

for the negative. The judges of the debate were Doctors Armstrong, Finlay, and G. G. Campbell. The debate itself was not a particularly able one, as both sides gave evidence of hasty preparation, and the affirmative were further handicapped by a prevalence in the student audience of a playful spirit of incredulity, the exercise of which was rather disconcerting to the speakers. However, for beginners in a new field of enquiry, Messrs. Morse and Curran both showed a commendable broadness of spirit and an earnestness of desire to get at the truth, even at the risk of the demolition of all medical tradition, which augurs well for their success, in the broadest sense of the term, in the noble profession which they are preparing for. Both these gentlemen said that they had approached the question with much incredulity as to its claims to a scientific basis, and with the general idea that Homœopathy was but another name for quackery. Both of them confessed that even a cursory examination of the facts had thoroughly disabused their minds of any such idea. They found Homœopathy well worthy of being enquired into, and said so honestly and earnestly.

The speakers for the negative depended principally on the plan of showing the absurdity of expecting curative effects from an infinitesimal dose of drugs many of which, even in large doses, were innocuous. They also quoted from some alleged Homœopathic physicians who had admitted to some practitioners of the regular school that Homœopaths frequently gave medicines allopathically, and that there was very little or practically no difference between the schools.

Doctor Armstrong gave the decision of the judges. He complimented both sides on what they had brought forward in the way of proof, hinted gently that they had missed points they might have urged, and wound up by awarding the weight of argument to the negative.

MATERIA MEDICA SNAP SHOTS.

(A. R. F. Grob, M.D., Milwaukee.)

Three thousand years ago *Helleborus niger* was considered a most prominent remedy in the Greek materia medica. The Greeks used it under the name of *Melampodium*, as it was *Melampus* of *Pylos* who first introduced it. They used especially the roots of the poisonous weed, which grew abundantly in *Antikyra*, near the Gulf of *Malea* and at *Oeta*. With it *Melampus* cured the insane daughter of *King Proetus*. As to-day *Helleborus* is considered to be one of the most important of homœopathic remedies for mental derangements at time of puberty, it shows that homœopathic cures were made at least 3,000 years ago.

If in *scarlatina* the skin be rough and swollen around the small hairfollicles, which may easily be noticed in passing the hand over the surface, then *Dulcamara* should be preferred to *Belladonna*.

Sanguinaria has cured nasal polypi, where repeated operations and the use of *Calcarea Carb.* or *Thuja* proved unsuccessful.

It is claimed that *Sulphur*, 2 or 3 x, in drop doses, is almost specific for constipation of parturient women.

In certain inflammatory eye troubles affecting the optic nerve and retina, *Secale cor.* 3 x is often given with best results where *Belladonna* seemed indicated and failed.

Causticum is a remedy too often overlooked in disorders of the genito-urinary organs, accompanied by a characteristic burning pain.

If *Agaricus musc.*, the main remedy for photophobia and spasms of the lids, causes no improvement, then give *Conium maculatum*.

If in acute diseases a sudden state of collapse is noticed give *Carbo Veg.* 6-12 dil. Its often wonderful effect is due to its relation to the ganglionic nerves of the plexus solaris. (Dr. Kallenbach.)

Cocculus is closely related to *Nux Vom.* If *Nux* fails to remove nervous gastralgia in irritable women, then give *Cocculus*. It will also remove the peculiar weakness of the lower extremities, so often remaining after severe illness, being undoubtedly a result of spinal irritation.

In general *Sulphuric Acid* is seldom used for gastralgia with sour eructations. Yet, if together with vomiting there be burning and soreness of the mouth and