

of reducing the temperature to 15°F. below zero. It is not a definite compound, but is the most volatile liquid known. When used in the form of a spray it is capable of freezing the tissues in about one minute, and producing a greater degree of cold than all other substances, except cymogene, whose boiling point is 32°F. It freezes more rapidly and deeply than ether; but as this effect is somewhat evanescent, the spraying must be frequently repeated during an operation, and may be kept up as long as required. Under a rhigolene spray, both superficial and deep tissues can be freely divided, when properly exposed, without hæmorrhage or pain; but owing to the rapid disappearance of the congelation, operations must be promptly carried out.

I think that this drug may prove of considerable use in general surgery, inasmuch as the muriate of cocaine has not proved very useful when applied to the unbroken skin, and when injected hypodermically has caused unpleasant constitutional symptoms. In a previous number of the *Journal* I advised caution in its (cocaine) internal use, and Dr. Knapp writes to the *New York Medical Record* last week also warning against its hypodermic use, except in very small quantities. I think rhigolene deserves a trial.

THE CHOLERA CONFERENCE AT WASHINGTON.

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VISIT TO JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, BALTIMORE, AND NEW YORK.

At a meeting of the Public Health Association, held at St. Louis in October last, the subject of Asiatic Cholera, and its probable introduction to the American Continent next summer, received careful attention. A report was prepared by a committee, of which Dr. Bryce, of the Provincial Board of Health was one, and adopted by the Association. This report, after speaking of the origin of Asiatic Cholera, and of its modes of dissemination, and the loss to the community in the waste of life and property from general suspension of business, proceeded to make certain recommendations.

First. With regard to quarantine, and notification from foreign ports of the departure of vessels either known or suspected to have infection on board, to the health officer at the port of destination of the vessel.

Second. That Congress should take such measures as will bring about concerted action with the Dominion and the British Government.

Third. Urging local safeguards.

Fourth. Advice to municipalities as to what each should do.

Fifth. "That when this Conference adjourns it be to meet in Washington, D. C., the second Wednesday in December next, and that the secretary be directed to invite the attendance at that time of the quarantine officers and the health officers of the principal cities in the United States and Canada; and that all delegates to that meeting be prepared to report the sanitary status of their State or locality, and what steps have been taken to improve the same, and to prevent the introduction of the disease." Circulars were accordingly sent to all parts of the United States and Canada requesting the presence of delegates at the Conference.

In response, three delegates from Canada were present at the meeting, which took place at the date above mentioned. These were Dr. Covernton, Chairman of the Provincial Board of Health; Dr. Montizambert, Quarantine officer at Grosse Isle, and Dr. Canniff, Medical Health Officer, Toronto. The meeting was a representative one, and lasted from Tuesday to Friday. All the State Boards sent delegates, and about seventy-five City Boards were represented. The Hon. Erastus Brooks, of New York, was the President. In an admirable address he reviewed the objects and purposes of the Convention and the causes which led to it. "We are," he said, "to consider two subjects of great public interest to the country at large, to the States which we represent, and to every inhabited locality of our respective commonwealth. He spoke of the startling mortality from cholera, even within the last few months, where thousand of lives might have been spared by proper preparations to meet the disease." He referred to the unexpected outbreak in Paris, which might have been looked for, with