

Miscellaneous.

Pidoux, Trousseau's eminent collaborator, died in Paris on 4th of September.

Erb succeeds the late lamented Friedrich at Heidelberg.

Chiari, the new Professor of Pathology at Prague, is 30 years old, and has made 8,000 post-mortem examinations.

The Seventh Annual Meeting of the American Gynecological Society was held in Boston on the 20th, 21st, and 22nd of September. Dr. T. A. Emmet, President, in the Chair. Mr. Knowsley Thornton, of the Samaritan Hospital, London, was present.

MODE OF ADMINISTERING MALE FERN.—Herr Dietrich (*Pharm. Zeitung*) recommends as most successful the administration of the extract along with castor oil. He gives it in flexible capsules, each containing 1 gramme of the extract, and 2 grammes of oil. One dose consisting of six such capsules, preceded by a laxative, is found effective.

M. Lajoux, of Rheims, found a substance sold at a very low price under the name of *silvery glycerine*, which was simply a saturated solution of magnesium sulphate, (*i. e.*, containing about one third of its weight of the salt at the ordinary temperature,) sweetened with 160 grammes of glucose to the litre.—*L'Union Méd. et Sci. du Nord-Est.*

The Medical Faculty of McGill University celebrate the opening of their Jubilee Session by a *Conversazione*, in the Peter Redpath Museum, on the 4th, and a dinner at the Windsor Hotel, on the 5th inst. We heartily extend our best wishes on the auspicious occasion, and trust that the Faculty may go on and increase the good work they have been doing, especially in the last few years, in the cause of medical education.

In Wadd's *Nugæ Chirurgicæ* (London, 1824) there is an account of one John Foy Vaillant,

a physician of the early part of the eighteenth century. He was famous for his collection of medals, and so enthusiastic in this pursuit, that he is reported to have swallowed six ounces of medals to secure them from the Algerines, when once in danger of being captured; but the wind changing in his favour he got safely on shore. When beginning to be incommoded by his indigestible curiosities, he consulted two physicians who were puzzled by the singularity of his case. Nature however relieved him from time to time, and as he found himself in possession of his treasures, he explained with much pleasure to his friends those already arrived, as well as those he daily expected. A valuable Otho was the last that came to hand.

PULVIS DOVERI.—People whose "inward griefs and peristaltic woes" have been relieved by the powder of Dover, do not generally know to whom they are indebted for this excellent compound. Doctor Dover was a friend and probably pupil of the great Sydenham. He commenced practice in Bristol, where having made some money, he longed to make more. The Roll of the College of Physicians tells us that he joined with some merchants in fitting out two privateers for the South Seas, in one of which, the "Duke" he himself sailed from Bristol, 2nd. August, 1708. On the passage out they touched at the Island of Juan Fernandez, where Dover on the 2nd. February, 1708 9 found Alexander Selkirk, who had been alone on the island for four years and four months, and whom Dover brought away in the "Duke." In the April following Dover took Ginaguil, a city or town of Peru, by storm. In December, 1709, the two privateers took a large and valuable prize, a ship of 20 guns and 190 men, in which Dover removed from the "Duke," taking Alexander Selkirk with him as master, and finally reaching England in October, 1711. After this cruise Dr. Dover removed to London, where his practice soon became great. His patients, and the apothecaries who wished to consult him, addressed their letters to the Jerusalem coffee house, where at certain hours of the day he received most of his patients.