

MEDICAL NEWS.

Preliminary steps have been taken at Munich for erecting a monument to the late Baron Liebig.

It has just come to light that during the last few years a large trade has been carried on in forged diplomas, purporting to be from the University of Marburg; no less than forty persons in England having purchased the worthless documents.

Scant consideration appears to be shown by the French government to Communists en route to Caledonia. The transport ship *Orne*, laden with prisoners, lately put into Melbourne short of provisions, and with 410 cases of scurvy on board.

One William Young has been convicted under the Medical Act in Scotland and fined a guinea for falsely appending M.D. to his name at the end of a certificate of death. The man's ignorance was manifested by such caecography as "dropey of the kidneys," "bronkatis of the lungs," and "dropey of the chest," assigned as causes of death. The prosecution was at the instance of the Procurator Fiscal, a kind of functionary very much wanted in Ontario to carry out the provisions of our own Medical Act.

We have a noteworthy instance of the munificence of a Spanish doctor. In Madrid on the 16th April was laid the foundation stone of what is destined to be a splendid museum of comparative anatomy, natural history and ethnography. The museum will be erected and completed at the sole expense of Dr. Don Pedro Gonzalez de Velasco, with the noble and praiseworthy ambition of advancing at one and the same time the cause of science and the progress of his country.

Another dodge of the unqualified is exposed in the *Lancet*. Some medical men leave in charge of branch practices unqualified assistants, and put in prominent style on the window the words "resident medical officer." The same words are used by the great unqualified in filling up death and vaccination certificates. These words clearly convey a false impression, and, if not illegal, are highly discreditable.

The Australian Medical Journal mentions that among six samples of Australian wine sent in to the committee of the Melbourne Hospital, and examined by them, none were considered suitable for hospital use. It would appear from this verdict that the cultivation of the vine in Australia, from which much has been expected, is in some measure a failure.

Each of the four large hospitals of Paris where clinical medicine is officially taught has recently been endowed with a special and complete laboratory for researches in morbid anatomy, histology, and medical chemistry. Morbid specimens will thus be examined in every way by the gentlemen attached to the laboratory.

The Italian journals mention the death of Professor Corticelli, of Florence, after a long and painful illness. The deceased, who was a physician of great erudition and an able teacher, had successively distinguished himself as Professor of Physiology in the University of Vienna, Professor of Hygiene at the School of Pisa, and, lastly Professor of Forensic Medicine at Florence. He was a member of the Municipal Council of this latter city, and at his funeral the municipal councils of Florence and Vienna, and the three universities to which he had belonged, were largely represented.

Another victim to the duties and dangers of our profession has just been carried off. Dr. Marc Girard, of Bordeaux, a young surgeon of great distinction, who promised to reach the foremost rank among the profession in the South of France, has just died, at the early age of thirty-five, through a slight scratch of the finger whilst performing disarticulation of the shoulder on a patient presenting symptoms of putrid infection. He died after a few short days of illness, during which he was perfectly aware of the fatal character of his disease, and prepared for his end. At his funeral, which was attended by a large crowd, the Mayor of Bordeaux M. Fourcaud, expressed the feelings of sympathy and condolence which the town of Bordeaux at large manifested on this occasion.

During the past year the General Association of the Medical Men of France has given away 30,000 francs in aid to widows and children of medical men. Its finances are in a prosperous condition.

The municipality of Berlin, alarmed at the 130 cholera cases at St. Petersburg since March, is preparing for the repulse of the disease. Meanwhile typhus fever abounds in the North German capital. Drainage operations, so loudly demanded by the Berliners, are about to commence, and a loan of 13,500,000 has been raised to carry them out.

The Tribunal of Correctional Police at Lille has just tried a dentist for the illegal practice of medicine and for homicide by imprudence. The defendant, at the request of a lady, who was about to have two teeth extracted, administered chloroform to her. She had inhaled it on a previous occasion without inconvenience, but this time it produced fatal effect, the lady dying under the operation. The dentist has in consequence been prosecuted, and the court, now holding that as he had no diploma he was not qualified to employ anaesthetics, condemned him to two fines of 15 francs each on the first count, and to one of 500 francs and a month's imprisonment on the second.

The Paris correspondent of the *London Standard* relates the story of an exciting scene which took place on a Sunday night lately at the Hospital La Charite. A young Corsican, who had been admitted with erysipelas brought on by alcoholic indulgence, was placed in a ward occupied chiefly by dropsical and paralytic patients. When the high fever with delirium supervened, the man sprang out of bed armed with a long knife which he had managed to secrete under his pillow, and then appears to have run amuck among the other tenants of the ward, stabbing and cutting right and left. By the time he was secured seven patients had been more or less severely wounded, none of the wounds, however, being of a fatal character.

MEDICAL ABSTRACTS.

BROMIDES IN PRURIGINOUS AFFECTIONS.

Dr. Gueneau de Mussy, in the *Gazette Medicale* extols the efficacy of the bromides applied locally in pruriginous affections of the external integuments. He recommends their use, especially in pruritus vulvæ. He employs the bromides either in ointment or solution.

CHANGE OF COLOUR IN THE HAIR.

Several historical and well-known cases (as those of Maria Theresa, Ludovico Sforza, and Mary Stuart) corroborate the simple but affecting statement made by the Abbe Lefevre the other day in the *Tichborne* trial in reference to the sudden change of colour his hair had undergone. He had heard, he said, of the death of his father, and on the following night dreamt that the details of his death were enacted before his eyes. He awoke terribly agitated, and found his hair had become white. A curious instance lately came under our observation, in which a black retriever puppy received a violent kick from a horse, which caused fracture of the thigh. By the time the fracture had united the dog's hair had changed from a deep black to a light brindle. The dog is now fully grown, but the hair has not recovered its original colour. To what can this change be attributed? The answer is not easy. Is it to the extraction of air? Is it a consequence of the absorption of pigment or the result of the action of some chemical compound; as an acid, eliminated by the skin? Under any circumstances it is singular that the influence should be limited to the hairs alone, and should not apparently otherwise affect the integument. The circumstances under which it usually occurs point to the nervous system as a principal agent, and this is supported by the occurrence of white hairs in the eyebrows and temples after severe attacks of neuralgia. Still, it may be asked, is it an instance of the direct action of the nervous system on the hair cells, or indirect upon the vessels of the surface? It would be interesting to know how the white colour makes its appearance—from the apex to the root, or vice versa.—*Lancet*.

PHOSPHORUS IN NEURALGIA.

Dr. S. M. Bradley, of Manchester, states that he has frequently employed a solution of phosphorus in ether, and has found it of signal service for the cure of neuralgia. The dose is five drops, which contains about one twentieth of a grain of phosphorus, ether dissolving about one per cent. of phosphorus. This not only relieves pain, but lessens the attacks. Dr. B. has found it most serviceable in subjects who add to a highly nervous temperament some cause of nervous waste.

ONYCHIA MALIGNA.

Prof. Vanzetti, of Padua, has successfully employed the nitrate of lead as recommended by Dr. Moorhouse, of Ghent, for the cure of onychia maligna, an affection often rebellious to ordinary treatment. He excises the excrescence of the nail to the level of the ulcer, then covers it lightly with nitrate of lead, and afterwards envelops the part with a compress of linen. At first a thick, stinky crust, adhering to the margin of the ulcer, forms, which falls off after a few days, leaving a wound which quickly cicatrizes.—*Abeille Medicale*.

ACTION OF DIGITALIS ON THE BLOODVESSELS.

Drs. Brunton and Meyer contribute to the *Journal of Anatomy and Physiology* an instructive paper on this subject. They conclude, first, that digitalin causes contraction of the arterioles. This is proved by the small height of the pulse wave, and by its descent becoming more gradual after the injection notwithstanding the increased blood-pressure. Second, that the slowing of the pulse is probably due in part to the increased blood pressure which results from the contraction of the arterioles.

DIGESTION OF FAT.

Schiff has instituted a number of carefully devised experiments to determine whether the pancreatic secretion is essential to the digestion of fat. It appears from these experiments that without the pancreas, animals still retain complete power of digesting fat by means of their intestinal secretions.—*London Medical Record*.

SUPERNUMERARY MAMMÆ.

Dr. Handyside relates in the *Journal of Anatomy and Physiology* two cases of supernumerary mammae (quadruple), the lower being rudimentary, in two adult brothers. He states that Dr. A. Mitchell informed him that he had seen a similar case of quadruple mammae in a farm servant, aged twenty-seven. Supernumerary mammae in males are rare, but less so in females.

REMEDY FOR HÆMOPTYSIS.

Dr. Holden states, in the *Medical Record*, that "he desires to call the attention of the profession to a method of treatment of hæmoptysis, which, while most simple and efficacious, he has not seen described by any one; namely, the throwing of the atomized vapour of a saturated solution of gallic acid directly into the mouth and throat. He has repeatedly found the most gratifying success to follow this treatment at once; even in cases of profuse hæmorrhage. Unlike other styptics thus administered, it quiets the spasmodic cough, which seems the direct result of the presence of the blood, requires but a moment to prepare, and, aside from its efficacy, it inspires immediately the confidence of the patient. For about two years he has adopted this method, and has been surprised that no similar experience has found its way into the medical journals. His habit has been to have an atomizer and bottle of gallic acid always at hand, and when summoned hastily, to mix the acid in a tumbler of cold water, and use even without waiting for the excess of acid to subside. It has proved successful in several cases where blood was streaming from the mouth with every expiration."—*Medical and Surgical Reporter*.

APOMORPHIA.

The evidence in favour in the valuable emetic properties of apomorphia has received an important addition from the observations of Dr. Siebert (*Archiv der Heilkunde*, December 1871; and *Gazette Hebdomadaire*, No. 22, 1872, p. 366). He finds that this agent does