

AMMONIA.

Dr. FARNSWORTH, of Iowa, read a paper on "Ammonia and its therapeutical application." He prefers the use of bicarbonate in children. It is formed by exposing the ordinary sesqui-carbonate in powder to the air, until it has lost its pungency.

SPECIALISTS.

In the report on revising the code of medical ethics, there occurs the following:—"But how then, can those who wish to pursue a special practice, make known their position to their brethren and the public?" We answer that the title of Doctor of Medicine covers the whole field of practice, and whoever is entitled to that appellation has the right to occupy the whole or any part of the field, as he pleases. The acceptance of this honorable title is presumptive evidence to the community, that the man accepting it is ready to attend practically to any and all duties which it implies. As all special practice is simply a self-imposed limitation of the duties implied in the general title of doctor, it should be indicated, not by special or qualifying titles, such as *oculist*, *gynecologist*, etc., nor by any positive setting forth of special qualifications, but by a simple, honest notice, appended to the ordinary card of the general practitioner, saying, "Practice limited to diseases of the eye and ear," or "diseases peculiar to women," or "to midwifery exclusively," as the case may be. Such simple notice of limitation, if truthfully made, would involve no other principle than the notice of the general practitioner, that he limits his attention to professional business within certain hours of the day. Neither could it be regarded as a claim to special or superior qualifications. To give the specialist any privilege beyond this, would be to invest him with a special privilege inconsistent with the equality of rights and duties pertaining to the whole profession."

UNIFORM RECORDS.

The venerable Dr. E. SEGUIN, of New York, who, by the way, gave an exposition and illustration of "Mathematical thermometry," (being the translator of Wunderlich,) had been appointed delegate to Europe. From his report it would seem that he urged before the British Medical Association and the French Association for the Advancement of the Sciences, what he has been urging for years, viz., the question of harmonizing

our means of observation and record, and of instructing therein mothers and nurses. Our clinical scales and instruments of observation differ from nation to nation and from hospital to hospital. As soon as Seguin's object shall have been accomplished, the observations of physicians will become comparable at a glance, and their record be as positive as those of the operations of the chemist, the physicist, and the dynamist.

HYGIENE.

This subject, taking up half a section, had full and free attention. Dr. A. N. BELL, of Brooklyn, N. Y., the genial and indefatigable editor of *The Sanitarian*, is putting new life and fresh vigor into his specialty. Space and time prevent my going into details. Suffice it to say that, from the interest manifested, the number of papers read, and the organization for work next year, it is abundantly evident that the orthodox profession are leaders in this as in every other department of pathological science; and that they need no prophetic Ryder to spur them on with heterodox presumptions uttered and copied from any worshipped and ideal oracle.

SHORTENING IN FRACTURES.

Dr. LEWIS A. SAYRE, of New York, presented a report of 115 cases of fracture occurring in his wards in Bellevue. His deductions are remarkable. Excluding three cases where the shortening was from an inch and a half to two inches, but which labored under concomitant pneumonia, abscess, and delirium tremens respectively, it would be found that in the remaining cases some* were longer, some of equal length, and the rest with from one-sixteenth to one-eighth shortening. The measurements had been made by house-surgeon Van Wagner, and had been verified by the hitherto sceptical Frank Hamilton. They were treated by extension and counter-extension until accurate adjustment; then fixation and retention. In case too great extension was made, reflex irritation produced contraction with displacement. In elucidating his principles of treatment, he referred to Dr. Nelson, who, sent for to an injured lumberman in the Saguenay River, found him asleep, although with both femurs broken, he having crawled up the river's bank and seated himself upon a ledge of

*In general, conclusions are intended to apply to femurs throughout the discussion, although they will often apply *a fortiori* to the other long bones.