

only the strongly colored illustration of effects upon health which are daily realized in thousands of instances. Noteven in manhood is the pipe or cigar invariably safe. Much less can it be so regarded when it ministers to the unbounded whims and cravings of every heedless urchin. Clearly there is need of some controlling power here. The parent in certain classes is almost as ignorant of consequences and probably often quite as apathetic as his boy. Where he can be roused to the active exercise of his authority in repression, he should be. In very many cases he cannot, and we have therefore no hesitation in asserting once more our conviction that it is incumbent upon the legislature, in view of its known pernicious effect upon mind and body during boyhood, to restrict this habit by an age limit which will fall outside this period.—*Lancet*.

THE NEW RIFLE BULLETS.—Professor von Bardeleben has been studying the effects of the rifle bullets used in modern rifles. The new projectile has an inner core of lead, but this is inclosed in a casing of steel, which prevents the lead, even when softened by conversion of motion into heat, from becoming deformed and enlarged at the point of contact with the wound. This change is of much interest for military surgery. The weight of the new 8 millimetre projectile is much less than that of any of the old bullets. It is to its higher rate of velocity and pointed shape that its greater perforating power must be ascribed. Owing to the immense velocity it preserves in its flight, and its small surface of contact, it meets with little resistance on striking a person, causes little commotion of the neighboring parts, has no time to stretch the various tissues it encounters, and merely punches a hole, carrying the contused elements before it clean out of the wound, without seriously damaging the surrounding wall of the tract. The wound is thus left in a fit state for healing by first intention, as no contused parts remain for removal by sloughing. But on the battlefield this absence of contusion, which frequently stayed the bleeding of injured vessels, must lead to more frequent deaths from hemorrhage. Again, in former wars bullets which had been fired from great distances were found to strike the chest

or other parts of the body, perhaps to break a bone, and then to glance off or rebound without penetrating farther. This is now impossible; a projectile coming from enormous distances, if it wounds at all, has sufficient power to pass through, cutting any vessels or organs it may meet in its way. Colonel Boonen-Rivera, reporting on the civil war in Chili, where he held the post of brigade commander, says that the number of dead on the battlefield was many times—according to his observation four times—larger than that of the wounded. This is the only war in which the new Mannlicher rifles with steel-covered projectiles have been used.—*Med. Record*.

THE Canadian Practitioner

A SEMI-MONTHLY REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS
OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES.

Contributions of various descriptions are invited. We shall be glad to receive from our friends everywhere current medical news of general interest.

When a change of address occurs please promptly notify the Publishers, THE J. E. BRYANT COMPANY (Limited), 58 Bay Street.

TORONTO, AUGUST 1, 1892.

THE COUNCIL AND THE MEDICAL DEFENCE ASSOCIATION.

In our issue of July 1st we referred to the fact that the Ontario Medical Council had appointed a committee to confer with the supporters of Dr. Meacham's "bill" with reference to proposed amendments to the Medical Act. Let us hope that such a conference may accomplish what is desired, *i.e.*, "a restoration of the feeling of harmony that had existed . . . and should continue to do so, between the profession and their representatives in the Medical Council." We believe that many members, if not the majority of the Council, recognize the fact that it is absolutely necessary to make some concessions, and agree to certain changes. The Defence Association is strong, and is growing stronger. It is well that this should be distinctly understood and properly appreciated. We have taken considerable pains to ascertain the views of the profession in the prov-