

A CANADIAN MEDICAL TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

It has been decided to organize a Canadian Medical Temperance Association during the meeting of the general Canadian Medical Associations in Montreal this month (September). Similar associations already exist in the United States and Great Britain. The objects will be to advance the practice of total abstinence in and through the medical profession, and to promote investigation as to the action of alcohol in health and disease. Members will be expected to be total abstainers, but will not be required to sign any pledge. The liberty of members in prescribing alcohol as a medicine will be entirely uncontrolled. All regular practitioners of medicine, or of any of its recognized departments, who are willing to join such an association, will confer a favor by sending in their name and address *at once* to Dr. Harley Smith, 256 Spadina Ave., Toronto. To become members, it is not necessary to be present at the meeting, but it is earnestly hoped that all who can, will go to Montreal, in order to give the association a good start.

There will be a nominal fee, sufficient to cover the expense of management.

ICE IN PHEGMASIA ALBA DOLENS.—Dr. Jno. A. Miller (*Pacific Med. Jour.*) in entering on the subject of phlegmasia alba dolens, speaks highly of the efficiency of the cold treatment of the disease. He first used it in 1886, and since then has used it in six cases. He says:—"My first case became infected from the nozzle of a vaginal syringe, which the nurse had employed in a crude manner. A pelvic cellulitis on the left side was the beginning or first evidence of anything wrong; in the course of a few days, the corresponding limb first became painful and afterwards œdematous. That I exhausted all the resources that were laid down in the books at my command, is to put it mild, for the pain in the limb was so excruciating, especially in the calf of the leg and in the inner aspect of the thigh from the groin to the knee, that notwithstanding large and repeated doses of morphine, rubefacients and hot fomentations, the patient got little or no relief. I had treated pelvic cellulitis and perimetritis satisfactorily by means of ice bags

and cold water compresses, and there was every reason that a similar application to the painful regions of the affected limb would result in palliation, if not hasten the cure. This was under protest from the patient, because she dreaded the shock and feared bad consequences. I, however, insisted, and carried out my intentions. The procedure was in the following manner: an ordinary large towel was dipped into iced water, wrung out and clapped around the affected limb; a heavy flannel roller bandage was then applied from the toes upward to the groin. Flannel is preferable, because it does not get hard when moist, and remains softer under similar conditions than cotton material. On the most painful parts, like the inner aspect of the thigh, the popliteal region and the calf of the leg, I laid rubber bags filled with ice. These were kept in place by a circular binder, independent and outside of the roller bandage. The patient was a little shocked when the cold towel was first applied, but the unpleasantness was only momentary, and then the reaction brought ease and comfort. She desired the ice bags to be removed quite often at first, as she claimed they relieved the pain, as anything else had never done before. The morphine was at once discontinued. The pain was entirely controlled by the cold. The temperature dropped from 103° to 100° the next day, and the patient commenced to improve, which continued uninterrupted. The towel was freshly dipped from four to six times in the twenty-four hours. As soon as the patient experienced relief, she was quite anxious to endure the temporary chill from a fresh compress, because the limb felt always better for it afterwards; as the towel soon became dry and hot, and this gave rise to painful symptoms again. Since this first gratifying experiment I confidently and unhesitatingly employed the identical local measures, and the success was uniform and decided.

THE "UNCONTROLLABLE" VOMITING OF PREGNANCY.—Dr. Amand Routh writing to the *Br. Med. Jour.* says: In an editorial on the above subject in your journal of May 30th (p. 1192), allusion is made to a paper read by me at the Harveian Society, in April, and I am stated to have "strenuously advocated the painting of the cervix with a strong solution of iodine." This is not