

Law against Abortion in California.—The law against abortion in California is exceedingly stringent. It declares that the person on whom an abortion is practiced shall be held as guilty as the abortionist. The object of this feature of the law is to relieve the physician of vexatious law suits to which he is sometimes subjected by the attempt of certain wicked females to fasten upon him a charge of criminal abortion, when he has not even been applied to at all in the matter. A case of this kind is said to have occurred in San Francisco, and illustrates the necessity of the law in that State, even though the cases which may occur under it may be rare. Procuring abortion is justly regarded as a crime of great magnitude, and the laws of all the States, so far as we are informed, inflict upon the perpetrator of it a heavy penalty; and the law is right. Its penalties are none too severe; indeed hardly enough so to prevent its occasional, if not frequent, violation.—*Med. and Surg. Reporter.*

Remonstrances against appointment of quacks by Surgeons in the American Army.—It appears that the appointment as a Brigadier Surgeon of a quack of the name of Craven, has brought out to Dr. Finley, Surgeon General, U. S. A., a spirited protest on the part of the District Medical Society for the County of Essex, N. Y. Craven is described as a carpenter, then a dealer in merchandize, then keeper of a saloon, after which about two years ago he began the study of medicine, entering the office of Dr. Grant, remaining there two or three months, and then setting up for himself. He has no diploma and has never attended a single lecture. Yet here is a man who is honoured. Surely Dr. Finley will see the propriety of cancelling such an appointment as this, which must have been done in ignorance of the man's character.

The New British Pharmacopœia.—This work is now advancing rapidly to completion, and its appearance is anticipated towards the end of the present year. The last meeting of the committee in whose hands the compilation was placed was held in the Hall of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh on the 12th of last month; after which the work was to be put to press.

White Gunpowder.—Mr. Pohl has been engaged in some experiments on the white gunpowder invented by Mr. Engendre, which consisted of a mixture of one part ferrocyanide of potassium, one part cane sugar, and two parts chlorate of potash. Mr. Pohl finds that a better result is obtained when the ingredients are mixed in the following proportions:—

Ferrocyanide Potassium.....	28 parts or 1 equiv.
Sugar.....	23 " or 1 "
Chlorate of Potash.....	46 " or 3 "

The products of the explosion appear to consist of nitrogen, carbonic oxide, carbonic acid and the vapour of water, cyanide of potassium, chloride of Potassium, and a bicarbide of iron (FeC_2). One hundred parts by weight of the powder yield 47.43 parts by weight of gaseous matter, and 52.55 of saline residue. Ordinary black powder has been calculated to yield 68.06 of solid residue, and 31.38 of gaseous products. Mr. Pohl calculates the relative volume of gas produced by the explosion of equal weights of the white and ordinary black powder in a closed space to be as 1.67 of the former to one of the latter. Hence, as the action of an explosive powder principally depends on the volume of the gases formed, for equal weights, the new white powder would produce 1.67 times the action of the other. But for equal volumes of the powder the ratio would be different, because the white powder is not so dense as the black; for equal volumes the white would do 1.292 the work of the other. To produce the same explosive effect, 60 parts by weight of the new would replace 100 parts of the old. The weights of the residues in the two cases would be 31.53 from the white, and 68 from the black. One of the advantages attending the white powder is, that the temperature of the flame is much lower; consequently a greater number of shots could be fired without unduly heating the weapon. The new powder can scarcely be exploded by pressure or percussion. It is only the heaviest blow of iron on iron that will effect its combustion..