

temperance in every legitimate way, and they may reckon on the co-operation of all right-minded men.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE MEDICINAL PROPERTIES OF ONIONS.

Onions are a kind of all-round good medicine. A whole onion eaten at bedtime will, by the next morning, break the severest cold. Onions make a good plaster to remove inflammation and hoarseness. If an onion is mashed so as to secure all the juice in it, it will make a most remarkable smelling substance that will quiet the most nervous person. The strength of it inhaled for a few moments will dull the sense of smell and weaken the nerves until sleep is produced from sheer exhaustion. It all comes from one property possessed by the onion, and that is a form of opium.

THE COLOR OF NEGRO CHILDREN WHEN BORN.

There has been a discussion recently in France as to the color of newly born Negro children. It is probable that scarcely one out of a million white laymen would, if asked this question, be able to answer it correctly. The large majority of the medical profession, too, are ignorant on the point. Not that it is a matter of great moment, but in these days when one's knowledge is expected to be absolutely accurate it is satisfactory to have even the most minute details made clear. On the authority of Dr. Farabery, whose statement will doubtless be supported by many medical practitioners who have had experience in Negro obstetrical practice, "the Negro baby at the time of its birth is exactly the same color as its white brother, and it shows signs of color only after an interval usually of several days, but often extending to many weeks." Some little time ago, says an English journal, there was an exhibition in the Champ de Mars of a Soudanese village, the colony of which numbered several hundred persons as black as ever were born. An eminent

French physician saw there an opportunity to settle this vexed question, and he thus expresses his deductions: "The Negro baby comes into the world a tender pink color; the second day it is lilac; ten days afterwards it is the color of tanned leather, and at fifteen days it is chocolate color. The coloring matter in the case of the Negro lies between the layers of the epidermis. This pigment is semi-fluid, or in the form of fine granulations; in the Indian it is red, and in the Mongolian yellow. It is influenced not only by sun and by climate, but by certain maladies, and the Negro changes in tint just as the white person does."

SUMMONING A PHYSICIAN.

While physicians rarely refuse to answer a worthy call, they are in no sense obliged legally to respond. Attempts to make laws compelling them to come when called have in no case been successful. The public is ever ready to summon a physician when he is supposed to be needed, but it should never be forgotten, when the demand for a physician is made, that some one is legally responsible. But in cases of an injury when unconsciousness supervenes, the patient has no power to ask for help, and therefore in an emergency almost anyone offers to call the physician without considering on whom the responsibility rests.

In a recent action by a physician to recover compensation for his professional services it was held that the one who requests a physician to attend another person professionally without disclosing the fact that he acts as agent or messenger, is liable for the physician's charges. Physicians rarely dispute such refusals to pay, and, as a rule, are the losers in transactions of this kind, but their rights in the matter should not be imposed on simply because they are generous enough to respond to calls of assistance without further questioning.—"Maryland Medical Journal."