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DECEMBER, 1876.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1876.

(117 Collins Street East.)

Present: Dr. McMillan, Mr. Morton, Mr. Gray, Dr. Blair, Dr. P. Smith, Dr. Ryan, Dr. Fulton, Dr. Peacock, Dr. Webb, Mr. Girdlestone, Mr. Gillbee, Dr. Neild, Dr. Jonasson, Dr. Bowen, Mr. W. Barker, Dr. Singleton, and Dr. Day.

Dr. Gardner of Adelaide was present as a visitor.

Dr. McMillan, vice-president, and afterwards the president occupied the chair.

NEW MEMBERS.

Dr. Tuck of Nagambie, Dr. Hearn of Inglewood, and Dr. Syme of Stawell were elected members. One gentleman was nominated.

DEATHS OF MEMBERS.

The hon. secretary reported the deaths of Dr. Gordon of Ararat, and Dr. W. H. Hinchcliff of Mortlake.

PHARMACY BILL.

The hon. secretary reported that the committee of the Society had been in communication with Mr. Bosisto, M.P., relative to the Pharmacy Bill of which he had charge in the Assembly. Mr. Bosisto had agreed to certain amendments suggested by the Committee, and had procured their insertion. Subsequently to this, the Committee had waited upon the Hon. Mr. Sargood, who had charge of the bill in the Council, in order to obtain the insertion of the following proviso taken from the English Act:

"Provided always, that registration under this act, shall not qualify any person so registered to practise medicine or surgery or any branch of medicine or surgery."

Mr. Sargood however had declined to propose the insertion of this clause.
Nomination of Office-Bearers for the Ensuimg Year.

The nomination of office-bearers for the ensuing year took place with the following result: For president, one name; for vice-presidents, six; for treasurer, one; for honorary secretary, one; for librarian, two; for committee, seventeen; for auditors, six.

Exhibits.

The President exhibited a sample of *Pituri*, and remarked that it had been given to him by a friend who had brought it from Diamantina, Cooper's Creek, where it was highly prized by the blacks, who smoked it. From what little he had been able to learn on the subject, he was disposed to think it possessed properties not dissimilar to those of Indian hemp. He had sent a specimen to Baron von Mueller, who replied that he had on several occasions heard of its extraordinary properties, and he hoped some of the many medical practitioners on the Barcoo, where it was to be had in abundance, would be able to obtain from the aboriginals the plant in a flowering and fruiting state, so that its systemic position could be ascertained and, by consequence, a better insight into the therapeutic value obtained.

Dr. Neild exhibited a bronze half-penny which had been swallowed by a child, three years old, and passed *per anum*, three weeks afterwards, without any unfavourable symptoms showing themselves.

Dr. Webb exhibited a tuberculous kidney.

The following paper was then read:

On a Case of Compound Comminuted Fracture of Both Bones of the Leg Near the Knee, Primary Amputation of the Thigh, Torsion of the Popliteal Artery.

By T. M. Girdlestone, F.R.C.S. Eng.

D. P., ut. 17, was admitted into the Alfred Hospital at 7 p.m. on September 8th, 1876. Half an hour before admission, when getting out of a railway carriage at Windsor, he fell, and the wheels passed over his right leg; considerable hemorrhage followed, the leg was so much crushed that several pieces of bone were left on the ground at the time of the accident, a tight bandage was applied round the limb, and he was conveyed to the hospital. On admission he was cold and exhausted from loss of blood, the tibia and fibula were broken two inches below the knee, the middle of the leg was smashed and destroyed, so that the foot was attached only by some skin and tendons; in front of the joint there was a clean transverse cut across the patella, the integument below this had been torn away, but behind the knee a few inches of skin and soft tissues remained apparently sound.

At 8 p.m. I amputated the limb as close as possible to the seat of injury; the clean transverse cut made by the accident over the
patella was allowed to serve for the anterior incision of the operation; nevertheless this flap was unavoidably short; I therefore cut a long posterior flap, and divided the femur an inch above the superior margin of the articular cartilage; the popliteal and a few other arteries were secured by torsion, and hardly any blood was lost at the operation. Ether was the anaesthetic employed, and had the effect of strengthening the pulse.

The following notes taken by the house-surgeon (Dr. Glendinning) are from the hospital case-book:

"11.30 p.m. Very weak and almost pulseless, would not take nourishment, an enema of beef-tea and brandy was administered and retained; there was soon a marked improvement.

"Sept. 9th. Pulse strong and full, no bleeding, stump looks well; Boracic dressing; takes nourishment well.

"Sept. 13th. At 4 p.m. it was found that haemorrhage to the extent of probably 8 or 10 ounces had occurred, the house-surgeon put him under chloroform, and on opening up the inner corner of the stump from which the blood was flowing freely, he found and tied a couple of small spouting vessels.

"Sept. 14th. Weak, but not another drop of blood.

"Sept. 23rd. Doing well, a slight piece of end of bone visible, white and bare.

"Sept. 30. There has been no sloughing, but the flaps have retracted, extension was applied, and by it a fair covering for the bone was again obtained.

"In November the extension had to be discontinued, and recovery was retarded by a collection of pus in the outer side of the thigh a few inches from the end of the stump; after evacuation of the matter by a counter opening, his condition improved.

"Dec. 4th. He is now convalescent, stump nearly healed, a small piece of edge of femur will separate by exfoliation."

Remarks.—Primary amputations of the thigh are shown by statistics to be so unsatisfactory, that I am adverse to their performance if the femur would have to be divided through the medullary canal. I think this lad owes his life to the fact that, in his case, the canal was not cut through, the bone being divided near the condyles, and this was just managed by utilising the skin that remained about the knee, and forming such flaps as could be obtained close to the seat of the injury, and they certainly healed much better than I expected; but, although there was no sloughing, there was some subsequent inflammation and suppuration, with burrowing of matter in the areolar tissue of the stump, causing retraction of the flaps, from which the patient is now recovering.

Two years ago I exhibited to the Society a femoral artery taken from a man who died 36 hours after primary amputation of the thigh; as the specimen showed, the vessel was completely occluded. I have since then twisted several arteries divided in operations, and believe that when the vessel, large or small, can be fairly isolated and pulled out, torsion affords the best means of securing it. About
a year ago I applied torsion to the brachial artery after amputation of an adult man; the result, as far as the artery was concerned, was perfectly satisfactory, as it was also in the popliteal in the case just brought forward. It must be remembered that in the latter the secondary haemorrhage, five days after the operation, took place from two small vessels in the corner of the stump, not near the main artery. In August last I removed a man's foot, in the hospital, by Pirogoff's method; the patient was 59 years old, and the coats of the posterior tibial artery were brittle from calcareous degeneration; however, the vessel was perfectly secured by twisting in the same way as the others, and the case did well. As far as my experience at present goes, I think there is less risk of secondary haemorrhage, after a large artery has been carefully twisted, than there is after the use of the ligature.

After some observations—corroborative of what Mr. Girdlestone had advanced—by Dr. Blair, Dr. Bowen, and Dr. Ryan, Mr. Girdlestone, in reply to Mr. Gray who desired to know the advantage of torsion over tying, pointed out that there was far less risk of secondary haemorrhage, in consequence of there being no slough, and no ligature to come away. He thought that where the artery was small, the end might be twisted off, but in the larger vessels it was best for the end to remain. The vessel might look as if it would be sure to bleed, but it would not. He recommended that a vessel be pulled out and twisted six or eight times, or more, in order to render it quite secure. He had never had any trouble with large arteries. His only difficulty had been with small ones.

The following paper was next read:—

ON THE MEDICINAL PROPERTIES OF CERTAIN LOCALLY-GROWING PLANTS.

By T. L. McMillan, M.D.

For some time I have been aware that the residents in certain districts of Victoria, especially along the Yarra flats, have been making free use of a certain plant which has attained celebrity among them as a medicine. The city friends of these people receive regular supplies by the coach. I find it in their houses among other dried herbs, and there is uniform testimony as to its great medicinal value.

In order to ascertain what this plant really was, I sent for a specimen of it, which I now place before you. I submitted specimens of the plant to Baron Von Mueller and Mr. Guilfoyle, who at once recognised it as the Gratiola Peruviana, of Linnaeus, a member of the natural order, Scrophularaceae. This plant is widely distributed, and is to be found both in cold and hot climates. It is a marsh plant, its natural habitat being along rivulets, brooks, or river banks.

The Gratiola is very abundant in the south of Europe, and, according to Haller, it grows so profusely in some of the Swiss meadows, as to render them useless for pasture.
It is found throughout all the Australian colonies. Pereira says it used to be cultivated in England, and was formerly contained in British Pharmacopoeias. Its common name in England is *Hedge Hyssop*.

The taste of the plant is bitter and acrid. According to Baron Von Mueller the acrid and bitter principles are due to the gratiolin and gratiolasin, the active principles in the plant.

The herb administered in powder or infusion, acts, even in small doses, as a drastic purgative or hydragogue cathartic and emetic.

This medicine appears to be used chiefly in Germany, Scandinavia, and Holland, and since the time of the great Boerhaave gratiola has had some celebrity as a cure in dropsy, jaundice, arthritis, and gout; it is said to enter into the composition of the "Eau Medicinale," at one time much vaunted as a remedy in gout. It has been used in intermittent fever, and as an anthelmintic, it used to be called Gratia Dei, on account of its efficacy as a medicine.

In over-doses it acts as a poison, and cases are recorded of poisoning from the injudicious use of this plant by laymen. I do not think this medicine has been employed by medical men in this country as yet. Those who are familiar with it, employ it chiefly when they are what is termed bilious, or, in common language, when they require "a good clearing out," and this it accomplishes most effectually. Indeed the chief action of the drug is purgative and emetic, and it is easy to understand the benefit which must follow in many cases, from the unloading of the liver and abdominal viscera.

The proper doses given by Pereira is of the powdered plant 15 gr. to 3ss.; of the infusion prepared with 3ij. of the dried herb to Oss. of boiling water 3ss. to 3i. ter die until the effect be produced.

I am well aware that there is nothing new in this communication. It is like introducing an old friend. Still in a new country like this, it becomes the profession to examine into the merits of any medicinal plant which may be brought into notice; and in this way we may be led to the discovery of something really new and valuable. This country presents a wide field for investigation in this department of science, and if we except our illustrious Von Mueller, our Bosisto, Day, and a few others, the labourers in this field have hitherto been few.

It is to be hoped some of our young men will turn their attention to this subject, and aid in developing some of the treasures which lie hid amid the profuse and beautiful flora of Australasia.

The next plant to which I shall call your attention is the *Agave Americana* (American Aloe). This plant has its natural habitat in tropical America, but it has been introduced into many other countries, and is commonly met with in lawns and gardens throughout Australia.
Agave is too well known to require minute description. It very seldom flowers; when it does so, it is amazing to see the rapidity and vigour with which the flower-stalk shoots up—sometimes to a height of from twenty to thirty feet, the stalk and flower presenting the appearance of an immense candelabrum, and forming a striking object in the landscape.

Though very much neglected by us, in countries where it is indigenous, few plants have had such a number and variety of uses or properties assigned to it; indeed almost every part of the plant may be utilised.

1. The Roots are used as a substitute for sarsaparilla, with which they are sometimes mixed. They are believed to be diuretic and antisyphilitic.

2. The Leaves contain a strong fibre which, being separated, is known by the name of Pita flax, and may be used in the manufacture of ropes or the coarser textile fabrics. The juice of the leaves is also detergent, and may be used as a substitute for soap in the washing of clothes.

3. The Flower-stalk yields a sap which is saccharine and subacid, and which readily ferments and forms a wine called Maguay or Pulque.

Having thus briefly referred to the Agave, and the various purposes to which it has been applied, I would direct your attention to yet another property which it possesses, and which, as far as I am aware, has never been recorded.

It has been well known that the leaves contain an acrid juice, and my chief object in this paper is to point out how this may be turned to account in the practice of our profession.

In the course of my practice in certain districts of this country, I have discovered that the leaves of the Agave are much esteemed as a cure for rheumatism, lumbago, sciatica, and almost all manner of pains of a chronic character.

The remedy is an external one, in the form of a rubefacient or counter-irritant. This effect is readily produced by rubbing the affected part with a recently cut section of the leaf, of a size convenient for holding in the hand.

The effect upon the skin is in proportion to the degree of the application.

The first few applications produce an effect almost exactly like the efflorescence of scarlatina, and further application produces a higher and more severe degree of irritation.

I have had a considerable amount of testimony as to the value of this remedy for the removal of chronic pains, especially of those which so frequently assail the lumbar region of the body; and from my own observation, I am of opinion that this agent should not be overlooked by the profession. It has many points to recommend it. It is economic, manageable, and effective, and patients will persevere in the use of a remedy like this, who would tire of any liniment supplied by the druggist.
TREATMENT OF TETANUS BY HYPODERMIC INJECTION OF NICOTINE.

The Hon. Secretary read the following communication on the above subject from Dr. E. M. Wuth, surgeon of the Burdekin and Flinders district, which had been placed at his disposal by Baron von Mueller:

"I have here the pleasure of recording to you a second case of successful subcutaneous injection of nicotine (two drops to the ounce,* at the height of the symptoms two injections twice a day), and this time on the person of a middle-aged strong Chinaman. A month before the complaint set in, patient was struck by the handle of a well on the forehead, and received a scalp wound. After the wound had healed, trismus set in; then stiffness of the neck, followed by opisthotonos, with convulsive movements of the body. He remained in the same condition when entering the hospital, with the addition that the left thigh also got affected; and although the injections had to be continued for a week, the disease got arrested, and by degrees vanished under the remedy. The effect was not so decided (almost marvellous) as in the case kindly read by you before the Society in September 1871; yet no other remedy to my knowledge has shown such a specific effect in tetanus. In this case, as in the former, there was drowsiness or sleep after the injections; and whilst the jaw was the first part to show rigidity, their muscles relaxed the first after the first injection. This is a most important fact, as facilitating the patient being nourished by the mouth.

"On the fourth day after entering our hospital, all convulsive spasms had ceased, but rigidity of muscles remained, as stated above, for a week. The patient now opens his mouth to an inch, moves his head in all directions, can bend his back and enjoy the sitting posture, but as in my first case (‘what has the doctor done with my thigh? I feel all benumbed’) also this patient complains of great weakness in the thighs, yet he can raise them.

"In this country the general place for hypodermic injections is the thigh; yet in Germany I see they like, if practicable, to inject near the affected place; and I have persuaded myself in the present case, that more especially nicotine injected hypodermically, has besides the general, also a most decided local effect in its application. Liebig’s extract of meat, milk, and egg were given for nourishment; but no stimulants were administered. I would, however, not hesitate doing so if there were danger of dissolution.

"Now, my two cases show that the effect of the remedy employed is most decided and lasting, a quality hitherto not observed by all the other remedies employed. Would it therefore, in the interest of our profession, be too much to ask you to mention this latter case before your Society."

To this communication Baron von Mueller added: I have great faith in physostigma venenosum as a remedy in tetanus; but

* Dr. Wuth does not state the quantity injected at a time.
perhaps the calabar bean is not always so readily at hand as nicotine.

It is a curious fact that Orfila, in his experiments with dogs, produced "convulsions, which rapidly passed into a tetanic state, with opisthotonos," by administering nicotine. Van Praag sums up the effect of nicotine as follows: "It primarily lowers the circulation, quickens the respiration, excites the muscular system; but its ultimate effect is general exhaustion," the respiration being gradually reduced under the influence of nicotine. The anomalies above alluded to are explained by the observations of Kölliker and others, who found "the muscles in part affected with alternate tonic and clonic spasms, general relaxation succeeding to these, with a tremulous movement of particular muscles, or the whole body." Or in using larger doses of the alkaloid, as quoted by Stille, "immediate and complete prostration" may follow, which may prove fatal. The beneficent action of nicotine in trismus must therefore depend on a judicious control of the quantity used. The application of nicotiana in tetanus is not new, particularly tobacco as enema. It would be interesting if the superiority of nicotine over aconitine, atropia, and morphia for hypodermic application could be established, not only against tetanus, but perhaps also hydrophobia, when chloroform, or physostigma, or ice fail.

ALTERATION OF RULE.

On the motion of Dr. Neild, Rule 22 was rescinded. This rule was the one which compelled the committee to make arrangements for an annual dinner or conversazione. A further proposition to amend Rule 4, so as to make a residence of two years in the colony necessary before election as a member, was withdrawn.

OBSERVATIONS ON COCCOBACTERIA IN THE SECRE
tIONS OF WOUNDS, AND ON THEIR TRANSFER TO THE CORNEA OF RABBITS.

By DR. TH. BILLROTH,
Professor of Surgery in Vienna.

Translated by BARON FEED. VON MUELLER, C.M.G., M. & Ph.D.,
F.R.S.

[Dr. Jamieson has recently placed before the readers of the Australian Medical Journal a succinct and lucid account of our present knowledge of the influence, which the very minute algic parasites of the genera bacterium and micrococcus or allied vegetable organisms, exercise in zymotic diseases and in surgical cases. It seems desirable, that the facts so ably placed together should be followed up here locally for the special benefit of Australian practitioners, as doubtless will be largely done by our Warrnambool friend. With this view, occasional notices on this important subject of the vegetable origin of some of our most terrific diseases, might
perhaps be collected in our medical journal, and the present translation may be regarded as a contribution towards these phytopathologic researches. It seems also an apt occasion to point out, what an enormous and incalculable influence the intimate knowledge of plants, of even apparently the most insignificant kind, does exercise also in the direction of medical science, and that an intelligent public opinion and wise statesmanship should throw all facilities in the way of phytologic studies, instead of rendering them at any time by impaired means obstructed, discouraged and even inert. In offering this first small addition to our local literature on such vegetable parasites as are recognised as the sources of diseases in man, I merely translate an article of Dr. Billroth in Prof. von Langenbeck's *Archiv für Klinische Chirurgie*, which appeared in the second part of the volume of 1876. This is one of four essays bearing largely on coccobacteria septica, two by Dr. Billroth, the two others by Dr. F. Ehrlich, all of which are deserving of reappearance in the English language, at least in an abridged form, for which purpose the *Australian Medical Journal* may afford space and opportunity.—F. v. M.]

A repetition of the researches of H. Ranke on the occurrence of coccobacteria vegetation under Lister's bandage, conducted me once more to the examination of secretions of wounds, not treated by Lister's method; and this brought me also back to new trials of the vegetative power of wound and pus-coccus, obtained from sores treated by different methods, and transplanted on the cornea of rabbits. Meanwhile, essays on the same subject have appeared by Ed. Fischer ("Deutsche Zeitschrift für Chirurgie" vi. 320) and M. Schüller ("Centralblatt für die Medicinischen Wissenschaften, 1875, No. 12"), so that I need refer but briefly to the results of my own experiments, more particularly as they confirm the observations of the above-mentioned authors.

If a fresh open cut is covered with a fine gutta-percha membrane, which stretches beyond the margins of the wounds, bandaged with cotton-wool in the usual manner, and this bandage changed morning and evening, then the course is as follows: On the first day, mucofibrinous adherent layer of secretion over the wound, with an off-flow of a serum of a reddish colour; on the second and third days, a secretion more thickened, which on the fourth day is dissolved; on the fifth, a stratum of good granulation; the secretion therewith becomes pale brown, at last thoroughly purulent, from day to day more consistent. If a deep hollow wound is well drained, and its sides brought into apposition and covered with gutta-percha, cotton-wool and bandage, then an off-flow of sanguineous serum takes place at the commencement, which becomes on the following days brownish and granular; at the end of the first week pus is produced, unless the healing process was by first intention a complete one, in which latter case the secretion remains serous, and soon ceases altogether. After the first twenty-four hours, we find in the secretion the red corpuscles mostly decoloured, and along with them a considerable quantity of pus-cells, and numerous pale quiescent
globules of the size of micro-meso- and megalococcos. But as neither division, nor chain-like seriation, nor glia-development, is observable in them, it remains doubtful, whether these globular bodies are turgid coccus-cells; they evanesce with increasing pus-cells. Often already on the second day, and constantly on the third day, appear distinctly diplococcos and streptococcos, mostly quiescent; they augment in number somewhat till the fourth day, but afterwards disappear rapidly. In the simplest healing process, we find already from the sixth day either no minute organisms in the secretion, or only traces of them. In this normal course, the absolute quantity of the appearing coccus varies much. A longer remaining of the bandages, has, by abundant secretion, always an increase of the minute organisms as its sequence, and also a smell like butyric acid of the pus. The same effect takes place from any mortification of lacerated vascular tissue, dependent partly on the abundance of the implicated vessels, partly on the energy of circulation, differing in different individuals. The fibrinous covering adheres particularly firmly, in such cases, to tissues which retain but slight vitality, or are completely mortified, and on such spots arises then also often much gliacoccos.

I found, with Fisch, that the transfer of this secretion to the cornea of rabbits has a very unequal effect, according to circumstances. There are cases in which these coccus vegetations did not settle at all, or at least did not produce any inflammatory reaction; in other instances, the abscesses of the cornea occurred with or without hypopyum; in still other cases, the cornea became very rapidly tinged yellow by total turbidity (diphtheritically). This depends not on the quantity of the coccus, nor on the manner of the inoculation, but rather on the stage of the process of healing, or the inflammation. Carefully examined inodorous pus, without coccus-cells, created neither the starry coccus-figures nor inflammation.

I have found no difference in the course of the processes arising on superficial wounds, not united at their edges, under Lister's dressing. That well-drained hollow wounds, under Lister's bandage, run usually a favourable course, indeed a safer one, than under any other method, is undoubted. The investigation of the secretion of aseptically proceeding cases shows: 1. That the red corpuscles retain much longer than otherwise their colour, proving that inflammatory decompositions did not occur, or only to a slight extent; 2. That in many drops of the secretion, no coccobacteria development was visible, even on the second or third days, and that inoculations with such secretion, even when the anterior chamber was purposely perforated, showed no reaction. But certainly the number of other cases is large enough to demonstrate, that the value of Lister's method not merely rests on preventing the development of bacterium germs. When bacteria were found in undecomposed inodorous fluids, they were declared to be of an innocent particular species; in contrary cases, they were regarded as a pathogenous or septogenous special kind. It was even
asserted, that bacteria of a noxious and innocuous kind occurred promiscuously.

To ascertain the effect of spray on the development of coccobacteria, I made the following experiments: Under the most careful precautions of cleanliness, I obtained blood from the carotid of a dog, allowing it to flow directly into little phials; some of these quite filled without any air bubbles, others filled three-fourths. Another portion of these fillings I made under spray, and closed the phials with a ground glass-stopper, twisting some cotton over the phial. One portion of these glass vessels I left in February, in ordinary dwelling temperature; another portion was placed in the incubation box. The results obtained from the blood secured under spray, and without it, remained quite the same, the observations being continued from the third till the eighteenth day. In the completely filled phials, the red blood-corpuscles continued very long preserved under ordinary temperature; the blood was after eighteen days (in the incubation apparatus after eight days) though very dark, yet morphologically hardly changed, and completely inodorous. The blood in the phials containing some air, exposed to higher temperature, became quickly putrid. The development of coccobacteria, under such circumstances, is very sparse, and their developed vegetation soon perishes.

The spray, which passes around the jet of arterial blood in this manner, carries likely away mechanically any coccobacteria germs floating in the air; and while the spray acts, it is not likely that any of the germs pass into the blood obtained for filling the phials. We must therefore concede, as seemingly also proved by other observations, that the coccobacteria germs, which later become developed in the thus secured blood, were originally contained in the artery. Should we now be able to conclude that the coccobacteria found under Lister's bandage (and perhaps often enough under other methods) in the secretion of wounds, were already contained in the secretion, before this was oozing into the drain-channels from the tissues, then certainly the theory which induced Lister's method would fall; but freed from the theory, we would all simply admit that this method, from causes as yet unknown to us, powerfully opposes to the origin and spreading of processes of decomposition and inflammation in even the most dangerous wounds, and that the method, according to the common accord of all surgeons, is to be regarded as one of the most brilliant enrichments of modern surgery. Observations ought increasingly to be continued for ascertaining on what the antiphlogistic and antiseptic effect of this treatment really rests, as thereby only the unessential of the method can be sifted from the essential, and only then the greatest security in its manipulation can be obtained. It is acknowledged to be a high aim of our time, to render chirurgical art one of the natural sciences.
The Government of this colony, in their eagerness to make a pleasure-ground out of what was originally intended to be a school for the study of practical botany, have, in effect, abolished this study altogether, so far as its recognition by the State is concerned. They have, indeed, left us our botanist, but they have done their best, or worst, to destroy his usefulness, by leaving him no proper means of pursuing those investigations which his office pre-supposes to be necessary. It is easy, of course, to say that the public prefer lawns and flowers, to classes and orders; and that, therefore, a gardener who can lay down grass and raise "blooms," is better than a savant who can formulate the flora of a continent. But surely, in this wide world, there is room for both gardeners and savants. One may admire green turf and red roses, without declaring that phytography is useless. All that is asked for, is that as there is a Government botanist, there should, consistently, be a Government botanic garden, and such incidental appliances as are needed to conduct the various experiments and processes, suggested by scientific plant-culture. Judging by results, the Government of Victoria is not so much better off in respect of a pleasure-garden, than it was before Baron von Mueller was relieved of his directorship of the Melbourne Botanical Gardens, notwithstanding the large sums which have been voted to the purpose of improving (?) the gardens; while it is quite certain that their scientific character, and therefore their scientific value, has been destroyed. This is both an error and an injustice, and, in the interests of science, there ought to be as little delay as possible, in making an acknowledgment of the wrong, by the adoption of a remedy.

Baron von Mueller asks, therefore, that as the Botanical Gardens have been given up to (not very successful) floriculture, he should have the opportunity of laying out and planting another area for botanical purposes. Upon his competency to do this, it would be almost an affront to him to enlarge. We must go outside this colony to be made completely aware of the extent of his fame; but, even here, those who have been most conspicuous in showing a personal antagonism to him, cannot avoid the admission
that he has extended our scientific credit in other parts of the world, by the contributions he has made to that branch of natural science to which his life has been devoted; and that, hence, he possesses the most absolute fitness for the work of organising the scheme to which we are now referring.

Considering how large a share the study of botany has in that collective study Materia Medica, and bearing in mind how likely it is that, among the vast numbers of new plants to be found in Australia, there are a great many whose therapeutic use has yet to be determined, and upon whose formulation the improved treatment of some diseases may greatly depend, the consideration of this question of a State botanic garden, comes quite within the range of subjects proper for discussion in this Journal. Consequently, the medical profession in this colony has a particular interest in urging the claims of Baron von Mueller to recognition, and it would be only a fitting evidence of such interest, if some co-operative endeavour were made by them, to impress this Government with the importance, regarded from a scientific point of view, of making a practical use of his great knowledge, by giving up to him some large portion of one of the suburban parks, in order that he may correct the anomaly of a scientific department, without the appliances of the science it represents. For a Government botanist without a garden, is as complete a contradiction as an astronomer without an observatory, a chemist without a laboratory, or a printer without type and presses.

THE PHARMACY ACT AND THE POISONS ACT.

We reprint the above statutes, which received the Governor's assent at the end of the last session of the now moribund Parliament.

PHARMACY ACT.

BE it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly of Victoria in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:—

1. This Act shall come into operation on the first day of January One thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven, and shall be called and may be cited as the "Pharmacy Act 1876."

It is divided into parts as follows:—

Part I. — The Pharmacy Board of Victoria, ss. 3—10.

Part II. — The Pharmaceutical Register of Victoria, ss. 11—17.
PART III.—Registered Pharmaceutical Chemists, ss. 18—21.

PART IV.—Miscellaneous, ss. 22—26.

2. Chemists and druggists within the meaning of this Act, shall consist of all persons who, at any time before the passing of this Act, have carried on in Victoria, the business of a chemist and druggist in the keeping of open shop for the compounding of the prescriptions of duly qualified medical practitioners, and also of all such persons as may be duly registered under this Act.

3. Subject to the provisions of this Part of this Act, the Governor in Council may appoint a Board consisting of a president and six other members, under the style of "The Pharmacy Board of Victoria," hereinafter in this Act termed "The Board."

4. No person shall be elected or appointed president or member for more than three years, but shall be eligible for re-election or re-appointment, and the Governor in Council may from time to time remove the president or any other member of the Board.

5. The first president and other six members of the Board, shall be appointed by the Governor in Council without previous election, provided that no person shall be so appointed who does not appear to be eligible for registration as a registered pharmaceutical chemist; such president and members shall be appointed for a period of three years; if any vacancy occur in the Board during such period, the Governor in Council may appoint thereto without previous election any registered pharmaceutical chemist, and the person so appointed shall hold office until the expiration of three years, from the date of the appointment of the first members of the Board under this Act and no longer.

6. At the expiration of the period for which the first president and members of the Board shall be appointed to hold office, no person shall be a member of the Board unless he be a registered pharmaceutical chemist, and unless he shall have been elected to act as a member of the Board by the registered pharmaceutical chemists of Victoria, and no person shall be appointed as president unless he be a member of the Board and shall have been elected by the other members to act as president. Every election shall be held in manner prescribed by regulations to be made by the Board, subject to the approval of the Governor in Council.

7. A quorum of the Board, shall consist of not less than three members thereof, and in the absence of the president from any meeting of the Board, one of the members present shall be elected chairman of that meeting.

8. The Board may, from time to time, appoint a registrar and any other officers whom they may require for the purposes of this Act, and shall have power to remove the same at any time.

9. The Board may, from time to time, make alter or rescind regulations for the purpose of carrying this Act into effect. Such regulations shall not have any effect if they be repugnant to any law in force in Victoria, or to the provisions of this Act, nor until they shall have been confirmed by the Governor in Council and published in the Government Gazette.
10. The Board may question any person who may attend before the Board, and any witness who may be produced before the Board and may examine any persons upon oath, or take a solemn declaration from such persons, and if any person shall wilfully knowingly or corruptly make any false statement upon such examination or in such declaration, or shall utter or attempt to utter or put off as true before the Board, any false forged or counterfeit diploma, degree, licence, certificate or other document or writing, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanour and, being thereof duly convicted, he shall be liable to be imprisoned for any period not exceeding one year.

11. The Board shall, from time to time, cause the names of all persons certified by the Board as duly qualified for registration as registered pharmaceutical chemists, to be registered with their residences and qualifications in a book, to be kept by the Board for that purpose in the form in the First Schedule to this Act or to the like effect; and such register shall be called "The Pharmaceutical Register of Victoria." All persons, so long as their names continue to be enrolled in such register, may be described in this or any other Act or any regulations, as "registered pharmaceutical chemists."

12. Previously to registration or examination under this Act, such fees shall be payable as are set out in the Second Schedule to this Act, or such other fees as may from time to time be fixed and determined by any regulation hereafter made by the Board, in accordance with this Act, and the said fees shall be paid to the registrar of the Board for the purposes of this Act.

13. The Board may from time to time make the necessary alterations in the registration of the qualifications and addresses of the persons registered under this Act, and may from time to time write or cause to be written a letter to any registered pharmaceutical chemist, addressed to him according to his last known address, to enquire whether he has changed his residence, and if no answer be returned to such letter within the period of six months from the sending thereof, the Board may erase the name of such person from the pharmaceutical register, and may restore the same to such register, upon the personal application of such person and production of his certificate, or satisfactory proof of his former registration.

14. Every registered pharmaceutical chemist, on changing his residence, shall intimate the same to the Board, and every deputy registrar in Victoria on receiving information of the death of any registered pharmaceutical chemist, shall forthwith transmit notice thereof by post to the president of the Pharmacy Board in Melbourne, and on receipt of such notice, the Board shall erase the name of such chemist from the Pharmaceutical Register of Victoria.

15. If any registered pharmaceutical chemist be convicted of any offence under this Act which in the opinion of the Board renders him unfit to be on the Pharmaceutical Register of Victoria, the Board may, subject to the approval of the Governor in Council, order the name of such person to be erased from such register, and such erasure shall be a disqualification as a registered pharmaceutical
The Pharmacy Act.

chemist within the meaning of this Act, and it shall be the duty of
the Board to erase such name accordingly.

16. The Board shall in the month of January in each year, cause
to be printed, published, and sold, a correct register of the names
of all registered pharmaceutical chemists, and in such registers
respectively the names shall be in alphabetical order, according to
the surnames with the respective residences of such chemists, and
such printed register shall be called "The Pharmaceutical Register
of Victoria for 1877" and for every succeeding year.

17. A printed copy of such register for the time being, purporting
to be so printed and published as aforesaid, or a copy of the
Government Gazette purporting to contain any regulation made by
the Board, shall be *prima facie* evidence in all courts of justice and
in all legal proceedings whatsoever, that the persons specified in such
printed register are registered according to the provisions of this
Act, or that such regulation is duly made; and the absence of the
name of any person from such printed register for the time being,
shall be evidence until the contrary shall be made to appear, that
such person is not a registered pharmaceutical chemist.

18. No person shall receive from the Board a certificate that he
is duly qualified for registration as a registered pharmaceutical
chemist, unless he shall have attained the age of twenty-one years,
and unless—

(i.) At any time before the date of the commencement of
this Act he shall for not less than two months have
carried on the business of a chemist and druggist or
homeopathic chemist in the keeping of an open shop,
for the compounding and dispensing of the prescriptions
of legally qualified medical practitioners, or unless

(ii.) At any time before the date of the commencement of
this Act he shall, for not less than three months, have
been employed as a dispensing assistant in an open
shop for the compounding and dispensing of the pre-
scriptions of legally qualified medical practitioners, or
until he shall have been for not less than three years
employed as a dispensing chemist in an hospital,
benevolent asylum, or other public institution, or
unless

(iii.) He hold a certificate or diploma of competency as a
pharmaceutical chemist, or as a chemist and druggist or
homeopathic chemist, from the Pharmaceutical Society
of Great Britain or any college or board of pharmacy
recognized by the Board, under any regulations made
under this Act, or unless

(iv.) He shall have served for not less than four years
as an apprentice in the business of a registered
pharmaceutical chemist, or chemist and druggist or
homeopathic chemist, keeping open shop for the com-
ounding and dispensing of the prescriptions of legally
qualified medical practitioners, and shall also have
attended one course of lectures and passed examinations in each of the following subjects at the University of Melbourne, or some school or college of pharmacy recognised by the Board, Materia medica, and Medical Botany, and Practical Chemistry; and shall have passed examinations before the Board as hereinafter provided in the subject of practical pharmacy, and any subject that may be prescribed by the Board with the approval of the Governor in Council. Provided always that any person having served or serving in Victoria a period of not less than three years' apprenticeship, whose period of apprenticeship shall have commenced three months at least before the date of the commencement of this Act either with a chemist and druggist or with a recognised licentiate apothecary, or in a public hospital, shall be required to pass such modified examination only as the Board may prescribe.

A certificate of qualification in the form in the Third Schedule hereto, shall entitle the person named therein on payment of the proper fee, to be registered under this Act at any time within six months after the date of such certificate.

19. The Board shall permit any officer or person appointed by the Governor in Council, to be present during the progress of any examination conducted by the Board.

No person shall be examined by the Board as directed by the next following section, until he furnish a statutory declaration by a master chemist in the form in the Seventh schedule hereto or to the like effect, of his having served the apprenticeship, and, where necessary, certificates of his having attended one course of lectures and passed the examinations directed in the last subdivision of section eighteen.

20. The Board shall have power to control and direct all examinations in practical pharmacy, and such other subjects as may from time to time be approved by the Governor in Council and published in the regulations of the Board. Such examinations shall not include the theory and practice of medicine, surgery, or midwifery. The Board may grant or refuse to such persons certificates of competency, skill, knowledge, and qualification to exercise the business or calling of a pharmaceutical chemist. In the case of rejection, a rejected candidate may present himself for re-examination after a period of six months.

21. Every person who desires a certificate of qualification for registration under this Act or to be examined by the Board, shall furnish the Board with a statutory declaration according to the Fourth or Fifth Schedule or to the like effect.

Where a person applies for such certificate under subdivision one of section eighteen, his declaration must be accompanied by the statutory declaration of a justice or legally qualified medical practitioner in the form in the Sixth Schedule, or to the like effect.
that such justice or practitioner from his own knowledge, believes the statement of the applicant to be correct and true.

Where a person applies for such certificate under subdivision two of section eighteen, his declaration must be accompanied by a statutory declaration in the form in the Seventh Schedule or to the like effect of the person in whose shop he was employed, that the statement of the applicant is correct and true.

Where a person applies for such certificate under subdivision three of section eighteen, his declaration must be accompanied by the certificates or diplomas on which he bases his application. Such certificates or diplomas shall be returned to the applicant by the Board.

22. The provisions of Part II. of the "Public Health Statute 1865" shall extend to all articles usually taken and sold as medicines, and every adulteration of any such article shall be deemed an admixture deleterious to health, and any person whether registered under this Act or not, who sells any such article adulterated, shall, unless the contrary be proved, be deemed to have knowledge of such adulteration.

23. Nothing herein contained shall extend to or interfere with the business, or with any rights and privileges of any legally qualified medical practitioner, or of any member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons of Great Britain, nor with the business of wholesale dealers in supplying drugs and chemicals in the ordinary course of wholesale dealing; and upon the decease of any registered pharmaceutical chemist, actually in business at the time of his death, it shall be lawful for any executor administrator or trustee of the estate of such pharmaceutical chemist, to continue such business for a period of twelve months and no longer, unless by permission of the Board of Pharmacy of Victoria if and so long only as such business is bona fide conducted by a registered pharmaceutical chemist.

24. Any deputy registrar or other person who shall wilfully make or cause to be made any falsification in any matter relating to the Pharmaceutical Register of Victoria, or the Pharmaceutical Register of Victoria for any year, and any person who shall wilfully procure or attempt to procure himself to be registered under this Act by making or producing or causing to be made or produced, any false or fraudulent representation or declaration either verbally or in writing, and anyone aiding or assisting therein, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour punishable by fine or imprisonment, and shall, on conviction, be liable to a penalty not exceeding Twenty pounds, or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding twelve months.

25. From and after six months after the date of the first appointment of the Board, any person who commits in Victoria any of the following offences shall, on conviction thereof, be liable to a penalty of not exceeding Ten pounds for each offence, and may also be committed to prison for any period not exceeding six months:

(i) Any person not being a registered pharmaceutical
chemist who carries on or attempts to carry on business as a chemist and druggist or homœopathic chemist or either.

(ii.) Any person not being a registered pharmaceutical chemist who takes uses or exhibits the name or title of, or who pretends to be a registered pharmaceutical chemist, chemist and druggist, chemist, druggist, pharmacist, pharmaceutist, pharmaceutical chemist, homœopathic chemist, dispensing chemist, or dispensing druggist.

(iv.) Every registered pharmaceutical chemist or person in the employ of such chemist, who prescribes or practises medicine or surgery except in accordance with any rights and privileges hitherto enjoyed by chemists and druggists in their open shops.

(v.) Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this Act or any regulation made hereunder.

Nothing in this Act shall prevent any person from being liable to any other penalty, damages, or punishment to which he would have been liable if this Act had not been passed.

26. All offences under this Act shall be heard and determined and all penalties imposed by this Act shall be recovered in a summary manner before two justices of the peace in petty sessions, and all penalties when recovered shall be paid to the Board, to be applied towards the expenses of carrying this Act into effect.

SCHEDULES.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Residence</th>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>Date of Registration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jones, Henry</td>
<td>Bell street, Fitzroy</td>
<td>Pharmaceutical chemist, Great Britain</td>
<td>2nd January 1872</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. B., President
C. D., Member
E. F., Member Of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria.

SECOND SCHEDULE.

Fees payable under Pharmacy Act 1876.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>s</th>
<th>d</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For every examination before the Board under section 18</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On registration as a pharmaceutical chemist without examination (sect. 18, sub-divisions 1, 2, and 3)</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On registration in every other case</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D D 2
THIRD SCHEDULE.

Certificate of Qualification for Registration as a Registered Pharmaceutical Chemist under the Pharmacy Act 1876.

We do hereby certify that residing at in the county of Victoria, is duly qualified for registration as a registered pharmaceutical chemist on the grounds set forth at the foot of this certificate.

Dated at Melbourne this day of 187.

President, (L.s.)
Member, (L.s.)
Member, (L.s.)
Registrar, (L.s.)

FOURTH SCHEDULE.

Declaration by a Person who was in business as a Chemist and Druggist, or who was employed as a Dispensing Assistant in some Pharmacy before the date of the commencement of the "Pharmacy Act 1876."

I, residing at , do solemnly and sincerely declare that I have attained the age of twenty-one years, and that I carried on the business of a Chemist and Druggist [or Homœopathic Chemist] in the keeping of an open shop for the compounding and dispensing of the prescriptions of legally qualified medical practitioners [or was employed as a dispensing assistant in an open shop for the compounding and dispensing of the prescriptions of legally qualified medical practitioners] at the places and during the periods undermentioned on or before the first day of January 1877.

And I make this solemn declaration, &c.,

Declared at in this day of 187 before me—

FIFTH SCHEDULE.

Declaration by Apprentice.

of in the colony of Victoria, do solemnly and sincerely declare—

1. That I have attained the age of twenty-one years.
2. That I have served not less than four years as an apprentice in the business of Mr., registered pharmaceutical chemist, keeping an open shop at in the said colony, for dispensing and compounding prescriptions, and also that I have attended one course of lectures, and passed examinations at the University of Melbourne [or recognised school or college] in the subjects of materia medica, and medical botany, and practical chemistry [and any other subjects prescribed by the Pharmacy Board]; [or (2)] That I have served a period of not less than three years' apprenticeship, commencing on the with Mr., a chemist and druggist, or as the case may be.

And I make this solemn declaration, &c.

Declared at in the this day of 187 before me

SIXTH SCHEDULE.

Declaration to be signed by a Justice of the Peace or legally qualified Medical Practitioner respecting a person who was in business as a Chemist and Druggist before the Pharmacy Act 187.

To the Pharmacy Board of Victoria.

I, residing at in the county of Victoria
do hereby declare that I am a justice of the peace for the bailiwick of [or a legally qualified medical practitioner], and that to my knowledge residing at in the county of was in business as during the period or periods stated in his declaration dated the 187 , and set out in the margin hereof; and that I believe the statements in his declaration to be true and correct.

And I make this solemn declaration, &c.

Declared at in the colony of Victoria this day of 187 before me

SEVENTH SCHEDULE:

Declaration to be signed by Master Chemist and Druggist as to Service of Dispensing Assistant or Apprentice.

To the Pharmacy Board of Victoria.

I, residing at in the county of Victoria, do hereby declare that I am a registered pharmaceutical chemist [or a pharmaceutical chemist or druggist as the case may be] and that residing at in the county of Victoria, was employed as a dispensing assistant [or as an apprentice] in my open shop at during the periods undermentioned:—

From 187 To 187

And I make this solemn declaration, &c.

Declared at in the colony of Victoria this day of 187 before me

Poisons Act.

WHEREAS the unrestricted sale of Poisons often leads to fatal accidents and the commission of crime: And whereas large quantities of arsenic, strychnine, and other poisons are used in the colony for pastoral agricultural and other purposes, and fatal accidents occur by reason of the careless custody and use of such Poisons by the owners thereof or persons in their employ: And whereas it is expedient for the safety of the public to regulate the sale of Poisons, and to make provision for the exercise of proper precautions in the use of the same: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of Victoria in this present Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows (that is to say):—

1. This Act may be cited as the “Sale and use of Poisons Act 1876.”

2. The several articles mentioned in the first schedule hereto, shall be deemed poisons within the meaning of this Act; and on the recommendation of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, the Governor in Council may by proclamation duly published in the Government Gazette from time to time, declare that any other article specified in such proclamation shall be deemed a poison within the meaning of this Act.
3. Every person other than a legally qualified medical practitioner or a registered pharmaceutical chemist, who shall sell any poison shall unless he hold a certificate from the Pharmacy Board of Victoria that he is a fit and proper person to sell poisons, be liable to a penalty not exceeding Twenty pounds.

4. In places distant at least four miles from any city town or borough, and in which no registered pharmaceutical chemist has an open shop, any person who shall produce a certificate from a legally qualified medical practitioner and a police magistrate that he is a fit and proper person to be allowed to sell poisons in such place, shall receive from the Pharmacy Board of Victoria a certificate as a Dealer in Poisons, on payment of a fee of Twenty shillings per annum to such Board.

Every Dealer in Poisons shall keep all poisons in a cupboard of such dimensions and containing such shelves as the Pharmacy Board of Victoria may direct. The word Poisons shall be conspicuously painted or written on such cupboard, and no articles other than such poisons shall be placed or kept therein.

5. Every person who shall sell any poison specified in the first part of the First Schedule hereto shall, before the delivery thereof to the purchaser, inquire his name, place of abode and occupation, and the purpose for which such poison is required or stated to be required, and shall thereupon make a faithful entry of such sale, specifying the poison and the quantity thereof and all such particulars so given by the purchaser, together with the day of the month and year of such sale, in a book to be kept by the vendor for that purpose in the form set forth in the Second Schedule hereto; and every such entry shall be signed by the person making the same, and also by the purchaser unless he shall declare himself unable to write (in which case the person making the entry shall add thereto the words "Purchaser cannot write"); and whenever a witness to the sale is required by this Act, such entry shall be signed by such witness together with his place of abode. When sales and purchases of poisons are made by correspondence, the letter ordering the same shall be preserved by the vendor and a memorandum of the date of the said letter, by whom it was written and the quantity and particulars of the poison therein ordered shall be entered in the said book, and no person shall sell poison so ordered to any person with whose signature he is not acquainted, unless such signature shall have been witnessed or purport to have been witnessed, by a justice, clergyman, or public officer, or be authenticated by some person known to the vendor.

6. No person shall sell any poison either by wholesale or retail, unless the bottle or other vessel, wrapper, or cover-box or case immediately containing the same, bears thereon the word Poison printed, conspicuously together with the name of the article and the name and address of the seller thereof.

7. No person shall sell any arsenic or strychnine or any preparation of the same respectively, unless in the case of arsenic and any uncolored preparation of the same such poison shall be mixed before-
the sale or delivery thereof with soot in the proportion of one ounce of soot at least to one pound of arsenic, and so in proportion for any greater or less quantity; and unless in the case of strychnine or any uncolored preparation of the same, such poison shall be coloured with Armenian bole or other red colouring matter before the sale or delivery thereof: Provided always that whenever the purchaser states that such arsenic or strychnine or any preparation thereof respectively is required not for any pastoral or agricultural use, but for some other purpose for which such admixture would according to the representation of the purchaser render it unfit, such poison may be sold without the admixture hereinbefore specified.

8. No person shall sell any poison specified in the first part of the First Schedule hereto, to any person who is under eighteen years of age or who is unknown to the vendor, unless the sale be made in the presence of some witness who is known to the vendor and to whom the purchaser is known, and which witness signs his name together with his place of abode to the required entry, before the delivery of the poison to the purchaser.

9. Any owner or other person whatsoever in charge or possession of any poison, who shall leave it in any place (whether the same be ordinarily accessible to others or not) unless the bottle or package of whatever kind in which such poison may be contained shall be marked as “Poison” and be otherwise duly labelled in the manner provided by section six, shall be liable on summary conviction thereof before any two justices to a penalty not exceeding Twenty pounds.

10. If any person shall sell any poison contrary to the provisions of this Act, or if on any sale thereof he shall deliver the same without having made and signed the entry required by this Act on such sale, or without having obtained such signature to such entry as required by this Act, or if any person purchasing such poison shall give false information in answer to inquiries to the person selling the same in relation to the particulars which he is by this Act authorised to inquire into of such purchaser, or if any person shall sign his name as a witness to the sale of any such poison to a person unknown to such witness, or if any person fail to comply with any of the provisions of this Act for offending against which no specific penalty is provided, every such person so offending shall for every such offence upon summary conviction thereof, before two justices, be liable to a penalty not exceeding Ten pounds.

For the purposes of this section the person on whose behalf any sale is made by an assistant or apprentice, shall be deemed to be the person who shall sell, and such assistant or apprentice shall be liable to the like penalties as the person on whose behalf he makes any sale.

11. The Governor in Council may on the recommendation of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria by order, direct the cancellation of the certificate as a dealer in poisons, held by any person who is convicted of any offence against this Act which renders him unfit
or who shall be deemed unfit, through habitual intoxication or otherwise to continue to sell poisons.

12. The Governor in Council may, on the recommendation of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria; from time to time make any regulations as to the colouring of any poisons or as to the sale or custody of the same or otherwise as to carrying into effect the objects of this Act. Such regulations after publication in the Government Gazette, shall have the same force and validity as if the same formed part of this Act, and a copy of the same shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament, without unnecessary delay.

13. This Act shall not extend to the sale of any poison when made up, or compounded as a medicine according to the prescription of a legally qualified medical practitioner or in the form of homoeopathic medicine, unless in the crude state, mother-tincture or of a greater strength than the third decimal potency; nor to the sale of patent or proprietary medicines; nor to the sale of photographic materials for the purpose of photography; nor to the sale of medicines dispensed by veterinary surgeons for animals under their treatment; nor to the sale of fly-poison papers or packets of poisonous mixtures save and except poisoned seed for the destruction of vermin when duly marked as such; nor shall it extend to any sales by wholesale dealers in the ordinary course of wholesale dealing, if an order in writing signed by the purchaser shall be given for the supply of the same: Provided that all such sales shall be entered in a book and that the bottle or other vessel wrapper or cover-box or case immediately containing the poison, be labelled as required by this Act.

SCHEDULES.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

LIST OF POISONS.

1ST PART.

Arsenic and its preparations.
Prussic Acid and its preparations.
Strychnine and its preparations.
Savin and its Oil.
Ergot of Rye and its preparations.
Chloral Hydrate.
All poisonous Vegetable Alkaloids and their Salts.
Aconite and its preparations.
Tartar Emetic.
Corrosive Sublimate.
Cantharides.

2ND PART.

Cyanides of Potassium and all Metallic Cyanides.
Oxalic Acid.
Chloroform.
Belladonna and its preparations.
Laudanum.
Opium, and all preparations of Opium or of Poppies.
Arсенical preparations except Green and other colored Paints and Pigments.
Essential Oil of Almonds, unless deprived of its Prussic Acid.

SECOND SCHEDULE.
FORM OF ENTRY IN BOOK ON SALE OF POISON.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day of sale</th>
<th>Name of purchaser</th>
<th>Place of abode</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Quantity and names of Poison</th>
<th>Purpose for which it is required</th>
<th>Purchaser's signature</th>
<th>Witness</th>
<th>Vendor's signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

HOSPITAL EXPENDITURE.

The following is the estimate for state expenditure for Hospitals in Victoria, for 1876-7:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital</th>
<th>Maintenance</th>
<th>Building or other special purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexandra</td>
<td>£200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amherst</td>
<td>1500</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ararat</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballarat</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belfast</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bendigo</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clunes</td>
<td>750</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colac</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creswick</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunolly</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geelong Infirmary</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gipps Land</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Horsham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inglewood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kilmore</td>
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<td>Maldon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mansfield</td>
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<td>Maryborough</td>
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<td>Melbourne</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; Alfred</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; Eye and Ear</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; Homoeopathic</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; Lying-in</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; Sick Children</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mooroopna</td>
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<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ovens</td>
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RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE KEW ASYLUM BOARD OF ENQUIRY.

The ponderous report of the Kew Asylum Board of Enquiry, will hardly be read by any one anxious for the preservation of his reason. At even their "Findings" courageous men will hesitate, but as their "Recommendations" have the merit of being short and—although not purposely—amusing, we reprint them:

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That there be some adequate provision enabling justices to remand for further inquiry, persons brought before them charged with being insane.

2. That there be attached to each asylum a ward specially assigned for the reception of persons arrested on the supposition of being insane, and certified as such by two medical men; and that such persons shall be committed to the asylum only after the medical superintendent shall also have certified to their insanity.

3. That there be a more satisfactory classification of patients than at present, so that criminal lunatics may not be associated with persons untainted with crime.

4. That more care and attention be paid to sick patients, and that they be more liberally supplied with comforts, as in the asylums in England, specially referred to by Dr. Conolly.

5. That the jurymen at coroners' inquests be selected from a wider range of persons than is the case at present, and that post-mortem examinations be not confined to a select few medical men.

6. That adequate provision be made for the bathing of the patients in the asylum, by an abundant supply of water, and the necessary conveniences.

7. That the feelings of the patients themselves be consulted with respect to bathing, and when required tepid baths be supplied; and that no compulsion be used in the bathing of patients, unless there be an absolute necessity for it on the score of health or cleanliness.

8. That there be a proper system adopted for the employment of patients; and that the patients be induced, by payment or reward, to take part in such employment.

9. That the patients be taught trades where practicable; and that farm-buildings, pigsties, and all the necessary requirements for farm operations be provided.

10. That the attendants be not allowed to have work done for them privately by patients.

11. That where patients are employed to do the housework of the institution, care be taken that they be not made the mere menials of the attendants; and that the latter be not allowed to shirk the performance of their duties.

12. That the grounds in the vicinity of the asylum be improved, and that the inmates be allowed freer access to them, especially on the visits of their friends.

13. That the present arrangements for cricket, billiards, and other
1876.]

Recommendations of Kew Asylum Board.

amusements be made more general and more available to the patients, instead of being chiefly for the recreation of the attendants.

14. That books and newspapers be more generally supplied for the use of the patients.

15. That visitors be not unnecessarily delayed when calling to see their friends who are patients.

16. That the correspondence of patients be not interfered with by attendants.

17. That the sense of property be encouraged in those patients who manifest any idea of it, by allowing them to accumulate articles of interest, and giving them places to put such articles in.

18. That, as regards the property and friends of patients, the suggestions of the Master-in-Lunacy be adopted, viz.:—That a business officer be attached to each asylum, subject to the Master-in-Lunacy, and that his duty be to ascertain all particulars with respect to the circumstances of patients, whether they are possessed of property or not, who their friends are, and who are responsible for their support; and that such officer be furnished with the necessary assistance to enable him to perform his duties efficiently.

19. That periodical examinations be made of the food supplied to the asylum, and that the contracts be strictly enforced.

20. That sufficient entrance to the dining-room be made, to enable patients to enter it without crowding.

21. That a system of small dormitories be introduced, instead of the present large dormitories.

22. That greater attention be paid to providing proper closets and conveniences, and keeping them in a state of cleanliness.

23. That any neglect or ill-treatment of the patients by the officers or attendants, be more promptly and severely punished.

24. That the remuneration of the attendants be increased; that the head attendant and the matron be placed in the position of officers entrusted with such important duties, and that special assistants to these officers be appointed.

25. That in the management of the lunatic asylums of Victoria, the barrack system be superseded as much as possible, and the cottage system be established.

26. That the existing system of sending out patients on trial be continued, and that, in addition, the system of boarding-out patients be adopted.

27. That there be periodical examinations of patients by medical men unconnected with the asylum, for the purpose of ascertaining and reporting to the Chief Secretary, whether there are patients in the asylum who ought to be discharged.

28. That the superintendent have the power of appointing and dismissing attendants; but that he be required to report all appointments and dismissals to the board of visitors at their next meeting.

29. That the board of visitors consist of five members, one of whom shall retire annually, and not be eligible for re-appointment until after the expiration of one year; and that the meetings of such board take place not less than once in each month.
Local Topics.

The following names were registered at the meeting of the Medical Board on the Ist of December:—William Bruce Bryson, ship True Briton, L.R.C.S.I. 1873, L.R.C.P.Ed. 1874; Robert Byron Duncan, Greensborough, L.S.A. Lond. 1876; William Robert Stewart, Carlton, M.R.C.S. Eng. 1876. On the 4th:—John Patrick Fitzgerald, Hotham, M.B. Melb. 1876; Thomas Garlick, Melbourne Hospital, M.B. Medb. 1876; John Alexander Kennison, South Yarra, M.B. Medb. 1876; Angus Munro, Alfred Hospital, M.B. Medb. 1876. On the 6th:—Charles Forbes, ship Durham, M.B. et Ch. M. Glas. 1876.

Names erased from the register: William Bainbridge, Bairnsdale, deceased. The qualification of M.D., Univ. Lima, registered with the name of Edward Myers, was erased from the register.

During the year 1876, 35 persons registered their qualifications with the Medical Board. The names of 20 deceased practitioners were erased from the register, and 6 left the colony. This left a real increase of 9 to be added to the list. Of this number, 3 reside in New South Wales, and 2 were ship surgeons, who probably returned to Europe with the vessels to which they were attached. The number of those practising in Victoria, therefore, has actually been increased by 4 only.

Among those who filed their schedules in the Insolvency Court in 1875, according to Mr Hayter's "Year-book," there was no medical man.

On the 12th of December the Inquests Bill was discharged from the notice-paper of the Legislative Assembly. At the prorogation of Parliament on the 22nd December, His Excellency the Governor gave his assent to the Pharmacy Bill and the Sale of Poisons Bill.

The following gentlemen have been appointed deputy-coroners: E. H. C. Massey, L.R.C.P. et S. Ed. to act at Daylesford vice Mr. Izett resigned; Thomas Le Gay Holthouse, M.R.C.S., to act at Ballarat vice Dr. Clendinning deceased; Robert Strickland, to act at Sandhurst vice Mr. Pounds absent on leave.

Mr. W. R. Roberts has been appointed acting health-officer for Queenscliff, to act when the health officer is absent.

Mr. Thomas Mein Austin has been appointed vaccinator for the district of Rochester vice Mr. F. D. Bullen relieved.

The Castlemaine Representative of December 28 has the following concerning the death of Dr. D. G. Jones, of Deniliquin: "We learn with deep regret that a very old resident of these colonies, who has done the State some service in his time, has passed away. The deceased gentleman, Dr. D. G. Jones, of Deniliquin, may be reckoned amongst the pioneers of the great salt-bush country north of the Murray. He was a zealous and energetic worker in the public interests, and an able journalist, having for many years edited the Pastoral Times, of which he was the founder and proprietor, and which ranks amongst the best newspapers of New South Wales. He also established the Riverine Advertiser, published at Deniliquin, and the Deniliquin and Hay Standard, published at Hay, on the Murrumbidgee. The deceased gentleman had been suffering severely from dysentery, followed by fever and ague. Dr. Jones arrived in Sydney about the year 1849, and, after a short residence in this colony, left
for Victoria, attracted by the gold-fever, during which period he took
an active part in public matters connected with the management of
the gold-fields. About the year 1856 Dr. Jones went to Riverina, and
settled at Deniliquin, where he started the Pastoral Times newspaper,
a journal which has carefully supported the pastoral interests, while
also advocating the development of the resources of the district. Dr.
Jones took the initiatory steps for connecting Riverina district with
Victoria by telegraph, and was one of the main supporters of the
Deniliquin and Moama Railway, an undertaking first mooted by
himself, and to the accomplishment of which he assiduously devoted
himself, in the face of very serious obstacles thrown in the way by the
Sydney Government. His death will leave a vacancy difficult to fill
in the district of Riverina.”

The following is taken from a contemporary of the 18th and 21st of
December: “A young married woman named Emma Jane Bennett,
residing with her husband in Cox’s Gardens, Williamstown, died
at midnight on December 14, and an inquest was held on the
body on December 18 at Williamstown. Mr. Candler stated
that it was considered advisable by Mr. Maclean, the coroner
at Williamstown, that he (Mr. Candler) should hold the inquiry,
and that a medical man from Melbourne should make the post
mortem examination instead of a local practitioner. Mr. Girdle-
stone had made the examination. That afternoon he purposed taking
Mr. Girdlestone’s evidence, and then adjourning the inquiry for a
day or two, as the police were not prepared to go further with the
case. Mr. Figg asked that Dr. Smythe, who had come from
Sandridge, and was present at the examination, should also be allowed
to give his evidence that afternoon. As it would not relieve Dr.
Smythe from the necessity of attending again, the coroner thought it
better not to take his evidence. Mr. Girdlestone then gave the result
of his examination. He found the body and all the organs in a very
advanced state of decomposition. The brain was healthy. The liver
was apparently healthy, but the kidneys were distinctly in an advanced
state of fatty degeneration, the left more so than the right. The
cavity of the uterus was distended and the lining of the same had
an uneven surface, being covered with a number of little eminences
resembling those of a granulated wound. There was no mark of any
sort inside the uterus—no sign of a tumour or anything of the sort.
Both of the lungs were adherent to the pleura from old pleurisy.
The heart was thin and empty. There was not a drop of blood to be
seen in the body. This, he thought, was chiefly owing to decompo-
sition, perhaps wholly so. The decomposition was so advanced that
it was difficult to assign the precise cause of death. Without doubt
exhaustion was the immediate cause, but what produced the exhaustion
he could not then say. He might be able to offer an opinion bearing
upon the evidence which would be given. If the absence of any
blood in the vessels were not accounted for by decomposition, he
should be inclined to say it was from haemorrhage. The diseased
state of the lungs and kidneys would be very much against the
deceased surviving any shock. In reply to Mr. Figg, the witness said
that in order to maintain vitality in any being, even for two hours, it
was requisite that there should be a certain amount of blood in the
body, and haemorrhage would not entirely account for the absence of
all the blood from the body. At this stage the inquiry was adjourned
till December 20. Accordingly, on that day the inquiry was resumed.
The evidence taken showed that on the first of the present month the
deceased went to Mr. Figg, at Williamstown, to consult him profes-
Notices to Correspondents.

sionally. After her visit to him, haemorrhage from the uterus set in, and she lost a quantity of blood. Mr. Figg attended her till the 10th inst., when her husband called in Dr. Goldie. The latter found that, instead of active haemorrhage, a fetid discharge had commenced. He attended till she died, and he declined to certify to the cause of death. Mr. Girdlestone could not state, by the appearance of the body, what produced the exhaustion from which she ultimately died. After hearing the evidence brought forward, he agreed with the conclusion arrived at by Dr. Goldie, that death resulted from blood-poisoning, and the jury returned a verdict to this effect."

Baron von Mueller reminds us that Dr. Gintl has recently drawn attention to a new danger, arising from gradual, unsuspected, and insidious poisoning, caused by the use of arsenite of alumina for fixing the dyes in the colouration of printed cottons and muslins. As much as from 15 to 25 grains of this arsenite is contained in a yard of these fabrics, and this composition is more dangerous than even the dreaded arsenite of copper, which at a former period was used so much for green colour in paperhangings, &c. In the new wearing apparels, coloured with arsenic, sent into the European markets from several factories of different countries, the poison becomes in such subtle atoms widely distributed, and is so near to inhalation that people cannot be sufficiently warned against this danger, particularly should these cotton, woollen and linen fabrics find their way also into the markets of countries with a climate so hot as ours. The new fixing material for colour—a combination of glycerin-arsenic with acetate of alumina—is simply adopted by most mercenary and unscrupulous manufacturers as a substitute for the comparatively costly albumin. The patterns and colours of these new dangerous articles are of great variety, violet, brown-yellow, red-brown ground with white patterns. By merely soaking a piece of these printed goods in water, much of the arsenite of alumina is dissolved and may be detected by the usual chemical re-agents with the utmost facility.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Baron von Mueller, Mr. Girdlestone, Dr. McMillan.

The following publications have been received: The Lancet for Sept. 23, 30, Oct. 7, 14; The British Medical Journal for Sept. 23, 30, Oct. 7, 14; The Medical Press and Circular for Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11, 18; The Students’ Journal for Sept. 23, Oct. 7; The London Medical Record for October 16; The New York Medical Record for Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28; The New York Medical Journal for October; The American Journal of Insanity for October; The Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal for October; The Canada Medical and Surgical Journal for October; Arnold and Sons Instrument Catalogue; The Anglo-Indian Commercial Advertiser for September; The Victorian Year Book for 1875.
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