

plasm can be made by the examination of the urine. He has found that there is an increase in the elimination of urea and phosphates during a convulsion due to a tumor, while the amounts excreted during an attack of hysterical epilepsy are diminished.

FOR GENERAL PRURITIS, sodium bicarbonate in combination with lithium bicarbonate has been recommended for internal administration; and for Itching of the Genital Organs, compresses of diluted carbolic acid have been employed. For Pruritus Vulvæ, Dr. Mejsel, *Hospitals-Tidende*, in *Cinn. Lancet-Clinic*, advises the following:—

R—Potassii bromid., gr. xxx.
Lupulin., gr. xxx.
Hydrargyri chloridi mitis, . 3 ijss.
Olei olivæ, 3 j.—M.

Sig.—For external use. Shake well before applying.

A soothing application in ECZEMA, *Med. and Surg. Reporter*:—

R—Bismuthi oxid.,
— subnitratiss, āā 3 j.
Acidi oleici, 3 j.
Ceræ albæ, 3 ij.
Adipis lanæ, 3 x.—M.
Fiat unguentum.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN UPPER CANADA, 1783-1850.—Dr. Canniff's book goes to press in January, 1894. We predict for it a great success. *The Week* says:—Perhaps no one in Canada is better fitted to tell the story of the medical profession of his own country than the talented author of that historical work, the "Settlement of Upper Canada," and of the competent professional treatise, "The Principles of Surgery." To love of country, thorough knowledge of her conditions and history, lengthened experience as a medical practitioner, wide and intimate acquaintance with prominent members of his profession, and ready access to records of other days, Dr. Canniff adds the enthusiasm of the student and the requisite literary qualifications. A moment's thought of the past brings up the historic figure of Dr. John Rolph, and the cherished memory of Dr. Christopher Widmer. How important and

attractive such a work can be made, is suggested by a glance at the table of contents of the proposed volume, "The Medical Profession in Upper Canada—1782-1850." Here the work of pioneer medical men, the proceedings of early medical boards, numerous biographical sketches and records of events in our early history are foreshadowed, together with an appendix of appropriate historical documents. The profession and the public look forward with interest to the coming volume, and many prominent Canadians have already ordered early copies.

THE THERAPEUTIC ACTION OF SULPHONAL.—Kost *Archiv. f. exp. Path. und Pharm.*, reports nearly two hundred cases in which he employed sulphonal as a hypnotic. He prescribes it especially for combating nervous and febrile insomnia and that form accompanying certain physical disorders. The dose for a man is from two to three grammes, for a woman one gramme. Larger doses have given rise to serious after effects, such as vomiting, diarrhea, followed by obstinate constipation, heaviness of the head, paralysis, painful micturition and albuminuria. According to experiments instituted by Kost, these deleterious effects are to be attributed to alterations of the kidneys and they are the result only of large doses. He concludes with the following observations:

(1) The maximum dose for a man is from two to three grammes, for a woman one gramme; these doses ought not to be exceeded except to combat intense excitement.

(2) When one is obliged to continue the use of the drug for a prolonged period, intermissions of several days should be made from time to time.

(3) The drug should be suspended as soon as such symptoms as nausea, vomiting or gastric pain appear.

(4) Administered with these precautions, sulphonal is a harmless drug.

NIGHT AIR.—Before we can hope to fight consumption with any chance of success, says *Good Health*, we have to get rid of the night air superstition. Like the dread of cold water, raw fruit, etc., it is founded on mistrust of our instincts. It is probably the most prolific single cause of impaired health, even among the civilized nations of our enlightened age, though its absurdity rivals