by the million, consuming the sugar and giving out a poisonous alcohol. When a certain percentage of this poison has been produced, further fermentation is arrested and fungi in the solution die; not only this, but if some of the toxine—alcohol—be distilled from the solution and introduced into another jar which has been attacked by fermentation of disease, fermentation will be immediately arrested, and the yeast plant will be killed. Alcohol is therefore at the same time a ptomaine and an anti-toxine. The new remedy is now being tried on an extensive scale, and we shall soon be in a position to know what its true value is. Its inventors claim that it reduces the mortality down to 24 per cent., which does not seem to be much lower than the treatment heretofore employed. Some of those who are trying the new remedy are obtaining much better success than its inventors claim, but this can be explained on the ground of defective diagnosis. Doubtless many cases of sore throat will be treated with anti-toxine, and the patients will recover; but as many Boards of Health are offering to make an absolute diagnosis by the culture process, this source of error should be eliminated. On the whole, while the value of anti-toxine is probably being overrated, it is apparently a step in advance in the great warfare of science. It must be distinctly understood that the treatment is in the experimental stage, and as such had better for the present be left in the hands of hospital physicians, who have at their disposal all the appliances necessary to make the experiments accurate and scientific. Since writing the above, we have seen a statement by Baginsky, an undoubted authority in Berlin, that the mortality has fallen to 14 per cent.

POST GRADUATE INSTRUCTION IN MONTREAL.

Some years ago we called the attention of our readers to the immense opportunities which Montreal now offers for post-graduate instruction, and we suggested that a post-graduate course be organized. Our esteemed contemporary, the *Montreal Medical Journal*, in its last issue has given the suggestion power-

ful support, so that all that is required is the organization of all the teachers and hospital physicians and surgeons into a post-graduate school. To make it a success, all the schools and hospitals should join it, so that the physicians may learn as much as possible with the smallest possible loss of time. From what we know of the work going on every day at the Royal Victoria, the General, the Hotel Dieu, the Notre Dame, and the Western, as well as the Montreal Dispensary, which though last is not least in the value of experience which may be gained there, a practitioner could fully occupy all his time from 12 till 6.30 p.m. every day except Sunday. From 8 to 12 he could devote to laboratory work, or occasionally at private operations by some of the gynecologists who generally operate from 9 till 12. We trust that before long we may be able to give an affirmative reply to the many enquiries which we receive asking whether there is any post-graduate school in Montreal.

THE CANADIAN MEDICAL REVIEW.

This is the title of a new medical journal to be published by the late members of the staff of the Canadian Medical Monthly, headed by our friend Dr. Aitkin. Although Canada is fairly well supplied with journals already, we are always glad to extend a hearty welcome to just one more. The competition will lead to a struggle for existence which, while it will end fatally for some of them, will surely lead to the improvement of those which survive.

THE CANADIAN MEDICAL MONTHLY.

We are glad to learn that although the old staff of editors of this very creditable journal have suddenly left as the result of some seismic disturbances in the editorial sanctum, the monthly will continue to appear with a new staff headed by our friend Dr. Battie Nesbitt.

Drs. W. H. B. Aitkins, A. B. Atherton, J. Ferguson, J. H. Burns, A. A. Macdonald, and G. Sterling Ryerson, have severed their connection with the Dominion Medical Monthly.

A GENEROUS BEQUEST.

By the will of the late Dr. Goodell, the celebrated gynecologist of Philadelphia, the Medi-