

ordinary quotations, but never getting a response, we began to think that this was "the specimen copy" man in another form. We then gave quotations ridiculously low, but still no advertising came, and we are now convinced that this is indeed the old swindle in a new form, and consign all such cards to our waste basket. There is, however, a very singular phase to both these swindles, which is difficult to understand. The cards, asking for specimen copies, came in floods for over two years, and from every section of this continent from Nova Scotia to Colorado, and yet the wording was very much the same in all. In the new departure the same thing is noticeable, a remarkable similarity of wording. Does there exist a widespread organization for the purpose of obtaining medical and general literature almost without cost? We cannot believe it, yet facts would almost seem to point that way. Do they believe that literature should be endowed by the State, and disseminated for the general good? Till that time arrives, we must decline to send specimen copies free, even though it be to one "*who desires to advertise.*"

Reader, are you anxious to know what other practitioners are doing? Are you anxious to advance higher day by day in the practice of your profession? Then tell others what you have learned; what strange freaks of disease you have encountered; what remedies have yielded good results, and what have failed. Send us your experience and your subscription money, and you shall hear from the rest. Don't hide your light under a bushel, or think because you are plodding away among the hills and waysides that you know nothing of interest—or, worse still, think you know everything. Keep in line, or the world will wag along and keep you in the lurch.

HOW TO RESTORE THE SCALE OF THERMOMETERS.

Physicians are frequently troubled by the scales of their thermometers becoming indistinct, the pigment in the marks wearing out. The scale may be made distinct again by painting it with an alcoholic solution of any aniline color. Make two or three applications, let the color dry, and then rub off with a dry cloth. The aniline will fasten itself on the roughened glass of the scale alone making each line show distinctly. Water will not

remove the coloring matter, which, when it fades, may be easily renewed.

CANADA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The next meeting of this Association is to be held in Halifax, Wednesday, 3rd August. Owing to the serious illness of the General Secretary, Dr. A. H. David, all communications concerning the meeting should be addressed to the Local Secretary for Ontario, Dr. Adam Wright, who has kindly undertaken the duties of the General Secretary.

A PROPOSED NEW PLAN TO DISINFECT SEWERS.

Dr. A. J. Holkett, the medical examiner for the Germania Life Insurance Company, New York, has laid a new plan for disinfecting the sewers of that city before the Board of Health. He proposes by the use of electricity to neutralize the gases generated in the sewers. It is said to be probable that an experiment will be made, although the Commissioners are not very sanguine of the results.

CORRECTION.—In the February number of the *RECORD* we published a paper by Dr. F. W. Otiss of New York "On the Sulphide of Calcium in the Treatment of Suppurating Buboes," and credited it to the *N. Y. Medical Record*. This was an error, as the paper first appeared in the *New York Medical Journal*.

ERGOTINE: ITS INCONVENIENCES AND DANGERS.

At a recent meeting of the Paris Academy of Medicine (*La France Medicale*) Dr. Boissarie read a memoir on the above subject. His conclusions are that ergotine, which is of important service in hæmorrhage when we require immediate energetic action, cannot be used with impunity in affections of long continuance, even in small doses, so as to saturate the system. It has the property of accumulating and storing itself up in the economy, and of manifesting itself, after a longer or shorter time, by a sudden outburst of serious consequences. To follow the precept of Trousseau of giving the poison for a long time in small doses is to expose the patient to gangrene.