

by gently heating a mixture of hydrastine and nitric acid and precipitating with an alkali. The alkaloid itself is perfectly white and contains a molecule of water of crystallization, but its salts are free from it and most of them are readily soluble in water. The physiological action of the drug differs, it is said, very materially from that of hydrastine. It is not a spinal irritant, and is a heart stimulant instead of a paralyzer of that organ; it also sustains persistent contractility of the vascular system without the paralysis which has been known to follow the use of hydrastine. Dr. Falk has made repeated demonstrations with hydrastine, and suggests it as a remedy in the treatment of uterine hemorrhages as being much more prompt and sustained in its action than ergotine. Report is made of twenty-six cases systematically and successfully treated with it. The twenty-six patients received in all four hundred injections of hydrastine hydrochloride in the form of a solution varying from five to ten per cent. There was no noticeable local irritation following these injections at any time. The patients were unanimous as to the painlessness of the applications and the freedom from that subsequent discomfort which so often arises from the use of ergotine. The discoverer is making further investigations, the results of which are to appear in due course in the *Archiv. für Gynäkologie*.—*N. Y. Medical Journal*.

RECIPE FOR CONTRACTING GONORRHEA.—Should one desire to contract this malady, the following remedy will be found infallible: Take a pale, lymphatic woman, blonde rather than brunette, one with a tendency to leucorrhœa; dine in her company, commencing with oysters on the half shell, followed by asparagus; drink dry white wine during the repast, finishing up with champagne and coffee; waltz afterwards with your companion until you are overheated. Take beer before retiring, and on awakening next morning, be sure to indulge in a hot bath and do not neglect a prophylactic injection. This programme, conscientiously followed, will induce the malady unless you are under the protection of special Providence.—[*Ricord.*] *Cincinnati Lancet-Clinic*.

CACTUS GRANDIFLORUS IN HEART DISEASE.—Dr. Orlando Jones publishes his experience of cactus grandiflorus, which he claims is likely to prove a useful adjunct to our resources, especially in asthenic conditions of the heart. Digitalis, strophanthus, and convallaria are not always reliable in the varied conditions of the heart with which we daily meet. The action of digitalis is not infrequently disappointing when we are dealing with a feeble heart, especially if that feebleness is excessive and of long duration. In such instances cactus grandiflorus may fill a gap where other remedies appear to be lacking. The action

of this remedy seems to be the very opposite of that of digitalis, that is, in the final stage it strengthens the heart.—*Brit. Med. Jour.*

PERCHLORIDE OF IRON IN LEUCORRHEA.—Of all remedies for simple leucorrhœa, the old tincture of perchloride of iron is the best, combined with hyoscyamus, opium, hop or Indian hemp, when the mucous membrane is in a state of irritation. Tepid or cold water injections, cold hip baths, etc., are useful local applications, with rest: and avoidance of occupations involving prolonged standing or pedal exercise.

Sometimes tannin, zinc, or alum are valuable additions to the injections. When the discharge emanates from the glands of the os uteri, local applications of belladonna and bicarbonate of potash are serviceable, two ounces of tincture and a teaspoonful of the alkali to about a pint of water.—Ed. in *Pharm. Era*.

ONTARIO MEDICAL COUNCIL.

Want of space will prevent our giving an extended account of the proceedings of this body at its recent meeting. The chief points of interest are, however, summarized in our editorial columns.

The election of officers for the current year resulted as follows:—

President—Dr. Moore, Brockville.

Vice-President—Dr. Williams, Ingersoll.

Registrar—Dr. Pyne.

Treasurer—Dr. W. T. Aikins.

The following gentlemen have been appointed examiners for the ensuing year:—

Dr. Grasett, Toronto—Anatomy, descriptive.

Dr. Saunders, Kingston—Theory and practice of medicine, therapeutical, general pathology.

Dr. W. J. Wilson, Richmond Hill—Midwifery, operative and other than operative, with puerperal and infantile diseases.

Dr. Anson J. Fraser, Sarnia—Physiology and histology.

Dr. Burt, Paris—Surgery, operative and other than operative.

Dr. W. Waugh, London—Medical and surgical anatomy.

Dr. Oldright, Toronto—Chemistry, medical, practical and toxicology.

Dr. A. McKinnon, Guelph—Materia medica and pharmacy.

Dr. W. H. Emory, Toronto—Medical jurisprudence and sanitary science.

Dr. C. O'Reilly, Toronto—Assistant examiner to the examiner on surgery.

Dr. E. Hooper, Kingston—Assistant examiner to the examiner on medicine and pathology.

Dr. F. D. Canfield, Kingston—Homœopathic examiner.