

MILK OF MAGNESIA.—This preparation only requires to be better known to be more fully appreciated by the profession. It is a perfect hydrate of magnesia, and not as many suppose, calcined magnesia triturated and suspended in mucilage. When examined by the microscope it presents a uniform cloudiness but no particles of magnesia are to be seen. It readily mixes with water, and may be given alone or in combination with any other remedy which is not incompatible with magnesia. It has a perfectly smooth, palatable and milk-like taste and is one of the best antacids whether for adults or children. In the constipation of infants it is a most useful remedy. For acidity of the stomach, either in adults or children, there is nothing better; it is easily administered and very efficacious. Those who choose to test it will not be disappointed in the results.

THE NEW ANTISEPTIC THYMOL.—The new antiseptic thymol bids fair to entirely supersede carbolic acid—possessing as it does superior antiseptic properties, and being perfectly innocuous. It is the essential ingredient of oil of thyme, prepared by treating it with a strong alkaline solution, or by distilling the seeds of *Phychotis ajowan*, an East Indian plant. Solutions containing 1 part thymol to 1000 will completely arrest saccharine fermentation, and only small quantities are necessary to check decomposition. It is now being used in Germany instead of carbolic acid in the application of Lister's antiseptic dressings, with marked success. It is only as an external antiseptic that thymol is recommended; its internal use has not answered the expectations which were formed of it.

BELMONT RETREAT.—This most excellent private Hospital for the Insane, has provided a separate department for the treatment of inebriates. It is situated in one of the most beautiful and picturesque spots in the neighborhood of the city of Quebec. The extensive grounds surrounding it are most beautifully laid out, the building is well appointed, and every care and attention is bestowed on patients of all grades and classes, by the medical superintendent Dr. Wakeham, who has had great experience in the treatment of such cases. Among the class of inebriates the cures have averaged about 75 per cent. It is the only institution of the kind in Canada, and is deserving of the consideration of the profession.

THE LATE DR. HODDER.—At a meeting of the Medical and Surgical society of Montreal, held recently, resolutions were passed expressing regret at the death of the late Dr. Hodder, in whom the medical profession has lost one of its most distinguished practitioners, one of the ablest teachers, and one of the most honorable members.

The following resolution has also been sent to the students of Trinity Medical school by the McGill students medical society :

Resolved.—That having heard with deep regret of the death of Dr. Hodder, late Dean of the Trinity Medical School, whose eminent services in the cause of medical science and medical education are so well known in this country, we do express our sincerest sympathy in your loss, and with the family of the deceased in their bereavement.

Prof. Osler,

Chairman.

L. D. Mignault,

Secretary.

LACTOPEPTINE.—This preparation, which is a composition of pepsine, pancreatine, diastase or vegetable ptyaline, lactic and hydrochloric acid, and sugar of milk, is acquiring a great reputation both in England and America, in the treatment of many forms of dyspepsia, and wasting diseases of children. We have used it in several cases with remarkably beneficial results, and we feel certain the profession will not be disappointed in its effects. It is also an excellent remedy in gastritis, vomiting of pregnancy, dysentery, and diarrhoea of children. Pepsine is undoubtedly a valuable remedy in many forms of dyspepsia, but it does not seem to meet all the indications fulfilled by lactopeptine.

HEALTH REPORT CITY OF NEW YORK.—We have been favoured through the kindness of Dr. Nagle with a copy of the City Record containing the vital statistics of the City of New York, for 1877 from which we glean the following. There were 26,203 deaths (13,624 males and 12,579 females) during the year just past, which represents an annual death-rate of 24.50 per 1,000, the estimated population being 1,069,362. Among the diseases which caused the greatest number of deaths, may be mentioned, zymotic diseases 8,042; phthisis pulmonalis, 4,046; diarrhoeal diseases, 3,557; nervous diseases, 2,378; pneumonia, 2,148; Bright's disease, 1,139; bronchitis, 1,033; scarlatina, 983; diphtheria, 951; croup, 472; whooping-cough, 440.