

evidence that any thermometer he may buy is not affected with errors, which in many instances under our observation have amounted to several degrees.

"Following the example of the Royal Society's Observatory at Kew, at which during the past year upwards of five thousand thermometers were examined, this Observatory has established a department to which any physician or other person may send thermometers by mail or express, and upon the payment of a small fee receive certificates of their exact errors. The facilities are such that there is no good reason why physicians should not buy their new thermometers furnished with the Yale certificate by the dealers: in those cases where no certificate is furnished, the uncertainty may amount to two degrees. It should be remembered that thermometers which the physician has had in his possession for many months are certain to have had the requisite seasoning, and therefore an old thermometer with a recent certificate is more valuable than a new one, or one about whose age there is doubt.

"The Observatory has been called upon within three months to certify about seven hundred thermometers from various parts of our country; the results of this work have demonstrated the gross inaccuracy of the cheaper clinical thermometers as commonly sold, and seem to render expedient the publication of this card calling the attention of physicians to these errors and the great difficulty of detecting them except with the appliances of an Observatory devoted to this work.

"LEONARD WALDO, *Astronomer in Charge.*"

Medical Items.

PASSED.—Thomas Wesley Mills, M.D. (McGill, 1878), passed the examinations for the qualification of L.R.C.P. on December 30th, 1880. Thomas Kelly, M.D. (McGill, 1873), passed the primary examination for M.R.C.S. on the 5th January, 1881.

—The following have been elected officers of the Ottawa Medico-Chirurgical Society for the current year: *President*, Dr. J. A. Grant; *1st Vice-President*, Dr. E. C. Malloch; *2nd Vice-President*, Dr. J. W. Whiteford; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Dr. R. W. Powell; *Council*, Drs. Bentley, Bapctic, S. Wright, Rogers, and H. P. Wright.

—Ladies with beards will be glad to hear of a remedy. Mr. Lawson Tait reports a case where the beard fell off after the application of a galvanic pessary.