

circling the waist. This gives a support to the scrotum which has no tendency to slip; it can be adjusted very accurately, never be loose or too tight, and at the same is comfortable to wear. Of course other materials than flannel can be used, and with advantage, for flannel is too irritating for most people's skin. When modified in this way it will no doubt prove very efficient.—*London Lancet*.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE PRINCE IMPERIAL.—The circumstances of the Prince Imperial's death have revived a question which has been somewhat neglected by lawyers and physicians, viz., the importance of the teeth as a means of identification of deceased persons. The late Prince Imperial had been so much disfigured, that identification would have been extremely difficult but that the Prince had had four small cavities in the first molar teeth filled with gold by Dr. Rottenstein of Paris, and had met with a slight accident, in April, 1876, from a blow on the front teeth, which had made it necessary to file the teeth a little, in order to smooth the enamel. These constituted signs which are unalterable, even by ages; and, as careful dentists keep usually a record of such operations, they afford a means of identification which is unerring, and which, as in the present instance, was of great value, and might, under certain circumstances, be of the highest importance.

CARBOLIC ACID IN SHINGLES.—Dr. Lambert reports, in the *Revista Clinica di Bologna*, a case of herpes zoster, or "shingles," which he cured in a single day by means of carbolic acid. He painted carefully the vesicles with the liquid, using a camel-hair brush, and then covered the whole part with a thick layer of cotton-wool. It caused severe burning pain for two hours, after which ease was obtained, and the patient, having received a dose of chloral hydrate, fell asleep, and awoke the next day feeling quite well. Nothing more was done, but the cotton wool was left on for three days. On its removal then the vesicles were all dried up, the crust adhering to the cotton-wool, and the spots that remained were not in the least tender. A saline purgative and a drink containing bicarbonate of soda

were the only medicines taken. No return occurred after two years, and Dr. Lambert thinks this method of treatment may frequently prove of great value.—*Bost. Jour. of Chemist*

THE CINCHONA CURE FOR DRUNKENNESS. Much attention has lately been given to the alleged power of Peruvian bark to destroy the appetite for strong drink, and many cures have been reported from the remedy. Nothing would give us greater satisfaction than to believe in and recommend the reputed remedy. But we lack faith in the specific virtue of it or any other medicinal cure. When the ebriate has come to a resolution to abandon his habits, he seeks a staff to lean on, and finds in the diversion afforded by the bark. Apart from this mental support and the tonic influence of the bitter, there is no healing power in cinchona more than in any other agent of this class, such as calumbo or snake-root. We should be sorry to disappoint any one who has turned away from a bad habit and believed himself radically cured. Thousands upon thousands of men have done the same thing under moral and religious influences, and in an unguarded moment have fallen back. At the same time there are many who have succeeded in throwing off the chains permanently, and gaining perpetual control over their appetites. To do this however, after once becoming a habitual drunkard, requires something more than herbs. It requires a strong will and constant vigilance, enforced by all the aids derivable from moral and religious sources, and the influence of associates and friends. It is not to throw in every help which imagination can devise, but not to depend on such helps. They soon wear out. It will be so with the cinchona cure. It will have its day, and then will come failure and disappointment, and then the remedy will be forgotten. We could wish otherwise, but history will repeat itself.—*Pacific Med. and Surg. Journal*.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths

BIRTHS.

On September 10th, at Toronto, the wife of Dr. H. Burns, of a son.

On September 21st., the wife of Dr. J. J. Cassin, of a daughter.