

been relieved by the above treatment, the appetite is soon restored by the use of dilute nitric acid and decoction of cinchona."

**NEW YORK PHYSICIANS.**—The *New York Medical Register* for 1873-74, contains the names of 1,974 regular physicians who are practising in that city and vicinity.

The *Philadelphia Medical Times* of November 29th, says: a most extraordinary instance of professional pride has just been given in Boston. Recently we chronicled the self-immolation of Obermeier, a young Berlin physician, upon the altar of science; but this time it is simply personal and professional pride that has brought about the tragic result, unless—as seems to us probable—there were some deeper, hidden springs of action. The story is that in the Boston City Hospital a young female nurse, named Pfyffer, on Tuesday, November 18, took opium with suicidal intent. Dr. Arthur L. Foster, the house physician, was called to her in the night, and mistook her symptoms for hysteria, prescribed, and returned to his bed. The next morning, on finding that his patient was dead of opium-poisoning, he went to the bath-room, and, locking the door, opened a femoral artery.

**TINCTURE OF DIGITALIS AND CHLORAL HYDRATE IN DELIRIUM TREMENS** (*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, October 16, 1873).—Dr. E. Chenery records the case of a Scotchman, aged 35, who, when first seen, had neither taken food nor slept for nearly a week, during which time he had been on a continuous debauch. His mind was greatly agitated, his muscular system in a state of unrest, and his pulse feeble and frequent. A strong mustard plaster was applied to the pit of his stomach, fifteen grains of chloral were given, and in twenty minutes twenty drops of the tincture of digitalis. These were retained, and in ten minutes thirty grains of chloral were administered, and were followed by three hours of refreshing sleep. A raw egg and some milk were then given, with another portion of digitalis, and in a short time thirty grains more of chloral. This time he passed off into a sleep of many hours, from which he awoke much relieved. Small doses of digitalis were continued for several days, partly to reduce the pulse, but principally for the sake of the eliminative action on the kidneys.

**MAGNESIA AS A SURGICAL DRESSING.**—Dr. Ohlmeyer, of Weissenburg, has found the carbonate of magnesia of value,—

1. In atonic ulcers.
2. In cases where the epidermis was eroded and the subjacent tissues were the seat of pain and were prone to subsequent suppuration.
3. In relieving the pain of inflamed wounds.
4. In cases where it was desirable to stimulate the affected surface, prevent the access of air, and limit the formation of pus. He was led in the first instance to try this remedy from its well-known action in those states of the stomach where there

is an excessive formation of acids. These latter, uniting with the base magnesia, are neutralized, and carbonic acid evolved. Accordingly, he believes that in exposed surfaces where the process of healing is prevented by fermentative action, this dressing is indicated. The use of it was attended with satisfactory results. The magnesia unites with the acids which form on the surface; it excludes the oxygen, forms an artificial covering, irritates the granulations, and forms a barrier against external and harmful agents.

In preparing the application he selects a fluid that will not readily oxidize. Oil answers this indication, and the kind he employs is the oil of sweet almonds. Adding to this the carbonate, he makes a tolerably fluid paste of salve. This is then spread upon linen and laid over the wound. It is held in place in the ordinary way.

Dr. Ohlmeyer also adds that he has used the carbonate successfully in facial erysipelas, when it was important to protect other patients from infection. In this latter case he used water as a substitute for oil.—*The Clinic, from Allg. Med. Central-Zeit.*, xlvii., 1873.

**ADMINISTRATION OF PODOPHYLLIN** (*British Medical Journal*, October 18, 1873).—A. E. Barret recommends the following formula when it is necessary to give podophyllin:

℞. Podophyllin, gr. ivss;  
Extracti elaterii, gr. ivss;  
Pulv. jalapæ comp., 3 vj.—M.

Half a drachm of this powder in half a pint of warm water acts most effectually, the cholagogue effects of the podophyllin seeming to be assisted by the hydragogue. Its use is not apt to be followed by constipation.

#### THE DIARRHŒA OF TEETHING CHILDREN.

Dr. W. H. DAY writes to the *British Medical Association*:—The treatment of diarrhœa in teething children is apt to be looked at from a one-sided point of view; the quickest way to arrest it. We have diarrhœa, 1, from dental irritation; 2, from indigestion caused by over and under feeding; 3, from atmospheric changes. Then, too, the diarrhœa may be of a simple inflammatory, choleraic, or dysenteric character; each variety demanding a different plan of treatment.

Astringents, as a rule, are to be condemned. The diarrhœa will continue in spite of them, unless other precautions are taken. If the motions contain mucus and are slimy, and there is a trace of blood and redness about the anus, chalk mixture and kino will be of no service, nor will bismuth, acids, or oxide of zinc. The diet is primarily at fault in these cases, and undigested food has passed into the bowels. Warmth and complete rest, with a dose of castor oil in such cases, is the most appropriate treatment, though the gums may require puncturing, and a grain each of hydrargyrum cum cretâ and Dover's powder may be necessary. Occasionally a quarter grain of calomel, with a grain of Dover's powder,