containing them, and their infiltration into the surrounding tissues.

Fæcal(Latin, from fæces, the dregs of anything).

-Stercoraceous.

Flatulence (Latin flatus, a gentle breeze).-Wind emitted from, or accumulated in, the digestive tube especially.

Floccilation (Greek carphos, the nap of clothes; lego, to pluck).—A delirious picking of the bed-

clothes.

Flush (Greek flusten, to flow).—A temporary redness and heat produced by the accumulation

of blood in the capillaries of the face.

Fomentation (Latin fovere, to keep warm) .-The application of flannel, or spongio-piline, wet with boiling water, or some medicinal concoction, to a part of the body. Dry fomentation consists in the application of warmth without moisture, of a hot brick wrapped in flannel, a bag of hot camomile flowers, &c.

Forceps.—Literally a pair of pincers or tongs; an instrument to take firm hold on bodies.

Fracture (Latin frangere, to break).—A solu-

tion of continuity of one or more bones.

Furred.—A term applied to a characteristic appearance of the surface of the tongue in almost all severe diseases, presenting various modifications of colour and density.

Gargarisma (Greek gargarizo, I wash the mouth).-A gargle; a preparation for rinsing

the throat.

Granulations (Latin gramma, a grain).—The reddish, conical, flesh-like spots which form at the surface of suppurating wounds and ulcers

during their healing

Gravity, Specific (Latin gravitas, heaviness) .-The specific gravity of a body is its density or weight, compared with the density or weight of another body, which is assumed as the standard. The standard is always water. In testing urine the specific gravity is taken with an instrument called a urinometer.

Hamorrhage (Greek haema, blood; rhegunmi, to burst forth).—Any discharge of blood from vessels destined to contain it, with or without

rupture of the coats.

Hypodermic (Greek hupo, under, and derma, skin).—A method employed to inject fluids under the skin by means of a fine syringe.

Tie-bag.—An india-rubber bag, which can be filled with ice, and applied to an inflamed part.

Incontinence (Latin in, not; continere, to hold).—Inability to retain the urine or fæces, so that they are discharged involuntarily.

Inflammation (Latin inflammo, I set on fire). -Inflammation is a series of changes in a part identical with those which are produced in the same part by injury; injury by a chemical or

physical irritant. It is generally characterised by pain, heat, redness, and swelling.

Infection (Latin inficere, to stain).—The transmission of a disease from one person to another, by direct or indirect contact.

Inhalation (Latin inhalo, I breathe in).—The act of drawing air, vapour, or substances, in a gaseous or atomised form, into the lungs or larynx.

Inspiration (Latin inspirare, to breathe into). -That part of respiration by which air is taken

into the lungs.

Intermittent (Latin intermitto, I leave off for a time).—A temporary cessation, or suspension, either of a function, i.e., of the action of the heart, when the pulse is said to interim, or of a disease, when the symptoms cease for a certain time,

Irrigation (Latin irrigo, I water). - The method of applying cold water, by causing it to

fall, drop by drop, on an affected part.

Irritation (Latin irrito, I provoke).—An undue excitability of an organ or tissue, from disease or disorder, commonly manifested by an increase of the circulation and sensibility.

Factation or Factitation (Latin jactare, to toss about).—Excessive restlessness, mostly associated with severe febrile diseases, but also with

some nervous affections.

Linctus (Latin lingere, to lick).—A term applied to soft substances of the consistence of syrup, which are taken by being licked off a spoon.

Liniment (Latin linire, to anoint). — An unctuous medicine, containing usually oil or lard, applied externally in the form of friction.

Lividity (Latin livor, a livid colour).—The discolouration which occurs in the body in some diseases of the heart, &c.

Lotion (Latin lanare, to wash) .- A fluid external application.

Lumbar.-Belonging to or having reference to the loins.

Minim (Latin minimum, the least part or portion).—The sixtieth part of a fluid drachm.

Mixture (miscere, to mix).—A mingled compound, in which different ingredients are contained in the fluid state.

Mucus (presumed to be from murgere, to wipe the nose).—The more or less tenacious liquid secreted by the mucous surfaces, as of the nostrils, lungs, &c.

Narcotics (Greek narkotikos, making stiff or numb, stupor).—Substances which have the power of stupefying. They are used as soothing

Nausea (Greek naus, a ship, because those unaccustomed to sailing are so affected).-A feeling of sickness or inclination to vomit.

(To be continued.)

previous page next page