

sealed to the tube by means of very brittle solder. On smartly striking this cap in a upward direction against a wall or with a poker or a tool that is provided the solder fractures and the cap is thus readily knocked off. All that is necessary next is to dash the contents of the tube upon the fire with a sharp sweeping motion. The effect of the fluid upon a burning mass is very remarkable. We have seen a large stack of most combustible material (wood shavings and wooden boxes) saturated with paraffin burning so fiercely that the burning pile could hardly be approached with comfort, the flames reaching a height of many feet, and yet the fire was extinguished within a few seconds of dashing the fluid upon the ignited mass. The fluid seems to be most effective when the heat is most intense—in other words, the volatilisation of some of the constituents takes place readily in an intense heat, the vapours given off effectually quenching the flames. We have submitted to careful analysis the fluid with the result that we are able to state that it is free from corrosive or poisonous chemical salts. Indeed, it is stated that when the fluid had been inadvertently swallowed no harm resulted. In a large number of fire-extinguishing demonstrations the Stevens emergency extinguisher has received the highest commendation. One of the most important advantages of the extinguisher is that it is not encumbered by fittings, valves or pumps, and it is thus strictly in readiness in an emergency. Moreover, it contains no gases under pressure and is therefore free from the risk of explosion. Another important feature is that the solution, owing to the chemical salts it contains, does not freeze under the ordinary conditions of an English winter. The extinguisher is easily portable and it has been suggested that a number of them could be carried by cyclists quickly to a distant fire on the alarm being given. The extinguisher is a distinct advance on the emergency appliances which have hitherto been employed. Many big firms who store large quantities of inflammable goods have cited instances of the efficiency of this apparatus, and doubtless in many cases it has been instrumental in cutting short a probably disastrous conflagration. We have been impressed with the fire extinguishing properties of this appliance which if universally adopted would effectually prevent a small outbreak from spreading to the dimensions of a big fire and thus save many a life. It would be obviously useful for hospital use and demonstrations of its application have been given at Haslar. The extinguisher may be seen at the offices of the Stevens Emergency Fire Extinguisher Company, Limited, 31, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH.

A QUARTERLY meeting of the College was held on Nov. 4th, Sir T. R. FRASER, the President, being in the chair.

The PRESIDENT stated that he had tendered to the King the congratulations of the College on his recovery from his recent serious illness and on the Coronation of His Majesty and Queen Alexandra and that he had received a reply through the Secretary for Scotland thanking the College for its loyal and dutiful address.

Mr. William Blackley Drummond, M.B., C.M. Edin., and Mr. John Eason, M.B., C.M. Edin., were introduced and took their seats as Fellows of the College.

On a ballot six candidates were admitted to the Membership of the College after examination.

The REGISTRAR reported that since the last quarterly meeting 34 persons had obtained the Licence of the College by examination.

Intimation was made that after examination held by the Conjoint Boards appointed by the councils of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of Edinburgh Mr. James Kerr, B.Sc., had been recognised as lecturer on chemistry and Miss Jessie MacGregor, M.D. Edin., had been recognised as a lecturer on gynaecology.

The PRESIDENT read a letter from Dr. T. F. S. Caverhill intimating a donation by Mr. J. Francis Mason, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, of £200 to the College laboratory for the purpose of research on the ductless glands. The College, on the suggestion of the President, approved of the scheme and resolved that the thanks of the College be conveyed to Mr. Mason for his generous donation.

The Vice-President of the College (Dr. James Andrew) was appointed representative of the College on the council of the Scottish branch of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses.

## Looking Back.

FROM

THE LANCET, SATURDAY, NOV. 13, 1824.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

ANALYSIS OF FOREIGN MEDICAL JOURNALS.

ARCHIVES GENERALES—SEPTEMBER.

The articles in this Number, which our readers will find most interesting, are, a Synoptical Table, containing the physical, chemical, medicinal, and deleterious properties of the immediate vegetable principles, and of the alkaloids recently discovered, by M. JULIA FONTANELLE; a few Clinical Observations on Medicine and Surgery, by M. JANSON; and an account read at one of the meetings of the ROYAL ACADEMY, on the comparative mortality in the indigent and wealthy classes. The following table<sup>1</sup> will be found particularly useful to every practitioner:—

1. ATROPINE. Discovered by Brandes, in the atropa belladonna.
  2. BRUCINE. Disc. in 1819, by MM. Pelletier and Caventou, in the false angustura, in the state of a gallate.
  3. CATHARTINE. Disc. in 1820, by MM. Lassaigue and Feneulle, in the pods and leaves of senna.
  4. CINCHONINE. Disc. by Duncan, in cinchona bark.
  5. CYSTISIN. Disc. in 1820, by MM. Lassaigue and Chevallier, in the seeds of the *cystisus laburnum*.
  6. DELPHINE. Disc. in 1819, by MM. Lassaigue and Feneulle, in the seeds of stavesacre (*delphinium staphysagria*).
  7. \*DIGITALINE. Thoughts of its existence entertained by MM. Lassaigue and Chevallier; actually discovered by M. Le Royer, in 1824, in the leaves of the *digitalis purpurea*.
  8. EMETINE. Disc. in 1817, by MM. Pelletier and Magendie, in the roots of the *viola emetica*, *callicocca ipecacuanha*, and *psycotria emetica*, and by M. Boullay in the violet.
  9. GENTIANIN. Found by MM. Henry and Caventou, in the root of gentian.
  10. IODE. Disc. in 1813, by Courtois, in the mother waters of soda, as it is obtained from the sea-weed.
  11. LUPULIN. By M. Planche, and nearly at the same time by MM. Ives, Payen and Chevallier, in the yellow matter of the flowers of hops.
  12. MORPHINE. Disc. in 1817, by Seturner, in opium, in the state of a meconiate.
  13. NARCOTINE. Disc. in 1802, constituting one-fiftieth of opium, by M. Derosne, who named it *opiane*.
  14. PICROTOXINE. Disc. by Boullay, in the *coccus orientalis* (the fruit of the *menispermum coccus*).
  15. PIPERIN. Dis. by Erstaed, in black pepper.
  16. QUININE. Disc. 1820, by MM. Pelletier and Caventou, in the cinchona.
  17. RHUBARBARIN. Disc. by Pfaff, in the rhubarb cultivated in Europe.
  18. SCILLITIN. Disc. by Vogel, in the bulbs of the *scilla maritima*.
  19. SOLANINE. Disc. in 1821, by Desfosse, in the *solanum dulcamara* and in the *boletus esculentus*.
  20. STRYCHNINE. Disc. in 1818, by MM. Pelletier and Caventou, in the *nux vomica* and the bean of St. Ignatius.
  21. VERATRINE. Disc. in 1819, by MM. Pelletier and Caventou, in the *cevadilla*, white hellebore, and in the colchicum.
- N.B.—The termination in *ine* is applied to alkaline substances, and that in *in* to those which are not alkaline.

\* The discovery of this substance we were the first to make known in this country.—ED. L.

NOTE.—In the Transactions of the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society, Vol. xxvii., Session 1901-02, just received, there is recorded a Case of Full-time Intact Extra-peritoneal Gestation Successfully Removed after Five Years' Retention, by Dr. D. Berry Hart, gynæcologist to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. It is accompanied by a reproduction of a photograph of the skeleton of the foetus, and amongst the literature quoted is the following:—"LOARING, H. J.—*Epitaphs: Quaint, Curious, and Elegant*, London, William Tegg (no date). In this curious work the following epitaph is given:—

"In Père-la-Chaise Cemetery is the annexed inscription:—

MADAME MILCENT,

Died March 10, 1824, aged 38 years.  
Her death was accelerated by long sufferings,  
Which she bore with great courage.  
She carried in her body a child for eight years;  
Twelve months living and seven years dead.  
To prove the truth of this, Doctors Dubois and  
Belivier extracted it at her decease, when it  
Was found well formed and  
Perfectly preserved."

This undoubtedly is the case referred to under the heading of "Looking Back" in THE LANCET of August 2nd, 1902, page 298.

<sup>1</sup> Only the column headed "Name of the Substances, of their Discoverers, and their Natural Conditions," has been transcribed.