

Medical Items and News.

A recent advertisement states that competent agents are wanted for the sale of a new medicine, "which will be very profitable to the undertaker."
—*Med. & Sur. Reporter.*

THE everlasting pill of the ancients consisted of metallic antimony, which, Dr. Paris says, being slightly soluble in the gastric juice, was supposed to exert the property of purging as often as it was swallowed. Imagine *one* pill for the repeated use of a whole family for their lives!

"If you are unlucky enough to sever a man's carotid artery," said Nelaton, "remember that about two minutes must elapse before syncope takes place, and as many more before death supervenes. Now four minutes are just three more than are needed for binding a ligature, *provided you are not in a hurry.*"

PULSE OF VARIOUS ANIMALS.—Vatel, in his "Veterinary Pathology," gives for our domestic animals the following pulse: Horse, from 32 to 38 pulsations per minute; ox or cow, 25 to 42; ass, 48 to 54; sheep, 70 to 79; dog, 90 to 100; cat, 110 to 120; rabbit, 120; guinea-pig, 140; duck, 135; hen, 140.

CHLORAL HYDRATE IN PUERPERAL MANIA.—A case is reported in Tilden's *Journal of Materia Medica* for November, 1873, in which, after two weeks of violent insanity, treated without permanent benefit by other sedatives, the disease yielded promptly to chloral hydrate, 20 grs. every two hours till 60 grains were taken.—*Pacific Med. Jour.*

SUGAR AND MAGNESIA AN ANTIDOTE TO ARSENIC.—The *Mouvement Medical* relates various experiments conducted by Mr. Carl, with the result of showing that sugar, mixed with magnesia, may serve as an antidote in cases of poisoning by arsenious acid, in which cases, too, the internal use of the hydrated magnesia is most valuable.—*Lancet*, Aug. 2, 1873.

THE DIAGNOSIS OF LIPOMATA.—An excellent suggestion is made in a French Journal. A character peculiar to lipomata resides in the property belonging to all fatty tumors, of hardening under the action of cold. When, after the use of ice or the ether spray, in the case of a doubtful tumor, the growth is felt to become harder, the presumption is that the case is one of lipoma.—*Med. and Sur. Reporter.*

It has been ascertained that during the past year £80,000, in donations of £1000 each, have

been given to the various London charities anonymously, and in nearly every instance it is thought that this disinterested work of charitable munificence has been by one and the same individual. There has also been one anonymous donation of £5000, and probably nearly a quarter of a million in smaller sums.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The number of births registered in the metropolis during the past week was 1,702, and deaths 1,540. The births were 352 and the deaths 156 below the average numbers in the corresponding week of the last ten years. The death-rate which in the two previous weeks had been 27 and 28 per thousand of population, declined last week to 24 per thousand.

LOCAL USE OF IODOFORM.—This substance has been used by Dr. Parrot in sloughing ulcer of the vagina, with great success. Generally in two or three days it stops the extending course of the disease, and cicatrization rapidly takes place. Iodoform is as successful in these cases as in bubo or fungous sores. It must be applied plentifully. The sores must be first well washed and cleansed, and then covered entirely with the powder. Sometimes, when the ulcer is very moist and there is much loss of substance, it is useful to put on two dressings daily.—*Ibid.*

The question of introducing homœopathy was presented to the faculty of the University of Naples a few months ago, eliciting the following reply: "The University of Naples is not a proper field for instruction in homœopathy, because the rational medicine which is imparted here on the natural sciences, excludes allopathy as well as homœopathy, or any other absolute system or dogma. The study of rational medicine is as far removed from the ancient allopathy, with its blood-letting and purgation, as from the recent delusion of homœopathy with its ridiculous infinitesimal doses and similia similibus medication."

CHLORIDE OF POTASSIUM IN EPILEPSY.—Dr. Lander uses chloride of potassium instead of bromide of potassium in epilepsy. He mentions the following advantages in the employment of the substance: "It is more active, is but one-sixth of the cost, and has not the secondary effects of the bromide. He begins with small doses, but has been able to continue the use of the substance for months without any inconvenience in daily doses of from one drachm to a drachm and a half. According to Dr. Lander, bromide of potassium is transformed into the chloride in the stomach. This is therefore an additional reason for prescribing it at once in this latter form."—*Scalpel, Belgium.*